

## Uganda's GMO law expected to pass now that president's 'concerns' have been addressed, officials say

Some Ugandan officials are optimistic that the nation's biotechnology biosafety bill will soon pass, saying that President Museveni's concerns have been addressed.

"The president expressed concern on seven out of 44 clauses in the biosafety bill," noted Kafeero Sekitoleko, chairman of Parliament's Science and Technology Committee. "These have since been addressed and we're ready to report back (to Parliament). I want to leave Uganda with a biosafety law by end of my term in May (2018)."

After years of wrangling, Parliament passed the bill in October 2017. But President Museveni referred it to back to lawmakers in December, citing various concerns.

Other officials also sought to allay fears that the country may never have a biosafety law.

"The president's issues with the biosafety bill have been addressed. So the bill will pass," reiterated Christopher Kibazanga, state Minister for Agriculture.

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The announcement prompted jubilation from an evidently excited audience. Uganda's pro-biotech community is now in a "fingers-crossed" mood as it eagerly awaits results from yesterday's tabling of the report.

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