

PRESS RELEASE (For Immediate Release)

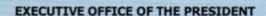
IRREGULAR RELEASE of CONDEMNED SUGAR

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT has been briefed on the grievous accusations of irregular and criminal release of condemned sugar that had been earmarked for conversion into industrial ethanol.

THE SUGAR CONSIGNMENT, comprising of 20,000 bags (each 50kgs), had been imported into the country in the year 2018 and condemned by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) for want of expiry date specification. KEBS condemned the consignment as unfit for human consumption and directed that the consignment be reshipped and destroyed at the owner's cost.

IN DISCHARGE OF ITS statutory mandate, the KEBS National Standards Council approved destruction through conversion of the consignment for industrial ethanol use. The industrial ethanol conversion was to be implemented under the joint supervision of KEBS and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), within a multi-agency framework. The condition precedent to the conversion were; involvement of all the concerned regulatory agencies; sourcing a distiller through an open and competitive tendering process; and securing the payment of applicable taxes and statutory fees.

IT HAS SINCE BEEN established that the consignment was irregularly diverted and unprocedurally released. Further, the conditions relating to open and competitive enlisting of the distiller were breached and the applicable taxes were not paid.





IN RECOGNITION OF THE unique mandate of the agencies as vanguards of public health and safety, it is manifest that some officers in the relevant agencies abdicated their responsibilities, at the risk of public harm.

CONSEQUENTLY, it is noted that the Cabinet Secretaries for National Treasury and Economic Planning, and Investments, Trade and Industry, have sanctioned administrative action to suspend the following officers pending investigations:

A. Kenya Bureau of Standards

Lt. Col (Rtd) Bernard Njiraini, the Managing Director
Dr. Geoffrey Muriira, Director Quality Assurance and Inspection
Hilda Keror, Manager Inspection, Mombasa Port Office
Liston Lagat, Assistant Manager, ICDN Nairobi
Rono Birgen Chief Manager, ICDN Nairobi
Stephen Owuor, Principal Officer
Peter Olima Joseph – Inspector, Mombasa,

B. Kenya Revenue Authority

Joseph Kaguru Mwanja Masinde Stephen Muiruri Moses Okoth Doris Mutembei Chacha Hondo Carol Nyagechi Derick Kago

C. National Police Service

George Mithamo Joel Kirui

D. Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI)

Bernard Ngumbi Raphael Mwaka





E. Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA)

Oscar Kai Patrick Magut

- F. Joseph Maita Mweni (Port Health),
- G. Isacko Bonai (NEMA),
- H. Stephen Cheruiyot (Anti-Counterfeit Agency),
- I. Daniel Ngugi (KEPHIS),
- J. Willy Koskei (EACC),
- K. Edwin Ruto (KPA),

IN FIDELITY WITH the principles of governance, all public officers are called upon to uphold their civic duty at all times in the delivery of public good. In taking responsibility, we raise the bar on the high standards of service that we must all hold ourselves to. In so doing, we ensure that the ethos of honesty, integrity and accountability are entrenched in every aspect of our work and national life.

FELIX K. KOSKEI
CHIEF OF STAFF &
HEAD OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Wednesday 17th May, 2023