

# STANDARDS BULLETIN



OCTOBER 2017



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UNBS Executive Director speaking at the Quality Gala Press Briefing.

## UNBS TO HOST QUALITY AWARDS

In an effort to promote quality and encourage local businesses to produce products according to set standards, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has announced the 2017 Quality Awards.

The awards to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 will recognize local companies whose products have consistently met standards both at national and international level.

Speaking at the press conference to announce the Awards, the UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo, said: "The Quality Awards will recognize local businesses that have demonstrated compliance to our rigorous certification scheme".

The Quality Awards come at a time when the country is promoting locally manufactured products under the Buy Uganda, Build Uganda Campaign. Under the campaign, the UNBS is supporting SMEs to ensure that they meet the required standards. Last financial year, UNBS

scaled up its certification activities by issuing 899 certification permits mainly to support SMEs to gain access to regional and international markets. "Standards are important in ensuring that local products remain competitive both in the local and international markets. Quality products are not only important in ensuring that the customer gets value for money but they also promote both local and international trade thereby contributing to economic growth," Dr. Manyindo added.

This year, the categories will include: The Overall Winner, 1st Runner up, Winner from the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SME) and Winner of the Services Award.

The companies identified through the Product Quality Certification Scheme are required to have quality goods in terms of customer safety quality and also capability of accessing the lucrative regional and international markets.



**UNBS STAFF EXCEL AT  
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# UGANDA SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CODEX SESSION ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) held its 20th Session in Kampala, Uganda from 2nd to 6th October 2017 hosted by the Government of Uganda together with the Government of Mexico. The meeting attracted over 120 delegates from 43 countries.

The meeting was opened by Hon. Amelia Kyambadde, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and Hon Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, Minister of Health of Uganda who welcomed the delegates and addressed the meeting. Dr. Bodo Bongomin, Country Representative of WHO, also made remarks on behalf of FAO and WHO.

The Session was chaired by Mr. Alberto Ulises Esteban Marina, Director General, General Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Economy of Mexico and co-chaired by Prof. William Kyamuhangire, School of Food Technology and Nutrition, Makerere University of Ugan-



Ministers and delegates from around the world attending the 20<sup>th</sup> session of Codex Committee on fresh fruits and vegetables at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala.

da. The Session was attended by delegates from 43 member countries, one member organization and 3 observer organizations.

The meeting made progress in advancing standards for aubergines, kiwi fruits, and ware potatoes. The standards for fresh dates and garlic were differed for further review and discussions at the next Codex Committee meeting in Mexico. The meeting also proposed development of new international standards for yams, onions and shallots and berry fruits.

Over 200 participants mainly exporters, researchers, students from universities, academia, and government officials in the agriculture value chain participated in a national stakeholders' workshop held as a side event to raise awareness on international standards among local participants in the fresh fruits and vegetables sector.

The Executive Director, Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) said, "The meeting provided a platform for Ugandan food experts to learn the process of setting international food standards, knowledge sharing, and rising awareness of codex at a political level, and improving Uganda's image in the world of codex".

"The meeting provided Ugandan delegates with an opportunity for capacity building in organizing international meetings," Dr. Manyindo added.

Also on display were a number of fresh fruits and vegetables indigenous to Uganda, including jack fruit, pawpaws, aubergines, kiwifruit, mangoes, and passion fruits, among others from members of the National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU).

## WORLD STANDARDS DAY CELEBRATED AT CITY HALL

Every Year the World Standards Day is celebrated all over the World on 14th October to pay tribute to the collaborative efforts of thousands of experts worldwide who develop the voluntary technical agreements that are published as International Standards. This year, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) celebrated the day at Mayor's gardens at City Hall under the theme: "Standards make cities smarter".

Speaking at the Celebrations, the UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo said: "Urban authorities should strive for sufficient fresh water, universal access to cleaner energy, the ability to travel efficiently, a sense of safety and security to provide a decent quality of life to their citizens".

With expanding urban areas expected to host up to 70 % of the total world population by 2050, adopting international standards form smart cities has become a necessity.

Dr. Manyindo added that, "Standards contain expert knowledge and best practices, and are essential enablers in ensuring quality and per-

formance of products and services. Without benchmarking on International Standards, cities will struggle to run safe and smooth services."

The KCCA Director Physical Planning, Mr. Moses Atwine, said: "As KCCA, we have embraced the concept of smart cities and we undertaking a number of initiatives to implement standards for smart cities."

The event included a panel discussion of

delivered by experts from National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Works and Transport, which are the leading government bodies that are central to implementing standards for smart cities.

Dr. Manyindo urged the government ministries, departments, and agencies represented to constitute a technical committee to discuss and implement the standards for smart cities.



Participants at the World Standards Day





Participants at ISO Training workshop with UNBS Executive Director (Centre).

## ISO HOLDS REGIONAL MEETING ON STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) organized a regional training on managing national standards development projects and programmes at Sheraton Hotel Kampala. While opening the meeting, the Executive Director Dr. Ben Manyindo urged African states to improve the standardization of goods and services, saying this will create better trade links and markets in various African countries and the western world.

According to Dr. Manyindo, most African countries produce substandard goods and offer inefficient services on the market, making their products less competitive on the world market. He further said Western countries out-compete their African counterpart because of the sub-standard goods and services offered.

However, according to Dr. Manyindo, Uganda is

now driving the issue of standards to services such as anti-bribery, procurement and quality services' standardization in tourism among other sectors.

"As Uganda, we have concentrated on product standards but not service standards," Dr. Manyindo said. The training was conducted by experts from ISO to help African countries improve on the application of the project management approaches to the standards development in providing efficient and effective services to standards developers. It attracted 35 officials from 21 African member states who learnt how to implement project management principles and processes to standards development, practice some collaborative work (such as scenario-based exercises, case analysis – good or bad application) and share experiences with other ISO members on how to implement project management approach and techniques to deliver.

## UNBS, KAMPALA BUTCHERS SIGN MOU

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) signed a memorandum of understanding with Kampala Butchers and Traders Association (KABUTA) to improve quality of meat products and ensure compliance to the food safety standards. The signing took place at UNBS Head Office between the UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo and the KABUTA Chairman, Al Hajji Musa Ssenabulya.

Dr. Manyindo said, "The MoU is good opportunity for UNBS to work with established industry association to coordinate the development of standards and codes of practice relevant for improving the quality and safety of meat and meat products".

According to the MoU, UNBS will promote value addition in the industry by creating awareness on requirements and procedures for product and food safety among the KABUTA members, providing testing services for evaluating the quality and safety of products for conformity to relevant standards. The MoU also provides cooperation on weights and measures requirements, training and certification of the butchers. "UNBS will involve members of KABUTA in the development of meat standards and support

them to undertake training on standards implementation and record keeping," Dr. Manyindo said.

Uganda in the past faced challenges in accessing international markets due to poor quality of meat and meat products. However, the cooperation between UNBS and KABUTA will improve standards in the industry thus improving trade in meat and related products. UNBS will also coordinate harmonization and implementation of standards in meat and meat products in the region and benchmark with international standards to prevent technical barriers to trade for products.

Al Hajji Ssenabulya said the signing of the MoU comes at an opportune time when KABUTA is looking to improving standards among meat butchers and traders. "The MoU will allow us to work with UNBS to ensure that our members to comply with Industry standards including UNBS requirements on weights and measures which will improve quality and competitiveness of our products," said Al Hajji Ssenabulya. "We shall use our association to mobilize our members and work with UNBS to create awareness on food safety and certification requirements", he added.

## UNBS DED ENCOURAGES BUBU AT THE INNOVATION SERIES

Ugandan businesses have been advised to adopt new trends of 21st century packaging practices in order to appeal to local consumers. The UNBS Deputy Executive Director-Standards, Ms Patricia Ejala made the call at the inaugural edition of the Innovation Series hosted by Brainchild Marsteller. The event held at Hotel Africana is a new thought leadership event aimed at promoting innovation in business and public service. This particular series ran under the theme 'Packaging Products for the 21st Century Consumer' and brought together business leaders, managers, policy makers, government technocrats and the media to discuss and demonstrate innovation in business, to drive strategic growth of businesses, and by extension, the economy.

Speaking at the event on a panel of five, Ms Ejala reiterated that Ugandan businesses need to put in mind the food packaging standards available to them. She further challenged businesses to attract consumers through the packaging they use. "We need to consume our own produce to build the economy and export the excess. BUBU is not unique to Uganda and we must start appreciating local products", she said. She further insisted that Ugandans are now letting Kenyan produce dominate the Ugandan market yet Uganda has the best.

The panelists included Uganda Export Promotions Board CEO Elly Twineyo Kamugisha, Jakana Foods Managing Director Meg Hilbert Jaquay, UNBS Deputy Executive Director-Standards Patricia Bageine Ejala, and Carolyne Kirabo, the Investment Director East Africa, Yunus Social Business.

Through the Innovation Series, Brainchild Burson-Marsteller and partners seek to bridge the current innovation gap in the country by inspiring business owners to invent and seek new solutions to their challenges and those of their consumers.



## UNBS STAKEHOLDERS MEETING TRADERS IN THE ELECTRICAL SECTOR

Traders involved in import of electrical and electrical products often complain about the stringent measures instituted by Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) at border points and pre export verification checks. Against this background the UNBS held stakeholder sensitization workshop to raise awareness on the need for compliance to protect consumers.

The meeting was held on 26th October 2017 at Holiday Express Hotel, Luwum Street, Kampala and emphasis was on exchange of views and experiences.

The meeting provided a forum for exchanging experience, and for using that experience to try to identify elements of best practice in the field.

Traders argued that they are not aware about the requirements by UNBS in importation of their goods and felt that the regulatory body should allow time for them to adapt to these requirements. Ms. Winnie Grace Onzi-ru, Senior Standards Officer-Engineering highlighted the standard requirements and the responsibilities of different stakeholders in curbing the manufacturing, distribution and sale of substandard products in accordance



The Chairman of the Electrical traders association makes remarks at the workshop.

with UNBS Act (Cap. 327).

Traders asked that technical assistance be given to them to help them understand how the UNBS system works. Eng. Jackson Mubangizi, the Manager Market Surveil-

lance assured the traders that UNBS is always on hand to help them with any queries and challenges they may have in their trade. He encouraged them to make UNBS their ally in their trade and seek guidance when they need it.

## UNBS STAFF EXCEL AT LDC GRADUATION



Some of UNBS graduands with UNBS Executive Director (2<sup>nd</sup>R) and LDV Director (R).

Uganda National Bureau of Standards staff were among the graduands from the tailor-made course on Investigation and Prosecution delivered at the Law Development Centre (LDC), Kampala after three months of rigorous training.

Among the graduating officers was Mr. Gaston Kironde, Senior Surveillance Officer, who emerged the best student with an average score of 85% in the course.

Mr. Frank Nigel Othembi, the Director, LDC, presided over the ceremony and said: "Today's milestone event is the result of partners coming together to develop the course that provides a combination of functional and operational systems instruction with handling standards related cases".

The UNBS Executive Director was also in attendance and congratulated the staff on graduating and excelling in the course. "We now expect that this excellence will be translated into your work at the Bureau", he added.

A sumptuous luncheon and cake cutting ceremony was then held at the Bureau headquarters to congratulate the graduands.





Solomon Rukundo, UNBS Metrologist explains UNBS services to visitors at the Tax Payers Appreciation Week.

## UNBS PARTICIPATES AT TAX APPRECIATION WEEK

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) participated in the Tax Payers Appreciation Week as a form of accountability about how the Bureau utilizes Taxes from the public. The Week organized by Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) under the theme: "Appreciating Uganda's Taxpayer; The Link between Public Accountability and Tax Compliance" took place from 27th to 29th, September, 2017.

The event was officially opened by Minister in Charge of General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mary Karoro Okurut who represented the president as the guest of honor. The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Matia Kasajja and other dignitaries attended.

UNBS demonstrated how calibration is done using equipment such as pressure gauge and well as showcase the verification process of energy meters. Over 150 people visited the UNBS stall and were treated to a demonstration of how energy meters are verified and how calibration is done using different apparatuses such as pressure gauges. The majority of visitors were interested in standardization of carbonated and non-carbonated drinks. They also requested that standards for wood toy and crafts be developed since the industry is growing steadily. Visitors also inquired about field verification of YAKA and WATER meters, alleging that most of them were installed without prior verification and they are inaccurate.

## UNBS PARTICIPATES AT UMA TRADE FAIR

Every year, Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) organizes an exhibition for traders, manufacturers, service providers and the general public to show case services offered to the public. As a government institution, UNBS participated in the trade show that was held from 3rd Oct -10th Oct 2017 at the UMA show grounds.

The objective of our participation was to show case services offered by UNBS, share information with the public, compare our stakeholders and to get prospects from the exhibition. The visitors to the UNBS stall were mainly SMEs, traders, manufactures, general public and students. SMEs sought information on procedures of certification; the importers questioned a lot on Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) while students and others required information on substandard products.

Annual Quality Gala 2017

Date: 30th November 2017

Venue: Pearl of Africa Hotel, Kampala

Time: 5pm

Stakeholder sensitization workshops in Ntungamo

Date: 4th-8th December 2017

Venue: Kitwe, Rubaare, Rwashamaire, Ntungamo Municipality



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