



## **PRESS RELEASE ON THE SAFE USE OF COOKING GAS CYLINDERS AT HOME FOR THE BENEFIT OF CONSUMER SAFETY**

**Nairobi, 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020:** The Petroleum Institute of East Africa has today come across various concerns in the public domain regarding the safe use of cooking gas cylinders at home following unconfirmed reports of a fatality that is alleged to have occurred due to a cooking gas related fire.

As we await an investigation by the various agencies including the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA), we wish to sensitize the cooking gas consuming public as follows;

Cooking gas also referred to as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is a clean, safe, versatile and modern cooking household energy that is cheaper than charcoal, firewood and kerosene.

Since 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019, new LPG laws were enforced as a means of ensuring that consumers are supplied with safe gas cylinders and safe cooking gas.

To ensure that gas cylinders and gas are safe, the new law requires cooking gas retailers to have an EPRA license AND a written authority from the licensed Company that owns the cylinders (brand owner) allowing the cooking gas retailers to sell their brand of cooking gas to consumers. It is illegal to trade without an EPRA license and without written authorization from the brand owner.

Retailers can only sell to the consumer a full cylinder of cooking gas that matches the empty brand of the cylinder that the consumer is replacing MEANING that there is no interchanging one brand for another at the retail outlet – it is illegal – even for home deliveries.

It is the right of all consumers to get a receipt for the purchase of cooking gas and it is the legal duty of a retailer to issue this receipt. The receipt must have; **Retailers name, address and telephone number; name and telephone number of consumer; date of sale, cylinder brand, serial number of cylinder, net weight in KG of the cylinder, unit and total price of the transaction.** It is illegal for a retailer not to issue a receipt.

Consumers should ensure that the cooking gas cylinder that they buy has the following features; **Safety instructions including what to do in case of a leak; cylinder brand name: serial number; manufacturing /revalidation date (cylinder should be revalidated within eight years; net weight in KG of the cylinder.**

**To ensure that a consumer can tell when there is cooking gas in the air, also known as a leak, a smell has been injected in cooking gas as per the law. The safety instructions on what to do in case of a**

leak, must be on the gas cylinder that you are buying, which includes complete ventilation of the house to ensure all the gas has escaped.

In case your cooking gas does not light up as it should **DO NOT** attempt to fix **ANYTHING** or to **RELEASE** the **GAS**-PLEASE TAKE IT BACK TO THE RETAILER WHO SOLD IT TO YOU - **THAT IS WHY YOU MUST GET A RECEIPT FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF COOKING GAS THAT YOU MAKE** FOR EASE OF RETURN AND/OR TRACKING OF RETAILERS IN THE EVENT THAT A CONSUMER NEEDS TO DO SO.

It is illegal for anyone to refill cooking gas cylinders that are not owned by them-only a licensed brand owner has the legal right to refill their brand of cooking gas cylinders which should be distributed/retailed by licensed and authorized by EPRA and brand owner respectively.

### **REPORTING A COMPLAINT OR ACCIDENT**

To lodge complaints, report on accidents or whenever you encounter any problems with your cylinder, kindly call the Energy Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) using the following numbers: 0722 200 947 or 0708 444 000 or email through [info@epra.go.ke](mailto:info@epra.go.ke). Additionally, you may use the SMS platform 40850 or dial the USSD Short Code Query \*363#. EPRA will be able to dispatch inspectors to investigate the complaints.

**WASH HANDS: WEAR MASK: KEEP PHYSICAL DISTANCE.**

**Wanjiku Manyara**  
**General Manager**  
**14<sup>th</sup> April 2020**