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PRESS RELEASE

HUMAN RIGHTS COURT DISMISSES FOOD SOVEREIGNTY SUIT AGAINST NBA OVER COMMERCIALISATION OF GM PRODUCTS IN GHANA

(Accra- 24th May, 2024) – The Human Rights Court 1 has dismissed the suit filed by Food Sovereignty Ghana, Convention People’s Party, Vegetarian Association of Ghana and Goaso Kanyan Akuafu Kuo against the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) and 4 others over the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms products in the country. The judgement comes after nine (9) years of legal tussle.

The court presided over by Her Ladyship, Justice Barbara Tetteh-Charway delivering her judgement described the FSG’s suit as ‘red herring’ since the plaintiffs in their application could not adduce evidence to show how their reliefs had a direct bearing on the commercialization of cowpea in the country.

The court directed the NBA to undertake continuous public sensitization through the media and other publications, and liaise with the relevant regulatory authorities to finalize the guidelines for labelling of GM products before any commercialization in the country, publish all relevant data on importation of GM cowpea on the Biosafety Clearing House and also to label all GM products on the market to enable the public to make informed choices.

The NBA, working with the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), has already issued guidelines on labelling of GMOs in Ghana which was developed with all stakeholders including Food Sovereignty Ghana. Currently, the FDA is in the process of sensitizing the relevant stakeholders first and then the general public on these guidelines.

The NBA wishes to assure Ghanaians that approvals granted for the environmental release and importation of GMOs into Ghana have undergone extensive scientific and socio-economic review in line with international best practices. These crops that have been approved by the NBA are safe for all Ghanaians.

The National Biosafety Authority remains committed to ensuring the safety of modern biotechnology in Ghana as well as continue to engage with stakeholders in a transparent manner as mandated by the Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act 831).

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ABOUT THE NBA

The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) is a government agency established by the Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act 831) to promote sustainable socio-economic development through the efficient and transparent regulation of modern biotechnology particularly Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). The Authority has the mandate to ensure the safe development, handling, transfer and use of GMOs in the country and also provide an adequate level of protection in the field of safe development transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organism resulting from biotechnology that may have an adverse effect on health and environment.