

## STATEMENT BY HON. PETER MUNYA, MGH, CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COOPERATIVES ON QUALITY AND SAFETY OF SUGAR AND OTHER IMPORTED PRODUCTS

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good morning my learned friends from the fourth estate, I wish to thank you for joining us for this press conference. As I committed last week, I welcome you to this weekly update on what we are doing to curb the menace of illicit trade in our country. I wish to update you on what we have accomplished in the past week in relation to illicit trade and the release of goods confirmed to be of good quality for trade in the Kenyan market.

### FIGHTING ILLICIT TRADE IN KENYA

2. The fight against illicit trade is going to continue relentlessly and will be sustained. In the ongoing Kenya Trade Week and Exposition, for example, we are educating Kenyans to say no to illicit trade and we have launched a **Multi-Agency public outreach strategy** to curtail illicit trade. Illicit trade is described as ***“Any practice or conduct prohibited by law and which relates to production, shipment, receipt, possession, distribution, sale or purchase including any practice or conduct intended to facilitate such activity.”***
3. In the context of the Standards Act Chapter 496 of the Laws of Kenya, illicit trade involves the intentional placing of substandard goods in the market including prohibited products.

### MARKET SURVEILLANCE OF SUGAR IN THE COUNTRY

1. As promised, we have continued market surveillance to ensure that products in our markets are safe for consumption. To date KEBS has drawn 261 samples from **45** counties. The remaining Counties are Tana River and Mandera, which will also be covered as soon as possible.
2. KEBS has so far tested **109** samples representing **42** counties. This represents an increase of 14 additional 14 counties, which had not been covered in the last report. The counties are Bungoma, Busia, Elgeyo Marakwet, Homabay, Isiolo, Kericho, Migori, Narok, Nyamira, Samburu, Siaya, Turkana, Vihiga and West Pokot.
3. The compliance rate of samples tested so far is **68.8** per cent.
4. The level of failure among the market surveillance samples is about 31.2 per cent. The main parameters in which the sugar failed are:
  - a) Moisture content
  - b) Yeast and moulds
  - c) Color
  - d) Total viable count
  - e) Polarization

5. These failures are indicative of poor handling during storage. I therefore urge businesses and the general public to store/handle sugar in a hygienic manner as guided by Kenya Standards.
6. The samples were also tested for the following heavy metals: Mercury, Arsenic, Lead and Copper. KEBS did not detect any non-conformities with regard to these heavy metals in any of the samples tested so far.
7. Market surveillance will continue and will be even enhanced.

## RELEASE OF SUGAR SEIZED BY THE MULTI-AGENCY COMMITTEE

Today, I am pleased to announce the release to the owners the sugar that had been seized and has been found to be compliant with the Kenyan Standards. This is ongoing as at now under the Multi Agency Committee.


The legal process leading to destruction of the sugar that failed the Standards test is underway and we will invite you to witness when the process is completed.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

As I conclude, I wish to assure Kenyans that the government remains committed and determined to fight illicit trade. The Multi-Agency Committee will continue their market surveillance and public outreach activities.

I would like to assure Kenyans the commitment of government to ensure products in the market are safe for human consumption and are of the required standard.

Allow me to share with you this public information pamphlet on illicit trade and the contacts/hotlines for all agencies dealing with illicit trade.

No .	Type of illicit trade	Institution	Physical location	Telephone call (Hotline(S))	Email/Twitter Name / Twitter handle
1.	Counterfeiting	ACA	National Water Building	020-280111	<a href="mailto:info@aca.go.ke/">info@aca.go.ke/</a>
2.	Sub-standard goods	KEBS	Popo Road, off Mombasa Road	<a href="tel:1545">toll free line 1545</a>	E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@kebs.org">info@kebs.org</a> / or <a href="mailto:illicit@kebs.org">illicit@kebs.org</a> /  <a href="https://twitter.com/KEBS_KE">@KEBS_KE</a> /
3.	Uncustomed & others tax related goods	KRA	Times Tower Building	020-310900	<a href="mailto:cic@kra.go.ke">cic@kra.go.ke</a>

4.	Copyrighting	KECOBO	NHIF Building	070388503	<a href="mailto:info@copyright.go.ke">info@copyright.go.ke</a>
5	Multi Agency Anti-Illicit Trade Outreach (MAAITO) coordination office	State Department for Trade (SDT) & Govt. Agencies	Tel Posta Towers, 21 <sup>st</sup> Floor	0707-967 057 0731 967 057	 @acakenya