



PRESS RELEASE

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ZAMBIAN BRANDS GETS A FIVE-YEAR PERMIT TO IMPORT PRODUCTS WHICH MAY CONTAIN GMOS

As the Authority receives two more import permit applications

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA- THE National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has granted Zambian Brands a five-year import permit for products which may contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Zambian Brands early this year applied for a permit to import products that may contain GMOs after their initial permit expired. The NBA has granted the permit after risk assessments were conducted.

“Zambian brands will import 24 different food products which may contain GMOs. The permit is valid for five years.”

The company will bring in among others Bakers cracker bread maize, Bakers mini cheddars bacon, and Bakers snack time. Others are Willards cheese curls, Willard’s flings, Bakers Provita Vitasnack Rice Crackers Wasabi, Bakers Cream Crackers and Baumanns Cream Crackers.

“We conducted risk assessment on the 24 products and they were found to be safe for humans, animals and the environment. We are reviewing two more other import applications.”

Meanwhile, the Authority has continued with its public awareness, education and sensitization of the public during spot and compliance checks. During the last exercise the NBA collected samples from products suspected to contain GMOs and the samples have since been taken to the laboratory for testing. The NBA is glad that most of the clients that it engaged in the recent past were cooperative and complaint.

“For example, Zambeef is now labelling its products that may contain products or ingredients of GMO.”

-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.

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