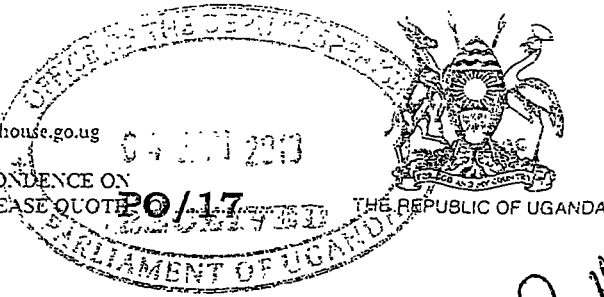


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IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON  
THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE **PO/17**  
THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



State House,  
P. O. Box 25497,  
Kampala,  
Uganda.

21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017

Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga  
Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda  
**KAMPALA**

*Handwritten notes:*  
Rt. Hon. D/Speaker  
Please send to  
the MPS  
1/2/18  
02 JAN 2018

## THE BIO-SAFETY LAW

am writing in connection with the "Bio-Safety Law" which, in fact, means "genetic engineering". Why was it not so named clearly?

Coming to the details, I have heard that the following points may be inimical to our future:


- (1) There are ancient crops and livestock with unique genetic configuration. Examples would include millet, sorghum, beans, Ankole cattle, *enkoromoijo* cattle, Ugandan chicken, etc. These products have got specific genetic make up which our people have developed for millenia through selection (*kutorana* for seeds and *kubikira* (selecting good bulls – *enimi* or *empaya* – he-goats). Using the new science of genetic engineering, one may add an additional quality – drought resistance, quick maturing, disease resistant etc. This law, apparently, talks of giving monopoly of patent rights to this adder (*omwongyerezi*) and forgets about the communities that developed original material. This is wrong. Yes, we appreciate the contribution of the adder. However, we cannot forget the original preservers, developers and multipliers of the original materials. This

- (2) There is, apparently, reference to a plan to have these genetically modified materials in the irrigated areas of Mobuku. Why have drought resistant seeds in irrigated areas? Is this a hoax?
- (3) We welcome genetically modified seeds. I cannot accept the logic of Pope Urban VIII who ex-communicated physicist and astronomer Galileo Galilei for saying that the Earth was spherical contrary to the uninformed Pope's belief, following existing knowledge of that time, that the Earth was flat. However, to be on the safe-side, the genetically modified seeds should never be randomly mixed with our indigenous seeds just in case they turn out to have a problem. There should, therefore, be no cross-pollination between the GMO seeds and our indigenous seeds. The law, therefore, should clarify that green houses will be used to imprison the pollen of the GMO seeds or distances should be stipulated so that there is no mix-up.
- (4) Effluent from the GMO material should never mix with our organic materials. The law should clarify that.
- (5) Use of poisons and dangerous bacteria as the inputs in genetic engineering must never be allowed.
- (6) The labeling must be clear and failure to label the GMO products clearly should attract severe punishments.
- (7) Using the term "Modern bio-technology" is vague. What if they start cloning humans? Genetic engineering for crops and plants must be clearly stated and so should the genetic engineering animal species such as controlling diseases

- (8) The Law should also not prescribe the home of genetic engineering to be the Ministry of Science and Technology. That should be administratively decided by the President in accordance with safety and effectiveness of developing the Science.
- (9) By copy of this letter, I am also asking the Minister of Agriculture whether NARO has already released some of this material to the public. How will NARO stop the contamination of our indigenous seeds without the precautions mentioned in this document?
- (10) The consumer must be protected. If a developer of GMOs produces dangerous material that harms the environment or people or animals (wild or livestock), that developer must be held accountable.
- (11) Again, by copy of this letter, I am directing the Minister of Agriculture to work out, may be with NARO, a plan for Noah's Ark where all our unique indigenous material (for plant and animals) will be kept, uncontaminated with any GMO, for future use if there is any crisis within the modernization efforts.

Finally and, therefore, I am requesting the Parliament to consider the points I have noted above and review the following clauses of the "Bio-Safety Law":

- The Title of the Law
- Sections 3, 15, 16, 25, 26, 35 and 36.

  
Yoweri K. Museveni  
P R E S I D E N T

Copy to: H.E. the Vice President

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister  
Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and  
Fisheries  
Hon. Minister of Science and Technology