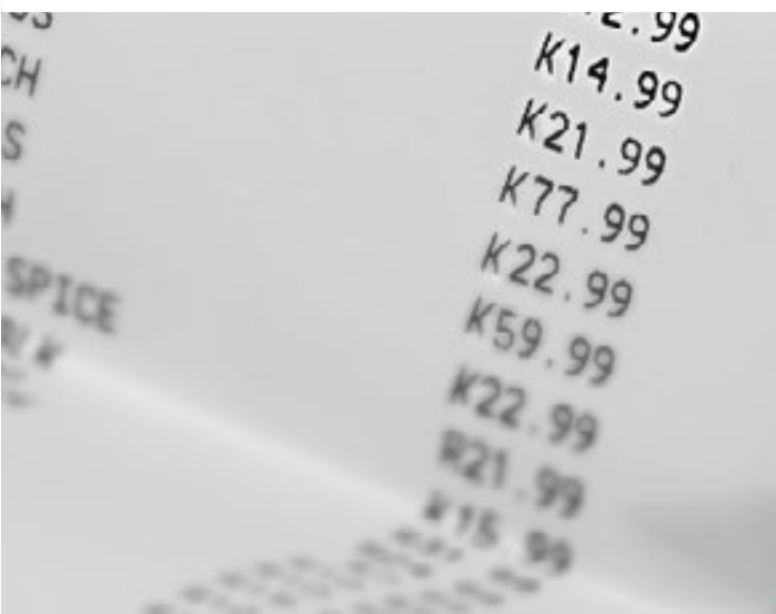


MAY-JULY 2019

# CONSUMER WATCH



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## NBA GRANTS PERMIT TO FOUR COMPANIES FOR GMO IMPORTS

*National Biosafety Authority Chairperson Paul Zambezi said products which have been allowed to be on the Zambian market by the National Biosafety Authority have been established to be safe for consumers but reiterated that as food safety is important, the authority will not allow any food or feed which is not safe for either human consumption nor for as animal feed to be on the market.*



The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has granted four companies new permits to import products that may contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Zambezi explained that the permits have been granted to Gatbro Distributors, Pick n Pay, Southern National Import and Export Limited and Choppies Super Stores market.

The NBA board has approved the granting of permits to four companies. In May 2019, the Scientific Advisory Committee of the NBA recommended to the Board the issuance of permits after risk assessment was conducted on the products that may contain GMOs and were found to be safe for human consumption.

Among the products which Gatbro intends to import include Bokomo Oates, Pro-Nutro instant porridge, Bokomo Cornflakes, Bisto and Knorr soups, Simba Doritos, Bakers snack time, Cheese and some other white label branded products which may contain GMOs among others.

Zambezi added that the authority is currently reviewing other permits applications, which are at various stages of processing. The public will be informed and that all these products are labelled to say that they 'may contain GMOs'.

## ZICTA DEACTIVATES SIM CARDS USED FOR FRAUD

Zambia Information Technology and Communication Authority (ZICTA) has deactivated over 500 SIM cards countrywide for violating consumer guideline policies. Kapembwa Sikazwe, District Administrative Officer, Chipata has advised ZICTA to up its game.



During a consumer awareness meeting, ZICTA Manager for Consumer Protection and Compliance Edgar Mlauzi said the SIM cards were deactivated for sending fraudulent messages. He said that in line with the fraud messages, 500 SIM cards have been deactivated for violating Section 18.2 of the guidelines of Consumer Protection.

*(The Mast, 26.07.19)*

## BUYZED CAMPAIGN CAN MAKE ZAMBIA GREAT

The call for home-grown solutions to national issues of Zambia is for all stakeholders and the successful

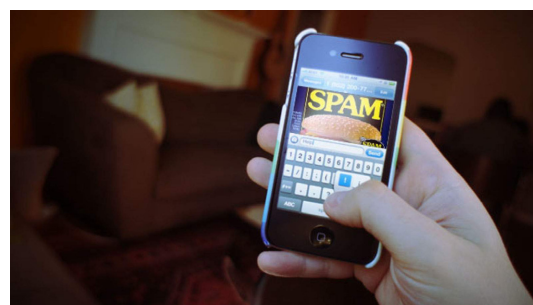


implementation and seeing tangible results is largely dependent and intertwined with stakeholder embracing and participation. As BuyZed, Zambians believe that only they can make themselves great, and more importantly, they need and must use what is within their means to improve lifestyles individually and collectively. They have resources, some God-given like good arable land, favourable climatic conditions for agriculture, a hardworking and proud citizenry that prides itself in what is theirs, infrastructure that is already existing and potentially more to be built.

*(Zambia Daily Mail, 29.07.19)*

## CITIZENS IRRITATED WITH SPAM MESSAGES

The Zambia Consumer Association (ZACA) said that there is need to revise the frequency of Government of Republic of Zambia (GRZ) text messages sent to consumers of mobile phone services. Citizens have taken to social media to express their displeasure with the inundation of messages from the government talking about the so-called peace, unity and patriotism but the same government is in the forefront dividing the country.



Citizens have described the messages as unsolicited spam as the said messages do not take people's concerns into account, such as lack of job opportunities, abuse by Chinese slave masters, institutionalised corruption etc.

*(Zambian Watchdog, 29.07.19)*



## BUSINESS-TECHNOLOGY NEXUS

**N**ow a days Information Technology (IT) is everything. It is a major consumer of our time and the world is always chock-full of new inventions. The impact of such development is keenly felt in our lives and many facets of the economy. In the Western world where almost everything has gone digital, the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) is in its heyday with almost all corporate entities utilising various technological services in their day-to-day business transactions.



Bill Gates, the Microsoft mogul, once remarked that technology and business are becoming inextricably interwoven, and that they cannot be separated from each other. That statement holds true to whatever innovations unfolding before our eyes in terms of the business-technology nexus. The use of ICTs is receiving overwhelming support in Zambia, as can be seen from the recent launch of e-governance systems.

*(Zambia Daily Mail, 01.05.19)*

*Images are acquired from the Internet*

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