



NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY

New Year's Message to all NBA Stakeholders,

The Board, Management and Staff of NBA are pleased to extend greetings and best wishes to all stakeholders as we continue into the New Year 2017.

As we begin the year, We wish to thank you most sincerely for your continued commitment and to help us to deliver on our mandate - to ensure and assure safe development, transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Kenya.

In 2016, we worked together as a TEAM to implement the Biosafety Act, 2009 and we are immensely grateful for your support and contributions.

The Authority recognizes that Kenya is steadily moving towards commercialization of GMOs and that economic activities fueled by research and innovation in the biological sciences, the "bioeconomy," are a large and rapidly growing segment of the world economy that provides substantial public benefit.

In order to serve you better and to sustain the gains that we have made so far in the Authority, NBA has declared that the Year 2017 is to initiate strategies **"To ensure and assure sustainable economic benefits of biotechnology"** and the driving theme will be: ***"Mainstreaming Biosafety in Emerging Biotechnologies for***

Sustainable Development”. This will also be our theme for the Sixth Annual Biosafety Conference to be held in August.

As part of our goal this year, NBA will help promote sustainable economic benefits and adoption of applications of Biotechnology and address issues in emerging biotechnologies. These emerging issues include safety and security of non-pharmaceutical activities (vaccines, drug development, and synthetic biology), Gene Editing and compliance with international frameworks.

To achieve this goal we intend to continue with the Board's initiative to amend the Biosafety Act 2009 and bring together players within the industry to establish a National Bioeconomy Implementation Committee. This Committee will establish a Bioeconomy policy and Strategy for Kenya. We will also endeavour to support Kenya's attainment of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

We appreciate the great work that each organization is doing and the dedication to NBA. It is because of you that we have such great confidence in our future at NBA.

We declare and affirm that 2017 will be a rewarding year for NBA and all of us.

Sincerely,



Willy Kiprotich Tonui, PhD, RBP, EBS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY