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Standards BULLETIN

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8th National Standards Council Sworn in

Ten members of the National Standards Council were sworn in at an inauguration ceremony at Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).



The 8th National Standards Council members pose for a photo with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Hon. Amelia Kyambadde

One by one each council member took a declaration of office and an oath of allegiance to the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony held at Standards House, the Minister of trade, Industry and Cooperatives Hon. Amelia Kyambadde who administered the oaths congratulated the Chairperson and members for accepting to serve on UNBS' board for a period of three years.

"The delay in the appointment of the 8th National Standards Council was due to discussions within government on the

restructuring processes of Departments and Agencies but due to the critical nature of the Council in the implementation of UNBS mandate, Cabinet agreed, after consultation with the Attorney General to reappoint you to the 8th National Standards Council as detailed in your letters of appointment." She added.

Hon. Kyambadde acknowledged the achievements and challenges of the 7th Council as detailed in their report and encouraged the members to find innovative ways and solutions to resolve these challenges.

"Quality is life, life is quality"



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She added that work such as standards to be approved, court and disciplinary cases had accumulated and urged them to adhere to good governance practices as they provide oversight to UNBS activities and programs.

"I would also wish to see better policies and strategies put in place in supporting various Government programs and the Private sector in delivering UNBS services" she said.

In her inaugural address, the chairperson of the National Standards Council, Eng. Masitula Munyaami Male

recognized pledged to work with Management to ensure that UNBS delivers on its mandate.

"The challenges detailed in our report at the end of the 7th Council are now our challenges and we pledge to work with the Minister and the Management of UNBS sometimes aggressively to raise the profile of UNBS." Eng. Male said. The inauguration ceremony was closed by the Minister and due to the amount of accumulated pending work items, the Council immediately reconvened to start deliberations.

Parliamentary committee on trade Visits UNBS

A thirty member delegation of the Parliamentary Committee on Tourism, Trade and industry paid a one day visit to the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) to discuss UNBS mandate.



The Parliamentary Committee on Trade visiting the UNBS testing laboratories in Nakawa

The purpose of the one-day visit was to afford the Committee the opportunity to meet with the management of UNBS regarding topics of interests and notably the budget allocations of government to UNBS.

The Members of Parliament were received by the UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo and the management team who took them on a site visit of the UNBS testing laboratories in Nakawa and the new laboratories under construction in Bweyogerere.

Speaking during the meeting at the UNBS headquarters in Bweyogerere, the Chairperson of the Committee Dr. Manyindo welcomed the Committee to UNBS and said that during FY2017/18,

the Bureau received UGX 38.5 billion which was allocated to implement a number of activities under its approved annual work plan.

"Overall, the performance was very good. The institution achieved all its targets at 100% and exceeded its Non Tax Revenue collections by UGX 1.7 billion despite a shortfall from government grants of UGX 1.488 billion", he said.

Asked how UNBS facilitates local producers in the producing quality, Dr. Manyindo reiterated that it is now a legal requirement for products covered by mandatory standards to bear the distinctive mark (Q-mark).

"H.E the President has always noted the

need to assist the enterprises to have their products certified. The challenge has been the public perception that the cost of certification is high but the cost has been significantly subsidized to bring MSMEs on board", Dr. Manyindo said.

Members of the Committee were increasingly concerned about the influx of substandard goods on the market. Dr. Manyindo however reiterated that UNBS who is the lead agency in the advancement of quality standards and allied safety aspects across all sectors of the economy is grossly challenged to effectively undertake its mandate. He further requested for additional funding to UNBS to enhance capacity for MSMEs certification, quality monitoring and enforcement.

"UNBS is seeking for additional UGX 5 billion per year on a rolling basis to support 1000 enterprises. This will cover the cost of sensitization, training, technical assistance, auditing, product testing and certification fees for one year. The enterprises are expected to meet 50% of the cost in year two and 100% in year three."

Due to the government ban on recruitment, UNBS has continued to be understaffed to which the Executive Director asked that the Bureau be freed from the ban in order to generate more Non Tax Revenue when more manpower is recruited.

"The Bureau requests for consideration to recruit additional 100 technical staff per year to scale up its service delivery. The current staffing level is 300 out of the 640 staff required. This would generate additional NTR of at least UGX 13.5 billion during FY2019/20," Dr. Manyindo said.

The Members of the Committee recognized the need for additional staff and hence committed to lobbying for additional funding and staff to ensure that Ugandans are protected from substandard products that have continued to flood the market because of the challenges faced by UNBS.

The sessional Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry is mandated by Parliament to oversee the activities of the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry. Other departments and agencies under its jurisdiction include; The Uganda Tourist Board (UTB), Uganda Export Promotions Board (UEPB), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC), Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) and Management Training and Advisory Centre (MTAC).

UNBS staff tipped on operation wealth creation

Operation Wealth Creation was launched in July 2013 by President Yoweri Museveni to create a system that facilitates effective national socio-economic transformation with a focus on raising household incomes.



Lt. General Angina of Operation Wealth Creation speaking to UNBS staff at Standards house

Recent poverty estimates indicated that the population of Ugandans living in absolute poverty has reduced from 56.4% in 1992/93 to less than 19.7% in 2012/13. Uganda has surpassed the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halving the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty by 2015, and is on the track to achieve Vision 2040 poverty target of 5%.

The National Coordinator Operation Wealth Creation Lt. General Angina while speaking to staff at Standards house said, "It is only agriculture that can reduce poverty, which is why the President tasked soldiers to support the cause of household incomes for poverty eradication."

Lt. Gen. Angina said the program's technical team helps farmers identify which enterprise is economically viable. The programme follows the zoning of agricultural activities in the country using the Local Economic Development (LED) policy.

"We identify the best economic activity by region using the LED policy and encourage people to concentrate on those activities for long term yields and benefits," he explains.

He explained that the programme's second phase – stabilization of the first phase was passed by cabinet following the success of the initial phase where a mobilization drive was done to enable the masses embrace and appreciate the efforts of OWC.

"Phase 2 entails group engagements to do away with individualism. It also encourages value addition which is where UNBS comes in. We would like to see farmers and producers adhere to the set standards without compromising quality" Lt. Gen. Angina added.

The objective of OWC is to mobilize the masses to engage in commercial agricultural activities to boost their household incomes. It also aims at distributing production inputs equitably and in time to boost production and productivity at household level and to facilitate rural

technological upgrading to allow smallholder farmers to transform themselves into small-scale industrialists.

"The OWC is operating in 18 zones, namely Acholi, Ankole, Bugisu, Busoga, Kampala, Karamoja, Kigezi, Lango, Madi, Masaka, Mengo, Mubende, Rwenzori, Sebei and West Nile. It is operating in all the 112 districts and our operations go up to constituency level," Lt. Gen. Angina explained.

Lt. Gen. Angina says there is improved delivery of inputs to farmers and now the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) is following up with providing extension workers at sub-county levels.

He encouraged participants to address broader governance issues like weak institutions, poor leadership, corruption and misuse of funds in the agricultural sector because they have a direct impact on the effectiveness of agricultural programmes.

He identified flagship items for the agricultural sector as cotton, coffee, tea, maize, beans, fish, dairy, beef, and palm oil. Other viable sectors outside agriculture are tourism, service, and cooperatives among others.

He committed to support UNBS SACCO in transforming the quality of life of UNBS staff.

Technical meetings held

- The 6th Extra Ordinary meeting of the Standards Management Committee (SMC) which is a committee of the East African Standards Committee. The SMC is responsible for the management of the Standards programme in the EAC. The committee met in Arusha, Tanzania to consider over 60 harmonized standards for commonly traded commodities/products in sectors such as footwear, confectionery, packaging, petroleum, processed horticulture, textile and cosmetic products. The meeting amongst others, considered and recommended a total of 60 Final Draft East African Standards (FDEAS) and 8 amendments for approval. The meeting also recommended 136 international standards for endorsement as East African Standards (18 as requirements and 118 as normative references). The above standards will be presented to the East African Standards Committee (EASC) for approval in May 2019.

Harmonized standards are a key ingredient in supporting regional trade thereby contributing to the integration of the people of East Africa. The SMC will also make some ground with regard to development of a 3 year regional standardization strategy. Five Partner States (BU, KE, RW, TZ and UG) are fully represented in the meeting.

- Uganda represented by UNBS, participated in the Regional harmonization meeting EASC/TC 004 on Meat, poultry, game, eggs and their products that took place at Arusha International Conference Centre, Arusha, Tanzania. The meeting discussed Draft East African standards on;

- » DEAS 955:2019, Hygienic requirements for the production of packaged meat products
- » DEAS 954:2019, Sausages — Specification
- » DEAS 953:2019, Dressed poultry — Specification
- » DEAS 26:2019, Canned corned beef — Specification
- » DEAS 84-1:2019, Meat grades and meat cuts, part 1 – Beef grades and cuts — Specification

- UNBS convened the second UNBS TC 2/SC 14 Technical Committee meeting on Apiculture and apiculture products at UNBS Standards house, Bweyogerere. The meeting deliberated on generating a national position on Draft East African standards in preparation for the regional harmonization meeting on apiary and apiary standards. Namely;

- » CD/159/2018, Bee pollen — specification
- » CD/U/001/2018, Propolis — specification
- » CDEAS 36:2000, Honey — Specification

- » CD/T/160/2018, Stingless bee pollen — Specification

- UNBS/TC 16/ SC 2- Drilling, Development and Production Equipment and Materials held its 39th TC meeting to discuss standards on methods of specifying flowmeter performance, these standards shall be applicable in the area of fiscal and allocation metering of petroleum.

- The Food and Agriculture Standards Technical Committee, through its Sub-committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (UNBS TC2/SC6) developed two draft Uganda standards for Food Grade Nitrogen (DUS 2036: 2019) and Food Grade Gelatin (DUS 2126: 2019). Food Grade Nitrogen is used in food as a foaming agent, packaging gas and propellant. On the other hand, Food Grade Gelatin, also known as Edible Gelatin is a mixture of peptides and proteins produced from collagen extracted from the hides or skins, bones, and connective tissues of animals. It is used in foods as a gelling or thickening agent. The draft standards are on circulation to the general public until 14th April, 2019 for comments on their suitability for implementation. Copies for review and commenting can be obtained at <https://www.unbs.go.ug/alerts.php?src=dsp>

- A Technical Working Group of the National Codex Committee deliberated on Codex General Principles in preparation for the 31st Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, scheduled to take place in Bordeaux, France from 11th to 15th March, 2019. The Technical Working Group deliberated on the use of technology in the elaboration of Codex standards to improve participation of Ugandan's in Codex standards setting processes and the celebration of the First World Food Safety Day scheduled for 7th June, 2019. Codex is about safe, good food for everyone – everywhere. It is an intergovernmental organization, responsible for the development of international food standards that ensure consumer safety and fair trade practices in food trade.

- UNBS TC10/SC2 – Conformity Assessment convened its 5th meeting which focused on deliberation in new areas or New Work Items in Conformity Assessment which include:

1. NWI ISO/IEC TS 17021-8:2019 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of

management systems -- Part 8: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of management systems for sustainable development in communities

2. NWI ISO/IEC TS 17021-10:2018 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 10: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of occupational health and safety management systems

3. NWI ISO/IEC TS 17021-11:2018 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 11: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of facility management (FM) management systems

These standards will be relevant to bodies providing or conducting audits in Conformity Assessment in Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems, sustainable development in communities and facility management

- On the 26th February 2019, UNBS TC10/SC11 – Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) convened its 15th meeting which focused on deliberations on Draft Uganda Standards for Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in new areas Protective clothing for firefighters, PPE ensembles for firefighters undertaking specific rescue activities, Personal eye-protectors, Mobile elevating work platforms, industrial furnaces and associated processing equipment and Health and safety in welding,

UNBS participates in second round of corporate games

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) participated in three corporate games namely Soccer, Woodball and Tug of war. The results were as follows;



UNBS 2:1 Kwese TV

UNBS 2:0 Mandela Stadium

UNBS 0: 4 Victoria Hospital.

Our top goal scorers were Asiimwe Patrick and Maurice Musuga who scored 2 goals each.

UNBS won the Tug of war against Victoria hospital

In wood ball

UNBS vs Next Media/ Sanyuka - UNBS WON - Manzi Nixon

UNBS vs Next Media/ Sanyuka UNBS WON - Mudanye Tito



UPCOMING EVENT

- ISO/PC 318 COMMUNITY SCALE RESOURCE ORIENTED SANITATION SYSTEM TO BE HELD ON 1ST-5TH APRIL 2019 AT KAMPALA SERENA HOTEL.