



PRESS RELEASE

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18TH MAY, 2023.

NBA APPROVES TWO IMPORT PERMITS FOR PRODUCTS WHICH MAY CONTAIN GMOS

As it grants 35 Transit Authorisations

CHILANGA, ZAMBIA- THE National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has granted NELT Zambia Limited and Zambian Brands Limited permits to import products which may contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The NBA Board approved the permits during a Board meeting held on 12th May, 2023 in Chilanga. The Scientific Advisory Committee recommended to the Board the issuance of permits after risk assessments were conducted and products found to be safe for humans, animals and the environment.

The permits are valid for five years. Nelt Zambia Limited will bring in Pedigree dog food and Whiskas cat food while Zambian Brands Limited will import Willards Monster Munch, Willards Diddle Daddle snacks and Bakers Street Jumpin Jack of three different flavors (White Cheddar, Butter and Cheese & Green Onion).

In another development, NBA has in the past one month granted 35 Transit Authorisations to various companies transiting mealie meal which may contain GMOs to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Authority has designated Kazungula and Chirundu as entry points for the GMO mealie meal transiting from South Africa, while Kasumbalesa and Mwami are the exit ports to Democratic Republic of Congo and Malawi respectively.

“The officers at the ports of entry are alert and providing regular updates on the transiting goods. So far in the past one month over 220,000 metric tons of mealie meal that may contain GMOs have transited to DRC. The exit points are also monitoring to ensure that the trucks have the same quantities they declared at the entry point. We are committed to regulating activities related to GMOs.”

-Ends-

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About NBA

The 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,

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