



22nd April, 2023

TRENDING VIDEO ON GMO PRODUCTS PURPOTED TO HAVE BEEN SEIZED RECENTLY

THE National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has not confiscated any products which may contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs) this year. The video, which is circulating in the media purporting the incidence to have happened this week, is an old report of 2020. The Authority confiscated the said mealie meal which may contain GMOs in 2020 as it came into the country without authorization from the NBA.

The Biosafety Act No. 10 of 2007 in Part III Section 10 states that a person shall not research on, develop, produce, import, export, transit, carry out any contained use, release or **place on the market** any genetically modified organism or any product of a genetically modified organism or deal in any manner with any genetically modified organism or a product of a genetically modified organism **without prior approval of the Authority**.

The Act also states that any approval or authorisation done by the Authority for any activity relating to any genetically modified organism or any product of any genetically modified organism shall be through the **issuance of a permit**. As such the mealie meal in question was seized because it was **placed on the market without a permit** and risk assessment had not been conducted.

We would therefore, like to urge the public to get in touch with the NBA if they have any queries as regards matters relating to GMOs.

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