



Kenya Bureau of
Standards

Standards for Quality life

PRESS STATEMENT

Market Surveillance on Various Banned Cosmetics Brands

Nairobi, 31st October 2022... KEBS in its market surveillance activities seized a total of 435 banned cosmetics from the market (see photos attached). KEBS wishes to notify the public that the below listed cosmetic brands are banned and therefore should not be sold. The products contain harmful substances which are hydroquinone, mercury and its compounds. Constant use of cosmetic products containing hydroquinone and mercury plus its compounds can result in **rashes, swelling, redness or peeling, fatigue, weakness, bone pain and skin discoloration**. Exposure to high levels of these elements over long periods of time can lead to serious health problems such as kidney damage, digestive illnesses, and nervous diseases. KEBS recently undertook surveillance activities on banned cosmetics. A full list of banned cosmetics is attached can be found on our website using the following link https://www.kebs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=114&Itemid=154

It is also our responsibility to keep the public informed of the compliance status of products, including banned cosmetics, to enable consumers make informed choices and hence we have put up communication on banned products on our website and we do constant surveillance and monitoring in Kenyan Market which is a legal and constitutional right. KEBS shall continue to undertake market surveillance to ensure consumer health and safety. Banned cosmetics found will be seized for destruction at the expense of the owner in addition to any other legal action as provided under the law.

We encourage the public to be vigilant and inform KEBS upon encountering any products suspected to be substandard. **Wajibika Na KEBS** is a program that allows the public to report cases of substandard products. **To Wajibika**, verify whether the **S-Mark permit** on your product is valid by sending the code underneath the **S-Mark to 20023 (SM#Code)** to get product manufacturing details. If the details are different, invalid, or not traceable to the platform, kindly report to **KEBS** through **Toll Free Number 1545** during official working **hours 8.00 AM to 1.00 PM and 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Friday**. If you are aware of any kind of foul play by any manufacturer, also report those cases to KEBS through the toll-free number.

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About KEBS

Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) is a statutory body established under the Standards Act (CAP 496) of the laws of Kenya and is a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). KEBS' mandate is to provide standardization and conformity assessment services.

For more information, please contact KEBS Corporate Communication:

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