



PRESS RELEASE

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NBA Reaffirms Its Commitment to Ensuring Food Safety and Public Health

As the Authority intensifies inspections to ensure compliance to the Biosafety Act

CHILANGA- ZAMBIA- THE National Biosafety Authority (NBA) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to ensuring the highest standards to food safety from products that may contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The Authority regulates matters related to GMOs to ensure safety for the humans, animals and the environment. Among other mandates, the Authority grants permits to import or to place on the market products which may contain GMOs as part of its regulatory role. Before the permits for import or placing on the market are granted, the Authority ensures that a scientific based risk assessment is conducted to ensure that the products are safe for human and animal consumption. In addition, the Authority also conducts inspection for the distributors and importers of products that may contain GMOs in order to ensure compliance to the provisions of the Biosafety Act No. 10 of 2007.

This year's World Food Safety Day theme '***Food Safety: Science in Action***' aligns very well with the NBA mandate as food safety is a priority and scientific information is cardinal in risk assessments. Today due to climate change effects biosafety is at the center of action as scientists try to mitigate the effects in order to promote the judicious use of science as the venture in production of disease resistant plant varieties and animal breeds.

The theme recognizes the key role played by science in ensuring the credibility and accuracy of food safety guidance and advice used by governments, food businesses and consumers alike.

Science is key in food safety as it helps recognize what makes food unsafe and assists on how to prevent foodborne diseases and other potential risks that may arise. The 2025 theme draws attention to the use of scientific based knowledge in conducting scientific based risk assessments as key to reducing risks such as illness, cutting costs and saving lives.

The Authority encourages consumers to buy products which may contain GMOs from authorized distributors so that they can consume products which are safe.

World Food Safety Day, celebrated annually on June 7th, was officially established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018. The purpose is to raise awareness about the importance of safe food. The day also emphasises the collective responsibility of governments, businesses, and consumers in maintaining food safety across the entire food supply chain.

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About NBA

NBA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment. It 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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