



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND COOPERATIVES  
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

**PRESS STATEMENT BY HON. PETER MUNYA, EGH, CABINET  
SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK FISHERIES  
AND COOPERATIVES ON UPDATE ON MAIZE IMPORTS FROM EAC  
PARTNER STATES**

The Food crops sub-sector was hitherto unregulated since independence. This has led to many malpractices including unmonitored imports and cross-border trade leading to poor quality and unsafe crop produce and products.

The recent stoppage of unsafe maize was necessitated by continuous surveillance on the safety of food imports to Kenya where test results for maize imported from Uganda and Tanzania revealed high levels of mycotoxins consistently beyond safety limits. Mycotoxins particularly aflatoxins and fumonisins are carcinogenic.

In order to address the urgent food safety concerns, we have put a stoppage of unsafe maize from all destinations. The following measures have been put in place to facilitate safe trade of maize and other related food commodities;

1. Registration of all dealers of food crops including the transporters, importers and processors as per the requirements **of section 16 of the crops Act 2013**. All stakeholders are advised to log on to [www.afa.imis.go.ke](http://www.afa.imis.go.ke) for requirements for registration. The applicants will be vetted and approval granted through issuance of a **Registration Certificate**.
2. Successful applicants shall be notified on the need to apply for pre shipment documents stating the source of produce, purpose and destination including the storage facility where the produce shall be offloaded.
3. All consignments shall be accompanied by documents including the **Certificate of Conformity** (COC) of the produce issued by a Competent Authority from the exporting country processed through the KENTRADE single window system to be verified and approved by the crops inspectors. Additionally, random sampling shall be done at the border points with rapid testing to confirm that the grain is as per the conformity certificate issued by the exporting country.
4. Engaging EACC and DCI to crack down on corrupt practices by Government officers at the Border who are **accepting bribes** in exchange for maize entry approval stamps without inspection and verification.

AFA is working in collaboration with the regulators/competent authorities from the exporting countries to provide guidelines on how to meet the relevant EAC standards.

**Thank you!**