



Paraffin Safety Association

Southern Africa

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Press Release: Suppliers and Queen Street retailers continue to sell firebomb stoves at hiked rates

Five Durban retailers in Queen Street are selling illegal paraffin stoves at exorbitant prices. The Panda wick stoves, outlawed on 1 January 2007 by government Gazette do not comply to the SABS standard for non-pressure stoves and heaters (SANS1906:2006).

The Queen Street retailers and their suppliers seem to see no problem in selling the stoves at inflated prices. "The Sikenis stoves used to sell for about R30 but now the price is between R90 and R130 since they are now illegal. I suppose the retailers feel it is justified given the risk they are taking to sell illegal firebomb appliances", said Patrick Kulati the Managing Director of the Paraffin Safety Association.

The actual prices discovered are as follows:

1. Dawood Bassa & Son (129 Queen str) - R89.99
2. Kings Builders suppliers (146 Queen Str) - R99.95
3. Rabasuto Store (144 Queen Str) - R100.00
4. Hassan's Bargain Wholesalers (142 Queen Str) - R130.00
5. Bam Furnitures (158 Queen Str) - R99.99

The SABS called all manufacturers and suppliers to a consultative meeting in Pretoria in March this year where they were warned to stop selling the stoves and remove all products from the shelves.

The stoves were discovered in Durban by the Paraffin Safety Association regional office manager, Nhlanhla Mdadane during a routine surveillance inspection. "It is seldom that I come across stoves being sold illegally. We recently discovered the Panda stove, locally referred to as a 'Sikeni', in October at Winner's Wholesalers, Main Road, Ixopo. Those were only selling for R42.90. I suppose the Durban retailers have decided to take advantage of low income households by putting the price up knowing the stoves are so scarce." The Ixopo discovery was brought to the attention of the SABS and the manufacturer.

One shop owner told Mr Mdadane that his suppliers had promised him a new, SABS approved version of the 'Sikeni' (Panda wick stove) in January or February next year. In the meantime they are selling off their old stock illegally.

"People from low income households used to buy these stoves for around R30 and run the risk of devastating fires in their homes. Now retailers want them to pay up to R130 for the privilege. It is shocking!" commented Patrick Kulati.

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