

## What do I need to know as a consumer or member of the public? Under the Biosafety Act,

- Any person that wants to use or develop genetically modified organisms or products of GMOs needs authorization from the Authority (permit).
- All genetically modified products should be appropriately labelled including those in supermarkets and any other retail shops.
- Any person who wishes to import, use or research on a GMO is required to publish this information in two local newspapers.
- The public will have 30 days to comment before the Authority makes any decision.

Any application for activity involving GMOs goes through a comprehensive risk assessment by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

This is a technical committee comprising of experts in various fields of science.



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## NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY

“Ensuring safe use and research of GMOs, raising consumer confidence and promoting development in Zambia”



## What is NBA?

It is the National Biosafety Authority established under the Biosafety Act No. 10 of 2007.

## What are the functions of NBA?

- To regulate research, development, application or placing on the market of GMOs for direct use as food, feed, ingredient or pharmaceuticals.
- To provide public awareness and education on activities regulated under the Biosafety Act.
- To prescribe criteria, standards and guidelines necessary for implementation of the Biosafety Act.



- Take any measures to protect crops, human and animal health, biological diversity and the environment from the risks that may be posed by any GMOs or products of any GMOs.
- Designate inspectors and undertakes inspections as well as any other control measures to ensure compliance with the Act



## What is a GMO?

A genetically modified organism is a plant, animal, microorganism or other organism whose genetic material has been altered through modern biotechnology.

## Are GMOs allowed in Zambia?

GMOs are allowed in Zambia once they have undergone risk assessment and have been authorized by the NBA in writing.

## Is NBA bringing GMOs in to Zambia?

No. The NBA is a government authority regulating the use and development of GMOs in Zambia to maximize the benefits of modern biotechnology for end users, producers, consumers and the general public.

## Whose interests does the NBA Protect?

Consumers, producers, stakeholders involved in modern biotechnology and the general public.

## Some important legal provisions from the Biosafety Act No. 10 of 2007 of Zambia

Any person commits an offence who researches, develops, imports, releases, places on the market or makes contained use of any genetically modified organism or product of a genetically modified organism without the written approval of the Authority.

This can attract a fine of 500,000 penalty units or 15 years imprisonment or both.

A person shall not import modified organisms for use as food or feed for processing unless;

- (a) The importation is duly authorized by the Authority;
- (b) The genetically modified organism is authorised for commercial distribution in the country of origin;
- (c) The genetically modified organism poses no risk to human or animal health, biological diversity, non genetically modified organisms or the environment