



PRESS RELEASE

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FEBRUARY 25, 2020.

MORE BAGS OF MEALIE MEAL THAT MAY CONTAIN GMOs SEIZED IN LUSAKA

As the Authority continues investigating the source

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA- NINETEEN more bags by 25 kgs of mealie meal that may contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have been retrieved from shops in Lusaka.

On Sunday the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) together with the other law enforcement agencies seized 19 and half bags of the Super maize meal a product from South Africa.

The mealie meal was seized from a shop in Bauleni area. Upon inquiries it was discovered that the named shop had ordered 50 by 25 kgs bags of Super maize meal and by the time the Authority pounced on the shop, 30 bags had already been sold out to retailers and consumers.

“On Monday we retrieved 19 and half bags by 25kgs of the same Super maize meal in the same area. This brings the total number of bags to 39 and a half from the three shops.”

“We understand the ‘supplier’ had a truck load with the same commodity. We are still investigating the matter and are working with other relevant government authorities to find out how this product could have landed in the country and on the market.”

Samples have since been taken to the laboratory for testing.

Ends-

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About NBA

NBA was established under the Biosafety Act No. 10 of 2007. Through the Act the NBA regulates the research, development, application, importation, export, transit, contained use, release or placing on the market of any GMO/LMO whether intended for use as a pharmaceutical, food, feed or processing, or a product of a GMO also to ensure that any activity involving the use or a product of GMO prevents any socio-economic impact or harm to human, animal health and the environment in the country.

Some of the functions of the NBA include processing notifications and applications of GMOs or products of GMOs into the country, in accordance with the requirements of the Biosafety Act, promoting public awareness and education concerning the activities regulated under the Act such as risk assessment, risk management and authorization processes; keeping any GMO or any product of a genetically modified organism under review and to ban its handling or release in Zambia. NBA furthermore, establishes and maintains a database of GMOs and their products as well as making available such information to the public.

For more information about NBA visit: www.nbazambia.org.zm.

Facebook page: National Biosafety Authority-NBA-Zambia, Twitter: @NBA Zambia and LinkedIn: NBA-Zambia