



KENYA ACCREDITATION SERVICE

(A STATUTORY ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT)

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE SUSPENSION OF AGRIQ-QUEST LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

Response to the Newspaper Article on Business Daily, 13th January, 2017: License of Industrial Lab Agriq-Quest Suspended.

Nairobi, 16th January, 2017: KENAS (Kenya Accreditation Service) is the organization mandated to offer accreditation services by the Government of Kenya (GoK) and established under the States Corporations Act, Cap 446; vide Legal Notice No. 55 of May 2009. KENAS therefore issues the following:

1. KENAS confirms that Agriq-Quest laboratory underwent surveillance assessment on 1st December 2016, as part of the requirements of reviewing the effectiveness of accreditation issued to a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) such as Agriq-Quest.
2. During the scheduled assessment, the assessment team found out that Agriq-Quest did not fulfill the relevant requirements needed to enable her continuity with KENAS accreditation.
3. Agriq-Quest submitted a formal complaint to KENAS on December 6th, 2016, pertaining to the assessment process, and the suspension. The complaint is currently being investigated by an investigations team independent of the assessment team, and appointed by KENAS as per the requirements of our internal Complaints Handling Procedure. The investigations committee is the one that called Agriq-Quest. The process of investigations is ongoing.
4. KENAS therefore, cannot comment on the subject matter as doing so may lead to the risk of compromising the independence, impartiality and objectivity of the investigation.

-ENDS-

Sammy K. Milgo
Chief Executive Officer, KENAS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The authority of an accreditation body is generally derived by government. In Kenya, the organization mandated to offer accreditation services is the Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS). It is established under the States Corporations Act, Cap 446; vide Legal Notice No. 55 of May 2009. KENAS is an associate member at the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and a member applicant to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) which are umbrella organizations that oversee global accreditation activities.

A. KENAS is mandated among other things to:-

1. *Provide accreditation to conformity assessment bodies:*
 - a. *Veterinary Laboratory Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 and OIE*
 - b. *Products, Processes and Services to ISO/IEC 17065*
 - c. *Personnel Certification Bodies to ISO/IEC 17024*
 - d. *Testing & Calibration Laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025*
 - e. *Medical laboratories to ISO 15189*
 - f. *Point of Care Testing Providers to ISO 22870 and ISO 15189*
 - g. *Proficiency Test Service providers to ISO/IEC 17043*
 - h. *Inspection & Verification bodies to ISO/IEC 17020*
 - i. *Management systems Accreditation ISO/IEC 17021*
 - j. *Reference Medical Laboratories ISO/IEC 15195*
 - h. *Pharmaceutical Laboratories ISO/IEC 17025*
2. *Create order in trade in products and services;*
3. *Eliminate incompetent practices;*
4. *Provide a level playing ground to CABs; and*
5. *Provide competitive accreditation services which are internationally recognized.*

B. *Conformity Assessment Bodies* are those organisations that assess the compliance and or conformance of products, services and suppliers to guided specifications and requirements e.g. Personnel certification bodies, food testing and processing bodies, testing and calibration laboratories, proficiency testing laboratories, inspection and verification bodies, medical laboratories, certification bodies etc.

C. *Accreditation is distinct from certification.* Certification focuses on an organisation's overall compliance with systems and products standards rather than the technical competence which is what accreditation focuses on. Therefore accreditation becomes a formal recognition to the CABs that they are competent to carry out conformity assessment tasks.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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