



## The 2024 groundnut marketing season, officially launched on December 5 across Senegal, has begun with reports of irregularities.

In Porokhane, a town in the Nioro du Rip department, nine economic operators have been arrested for failing to adhere to the government-mandated floor price of 305 CFA francs per kilogram.

Adama Mouhamed Mbaye, the Regional Head of Commerce in Kaolack, confirmed these arrests in a statement to the Senegalese Press Agency (APS). He revealed that monitoring teams caught the operators purchasing groundnuts at prices ranging from 295 to 300 CFA francs per kilogram, in direct violation of the regulations established in consultation with stakeholders in the groundnut sector.

"There were widespread rumors that the approved price was not being respected at several collection points. Based on these reports, we deployed three monitoring brigades to verify the claims," Mr. Mbaye explained.

The floor price of 305 CFA francs was set to ensure decent earnings for farmers while stabilizing the market. However, the recent violations indicate that some operators are attempting to undermine these measures for their benefit.

In response, <u>authorities</u> are urging local communities to work closely with monitoring teams to report any suspicious practices. "We encourage residents to flag any irregularities to ensure operators comply with the minimum price set for this campaign," said the Commissioner for Economic Investigations.

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The arrests are seen as a strong message to all stakeholders in the groundnut sector. As one of Senegal's most vital economic activities, maintaining transparency and fairness in this market is essential to protect the livelihoods of thousands of farmers.

The groundnut marketing season, expected to last several months, is a critical period for farmers whose incomes depend on stable and equitable market practices. The government has emphasized its commitment to enforcing commercial regulations and warned that any attempts to bypass the rules will be met with strict penalties.

Despite this initial setback, officials remain resolute in their efforts to ensure a fair and successful marketing season, underscoring the strategic importance of the groundnut sector for Senegal's economy.

Source: <a href="https://www.senenews.com/en/economy/senegal-9-operators-arrested-for-violating-groundnut-floor-price-in-porokhane-4776.html">https://www.senenews.com/en/economy/senegal-9-operators-arrested-for-violating-groundnut-floor-price-in-porokhane-4776.html</a>