



***INAUGURATION OF THE 9TH NATIONAL STANDARDS COUNCIL
(NSC)***

TUESDAY 16th AUGUST, 2022

REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

MINISTRY OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES

Dear Hon. Ministers, the Chairperson and Members of the 9th National Standards Council (NSC), UNBS Executive Director and your Management Team, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I wish to congratulate the Chairperson and Members of the 9th National Standards Council (NSC) for the successful appointments as Members of the UNBS Board.

I know it was quite competitive, but still given the many options available, but still the best had to be considered and you are among the lucky ones.

The Ministry had to fast track the process of your appointment through Cabinet due to the critical role the UNBS plays in the economy and therefore we did not want to create any gap governance which could impact on the effective operations of the Bureau.

As you may be aware, the Bureau is one of the Agencies under the Ministry which is key in facilitating Import and Export Trader, Private Sector Competiveness, Manufacturing and Value Addition through the provision of various standardization services.

The focus of Government is now on Imports Substitution and Exports Promotion by encouraging local Production, Processing

and Value Addition through the Ministry's Industrialization Agenda and the "**Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU)**" Initiative.

Given that the major challenge of our locally manufactured products remains limited access to Regional and International Markets due to poor quality, the Bureau has a critical role to play.

The Ministry is aware of the Bureau efforts to reduce the cost of certification in order to increase the uptake of certification services by the MSMEs, but complaints still remain about the high cost of certification which make these enterprises to continue putting poor quality products on the market.

We therefore hope that the New Board together with Management will continue to explore other means of further subsidizing the cost of standardization so that the quality of our local products can be enhanced to facilitate their access both at the domestic and Foreign Markets.

Allow me also thank the Executive Director and his team for the cordial working relationship between the Ministry and the Bureau. Let us continue to maintain this relationship even with the New Board.

UNBS Management will be organizing an Orientation and Induction Program for the New Council to enable them appreciate more about the Bureau and what it does.

I wish to reiterate the Ministry's full support towards the work of the Bureau and look forward to good working relationship with the New Board.

Congratulations once again and I wish you the very best as you embark on your new journey as Members of the 9th National Standards Council.

Thank you for Listening to me.