



National Biosafety Authority

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

### **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN PLACE TO ENSURE SAFETY OF GMOs AND THEIR DERIVED PRODUCTS**

The National Biosafety Authority is a State Corporation established under section 5 of the Biosafety Act, No. 2 of 2009 to exercise general supervision and control over the transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) with a view of ensuring safety of human and animal health and provision of adequate level of protection of the environment.

The Authority takes note of the recent High Court ruling on GMOs and their derived products which was delivered on Thursday 7th November 2024 re-affirming the Cabinet decision lifting the ban on GMOs of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 that Kenya has a robust legal and institutional framework to regulate GMOs.

The Authority assures the general public that Kenya has a well-established legal, regulatory and institutional framework which provides for streamlined processes for persons dealing in GMOs and their derived products. The framework outlines specific application requirements, safety assessment procedures and monitoring mechanisms which align to Kenya's commitment to food safety, environmental protection and the socio-economic wellbeing of its citizens.

The Authority has published on its website <https://www.biosafetykenya.go.ke/> the framework to guide interested Applicants on the requirements for dealings with GMOs or their derived products.

The Authority has already approved the commercialization of Bt Cotton, which has been in cultivation since 2020 and no adverse effects have been noted or reported through, the Authority's monitoring and surveillance system. Other crops such as Bt maize and virus resistant cassava are at advance stages of variety testing towards their commercialization.

Kenya is a member of the international community and is a signatory to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety which is multilateral environmental agreement whose objective is to ensure an adequate level of protection in the safe transfer ,handling and use of GMOs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'N. Ngetich'.

**NEHEMIAH NGETICH  
AG. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY**