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# Standards BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2018

## UNBS crowns a successful 2018 with a staff party

As part of celebrations to mark yet another successful year, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) held a fun-filled staff engagement party.

UNBS trains MSMEs on Mandatory Certification  
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CSN Workshop on development of a National Standardization Strategy  
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The Zebras celebrate after receiving a trophy as the overall sports winners

The full-day event began with various sports activities at Nelson Mandela National Stadium at Namboole. Before the sports fete, UNBS staff were divided into various teams including:

- Dolphins comprising staff from Legal Metrology and Market Surveillance Departments.
- Sharks comprising staff from Standards Department
- Zebras comprising staff from Certification Department
- Leopards comprising staff from ICT Department, Directors, EDs Office, Corporate Planning Division, and Imports Inspection Department.
- Whales comprising staff from Finance and Administration
- Penguins comprising staff from Human Resources, Procurement and Disposal Unit, Legal and Audit Departments.
- Cheetahs comprising staff from National

"Quality is life, life is quality"



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Metrology Laboratory and Public Relations Division.

- Lions comprising of Staff from Testing Department. The teams participated in various sports activities including Football, Netball, Egg race, Ree lays, Sack race, among others. The winners were awarded certificates at the Staff Dinner held later in the evening.

The Overall Winner were the Zebras who took home a magnificent trophy that will remind them of their success for the next twelve months. They will still find time to feast on a goat in recognition of their sports exploits. Traditionally the overall winner is chosen from the winner of the football tournament.

The Leopards won most trophies including Ree Lays and Sack Race while the Sharks won the Netball match and the Dolphins won the egg race.

Later in the evening the Staff retreated to the green lush gardens at Standards House where they were treated to a dinner washed down with all tribes of drinks.

The event opened with a prayer session led by Immam

Kasozzi and Pastor Laban Jumba who prayed for God's guidance in various UNBS activities. As it is the tradition, the event was used to recognize outstanding innovators. The overall Winner of the Innovation Award was Peter Mayanja from Standards Department. He took home an Award Certificate and US\$1,000 for his innovation on automating the documentation of walk-in clients to enable the Bureau know its clients better. Patrick Kizito from NML was recognized for designing a portable pressure calibration system. He was awarded with a Certificate and USD1,000.

Other innovators recognized for their participation included John Kyazze from Standards Department, John Okumu from Testing Department, Peterson Kiguli from Legal Metrology Department and Emmanuel Ageta from NML.

The guests were treated to a night of entertainment from Steve Keys band. The dinner was crowned with dancing strokes from Deputy Executive Director in charge of Management and Financial Services, Mr David Livingstone Ebiru who opened the dance floor with the Deputy Executive Director in Charge of Standards Mrs Patricia Bageine Ejalu.

## Ministry of Energy, UNBS undertake Fuel Sensitization in Western Uganda

**Each year, the fuel marking and quality monitoring program organizes fuel campaigns to sensitize the public on issues related to fuel quality and quantity served in retail stations as a commitment to satisfy the requirements of the relevant Uganda standards.**



**Fuel Marking: UNBS Team carries out verification of a fuel pump in Hoima during the Fuel marking sensitization exercise in Western Uganda.**

Early this year, FMP undertook a campaign in Eastern Uganda and in October this year, another Fuel marking stakeholder meeting and a fuel campaign was organized and held in Western Uganda and this took place from 12th to 17th November 2018.

During the stakeholders' meeting in Fort Portal that was held on 13th November 2018, the taxi operators questioned the ministry on why the prices have remained high. "We are forced to move around town to look for stations that have cheap fuel in order for us to run our business," Mr

Stephen Mugume, a boda boda rider, said.

The commissioner Petroleum Supply department, Mr Justaf Frank Tukwasibwe, attributed the high prices to increasing public demand. Mr Tukwasibwe said since 2009, the country has never experienced shortage of fuel supply. "It is true the fuel prices are high in some of the fuel companies. The reason why some are selling it cheaply and others highly is because of the liberalised economy where forces of demand and supply determine prices," Mr Tukwasibwe

said.

The campaign was organized by Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) and Fuel Marking and Quality Monitoring Program (FMP).

The fuel marking and quality monitoring program (FMP) is a government program designed to control and monitor the quality of petroleum products in the entire supply chain in Uganda. The program is to detect adulteration and dilution of fuel and/or the entry of unmarked (smuggled or dumped) fuel into the Ugandan market.



# AU Team assess UNBS Chemistry Laboratory for designation as an African Center of Excellence

Between 10th and 11th December 2018, UNBS hosted a team from the African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) to assess the suitability of the UNBS Chemistry Laboratory to become the African Center of Excellence for Food Safety in the Analysis of Heavy metals.



The African Union Team with UNBS Staff at Standards House following the conclusion on the assessment visit.



The African Union Team with UNBS Staff visit the ongoing construction of the Food Safety Laboratories at UNBS Head Offices

If successful, the Chemistry Laboratory, which is already accredited, will become a Centre of Excellence in Africa for Food Safety in the Analysis of Heavy metals with attendant benefits that include among others:

- Research grants,
- Staff training,
- Equipment
- and overall capacity building in relation to science-based participation in the standards setting processes
- Train other African countries,
- Test samples from AU activities,
- Share information for purposes of ensuring public health and facilitating international food trade,
- Generate research data for standards setting especially within codex

And the laboratory will among others:

- This will improve Uganda's (and indeed Africa's) participation in the food standards setting process and ultimately promote both intra African and global trade.

## ISO Marketing and Communication workshop



Delegates from 23 African countries meet in Kampala for the ISO Regional Workshop on Marketing and Communication hosted by Uganda

Between 20th and 22nd November 2018, Uganda was privileged to host an ISO Marketing and Communication Workshop at Golden Tulip Hotel in Kampala. The workshop attracted

26 delegates drawn from 22 English speaking African Countries. The workshop was held to Support National Standards Bodies to identify the market for standards and to establish marketing and

communication strategies as well as highlight the requirements of ISO's commercial policy (POCOSA) and copyright in the ISO system. The workshop was facilitated by ISO experts. The delegates agreed to identify and share challenges for marketing and communication of standards within their respective countries after the workshop in order to input into development of a robust work plan for the African region to change the current limited sale of standards. UNBS plans to enhance engagement of stakeholders and increase awareness of standards especially up country in order to improve uptake of standards which will result in increased sales of standards.



# CSN Workshop on development of a National Standardization Strategy

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards hosted a five-day workshop from 26th to 30th November 2018 at UNBS Headquarters, Standards House, Bweyogerere.



The workshop was facilitated by Commonwealth Standards Network consultant as a first step that will result in development of 3 year (2019-22) National Standardization Strategy (NSS). Up to 25 staff drawn from different departments in UNBS participated in the workshop. The

main purpose for the development of a NSS is to relate as closely as possible the development of standards with economic, social, environmental and other priorities of the country and to do this in a way which is most effective and uses the available resources of the country

in the most efficient manner. The process will take into consideration input from all key stakeholders in the country. The strategy will be completed by 30th June 2019 and annual reviews will be undertaken to ascertain continued relevance of the areas for standardization identified.

## EAC Standards Harmonization meeting on textiles, textile products and accessories



Delegates from Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda meeting in Kampala for a regional workshop to harmonize standards for fertilizers and organic agriculture

Uganda hosted the 3rd harmonization meeting for EASC/TC 061 on Textiles, Textile products and Accessories from Monday 3rd December, 2018 to Friday, 7th December, 2018 in Kampala Uganda at Imperial Royale Hotel. The meeting was attended by delegates from four Partner States including Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. The harmonization meeting completed discussions on 8 draft east African standards on mosquito nets, fishing gill nets, disposable baby and adult diapers, fabrics for household curtains and

drapery, reusable sanitary towels, woven polyolefin sacks for cement and used textiles. The standards are important in the EAC region to support trade in the products and ensure quality and safe products are produced. Development of a standard for mosquito nets supports ongoing efforts by governments in the EAC to prevent malaria which is highly endemic in the region and a major public health problem. The standards will be ready for approval in the EAC process in April 2019.

# A summary of the TC meetings held

**A total of 15 National Technical Committee meetings were held in the month of November with representation from 207 stakeholders of which were 53 female, 79 private sector, 20 MSMEs and 44 youth. The meetings held included:**

- TC 16/SC 1 on Petroleum and petrochemical products that discussed standards testing of petroleum products. This contributes to government efforts in the Oil and Gas sector.
- TC 5/SC 1 on Industrial and Public health chemicals that discussed standards for face packs
- TC 14 on Medical devices made progress on standards such as for umbilical cord clamp
- TC 7/SC 2 on Textile and related products made significant progress on standards for non-woven surgical dressings. The work in this sector contributes to the implementation of the BUBU policy.
- TC 4 on Mechanical engineering and metallurgy held technical discussions on the standard for glass fiber reinforced plastic pipes for water and sewer drainage. The standard is critical to support efficient and safe distribution of water in the country.
- TC 12 on Furniture and related products discussed the standard for preservation of bamboo and cane for non-structural purposes as well as specifications for aluminium doors, windows and ventilators. The work in this sector contributes to the implementation of the BUBU policy.
- TC 16/SC 4 on Petroleum transportation and refining discussed standards such as materials selection and corrosion control for oil and gas production systems
- TC 3 on Building and construction discussed two standards that cover lightweight aggregates and concrete kerb.
- TC 16/SC 5 on Petroleum distribution discussed standards that cover Gills for domestic LPGs and mountable burners for use with LPG.
- TC 2/SC 9 on Animal feeds and feeding stuffs made progress on standards for cattle and feeds. This is a rapidly growing sector and development of applicable standards supports the growth
- TC 2/SC 11 on Sugar, edible starches and related confectionery products engaged stakeholders to generate comments on an International draft standard for pana (jaggery) as well as sugar cane.
- TC 10 on Management and Services discussed standards in the areas of quality management.

## UNBS seizes substandard electrical products

**On 14th November 2018, The Uganda Bureau of Standards (UNBS) seized four tonnes of substandard electrical items worth thirty-five million shilling.**

"The operation focused on the Energy Centre on Market Street because it had been identified as the main source of substandard electrical products on the market. During the operation, 46 shops were inspected and were found selling substandard electrical products.

The seized electrical items were taken to the UNBS warehouse to aid with further investigations. "The business owners were summoned to UNBS CID Office for further investigations and possible prosecution,"

### **Non-conforming products**

According to UNBS Manager of surveillance Daniel Arorwa, some

of the substandard electrical and electronic products include; Cixing Bulbs 20 watts, Extension Cables, Energy Saver Bulbs, immersion water heaters (German brand), Incandescent bulbs, The socket outlets had no shutters, Electrical Cables (Copper cables), Portable socket, AEI Cables 2.5mm x 1 roll, Scarlet Percolators – 29 pieces among others

Mr Arorwa said such products lack the quality requirements such as indelible labels on the product, technical information for instance volts, watts, frequency, and usually have false names of country of origin, and miss manufacturers' names or brand name. Mr Arorwa further said that "Some extension cables have exposed

conductors without shutters, while some extension cables have very thin or small size of the conductors, and others are marked fused yet they are not."

### **Requirements**

Some of the cautionary aspects to consider when buying electrical or electronic units include the name of the manufacturer or brand name on the product, country of origin, permanent labels on the product, presence of technical information such as volts, watts, frequency, instruction for use, warning information, or safety of a unit, type of plugs used, and so on.



# ► Pictorial

## UNBS crowns a successful year with a staff party



Peter Mayanja from Standards Department receives a certificate and USD,1000 cash after being awarded the overall winner of the Innovation Award.



Patrick Kizito from NML Department is recognized for designing a portable pressure calibration system



The Zebras celebrate after receiving a trophy as the overall winners



Deputy Executive Director in Charge of Finance and Management Services, Mr. David Livingstone Ebiru, opens the dance with the Deputy Executive Director in Charge of Standards Mrs Patricia Bageine Ejalu.



Staff participate in a netball match Leopards vs Sharks