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press release



KEBS HAS DEVELOPED THE NECESSARY STANDARDS ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE MARKET

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We refer to various media reports on the implementation of the New Alcohol Law (The Alcohol Act) in relation to availability of standards for alcoholic beverages. We are pleased to inform the public that KEBS has developed standards on alcoholic beverages.

KEBS has the national mandate of developing the necessary standards and provides the necessary support in the implementation, inspection and testing of these beverages. Standards development is a dynamic process that considers the changing environmental factors during development and review.

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Methanol is associated with the distillation process for spirituous liquors i.e. rum, gin, whisky, brandy, vodka, neutral spirit and traditional spirits (e.g. chang'aa). These standards include hygiene requirements and also set limits for contaminants i.e. methanol among others.

KEBS has developed standards for all the above spirits and we are currently engaged in the development of standard(s) for traditional spirits which will obviously set the standards for hygiene and the maximum limits for methanol based on existing scientific information and results from laboratory analysis of the products.

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Standards are developed through consensus agreement by technical committees and the process involves the contribution of all stakeholders interested in the product (e.g. traditional spirits). The Technical Committee on Alcoholic Beverages has taken up this project.

We also wish to assure members of the public that KEBS will continue to ensure consumer protection by working closely with other agencies, the industry and carry out market surveillance to confirm traceability of what is being produced and in the market outlets.

Consumers have a choice of over 200 safe alcoholic beverages that have been approved and granted the Standardization mark. The list of firms permitted to use the Marks of Quality can be traced to KEBS data bank. KEBS carries out regular factory inspection and market surveillance to ensure the products are of good quality and safe for use.

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We urge all manufacturers and retail outlets to ensure that only proper quality products bearing genuine KEBS Marks of Quality are offered for sale to consumers.

We also request all consumers to look out for quality products, exercise moderation in consumption and take up responsibility towards their health and safety.

Thank You.

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MANAGING DIRECTOR

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