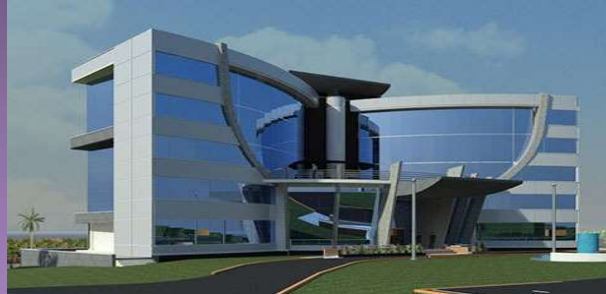


## UGANDA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS



ORIENTATION OF HON. MINISTERS  
MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES

HOTEL AFRICANA : 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

### ABOUT UNBS

- UNBS is a statutory body under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives established under Cap 327 (As Amended in 2013) of the laws of Uganda and commenced operations in 1989. The Bureau also administers the Weights and Measures Act 104 of 1965.
- The National Standards Council (NSC) is the governing Body of the Bureau responsible for policy and oversight, while the Executive Director and his Deputies are responsible for Management through the 3 Directorates of Standards, Compliance; Management & Financial Services.
- UNBS core mandate of the Bureau is to Develop, Promote and Enforce National Standards to enhance the competitiveness of Ugandan products, promote fair trade and protect the health and safety of consumers and the environment.

## UNBS FACILITIES

- The Bureau has its Headquarters and Laboratories at Bweyogerere Industrial and Business Park.
- The Bureau is currently operating six (6) Regional Offices in Kampala (Katwe), Jinja, Mbale, Lira, Gulu and Mbarara in a bid to decentralize its services closer. However these facilities are still being rented by the Bureau and do not provide adequate space for laboratories and expansion of office space.
- In order to construct permanent facilities for Regional Offices, the Bureau through UIA has acquired 3 Acres of land at Mbarara Industrial Park and 5 acres of land at SINO Mbale Industrial Park .
- The Bureau is currently engaging MFPED through the Development Committee to allocate project funds to develop these facilities.

## POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

- During NDP2 which ended in FY 2020/21, the Bureau contributed to the Tourism, Trade and Industry Sector under the outcome of “**Improving Competitiveness and Market Access of Uganda’s Goods and Services**”
- Under NDP3 FY2021-2025, the Bureau will be contributing to the following Programs;
  - **Private Sector Development (MFPED as Secretariat)**
  - **Agro-Industrialization (MAAIF as Secretariat)**
  - **Manufacturing (MTIC as Secretariat)**
  - **Mineral Resource Development (MEMD as Secretariat)**

Specifically, UNBS is expected;

- To promote and support implementation of quality standards by the private sector/MSMEs in order to make their products competitive and enable Ugandan products access Regional, Continental and International markets. (BUBU Policy).
- Reduce on the prevalence of substandard products on the market that may affect the health and safety of citizens and the environment.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF UNBS MANDATE

### 1. *Standards Development.*

The current stock of standards is **4,243** to facilitate production and trade;

- 961 are indigenous standards (US)
- 505 standards have been harmonised within EAC (US EAS),
- 2,355 are harmonised with the International Organisation for Standardisation (US ISO),
- 267 harmonised with the International Electro technical Commission (US IEC),
- 143 harmonised with Food Code - Codex Alimentarius is a collection of internationally (US CODEX),
- 7 standards under ARSO - African Organisation for Standardization
- 3 standards under International Organization of Legal Metrology
- 2 standards under European Norm/European Standards

## Implementation of Mandate Continued-----

### 2. Certification of Products and Systems

The Bureau has certified;

- **3,583** products from approximately 1,700 companies with Q-Mark with over 500 new applications under processing.
- **59** companies have been certified for systems with another 60 under processing.
- The Bureau is currently focusing on the MSMEs build capacity to implement standards and have their products certified in order to access the markets in line with the BUBU Policy, Imports Substitution and Export Promotion strategies.

## Implementation of Mandate Continued-----

### **3. Laboratory Testing and Analysis**

UNBS provides testing services to protect consumers, support industries and facilitate trade and research. Our laboratories include;

- the Food Safety Laboratories (Chemistry and Microbiology)
- Materials Engineering Laboratory
- Electrical Engineering Laboratory.

### **4. Calibration of Industrial Equipment**

*This activity is undertaken under the scientific metrology function to ensure accuracy of equipment measurements to ensure traceability.*

## Implementation of Mandate Continued-----

### **5. Inspections of imported products**

- *This activity involves assessing the quality of imported products to ensure they comply with the National Standards.*
- *The exercise is undertake both in the country of export under the Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVOC) program and at the point of entry in to the country.*

### **6. Verification of Weights and Measures**

- *This activity involves verification of equipment used in trade to avoid cheating of customers.*
- *The equipment include Weighing Scales (Minzani), fuel pumps, road tankers, wagons, weighbridges and underground tanks*

## Implementation of Mandate Continued-----

### **7. Market Surveillance and Quality Monitoring**

- *This activity involves checking the quality of products on the market to ensure they comply with the minimum standards.*
- *Quite often imported products are smuggled in to the country without being inspected and so are locally manufactured products which are not certified by UNBS.*

### **8. Training and Advisory Services**

*This is done to support enterprises effectively implement standards, especially MSMEs.*

## Ongoing Reforms to Improve Service Delivery

- *Amendment of the UNBS Act, Legal Metrology Act and attendant Regulations to reflect the current business environment.*
- *Subsidization of cost of Certification through revision of fees and offering free standards to MSMEs Associations and groups*
- *Simplification and Automation of UNBS core processes to reduce turn around time*
- *Partnership with Private Sector Associations to promote quality culture and self regulation*
- *Introduction of Digital Tracking System (DTS) for authentication of certified products*
- *Strengthening decentralization of UNBS Services to Regions*

## FUNDING AND MANPOWER

### 1. BUDGET

- The Bureau's Approved Annual Budget Estimates for FY2021/22 is **UGX 65 Billion**, of which the Bureau contributes Appropriation In Aid (AIA)/Non Tax Revenue (NTR) of approximately over 60%.
- Once in a while, the Bureau gets Project Specific Support from Partners and other MDAs.

### 2. MANPOWER

- The Bureau currently employs 440 which is 68% of the approved structure of 640 staff. The Bureau is continuing with lobbying of more resources to recruit additional staff to support the decentralization Agenda.
- In the mean time, the Bureau is continues to collaborate with the Private Sector Associations and other Government Agencies to enforce Quality Standards.

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Need for additional Staffing to strengthen Decentralization of UNBS services to Regional Offices
- Construction of own facilities in Mbarara and Mbale Regional Offices where land has been acquired.
- Compliance Challenges both by Importers and Local producers

CONCLUSION

- More information about UNBS and its services you can visit our website via [www.unbs.go.ug](http://www.unbs.go.ug)
- **We welcome Hon. Ministers to Visits us and learn more about the Bureau.**

**Thank you**