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Be Prepared for the Cyclone Season

The prime month for the cyclone season is from November to April. Council's past experience has shown that consumers had to face many problems and inconvenience because they were too complacent and not prepared for the cyclone period. To save consumers from this trouble, we would like to offer a few tips:

- 1) Prepare an emergency kit now and save yourself some money. Every year, the Council receives complaints from irate consumers after a cyclone grumbling about how some unscrupulous traders took advantage of cyclone warnings and raised the price of emergency goods needed during the cyclone. These include batteries, torches and canned food etc. Consumers would not have to pay exorbitant prices for these things if they were prepared and bought these things beforehand rather than last minute. Hence it is advisable for consumers to prepare an emergency kit in advance containing:
 - A portable radio, torch and spare batteries
 - Stocks of fresh water and canned food
 - Matches, fuel lamp, portable stove, cooking gear, utensils, can opener and waterproof bags.
 - A first aid kit, manual and masking tape for windows.
- 2) Stock food in plentiful – The idea of stocking up on tinned items is important, so have a supply handy. But also remember you may have food in freezers or fridges to use up in the first day or two.
- 3) Don't get lured into post cyclone sales. It is not uncommon for traders to have a huge sale after cyclones or floods for damaged goods. However, consumers should be vigilant when purchasing food items after cyclone, particularly frozen items as this can be bad or possibly contaminated. This also applies to non food items such as electrical appliances, clothes etc. It is most likely that these could be damaged and fault goods.