Ugandan committee questions safety of biotech bill

Considering GMOs to be dangerous, a report generated from consultations by the committee on science and technology has cautioned government and parliament against rushing to pass the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill.

These consultations were done last month and the committee has written a report which outlines the various concerns from the stakeholders.

Briefing New Vision about the content of the report over the weekend, the committee chairman Anthony Ssemuli said, "We have a very big challenge because even scientists disagree on this bill. The bill is highly technical. We have to go slow and make more consultations and research. There is no reason to rush this bill."

Going by the contradicting views from various stakeholders including disagreements among scientists, Parliament will have an uphill task in refining the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill to especially safeguard the interests of Uganda against the interests of multinational seed giants like Monsanto.

Considering that there are already GMO products in the market coupled with so many unregulated field trials for GMOs, Ssemuli said there is need for a law to regulate the use of GMOs.

Read the full, original story: Report cautions parliament on GMO bill