



## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES

**27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021**

### **GATBRO GRANTED PERMIT TO IMPORT PRODUCTS WHICH MAY CONTAIN GMOS**

*As the Authority renews Zambia Brands permits to sell 'GMO' products*

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA- THE National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has granted Gatbro a permit to import products which may contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The permit which is valid for five years has been granted after risk assessment was conducted on the products that the company intends to bring in the country.

Gatbro will import two products, Hinds Southern coating and Hinds spices, which may contain GMOs.

In the same vein, the Authority has renewed Zambia Brands permit to place on the market products which may contain GMOs. The permit is valid for six months to ensure compliance.

The Authority has also called on companies whose import and placing on the market permits are about to expire to renew them if they are to continue importing products that may contain GMOs.

And Chilanga District Commissioner Mr. Richard Ndazyne said the public need more information on GMOs.

He was speaking when NBA officials led by the Registrar, Mr. Lackson Tonga, paid a courtesy call on him.

"I am just learning that there are no GMO crops being grown in the country. This is important information which should be passed on to the people," Mr Ndazyne said.

Mr Tonga said there was need for researchers to take up the challenge and apply for approval to conduct research on crops as currently there was NO application received for research on crops in line with the provisions of the Biosafety Act.

"We have only granted permits for research in health and a number of application have been on vaccine trials".

Meanwhile Chilanga Council Secretary Mrs. Judith Beene said the local authority will collaborate well with the NBA on a number of issues including public awareness and inspections. She said this, on Friday, when NBA officials paid a courtesy call on her.

“We shall collaborate well especially using our health inspectors. We also hope to sensitize the public on health matters and the role of the Council especially during this Covid-19 pandemic,” she said.

**-Ends-**

**ISSUED BY: MS. SANDRA LOMBE**

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

**Email: [nbacomcommunications1@yahoo.com](mailto:nbacomcommunications1@yahoo.com) or [lombe2@gmail.com](mailto:lombe2@gmail.com)**

**+260 211 278316 /0977854716/ 0961439503**

### **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](http://www.nbazambia.org.zm).

Facebook: National Biosafety Authority-NBA-Zambia, Nba- Zambia, Twitter: @NBA Zambia and LinkedIn: NBA-Zambia

