



PRESS RELEASE

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FREDDY HIRSCH GROUP LIMITED GETS GREEN LIGHT TO IMPORT SPICES THAT MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

As Centre for Infectious Diseases Research in Zambia is given a go ahead to conduct research on vaccines for infants

LUSAKA- ZAMBIA, FREDDY HIRSCH Group Limited has been granted a permit to import spices that may contain ingredients made from genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

And Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) has been given a go ahead to conduct research using a vaccine made from genetically modified material aimed at fighting diarrhoea in infants.

The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) Board on Wednesday, following recommendations from its Scientific Advisory Committee, allowed Freddy Hirsh and CIDRZ to proceed with importation of spices and conducting research respectively.

“Freddy Hirsh will bring in different varieties of spices, of which some are used in the production of some sausages such as boerewors. The company applied to bring in 29 products among them; Garlic powder, Paprika Rosen, ZAMBEEF HP, ZAMBEEF French Polony, Beef Sausage, Boerewors farm Style ‘R’ , Hunters Biltong Seasoning, Oukraal Wors ‘R’, Cumberland pork sausage, Russian Montana and Peri Peri rub spices.”

Others are Tapioca Starch , Soya Protein Isolate, Super Reform 150 Ham, Chilli Bite Seasoning (Hot), BBQ Beef, Instant Cure S, NF Curing Brine S, Beef Burger, QM Barbeque Marinade, Continental French , French polony, GM Aufschnitt, Pork Sausage ‘R’, Coriander ground, Pepper black ground, BBQ Sprinkle, Vienna and Supreme Braai.

“This means that whoever buys the above mentioned products is expected to have a copy of Freddy Hirsch’s permit. Henceforth, all those making products using the said spices for sale will be required to clearly label their products that they ‘**May contain ingredients of GMO products**’. Failure to do so will lead to seizure and burning of their products in accordance with the provisions of the law. It is important that the products are labelled so that people make informed decisions when purchasing such food products.”

Meanwhile CIDRZ will conduct research on infants aged between six and eight weeks and will cover 1,500 children in Zambia. About 8,200 infants in three African countries including Zambia will participate in the vaccine trial. The trial is aimed at reducing mortality rate in infants through diarrhoea diseases.

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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