



PRESS RELEASE

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10TH MARCH, 2022

NBA SEIZES GMO PRODUCTS WORTH OVER K136, 000 FROM CENTRAL AND LUSAKA PROVINCES

As the Authority warns distributors, suppliers and traders for failure to produce permits

CHILANGA, ZAMBIA- The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has seized various food and feed products containing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) worth over K136, 000 which were placed on the market without documentation from the Authority.

The Authority has warned distributors, suppliers and traders that they risk their authorized GMO products seized for failure to produce permits when requested during inspections.

The NBA during surveillance, spot and compliance discovered and seized on site GMO products from Shoprite Kapiri Mposhi, Kabwe (Town), Chongwe (Waterfalls) and Choppies Mumbwa for failure to produce the required permits.

The seized products include dog food, spices, soups and cubes of various flavors.

“We have seized the products on site worth, meaning the products have been withdrawn from the shelves and the shops cannot sell them. We have given Shoprite two weeks to confirm availability of permits, failure to which we will destroy the products seized.”

“It is an offence for anyone to research, develop, import, release or place on the market or make contained use of any GMO’s without written approval from the NBA. There is a process before a permit is granted which includes risk assessment used to ascertain the safety of the products before they are allowed in the country. The NBA cannot guarantee safety of a product which it has not conducted a risk assessment on.”

The Authority in Choppies Mumbwa seized dog food (Husky-Smokey Joe) which was being sold without a permit from NBA.

The NBA has advised all Shoprite and Choppies stores across the country to immediately withdraw from the shelves all the said GMO products seized from other stores. The Authority has instructed its Inspectors across the country to also check and ensure that no such seized product are on the shelves.

“The Authority will not allow a situation where any one will just bring into the country GMO products that have not undergone risk assessment. Safety for the humans, animals and the environment is our key business.”

And the Authority has warned distributors, suppliers and traders to ensure that they have permits at hand and produce them on demand or when requested.

“We have engaged the suppliers and distributors before to ensure they give copies of permits to place on the markets to traders they supply GMO products. But what we are finding on the ground is that most of these traders do not have permits in their stores.”

Meanwhile, the Authority in the quest to address the knowledge and information gaps, myths and misinformation has continued with awareness and sensitization programmes to ensure that the public are aware of its mandate and what is expected of them should they decided to trade or deal in products which may contain GMOs.

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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,

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