



**PRESS RELEASE**  
*(For Immediate Release)*

**IRREGULAR RELEASE  
*of*  
CONDEMNED SUGAR**

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**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.



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**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 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2023