

Trade ministry outs BUBU action plan

By Samuel Sanya

The ministry of trade, industry and cooperatives has launched its 18 point action plan to actualise the Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) policy to drive consumption of local goods.

The Government hopes this will drive industry growth and job creation.

"I urge manufacturers to ensure that their products conform to standards and use local names," the trade minister Amelia Kyambadde said at the launch at her office recently.

She also urged supermarket owners to place local products in places where they are easily visible to shoppers.

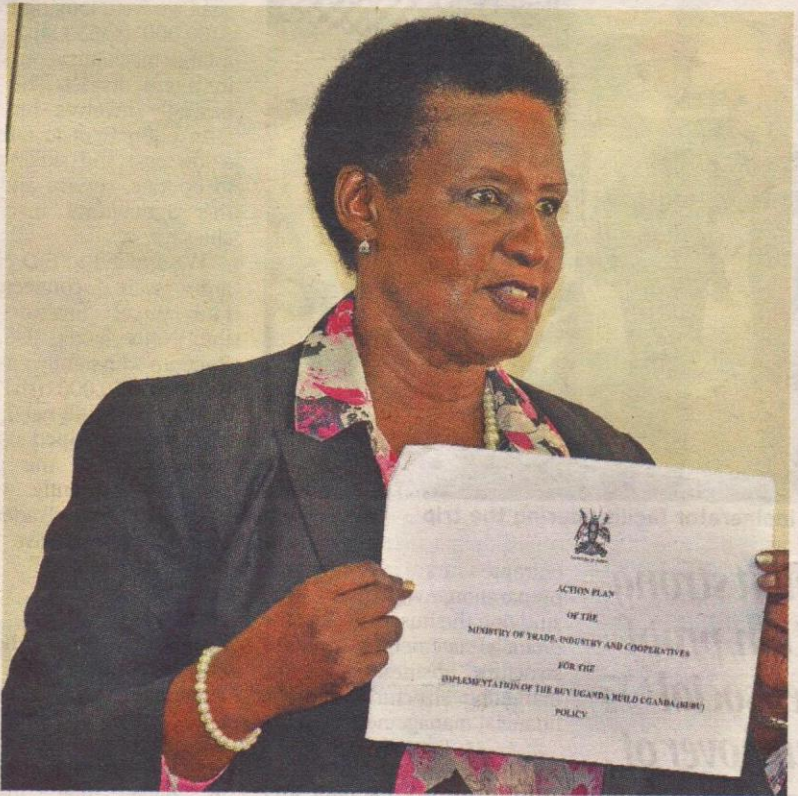
She said many countries have campaigns to promote consumption of their local products. Uganda is actually among the last countries to implement a plan to protect local manufacturers," she said.

"This will stimulate local industries and create jobs for Ugandans. We want Ugandans to also be prioritised when it comes to hiring in Uganda," she explained.

Abdul Kasule, the assistant commissioner for internal trade, pointed out that the ministry intends to carry out surveys to establish the capacity of local manufacturers and service providers between May 2017 and February 2018.

Sectors of interest include; textile, leather and footwear, furniture, stationery, pharmaceuticals, foods and beverages, cement, steel, plastics, construction services, consultancy, insurance, legal services, accounting and auditing, printing and education services.

He also noted that there are plans to build capacity of at least 500 local manufacturers and service providers in key sectors, to encourage Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to formalise, to improve the



Kyambadde during BUBU launch

"The BUBU will stimulate local industries and create jobs for Ugandans," Kyambadde

way local products are branded, to improve shelf space in supermarkets

from 20% to 40% by April 2022 and encourage conformity with standards.

Ambassador Julius Onen pointed out that the ministry is considering partnerships with media organisations to increase publicity and transparency in the tendering process of government ministries, departments and agencies.

"We have asked the PPDA to avail us with all ministry procurement plans for the financial year to ensure that reservation schemes are implemented. We want to encourage local companies to jointly submit bids to increase their chances of being successful," he said.