



Issue 02: July-September 2020

Standards

BULLETIN



**INSIDE: HIGHLIGHTS OF UNBS
PERFORMANCE IN FY 2019/2020**

content

STORY >> PG 20



UNBS staff excel at LDC

EDITOR'S PICK >>

4>> Editor's note. XXX

3>> Director's message. This means that our recognition is built on the initiative and collective energy of the 431 staff members who, together, call themselves UNBS. This edition is above all their hard work. In addition to presenting our activities, the annual report summarizes our financial performance and gives an overview of our initiatives in 2019/2020.

6>> Improved competitiveness of locally manufactured products to access export market. To date, UNBS registered increase in efficiency in terms of turn round time from 25 days in FY 2019 to 18 days in 2020 in line with our promise to customers of delivering laboratory test reports within 21 days upon submission of a product sample for testing.

11>> Uganda elected to the African standards management committee at arso. I was nominated by the Executive Director who also holds the vote for the country. I was then voted by the representatives of the Standards bodies among other nominees.

STORY >> PG 11



Uganda elected to the African standards management committee at arso

STORY >> PG 12 - 13

Uganda joins International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) to boost the electrical sector

Executive Director's foreword

The UNBS name has over the years gained ground throughout Uganda. Many people know us from using our standards, while, for others, our visibility comes from the thousands of companies that are proud to state that they have made UNBS standards part of doing business better. However, UNBS is first and foremost an employee driven organization.



Eng. Dr. Ben Manyindo, Executive Director of Uganda National Bureau of Standards

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This means that our recognition is built on the initiative and collective energy of the 431 staff members who, together, call themselves UNBS. This edition is above all their hard work. In addition to presenting our activities, the annual report summarizes our financial performance and gives an overview of our initiatives in 2019/2020.

We are also evolving and helping others to meet their own challenges. It also shows the ways in which we are working with others to maintain the ongoing relevance of UNBS standards. In addition, it highlights how we are serving our members by keeping our organization at the forefront of people's minds as we stand together in solving some of the greatest challenges that our planet has ever faced. Those challenges are defined by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). UNBS has applied itself to the substantial task of mapping our catalogue of 3948 standards to the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each of the SDGs is important, but in some areas the role of standards is fundamental. While achieving certain goals requires technical solutions,

others need clear resolve and vision. Take SDG 5 (Gender Equality) which the institution is committed to attaining. Our work and staffing have evolved to make the organisation more gender cognisant, because I believe it is a key building block for a more equitable and productive society. While the challenges faced are global, it is in developing countries like Uganda where they are most critical and urgent. It is in these same countries where capacity building has great potential to bring lasting transformation.

We are deeply committed to continuous improvement in the support we provide to our clients and the general public. In addition to this, we are continuing to invest in the development of ICT tools that enable our business goals. As part of a global community, we know that we cannot solve problems single-handedly. This edition shows how we have maintained and grown our partnerships with other organizations, especially the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), as part of our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and collaboration.

Beyond working closely with standards development organizations, we reinforced our position as an enabler of global trade. Our strengthened focus in this area is evidenced by the election of our staff to the Standards Management Committee at the African Regional Standardisation Organisation (ARSO), emphasizing that a strong multilateral trading system is indispensable for economic and social development and that regional and international Standards are key to support these goals.

I am pleased by what we have achieved, certainly. But more than that, it is the scale of what we still have to achieve that encourages me to continue our journey with a strong decision and commitment. The global community is unanimous that the need for steady progress and concrete action is more important than ever. A strong organization is built on strong members, and the performance of 2019/2020 leaves me in no doubt that, together, we can do it. Thank you for taking the time to join us on the journey.

Eng. Dr. Ben Manyindo,



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ABOUT UNBS

1. A member of International Standardisation Organisation(ISO)
2. Associate member of the International Electrotechnical Commission
3. National Enquiry Point for Technical Barriers to Trade(TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures.Agreements of World Trade Organisation(WTO) and secretariat to the National TBT/SPS Committee
4. Codex Alimentarius Commission Contact Point and Secretariate to the National Codex Committee
5. International Accredited laboratories by South African National Accreditation System. to offer ISO 90019(Quality Management System) and ISO 22000(Food Safety Management System)
6. A member of African Organisation for Standardisation(ARSO)
7. A member of International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)
8. A member of The International Bureau of Weights and Measures
9. coordinator for the East African Community(EAC) SQMT activities

Editor's note



STANDARDS. As we focus our energies to tackle what is ahead in this new Financial Year (FY 2020/2021), I believe the time is also ripe to reflect on our performance in the past financial year 2019/2020.

In this edition of the Standards Bulletin, we appraise you on the performance of the standards body in financial year 2019/2020. Despite the interruptions caused by COVID19 pandemic culminating into a lockdown of the country effective 18th March 2020, the bureau was able to deliver on its mandate of trade facilitation, consumer protection and education and fair trade practices in the market place. Notable among the milestones key was the contribution towards the implementation of the Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) Policy with an exponential increase in the number of Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) seeking certification with over **1168 MSMEs** registered and **304 MSMEs** visited in the financial year 2019/20. Majority of these MSMEs deal in the manufacture of hand sanitizers and non-medical facemasks after a remarkable boom in the demand for products used in the fight against Covid 19.

On the global standardization scene, Uganda was elected to the African Standards Management Committee of the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission

(IEC); again another opportunity for the bureau to strategically participate in setting the international and regional standards agenda which enhances the competitiveness of locally manufactured products to access export market.

The UNBS has been receiving complaints from the public about the underweight cylinders and has embarked on Verification of all LPG cylinders to ensure fair trade, value for money and consumer protection. This is as a result of the increased demand for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by several households especially amongst the urban population.

As the bureau accelerates the digitalization of its services which has greatly contributed to the institution's business continuity in the wake of the covid-19, we are glad to announce that our training and industry capacity building initiatives are now online as we continue to offer technical guidance in trade to enable sale of quality and safe products as well as enabling self-regulation and compliance to relevant standards and legal requirements.

We also update you on the changes that were made at management level effective 1st October 2020 in order to build capacity and provide more exposure to other UNBS functional areas.

I wish you a nice reading and I hope this quarterly magazine leaves you more informed about the UNBS work. For inquiries and feedback email; **info@unbs.go.ug**.

Sylvia Kirabo
Head, Public Relations and Marketing

Highlights of UNBS performance in FY 2019/2020

INTRODUCTION, Our core mandate is to develop, promote and enforce standards to ensure competitiveness of locally manufactured products and to protect the health and safety of consumers and the environment against substandard products. Over the past one year, we undertook activities in accordance with approved work programmes and budget. The activities were aimed at improving competitiveness of Ugandan products to access regional and international markets, improving the quality of products on the market, ensuring accuracy in measurement systems to promote fair trade and improving public awareness on quality standards. The total approved budget for FY 2019/20 was UGX 68.9 Billion of which UGX 59.7 Billion was released by end of the Financial Year. The Bureau generated and remitted Non Tax Revenue (NTR) UGX38.2 Billion to the Consolidated Fund during the year which constitutes 64% of the released budget during the year. I must note that the year has presented an unprecedented challenge imposed by COVID-19 that has made us rethink the way we do business. However, we have used this crisis to harness opportunities for businesses seeking standardisation services as below;

Certification of Products required in the fight against COVID – 19

209
Companies

Sanitizers: By March 2020, only two companies had been certified to manufacture Hand sanitisers. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of manufacturers dramatically increased. Accordingly, by 30th June 2020, 209 companies (with 254 brands) had been certified.

252
Brands

80%
Maize compliance rate

Food distribution: UNBS deployed a full time (seven days a week) field team comprising of 25 staff at the OPM stores in Nakawa where the food supplies were being delivered. UNBS also maintained 20 staff at its laboratories, working seven days a week, to ensure expeditious testing of the samples of food being delivered to the laboratory for quality and safety testing. Of this, maize had an 80% compliance rate, while dry beans had a compliance rate of 77%.

77%
Beans compliance rate

40
Companies

Non-medical Face Masks: UNBS developed standards for facemasks and was able to certify over 40 companies to produce non-medical facemasks by June 2020. It is mandatory for anyone above the age of six to wear a facemask in public space.

000
Brands

Improved competitiveness of locally manufactured products to access export market

DURING THE FY 2019/2020, UNBS undertook Product Certification and Management Systems Certification to improve the quality of locally manufactured products so that they are able to access regional and international markets. We recorded an increase from 1350 products certification permits in FY2018/19 to 2705 permits in FY2019/20. And 62 permits under system certification. All UNBS certified products were able to access the wider EAC market.

This is the second year into the implementation of the UNBS Distinctive Mark, 2018 regulation. The new regulation made it mandatory for products covered by compulsory standards to be certified and issued with a distinctive mark before they are allowed on the market. As a result, we witnessed an exponential increase in the number of Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) seeking certification. During the FY 2019/20 we registered 1168 MSMEs and visited 304 MSMEs for on-site technical assistance and gap analysis. 1068 MSMEs visited UNBS and were provided with technical advisory services (compared to 929 MSMEs in FY2018/19), to build their capacity to apply standards and produce products that conform to standards thus contributing to the government's export promotion strategy.

The shortfall was due to; failure by a number of MSMEs to pay fees for both testing and auditing despite registration, failure by MSMEs to address gaps in conformity to standards identified during certification, low technology base among MSMEs, Shortage of staff to handle the increased number of applicants to assist MSMEs through the certification process and of course challenges imposed on the sector by Covid 19 pandemic.

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

Standards and conformity assessments improve efficiency of production and facilitate international

trade thereby contributing to Uganda's economic development. In FY 2019/20, we developed 505 new standards bringing the total number of standards for use today, to 3948. Of the new 505 standards, 110 are in the area of Food and Agricultural sector, 148 in the Chemicals and consumer products, 125 are for Engineering and 122 for Management and services.

- Agricultural sector Standards for major staple foods such as maize, beans, wheat, sorghum and millet were revised and updated to ensure quality and safe commodities are available for consumption thus contributing to improvement of the food security Uganda and livelihoods of the rural communities considering that generally food crops contribute 12.8% of GDP annually. The standards also contribute as part of the approaches to meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals especially goals 1 & 2 on No poverty and zero hunger respectively.
- Standards simplified and translated into local languages: To boost Standards comprehension, internalisation and implementation, UNBS simplified select food and agriculture standards into easy to use guidelines and translated them into the most widely spoken Ugandan languages; Luganda, Luo, Ateso, Lumasaaba, Lunyoro-Kitara among other languages with support from the Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN) and translation work into other languages is ongoing to enable their easy implementation. To date, over

600 farmers in the districts of Kabarole, Hoima, Ibanda, Kasese, Kayunga, Kiboga, Otuke, Lira, Soroti, Agago, Sironko/Mbale, Bugiri, and Amuru have benefited from this intervention.

- **Standards for the Fishing Industry:** Standards supporting the fishing activity were developed in the FY 2019/20. Fishing is a major economic activity on especially Lake Victoria, Albert and Kyoga and the revenues from the activity impact on millions of livelihoods in the country and majority youth engaged in the activity. The Fisheries sector contributes 1.5% to the GDP of the country with export receipts in excess of USD 140 million.
- **Indigenous Standards for Edible Insects:** Standards for edible insects were also developed prompted by the increased trade of edible insects and their products in Uganda. These include grasshoppers (ensenene), termites, locusts, crickets and other edible insects. These are to be applied by Ugandans selling edible insects for commercial purposes, to ensure that their products meet the standards and are not harmful to consumers.

LABORATORY PRODUCT TESTING

The construction of the Food Safety Laboratories at UNBS Bweyogerere Headquarters were completed during the year and are now fully operational. They are also internationally accredited which means the test results are recognised globally. For the period under review, UNBS tested over 1060 product samples mainly products used by government in the fight against COVID 19. To date, UNBS registered increase in efficiency in terms of turn round time from 25 days in FY 2019 to 18 days in 2020 in line with our promise to customers of delivering laboratory test reports within 21 days upon submission of a product sample for testing.

ENSURING QUALITY PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET THROUGH MARKET SURVEILLANCE

Market surveillance inspections are undertaken to ensure that we have quality products on the market to protect the health and safety of consumers. In this regard, in FY 2019/20, we registered 11% increase in our market surveillance inspections with 7,345 market surveillance inspections conducted against 6,646 inspections conducted in FY 2018/19. The inspections conducted covered over 56% of the entire country.

Cosmetics and body care products topped UNBS list of non-complying products followed by beverages, building materials and food stuffs with most results registered in the central, western, eastern and northern regions respectively. UNBS also notes increased sale of substandard products through the mobile vans and distribution trucks accounting for 58% of the total number of inspections by UNBS during its market surveillance inspections for the period under review. About 8% of the market surveillance inspections were conducted in manufacturing facilities mainly bakeries, beverage factories, maize millers resulting in 173 seizure mainly sealing/seizure of premises due to poor hygiene and this led to the seizure of hundreds of tons of substandard foodstuffs. These include, among others, 840 metric tons of maize flour which would have been distributed to 280,000 people almost 20% of the COVID-19 relief food beneficiaries.

IMPORTS INSPECTION

Under the Imports Inspection and Clearance Regulation 2018, all goods covered by compulsory standards must be inspected in the country of origin for compliance with Uganda Standards before they are imported into the country. During the year under review, 153,256 inspections of products under compulsory standards meeting 83% of the set target for the year. 62,551 inspections were undertaken under the PVoC program, indicating an increase of 27,000 compared to the previous year which shows an increase in adhering to PVoC requirements which provides a guarantee that the majority of the imported commodities are meeting the requirements of the standards. Without PVoC, too many substandard products for which we lack testing capacity would be on the market.

We also expanded UNBS presence at additional border points that include Mirama Hills OSBP; Elegu OSBP and

Mpondwe; Coverage of more ICDs and other import clearance points in Uganda and Mombasa. Expansion of UNBS operations to more commodity entry points in the country has led to an increase in the number of declarations inspected. For example in 2014, 80,648 declarations were inspected compared to the 153,250 declaration inspected in 2019/2020. Therefore, increasing UNBS presence at entry points has resulted into a widened eyesight for the prevention of entry of substandard products into Uganda hence enabling fulfilment of the Bureau's mandate of protecting both the consumer and the environment.

In the year under review, a total of 232 metric tonnes of substandard goods worth UGX 2.5 billion were destroyed. The substandard products destroyed were intercepted by UNBS through the import inspection and market surveillance operations.



ENSURING ACCURACY OF MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS

Maintaining accuracy of measuring equipment used in trade is an important aspect of a commercial transaction. Accurate measurements ensure that the seller trades the correct amount while the buyer gets exactly what they pay for. Accurate instruments are issued with a UNBS Sticker as evidence that the accuracy of the instrument has been verified.

- 343,687 Electricity meters verified: Utility companies use meters for measurement of units sold to consumers in a commercial transaction. UNBS regulates such transactions by verifying meters used by utility companies. Currently UNBS verifies all electricity meters used by power distributors for accuracy before they are installed on their distribution networks.
- The energy meters section acquired new equipment, which included 2 fixed test benches and 6 portable test devices. Installation of new test benches and portable test equipment in the Energy Meters laboratory increased our daily meter output from 1,000 to 3,150 meters and a monthly output to 171,600 meters there by improving on our verification timelines and customer satisfaction.
- Verification of fuel dispensing pumps: 18,049 measuring equipment under volume and flow that include dispensing pumps, pressure gauges, road tanks, and static tanks were verified.
- Verification of road tankers: UNBS acts as an arbiter in the transport and supply of fuel by verifying the accuracy of road tankers. In FY 2019/2020, we verified 2500 road tankers against a target of 2151. Opening up of the rig increased our daily output from 4 trucks to 10 trucks per day and reduced the waiting time of drivers at the rig
- Verification of weighing equipment used in trade (Minzani): A total of 678,004 weighing equipment that include, counter machines, spring balances, platform scales, weigh bridges and weights were verified. The launch and rolling out of e-Minzani and its expanded scope to cover E-Meters will go a long way towards improving service delivery and resource accountability for all weighing and measuring equipment.
- Weighbridges: With the increasing economic activity, we have witnessed a high number of bulk measuring equipment such as weighbridges. Last year we verified 190 weighbridges to ensure that they are measuring accurately.
- Pre-package control: UNBS inspects pre-packaged products to ensure that all goods meet the labelling requirements and that the displayed weight reflects the actual quantity of the packaged item. We inspected 5,488 samples against a target of 6000 samples.

ICT AND AUTOMATION OF UNBS SERVICES

UNBS continues to invest in ICT platforms for enhanced service delivery. UNBS has been able to automate most of its services including the development of UNBS APP where all UNBS services can be accessed, roll out of the E-Minzani platform for better service delivery, the E-Truck/E-Rig for better records management. In 2019, the System for Mobile Verification Tool (SMVT), a new ICT tool was deployed for the section of energy meters to capture verification data for electricity meters both during in-house or field verification, and this enhanced service delivery. LIMS for laboratory, the E-portal for imports inspection, SIMS for standards and Webstore for procurement of standards on-line. The E-Truck/E-Rig; a management information system used for verification of fuel tankers was also rolled out and this manages information faster and more convenient than the traditional method of recording information. The COVID-19 pandemic found most of the UNBS services online and this greatly contributed to the institution's business continuity during the covid-19 lockdown.

DECENTRALISATION OF UNBS SERVICES

In addition to the e-platforms, UNBS continues to decentralise its services to bring service delivery closer to Ugandans. As a result the market surveillance and product certification functions are fully operational in Gulu, Mbale and Mbarara. The laboratory testing services are to be decentralised too. So far, the testing laboratory in Gulu is nearing completion.

FOCUS IN FY 2020/2021

UNBS focused efforts will continue with deepening the decentralisation of UNBS services in the countryside, increased engagement and collaboration with Local Governments and partners to reduce the substandard goods on the market while empowering MSMEs to export to regional and international markets.

Quality and standards have greater potential to unlock most challenges facing the country. Indeed most countries that have developed in terms of trade and investments have invested in the national quality infrastructure of standards, conformity assessment and metrology. The FY 2019/2020 registered unprecedented challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. UNBS has however harnessed this opportunity to facilitate local manufacturers in line with the Buy Uganda and Build Uganda (BUBU) policy through offering technical guidance and standards to ensure production of safe and good quality products for all Ugandans.

Uganda elected to African standards management committee at ARSO

AFRICAN ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION (ARSO) is an intergovernmental body established by OAU and UNECA in 1977 with the principal mandate to harmonise African Standards and conformity assessment procedures in order to reduce technical barriers to trade and therefore promote intra African and international trade as well as enhance the industrialization of Africa. ARSO is especially useful in spearheading the adoption of International and African standards as a basis for incorporation into technical regulations which if not harmonized can become Technical Barriers to both intra-African and International Trade.

ARSO is a Member Intergovernmental Organisation with 39 Member states in Africa under eight recognised Regional Economic Communities of EAC, SADC, ECOWAS, COMESA, AMU, CEN-SAD, ECCAS and IGAD.

The Standards Bulletin spoke with Mr. David Eboku who was elected as a member of the Standards Management Committee of ARSO to share his plans to position Uganda to trade on the regional and international market.



Mr. David Eboku,
Manager Testing department

I was nominated by the Executive Director who also holds the vote for the country. I was then voted by the representatives of the Standards bodies among other nominees.

SB: How did you get elected to the Standards Management Committee at ARSO?

David Eboku: ARSO was originally set up by the OAU in 1977 but is now an organ of the African Union which promotes the unity of the African continent in terms of political, economic, social and technological aspects. The economic factor brings in the element of trade and essentially standards have a role to play in the economic transformation of a region. ARSO then represents all the standards bodies in each of the countries on the continent whose membership is activated by subscription. Currently, there are 37 active members of ARSO who work together to develop standards for Africa.

One of the committees that deals with the

management of the affairs of standardisation is the Standards Management Committee which reports to the ARSO Council. This committee is constituted by nomination of members from the 37 member states of ARSO. I was nominated by the Executive Director who also holds the vote for the country. I was then voted by the representatives of the Standards bodies among other nominees.

SB: What is your role on the SMC?

David Eboku: The committee will be responsible for managing the implementation of standards development procedures, due process and standards harmonization programmes for timely execution in Africa based on priorities for trade and economic development within the continent. The Committee will also advise on all matters concerning, the organization, the working procedures, coordination and planning of standards work including standstill obligations.

The SMC is also responsible for the establishment and dissolution of TCs, appointment of Chairpersons of Technical Committees, allocation or re-allocation of secretariats of TCs and, in some cases, Sub Committees. The Committee also approves titles, scopes, programmes of work of TCs and the approval of the establishment and dissolution of SCs by TCs.

SB: What does your election to this committee mean for Uganda's positioning in African trade?

David Eboku: This means that Uganda is able to influence the development of standards in the sectors of interest. Uganda will be able to gain an early understanding of upcoming changes to standards and keep abreast of the latest technical innovation and market trends in the various sectors. Additionally, we will be able to advance Uganda's trade interests and implications of the standard during the harmonisation process.

This will also give an upper hand to the Ugandan business sector to be able to apply the standards and defend what Ugandans can achieve as well as advise them to improve the compliance levels to be able to trade on the

Section 20 of the Weights and Measures Act provides for weighing in the presence of the buyer or seller. The fact that weighing of LPG is done in the absence of the buyer then this qualifies to be a prepackaged good and therefore should comply with the requirements of the Statutory Instrument No.36 of 2007. Therefore the principle document that has been referred to in the analysis of the findings is the Weights and Measures Sale and Labeling Rules No. 36 of 2007.

regional market.

SB: What do you hope to achieve during your term on the SMC?

David Eboku: We desire to streamline the implementation process so that the process of harmonisation of standards in Africa is credible and becomes internationally recognised and the rest of the world can trade with us based on those standards. This means that

SB: How can UNBS and more importantly the Ugandan business community help you to position Uganda better at ARSO to break barriers to trade in Africa?

David Eboku: Standards development and harmonisation requires the participation of stakeholders on technical committees and therefore we need UNBS to ably engage with the different local stakeholders to take part in the process at the regional level.

For example, if I promote the Uganda Standard for Simsim to be developed/harmonised, it will require the participation of Ugandans to push that agenda. For me, I will be ensuring that the standard is developed.

UNBS starts verification of LPG cylinders

LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) is globally characterized as a mixture of 60% Butane and 40% Propane which is derived from the distillation of crude oil in the refining process. With the growing numbers of domestic consumers of LPG in Uganda, it has been observed that a number of LPG packaging companies have made their way into the sector thus creating competition amongst the actors. Growing competition amongst companies dealing in LPG coupled with absence of an enabling regulation has affected fairness in trade in the sector. This has resulted into numerous complaints by consumers who are not satisfied with the actual fill quantities contained in the gas cylinders. The under filling has been brought up as the major concern by consumers.

Towards addressing this matter, the Legal Metrology department conducted a field survey concerning these claims. The field survey started in February 2020 and was concluded in March 2020. A total of thirty three (33) gas retail outlets were inspected in selected areas of Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono.

Section 20 of the Weights and Measures Act provides for weighing in the presence of the buyer or seller. The fact that weighing of LPG is done in the absence of the buyer then this qualifies to be a prepackaged good and therefore should comply with the requirements of the Statutory Instrument No.36 of 2007. Therefore the principle document that has been referred to in the analysis of the findings is the Weights and Measures Sale and Labeling Rules No. 36 of 2007.

Other documents referred to include:

- US 971 (Liquefied Petroleum Gases (LPG))
- OIML R 79 (Labeling Requirements for Prepackages, and
- OIML R 89 (Quantity of Product in Prepackages)

In relation to labeling, Rule 8 of the Weights and Measures (Sale and Labeling of Goods) Rules No. 36 of 2007, provides the following.

The fact that weighing of LPG is done in the absence of the buyer then this qualifies to be a prepackaged good and therefore should comply with the requirements of the Statutory Instrument No.36 of 2007.

- (a) The name and address of the manufacturer of the goods and where the goods are not prepackaged by the manufacturer, the like particulars of the person responsible for the packing;
 - (b) The common or generic name of the goods contained in the package;
 - (c) The weight or measure of goods contained in the package;
 - (d) In the case of human food, the expiry date of the goods; and
 - (e) Such other matters as are specified under these Rules.
- Furthermore, Uganda Standards US 971:2019, clause 7 provides the following in relation to labeling:
- a) Supplier's name or brand name or trade mark;
 - b) Product name as "LPG";
 - c) Type of liquefied petroleum gas supplied, that is, commercial propane, commercial butane or commercial propane butane mixture;
 - d) Batch/lot number;
 - e) Net weight in kilograms (kg);
 - f) Precautionary labels that apply to safety and proper handling of LPG in accordance to US ISO 7225; and
 - g) Expiry date

Uganda Joins International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) to boost electrical sector

UGANDA has joined the International Electrotechnical Commission as an Associate members after nearly 20 years of participation in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme. Uganda represented by Uganda National Bureau of Standards was also an active participant in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme. Within the terms of the programme, UNBS ordered 388 IEC publications and declared the national adoption of 269 IEC International Standards. The Standards Bulletin sat down with Ms. Winnie Onziru who is the representative of UNBS on the IEC, to learn more about what this means for Uganda's business sector.

SB: What is IEC and what does it do?

Winnie Onziru: Founded in 1906, the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is the world's leading organization for the preparation and publication of International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies; known collectively as "electro technology".

IEC provides a platform to companies, industries and governments for meeting, discussing and developing the International Standards they require. All IEC International Standards are fully consensus-based and represent the needs of key stakeholders of every nation participating in IEC work. Every member country, no matter how large or small, has one vote and a say in what goes into an IEC International Standard.

When appropriate, IEC cooperates with ISO (International Organization for Standardization) or ITU (International Telecommunication Union) to ensure that International Standards fit together seamlessly and complement each other.

SB: Why and how did Uganda become a member?

Winnie Onziru: In 2019 Uganda through UNBS, began the processes to become

When appropriate, IEC cooperates with ISO (International Organization for Standardization) or ITU (International Telecommunication Union) to ensure that International Standards fit together seamlessly and complement each other.

AFSEC Statutory and IEC Associate memberships.

This was triggered by;

- Inability of Uganda then, as an Affiliate Plus member of the IEC to be part of the standards development process, which left us with the option of taking what others have developed.
- Inability to influence the standardisation on the continent in the Electrotechnical sector. As a member of AFSEC, a nation's interests can be captured and routed to IEC, thus influencing the resultant standard.
- Inability to readily and affordably avail national stakeholders with IEC standards.
- Inability to regulate the quality of products in the Electrotechnical sector due to lack of standards.

Since then, Uganda has been admitted as a statutory member of AFSEC and as an Associate member of IEC.

SB: What is the level of membership and what benefits does it present for Uganda?

Winnie Onziru: As an Associate



member, Uganda can now;

- Participate in the development of international standardization and conformity assessment work of the IEC. By this, Uganda's interests shall be incorporated in the ultimate standards.
- Attend all technical and some management meetings (such as those of Council and the Standardization Management Board) that take place during the annual IEC General Meeting. Associate Members have access rights and can comment on all IEC technical documents, except FDISs (Final Draft International Standards).
- Request to become P-members (participating members) on a maximum of four TCs (technical committees) or SCs (subcommittees). P-members have a duty to vote on the work produced by those committees.
- Network and learn from the experiences of countries that have moved ahead of us.
- Enable other departments of UNBS to enforce standards in the sector, as a result of availability of standards whenever they are required.
- Readily avail IEC standards to our local stakeholder, more affordably, thus improve the quality of products on our market.
- Learn from the experience of other nations on the continent, as we jointly impact on the outcome of the international standards.

SB: How does this membership support local businesses to compete on the international market?

Winnie: Among other benefits, businesses will be able to readily acquire standards at half the IEC catalogue price. Additionally, local manufacturers who implement IEC standards are able to produce quality products that **are internationally accepted.**

SB: What standards are being developed and what technical committees is Uganda participating on?

Winnie: Uganda now has access to all IEC publications, which may be nationalised on demand by a stakeholder. Otherwise all already adopted standards can be seen in the

standards catalogue.

An Associate member of the IEC is allowed up to four (4) TCs of their choice they can actively participate in. In the case of Uganda, they are as below;

- IEC TC 34 Lamps and related equipment
- IEC TC 59 Performance of household and similar appliances
- IEC TC 61 Safety of household and similar appliances
- IEC TC 82 Solar photovoltaic energy systems

SB: How can a local business access these standards?

Winnie: IEC standards in Uganda can be purchased from the UNBS Webstore at <https://webstore.UNBS.go.ug/> or by contacting the UNBS Information Resource centre.

UNBS TAKES TRAINING PROGRAMMES ONLINE

For trainers, the COVID-19 pandemic is a quintessential adaptive and transformative challenge, one for which there is no preconfigured playbook that can guide appropriate responses. Trainers must swiftly design responses – and with specific contexts in mind – as the pandemic runs its course. Uganda National Bureau of Standards continues facilitating learning via Zoom. Despite the challenges, the Training division held sessions in the Implementation of Quality Management systems based on ISO 9001:2015. This session attracted industry leaders from Cipla quality chemicals, Pearl Security services, Movit products, Kakira Sugar Ltd, Seagate electric Co. Ltd and Rim Records Ltd.

The training covered how an organisation can demonstrate its ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. It also taught participants how to enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

ISO 9001 sets out the criteria for a quality management system and is the only standard in the family that can be certified to. It can be used by any organization, large or small, regardless of its field of activity. In fact, there are over one million companies and organizations in over 170 countries around the world certified to ISO 9001.

This standard is based on a number of quality management principles including a strong customer focus, the motivation and implication of top management, the process approach and continual improvement. Using ISO 9001 helps ensure that customers get consistent, good-quality products and services, which in turn brings many business benefits.

UNBS takes training programmes online

FOR TRAINERS, the COVID-19 pandemic is a quintessential adaptive and transformative challenge, one for which there is no preconfigured playbook that can guide appropriate responses. Trainers must swiftly design responses – and with specific contexts in mind – as the pandemic runs its course. Uganda National Bureau of Standards continues facilitating learning via Zoom. Despite the challenges, the Training division held sessions in the Implementation of Quality Management systems based on ISO 9001:2015. This session attracted industry leaders from Cipla quality chemicals, Pearl Security services, Movit products, Kakira Sugar Ltd, Seagate electric Co. Ltd and Rim Records Ltd.

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Ugachick Poultry Farm trained In testing and calibration



IMPLEMENTING a quality management system based on the requirements specified in ISO/IEC 17025 standard at laboratories is challenging, due to two main factors: (i) the high technical complexity degree of some tests used for materials characterization and (ii) the fact that most laboratories provide materials characterization tests and also carry out research and development activities. In this context, this training presented key subjects while implementing a quality management system at the Ugachick laboratory and some considerations on strategies for effectively implementing such systems. ISO/IEC 17025:2017 specifies the general requirements for the competence, impartiality and consistent operation of laboratories.

The training covered areas of Management, Control of documents and records, Review of requests and contracts, Non-conforming control, Monitoring and optimization of quality management system.

Other areas covered include; Control of environmental conditions and accommodations, Test and calibration

methods, equipment, measurement traceability, sampling, handling of testing and calibration items and results quality assurance and reporting results.

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 is applicable to all organizations performing laboratory activities, regardless of the number of personnel.



Mr Yasin Lemeriga moves to Certification



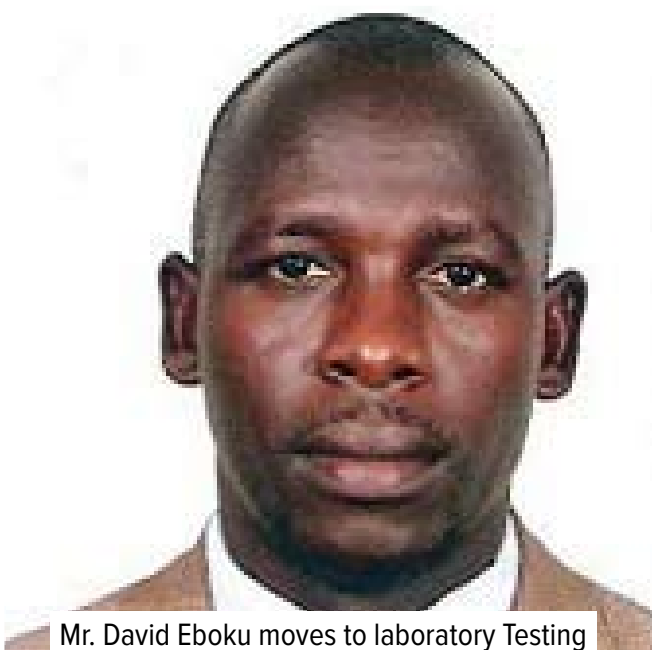
Mr Deus Mubangizi moves to National Metrology Laboratory



Mr Martin Imalingat moves to Imports inspection



Mr Andrew Othieno moves to Standards department



Mr. David Eboku moves to laboratory Testing department

Managers for the future

Leaders have to anticipate, forecast and create the future, with a clear vision that will remain true, relevant, and purposeful. But how can they ensure this vision is carried on when they are no longer at the helm? The current UNBS leadership has worked very hard to evolve the culture of the organization into having a forward-thinking, agile and proactive organization and mind-set.

They have also projected UNBS into a future that will make our organization relevant in a forever changing world whilst remaining true to its origins. A way to achieve this is to rely on identifying, developing and engaging with the leaders of tomorrow, from within – enter the rotation of Managers to different departments.

UNBS activities in media

UNBS ENGAGES FACE MASKS MAKERS OVER STANDARDS

By Edward Kayiwa
and Ronnie Kijambu

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has warned the public against using substandard masks which are currently on sale on streets across major towns and urban centres in the country.

According to the standards regulator, it is imperative for the public to use the right quality masks, as the country grapples with the coronavirus pandemic, whose infections have recently reached the 2,000 mark.

The UNBS deputy executive

director for management and finance, Patricia Bageine Ejalu, said the regulator has already availed standards which must be followed in making face masks for the public.

"The masks must be certified and properly labelled and they must not be made from flammable material. They, however, can be either single or multi-layered," she said.

Ejalu warned those who go for face masks displayed on streets that they stand a high chance of contracting the virus.

Her remarks follow complaints from the Government over the

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ Following the outbreak of the coronavirus early this year, President Yoweri Museveni asked the health ministry to distribute face masks to all Ugandans above the age of six. The ministry then contracted local manufacturers.

weekend that some contracted manufacturers were producing substandard face masks thus putting lives of Ugandans at risk.

Over the weekend, the information and national guidance minister, Judith Nabakoba, said the Government had received complaints that some of the face masks being distributed by the Government do not meet the health ministry standards and guidelines.

She said manufacturers who would be found guilty of flouting the health ministry guidelines on face masks production would be prosecuted, in addition to termination of their contracts.

As part of efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, President Yoweri Museveni instructed the health ministry to avail free face masks to all Ugandans above the age of six.

The distribution started

in July with the border and high-risk districts, including Kampala, Mukono and Wakiso, and so far, more than 13 million masks have been distributed.

Speaking to more than 100 local face masks manufacturers during a webinar meeting, Ejalu said the regulator is still following up on all masks on the market, to check if they still meet the required health standards.

"The certification process is not a one-time event. It is done for as long as you are still in business. We do surveillance audits where we come without notice to see if certified manufacturers are still meeting the standards.

"It does not make sense for someone to innocently put on a face mask that has been

purportedly certified by UNBS, but cannot protect them from acquiring the coronavirus," she said.

Ejalu said so far, 23 manufacturers of face masks and other personal protective equipment such as face shields have been certified, with more expected to come on board to bridge the growing gap.

UNBS quality analyst John Sanyu said a recommended face mask must have at least two layers to prevent the coronavirus from spilling in to infect the wearer or those around them.

Sanyu said the face masks must be packaged in suitable packaging materials to protect the product from any contamination and mechanical damage during transportation, handling and storage.

PHOTO BY ALFRED OCHWO



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Officers listed below are required to report to the Public Service Commission, 2nd Floor, Farmers' House, Parliament Avenue on **Friday 11th September 2020 at 9.30 a.m.** in respect to the disciplinary cases instituted against them.

1. **Kaboole Agnes :-** Stenographer Secretary, Scale U5.
2. **Nantale Rehema Musoke:-** Assistant Secretary, Scale U4.
3. **Oluport Richard Onen:-** Records Assistant, Scale U7.
4. **Kyeyago Edward:-** Process Server, Scale U8.

Failure to report as required will imply that they have willingly forfeited their right to be heard and their cases shall be determined and concluded thereafter.

Dr. John Geoffrey Mbabazi
SECRETARY



Manufacturers blame UNBS for substandard facemasks

However, UNBS says it is still carrying out surveillance audits to revoke licences of those who manufacture the fake ones.

BY TONY ABET

The Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) has blamed the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) for not doing enough to check the substandard facemasks on the market, which have been distributed by government in the Covid-19 prevention drive.

However, UNBS says it is still carrying out surveillance audits and if any certified manufacturer is found to have been involved in the production of substandard masks, their licence will be revoked and put out of business.

On May 18, President Museveni directed that all Ugandans aged six and above should be given a reusable facemask to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and promised that government would give out the masks.

Mr Daniel Birungi, the UMA executive director, told Daily Monitor in an interview on Monday that the substandard masks distributed by government could have been produced by dishonest manufacturers, who are not UMA members but were licensed by UNBS.

"Our position has been clear; we are at the front and centre of emphasising importance of standardisation as a means of facilitating a level playing field in the market. The challenge always comes with those who opt for shortcuts. They don't belong anywhere, so there is no one who can follow up on them," Mr Birungi said.

"This was not the first supply our members made to the government but they have supplied many other things to government such as medical uniforms and uniforms for police and army. So they have a reputation to protect and can't be caught doing things that are below standard. People should be made to belong somewhere they can be traced," he added.

UNBS tasked

The UMA boss asked UNBS to step up its surveillance and restore adherence to quality requirements among manufacturers.

"UNBS has the mandate to enforce standards and as such should be out there picking some of these samples and arising complaints," he said.

Mr Birungi challenged UNBS to enforce standards compliance and punish the culpable companies.

"We are campaigning for a robust UNBS because it is only them who can solve the problem of quality adherence and give a level ground for new companies to thrive," he said.

Mr John Sanyu, the UNBS senior materials technician, said the major quality requirements that many certified manufacturers fail include microbiological cleanliness, where some masks are

produced when already contaminated with germs.

He said some manufacturers are inserting "serviettes, mosquito nets" as filter materials in the masks and other defective materials.

Ms Patricia Bageine Ejalu, the UNBS deputy executive director in-charge of standards, said the hunt for makers of sub-standard masks is ongoing.

"If the surveillance audits are done and a certified manufacturer is found producing substandard products, the UNBS licence is revoked and they are automatically out of business," Ms Ejalu said. He did not say when this will be done or whether any culprits have been identified.

She said the UNBS team is making impromptu visits to certified manufacturers' premises to check if they are meeting the standards. Ms Ejalu said UNBS also buys samples of certified products on the market and takes them for quality tests.

Asked whether UNBS is considering to recall the substandard masks, Ms Sylvia Kirabo, the UNBS principal public relations officer, said the decision will depend on the report of the surveillance team.

Health ministry's take

The Health minister, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, said although 16,992,780 masks have been distributed by government in 44 districts, the ministry has been informed about substandard masks and the issue is being addressed.

"The Ministry of Health apologises for the prolonged delay in distribution of the fabric facemasks, which is beyond our control. The ministry has been informed about the poor quality of some of the facemasks supplied by



Kampala Resident City Commissioner Farida Mayanja (left), demonstrates how to wear a mask during the launch of the distribution exercise in Kampala, on August 7. PHOTO/DAVID LUBOWA



Vendors sell facemasks in Wandegaya, Kampala, on May 6. Individuals are allowed to sell their facemasks despite government distributing free ones to Ugandans. PHOTO/FILE

certain companies," she said in a statement on Monday. "The companies have been tasked to improve the quality according to set standards provided by

government. In the event that the company does not adhere to the standards, they will be dropped out from the list of suppliers," she added.

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS OF FACEMASKS

A standard non-medical face mask should protect the full face or parts of the face against contaminated atmosphere or reduce the emission of droplets from the wearer to the atmosphere.

According to information on the UNBS website, the facemasks may be of a single layer or a multi-layer composite made of single or blended fabric, with or without film and shall have harness for holding it on the user's head.

- * The design: They shall be designed so that air enters the face mask and passes directly to its nose and mouth area of the face mask while the exhaled air flows directly to the ambient atmosphere or via the exhalation valve(s) or by other appropriate means if applicable.

- * The fitting: The facemask shall have a mechanism to fix to the wearer such as head harness to tie it securely to the head or ears to minimise any gap between the face and the mask.

- * Instruction for use of reusable mask: If the facemask is designed to be reusable, the manufacturer shall indicate so and declare a method for cleaning, disinfecting and drying protocol.

- * The type of material: The materials used in the facemask including filters and the elastic bands, shall be compatible with the normal household laundry and disposal method.

- * Durability: The mask shall last at least five full machine washing cycles without loss of barrier properties or deformation of the elastic bands. Wash cycle (wetting, rinsing) shall be at least (laundry or other) with temperature of 60°C.

- * Type of material: Facemasks may be made from common cloth and other materials which are comfortable and suitable for use in hot and cold climates.

- * No irritation: Material may come into contact with the wearer's skin shall not have potential to cause irritation or any health hazard or other adverse effect to the user.

- * No deformation: After the masks at specific temperature and then return to room temperature, the facemask should show appreciable deformation.

- * Breathability: The facemask should ease breathing and should not cause suffocation to the user.

- * Labelling: Each facemask should be legibly and indelibly marked with the name, address of the manufacturer or distributor, and other relevant information.



UNBS staff excel at LDC

20 STAFF of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) graduated after a month-long prosecution training at the Law Development Center (LDC) in Kampala. During the tailored prosecution course, staff from the Surveillance, Legal Metrology and Imports Inspection departments underwent basic training in handling exhibits, proper protection of the chain of evidence, how to interview suspects, collection of right information that is admissible in courts of law, rights of suspects, classification of courts, and many more.

The day's guest of honour who also doubles as the LDC director, Mr. Frank Nigel Othembi, urged the graduates not to "sit-on" the knowledge achieved, but actively apply it in their daily course of work.

The UNBS Manager in charge of Legal Metrology, Ms. Leatitia Namubiru, who represented the UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo, congratulated the graduates and urged them to use the knowledge and skills acquired to become prosecutors on behalf of UNBS and serve UNBS clients better.

"Law is a language society uses to define relationships, explain rights and obligations, and regulate interactions between individuals and society as a whole. 80% of UNBS employees are scientists, however, during the course of our day to day work, we meet legal aspects like arbitration, prosecution and litigation among others." Ms. Namubiru said.

"The new knowledge, experience and skill that UNBS staff have acquired during the training will improve their competence

and intellectual strength required to have a more practical approach while dealing with UNBS clients and stakeholders." Ms. Namubiru added.

She further thanked the UNBS management for recognising training needs of its staff and meeting them. The 20 participants were grateful for the training.

The overall best participant, Mr. Isaac Walakira from the Market Surveillance department said the prosecution training has made him more competent for the job and would recommend every UNBS staff to undertake the course.

The second best participant, Ms. Lorna Akello from the Market Surveillance department said she has critically learnt how to collect information from suspects and this is a very relevant skill for her job.

The one-month tailored prosecution course is an annual training intended for all UNBS staff under the Compliance Directorate.

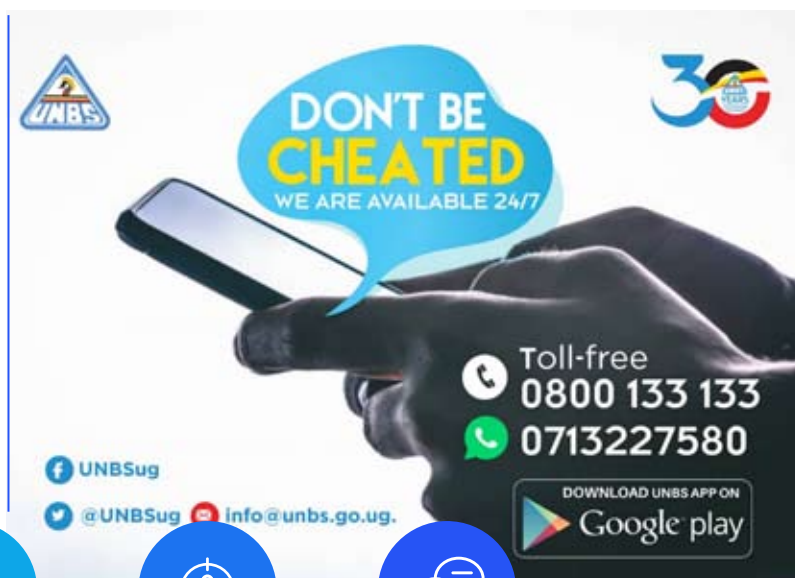
Upcoming meetings/ events

Date: October 29th 2020

Venue: Zoom

Consultative meeting on the Certification Regulation 2020 to be held with manufacturers, importers and clearing agents of cosmetics and related products

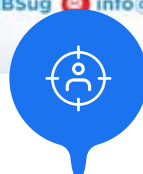
CORE VALUES



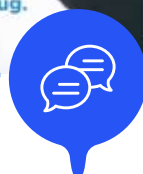
Professionalism



Innovation



Integrity



Customer focus

Mission:

To provide standards, measurements and conformity assessment services for improved quality of life.

Vision:

A leading institution of international repute in provision of sustainable standardization services.



UGANDA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

UNBS TESTING LABORATORIES



TO
OUR HEAD
OFFICES IN
BWEYOGERERE

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) informs the public that the UNBS Testing laboratories;

- Chemistry Laboratory
- Microbiology Laboratory
- Electrical laboratory

Have been shifted from Nakawa to the UNBS head offices in Bweyogerere.

UNBS is currently receiving **ONLY** critical samples authorized by government in the fight against COVID-19.

The due date for official opening of the laboratories in Bweyogerere shall be communicated.

UNBS continues to perform its mandate of developing, promoting, and enforcing standards in protection of public health and safety, and the environment against dangerous and sub-standard products.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: UGANDA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Bypass Link Bweyogerere Industrial Area & Business Park, P.O. Box 6329, Kampala.

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