

STANDARDS BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2017



The Minister of State for Trade, Mr. Michael Werikhe (Left) and UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo (2nd Right) with the winners of UNBS Quality Gala.

UNBS recognizes companies at Quality Gala

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has recognised companies for outstanding contribution in ensuring quality products and services on the Ugandan market.

The companies were recognised at the UNBS Annual Quality Gala held at Pearl of Africa Hotel in Kampala on 30th November under the theme: Promoting Ugandan Made Products.

Movit Products Limited, manufacturers of cosmetic products were declared overall winners of the UNBS Quality Award for the second year running. In the cosmetics category Mukwano Care Products were second and Royal Care Cosmetics in third place.

AK Oils and Fats (U) Limited were declared winners of the Agro-Processing (large) category, followed by Kande Poultry Farm Limited and Yash Investments Limited. In the Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) category, Tursam Investments Limited came top, followed by Arzat Food Suppliers Limited and Harmony Nutrifooods Limited.

Britania Allied Industries Limited took the Beverages category, beating Century Bottling Company Limited and Hariss International Limited. However, Hariss International Limited bounced back as winners of the

Foods category, beating Bidco Uganda Limited and Sugar Corporation of Uganda in second and third positions respectively.

In the Chemicals category, Regal Paints (U) Limited came top, followed by Mukwano Industries Limited (Soap) and CCLE Rubber Company Limited. Hima Cement Limited smiled all the way home after coming top of the Construction Category, followed by Roofings Mills Limited and Steel & Tube Industries Limited in third position.

In the Electricals Category, Crane Roofing Limited surprised everyone when they emerged winners, followed by Cable Corporation Limited. For the first time, Eagle Air Limited topped the Services Category, followed by Huawei Technologies (U) Company Limited and Securex Agencies (U) Limited.

In a speech delivered by State Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Hon. Michael Werikhe, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Hon. Amelia Kyambadde, said the gala has over the years demonstrated that Ugandan companies and particularly the MSMEs were committed to continuously improve their processes to meet increasing demand for quality products.

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National Standards Council declares 254 new standards

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has approved and declared a total of 254 standards as national standards, and 76 standards, which safety concerns for the consumers and the environment, have been recommended to the Minister of Trade to declare them compulsory standards.



Eng. Masitila Munyaami Male, Chairperson, NSC

Speaking at a press briefing to announce the new standards, the UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo said, "A number of standards being approved are important for BUBU and support top government priorities such as Oil and Gas as well as in the area of Construction procurement, Agro inputs and Inspection of used motor vehicles."

He added that all these initiatives are aimed at building and encouraging the consumption of local content and boost local manufacturers to ensure that their products meet, not only Uganda but international standards as well.

Of the approved standards, 48 cover Management and Services, 111 standards cover chemicals and consumer products, 52 are for engineering and 43 are for Food and Agriculture sectors.

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is mandated to formulate national standards. Standards are developed through Technical Committees composed of experts drawn from academia, government, industry, consumer groups and civil society. Technical Committees are responsible for recommending Final Draft Uganda Standards (FDUS) to the National Standards Council (NSC) for approval and declaration as Uganda Standards.

Section 15 of the UNBS Act (Cap 327, as amended) provides that the NSC may declare standard specifications or codes of practices as national standards for use in Uganda. The NSC may also amend or revoke (withdraw) such declarations. In addition, Section 18 of the UNBS Act (Cap 327, as amended) provides that the NSC may recommend certain national standards for declaration as compulsory by the Minister responsible for trade.

The standards come at a time when Uganda is promoting locally manufactured products under the Buy Uganda, Build Uganda Policy. Under the policy, the UNBS is supporting Micro Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) to ensure that they meet the required standards.



President of the Republic of Uganda H.E. Yoweri Museveni (2ndL) and President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Pombe Magufuli (2ndR) cut a tape to open the Mutukula One-stop Border.

President commissions Mutukula border

The President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and his Tanzanian counterpart, John Pombe Joseph Magufuli jointly commissioned the Mutukula One Stop Border Post (OSBP), bringing the number of OSBPs in Uganda to four. The One Stop Border Post is an integrated border system that brings together all the border agencies under one roof for improved efficiencies through streamlined, coordinated and harmonized operations.

The construction of the Mutukula OSBP was carried out with funding of US\$11.7 million from the United Kingdom through the Department for International Development

(DFID), while the systems and other related soft infrastructure equivalent to US\$1.2 million was funded by the Government of Canada, through TradeMark East Africa.

In Mutukula's case, government agencies such as UNBS and Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) are able to jointly serve importers and exporters enabling seamless trade facilitation. The customs initiatives like OSBP, Single Customs Territory (SCT), the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) and the Uganda Electronic Single Window have not only ensured more revenue for Uganda, they have also set a benchmark for Uganda nationally, regionally and internationally. As a result, Uganda won the bid to host the 4th World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) conference in March 2018, the first of its kind in Africa.

The other OSBPs in Uganda are Mirama Hills connecting Uganda to Rwanda, Busia and Malaba connecting Uganda to Kenya.

Court rules on Substandard Cosmetics

The Standards, Wildlife and Utilities Court at Buganda Road on 18th December ordered the destruction of seized cosmetics that contained harmful ingredients following a two year legal battle. In August 2015, the UNBS instituted criminal proceedings against a Kampala trader for dealing in substandard cosmetic products.

The culprit was found with 286 cartons of Caro light ranging between 100 to 300ml that she was selling at a shop in downtown Kampala. However the culprit disappeared and was pursued by police and arrested last year. The culprit was fined UGX 40 Million which she failed to pay and is now serving a three year sentence in Luzira remand prison.

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UNBS recognizes companies

"I want to thank UNBS for recognizing such companies and this further demonstrates your commitment to improve competitiveness of local products through standardization and quality assurance".

The UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo said that for the past 15 years of holding the gala they had continued to witness growth in the number of participating companies, which demonstrated industry commitment to uphold standards and ensure production of quality products.

The Executive Director of Uganda Private Sector Foundation (PSFU), Mr. Gideon Badagawa,

who delivered the key note address said: "The private sector considers the BUBU policy as one critically important policy that has been coined by government in recent times". He added that, "For Uganda to trade the path of inclusive growth we must focus attention to our own labor, manufacturers and service providers. Only then shall we be able to support internal capacities to develop our enterprises."

The UNBS Quality Gala is an annual event held to recognize companies that have demonstrated consistency and excellence in complying with UNBS product and management systems certification requirements.

Surveillance sensitizes traders in Ntungamo District



Vitalis Shaka of UNBS talking to a business lady Jescah Manyire in Ntungamo town, looking on is Amon Mutabarura the Ntungamo DCO.

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) on numerous occasions received complaints from traders and the public especially in the areas of Ntungamo that most of the packaged maize flour was underweight and did not reflect the actual weight declared on packaging material. The complaints came through various channels including the office of the District Commercial Officer and the Police. Follow-up inspection on the complaints were conducted by UNBS Department of Market Surveillance in the months of July and September 2017. During the inspection

activities a number of seizures were made and reported to the relevant police posts.

This further prompted UNBS to organize a stakeholder workshop to sensitize both the consumer and the traders on their legal obligations in compliance to the Weights and Measures Act and the UNBS Act.

The half day sensitization workshops targeted the Town Councils of Kitwe, Rubare, Rwashamaire and Ntungamo Municipality. Presentations made by the Surveillance and Legal Metrology officers covered areas such as UNBS and its legal mandate, missions and objectives in relation

to trade, the good Manufacturing Practice and Good Hygienic Practices during maize milling, Post-harvest handling practices of maize as well as illustrations on the verification activities of the weighing scales.

However, participants raised concerns regarding the high prices charged to verify the weighing scales as well as the tedious process of recovering a seized weighing scale. They also asked that UNBS conducts more sensitizations to enlighten consumers and increase on the frequency of verifications of weighing scales.

UNBS, donates to the underprivileged in Kiira Municipality



UNBS Principal Public Relations Officer, Mr. Godwin Muhwezi hands over 50 bags of maize flour to Kiira Municipality City Mayor, Mr. Julius Mutebi (Center) at Kiira Municipality Offices.

In the spirit of Christmas, Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) took part in a number CSR activities including donating assorted food items worth Shs2.7 million. 500kgs of maize flour were donated to the vulnerable communities at Kiira Municipality Head Offices. The Mayor of Kiira Municipality, Julius Mutebi received the donations and thanked UNBS for standing for supporting the vulnerable groups in the area through their corporate social responsibility.

In the same vein, UNBS donated assorted items to the elderly community of Bweyogerere during the 6th Elderly programme 2017 under the theme “Love, Give Grandees is our culture”. The event was held to recognize the elderly in the community, care, give them hope for better health during the festive season. The assorted items that included rice, sugar, posho, mineral water and salt were received by Hon. Eiru Andrew from the office of Area Council Kiira municipality.

The UNBS was represented by the Principal Public Relations Officer, Mr. Godwin Muhwezi and the Senior Public Relations Officer Ms. Barbara Kamusiime respectively.

UNBS takes part in Corporate Beach Soccer

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) took part in the annual Corporate Beach Soccer Christmas challenge. The event organized by Uganda Beach Soccer Association (UBSA) in Collaboration with Perfect Events Ltd was the 4th edition of its kind. The event drew corporate companies such as Hariss International, Uganda Wildlife Association, Movit, Civil Aviation Authority, Skin Guard, among others.

UNBS played with 3 teams, won 1 game and the UNBS got knocked out in the other two games. The results were as follows;

1. UNBS 1: 0 UWA goal scored by Rogers Ssenabulya
2. Hariss 4: 0 UNBS
3. UNBS 2: 5 CTPH

This event provided the business communities within Uganda and East Africa an opportunity to combine team building, family & business networking in a spectacular Ugandan beach setting. The first ever fish festival was also launched at the same event. The event encouraged fostering business networking and team building amongst institutions offering the corporate society a sandwich of entertainment, promoting regional sports and food tourism and empowering women in business and sports.



UNBS Team takes a break at the Corporate Beach Soccer



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UNBS staff celebrate a successful year

As the year came to an end, UNBS staff got together to celebrate the hard work and achievements of the bureau during the year 2017. The staff took part in team building activities during the day that culminated in a dinner at the Silver Springs Hotel, Kampala.

This end of year staff engagement activities provided the staff from all branches of UNBS around the country with the opportunity to come together and take part in various team building activities that pitted "Team no Lairs" against "Team no Cheaters".

Team no Cheaters set the pace early winning the first two games before Team no Lairs made up for

lost ground winning the subsequent two games. In the final two games each team won one game making it 3 wins for each team.

Staff were later on in the evening treated to a sumptuous dinner at the hotel where outstanding employees were recognized for innovation and embracing company values. The dinner was graced by the members of the National Standards Council and other Invited guests.

Speaking at the dinner, The Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo thanked staff for the work done during the year in ensuring the UNBS fulfils its mandate. He challenged staff to strive for excellence and customer focus in the coming year.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Innovation Awards



Winner

Maurice Musuga & Rogers Ssenabulya,
Project: Electronic Minzani

Recognition

Rashid Senvuma

Project: Electronic Assets Register

First Runner-up

Aziz Mukota & John Sanyu

Project: Risk-based testing of samples

Employee of the Year Awards

Linda Kobere

Compliance Directorate

Maurice Musuga

Standards Directorate

Second Runner-up

Betty Shana Kansime

Project: Making UNBS a household name

Felix Welire

Finance and Administration



15th -18th
January 2018:
Export Awareness
Week

26th January,
2018: NRM
Liberation Day