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| TOPIC: | SPENDING PATTERNS CAMPAIGN |
| DURATION: | 30 MINUTES |
| FORMAT: | INTERVIEW |

FOCUS: TO ENCOURAGE CONSUMERS NOT TO CHANGE THEIR SPENDING PATTERNS IN DECEMBER AND END UP INDULGING AND SPENDING WHAT THEY DO NOT HAVE.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST:

Today we are joined bywho is a member of the Consumer Protection Forum (CPF). The Consumer Protection Forum protects and promotes the interests of consumers through co-ordinated strategies. At this time of the year the CPF promotes spending responsibly by consumers. The CPF consists of the nine Provincial Consumer Affairs Offices; the **dti**; and statutory regulators which are: Council for Medical Schemes (CMS); National Credit Regulator (NCR); Financial Services Board (FSB); National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA); Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ISACA) and Competition Commission.

WHAT IS THIS JOINT CAMPAIGN ALL ABOUT?

This is another joint national educational campaign by the CPF aimed at encouraging South African's not to stop saving during the 2011 festive season.

The majority of consumers change their spending pattern in December and indulge themselves, which leads to people spending money that they do not have. Due to the fact that some consumers receive their bonuses/13th cheques in December, a lot of stores will be using seductive marketing tactics to lure consumers to buy. As a result they sign contractual agreements which they have not properly read and end up spending beyond their means.

WHAT POINTERS SHOULD CONSUMERS REMEMBER TO BE A-OK FINANCIALLY THIS FESTIVE SEASON

1. **A**lways plan ahead before you spend and work out what you can afford before you spend – Draw up a Budget
2. **A**lways have a festive budget – putting down your income vs. daily living expenses and debt. This will help you to be realistic on what you can spend on gifts, travel, accommodation, and other entertainment over this period.
3. **A**lways pay your creditors (store accounts, insurances and medical scheme) on time during festive season.
4. **A**void little purchases e.g. eating out, movies, daily take-ways, snacks, magazines, etc. It can all add up to one big debt burden.
5. **A**void spending your 13th cheque/ bonus on your “wants” instead of your “needs” e.g expensive clothes are “wants” and school uniforms are “needs”.
6. **A**lways shop around for the best deals and prices before you make a purchase.
7. **A**lways be careful about the “buy now and pay later” deals.
8. **A**s you spend over the festive season, always remember that some bills such as electricity, water and telephones do not go on holiday over the festive season and will need to be paid in the new year.
9. **A**void wasting money on inferior quality products because you will spend more money for repairs. e.g cell phones
10. **A**lways shop with January in mind

USEFUL CONTACTS

- ⇒ National Credit Regulator – 0860 627 627
- ⇒ Department of Trade and Industry – 0861 843 384
- ⇒ Financial Services Board – 0800 110 443
- ⇒ Council for Medical Aid Schemes – 0861 123 267
- ⇒ ICASA - (011) 566 3000
- ⇒ National Energy Regulator of South Africa – 012 401 4600

⇒ Competition Commission – 012 394 3200

⇒ **Provincial Consumer Affairs Directorates**

- Eastern Cape – (040)609-3050
- Gauteng – 0860 428 8364
- Mpumalanga – (013)752-3761
- Limpopo – (015)293-8559
- North-West – (018)387-7866
- Free State – (051)400-4852
- Kwa Zulu Natal – (033)264-2810
- Northern Cape – (053)839-4000
- Western Cape – 0800 007 081