

TBS urged to avoid bureaucracy in serving the public



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Prof. Riziki Shemdoe (centre, seated) and his deputy, Mr. Ludovick Nduhiye (right) pose with the TBS Management Team during their familiarization tour of the Bureau in Dar es Salaam.

By Roida Andusamile

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Prof. Riziki Shemdoe has urged TBS staff to be diligent and avoid corruption so as to attract more investors in the country.

Prof. Shemdoe made the remarks recently at TBS headquarters during his familiarization tour at the organization since his appointment as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry.

He said for the country to facilitate trade, TBS needs to work hard and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy that may lead to corruption thus discouraging new investors.

“We need to cooperate in executing our daily work, perform diligently and avoid bureaucracy that hinders business and frustrates new investors,” he said.

“The bitterness of poor quality remains long after low price is forgotten! Always use TBS-certified products”

He further said the Ministry of Industry and Trade is currently implementing the Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms to Improve the Business Environment by ensuring that there is no bureaucracy in doing business, thus creating good environment for business investments.

Speaking earlier, TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya assured Prof. Shemdoe that TBS will continue to perform at its best despite several challenges it faces which include inadequate state-of-the-art equipment in some areas.

Dr. Ngenya said TBS continues to ensure that only quality products penetrate the domestic markets and at the same time opening of zonal and boarder offices which ease customer handling and service provision.

He said in December 2019 TBS opened a new zonal office in Kigoma region which caters for Western Zone, covering Kigoma, Katavi and Rukwa regions, making a total of six zones countrywide.

Dr. Ngenya said other zones which are operational include Central Zone in Dodoma (Dodoma, Tabora and Singida), Eastern Zone in Arusha (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Manyara), Lake Zone in Mwanza (Mwanza, Kagera, Mara, Geita, Shinyanga and Simiyu), Southern Zone in Mtwara (Mtwara, Lindi and Ruvuma) and Southern Highlands Zone in Mbeya (Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe and Songwe).

Dr. Ngenya further said apart from zonal offices, TBS also has offices at Kilimanjaro, Dar es Salaam and Mwanza airports and Mwanza, Tanga, Bagamoyo and Dar es Salaam ports.

Border offices include Rusumo, Kabanga, Kasumulo, Tunduma, Holili, Horohoro, Namannga, Sirari, Mutukula, Tarakea and Mtambaswala.

“Misuse of TBS quality mark is a criminal offence punishable under the Standards Act No. 2 of 2009”

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mr. Jabir S. Abdi- Chairperson
Ms. Roida Andusamile- Secretary
Mr. Mwesiga Mulinda- Member
Ms. Angela Ndanshau- Member
Mr. Hamis Sudi- Member
Mr. Joseph James -Member
Mr. Alpha Nuhu- Member

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Ms. Gladness Kaseka
Mr. David Mtei
Ms. Neema Mtemvu

Address

Tanzania Bureau of Standards
Ubungu Area,
Junction Morogoro/
Sam Nujoma Roads,
P.O.Box 9524, Dar es Salaam
TANZANIA.

Contacts:

Tel +255 2224 50298
+ 255 2224 50206
+ 255 2224 50949
Telefax: + 255 2224 50959
Email: info@tbs.go.tz
Hotline: 0800 110827
Website: www.tbs.go.tz

TBS commended for reaching out to the public



TBS Quality Assurance Officer Zena Mushi (middle in red T-shirt) educates SMEs on how to acquire TBS mark of quality on their products

By Rhoda Mayugu

Tabora residents have applauded Tanzania Bureau of Standards for educating them on issues of standardization and quality assurance.

The residents gave the commendation during the community awareness campaign conducted in Tabora municipality, being part of a wider awareness campaign in three regions namely Tabora, Dodoma and Kigoma.

“We thank TBS for coming in our areas to educate us on various issues regarding their roles, we ask them to continue doing so in order to extend this awareness campaign to many people,” said one of the residents identified as Ms Juliana Kilato.

She said the campaign helped them to understand how to address challenges facing them in quality related issues and how to obtain the licence to use the standards mark of quality on their products.

Speaking about the campaign, TBS Marketing Officer Ms. Debora Haule said in Kigoma, Tabora and Dodoma, TBS officials managed to educate 5,552 people, whereby 1,252 were from the general public, 4,227 being from the secondary and primary school students and pupils and 73 being Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs). She said SMEs were educated on how

to obtain the TBS mark of quality for their products for them to access local, regional and foreign markets.

“Entrepreneurs are encouraged to use the opportunity given by the government to acquire the standards mark of quality that will help them to penetrate both regional and global markets,” she insisted.

She added that apart from educating entrepreneurs, TBS officials use the opportunity to explain new TBS roles which were earlier done by the former Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA).

“TBS has assumed roles of food and cosmetics which were earlier done by TFDA. In case an entrepreneur wants to start a food or cosmetics business he/she should visit nearby TBS office for permit,” she said.

Also, students and citizens were educated on ways to identify certified products and on the importance of checking expiry dates of products before purchasing.

During the awareness campaign, students were asked to be good ambassadors in use of certified products and most of the secondary school students reached pledged to be ambassadors on standardization and quality assurance issues.



TBS Celebrates African Day of Standardization 2020

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), a statutory organization under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, was established in 1975 and became operational as a National Standards Institute in 1976 as a parastatal organization to promote the development and application of standards as well as conformity assessment processes. Throughout the years 1975 - 2020, TBS has been consistently serving the needs of the nation in accordance with its mandate.

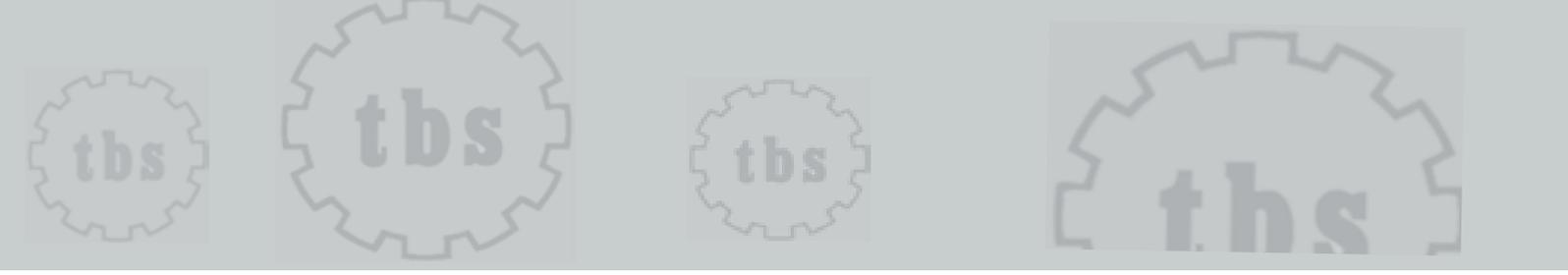
Like all other national standards bodies in the African continental, TBS being a member of ARSO celebrates African Standardization Day once a year within the week of 21st March. African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) is Africa's intergovernmental standards body formed in 1977 in Accra Ghana by OAU (currently AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The principal mandate of ARSO is to harmonise African Standards and conformity assessment procedures in order to reduce Technical Barriers to Trade and therefore promote intra-African and international Trade.

Currently ARSO has 37 member States (Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote

d'Ivoire, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, New State of Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Sudan, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with Zanzibar as an observer member).

The idea of an African Day of Standardization, was approved by ARSO Council in 2013, making emphasis on the National celebrations in ARSO member states and at continental level during the ARSO General Assembly events in June every year. The African Day of Standardization is celebrated as a means of raising more awareness among African Regulators, Industry, Academia, Consumers, Policy Makers and the entire African Citizens on the benefits of Standardization to Africa's Industrialization, Integration, Transformation and Sustainable Development.

The themes of the African day of standardization are approved, each year in June during the ARSO General Assembly Week, by the ARSO Council and are based on emerging issues of continental challenge. The theme for this year



is “The role of Standardization in resolving and addressing the socio-economic issues for the Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons and creating durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa”.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards promoted the above-mentioned theme by conducting ARSO Day 2020 Essay Competition whereby students from all Tanzania Mainland higher learning institutions were invited to write essays. The essays so submitted discussed on how standardization can be used as a tool in addressing socio-economic and political challenges and emerging issues in Africa for sustainable development. Thus, standardization is a way of putting in place practical solutions that are reproducible and harmonized, which could help host countries in their response to many of the issues they face when helping refugees. This applies to relief items, record management and documentation systems, engineering, environmental management, public policy, societal security and safety, water and sanitation services, all subjects which are at the heart of refugee problems and can be applied to mass evacuation and community resilience and quality of life.

The winners were awarded various prizes including cash and certificate of participation. In addition, essays of the first five winners were forwarded for competition at continental level. The climax at continental level is planned to take place during the ARSO General Assembly, June 2020 in Kampala, Uganda.

However, this year TBS planned to celebrate ARSO Day 2020 which added value to TBS 45th Anniversary as the organization was established 45 years ago under derived theme titled “The role of standardization in promoting the made in Africa”. The designed national theme

focuses on underscoring the importance of standardization and conformity assessment in promoting the made (trade) in Africa and how standards help SMEs to access the African Market. This is in-line with the current national movement towards building a middle income termed as semi-industrialized economy by 2025.

Before the climax, the theme was delivered to the public as well in a period of one week starting from 16th - 20th March, 2020 through organized TV and Radio interviews, documentary and use of social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and blogs. However, all activities designed to be conducted at the climax scheduled to take place on Friday 20th March 2020 were suspended due to coronavirus epidemic. The government banned all public gatherings including seminars, forums and festivals as well as any sports activities to be convened in the period of one month starting from 17th March, 2020.

TBS in collaboration with its internal and external stakeholders is committed to contributing to the new Government initiative by ensuring that the quality infrastructure; the application of standards with the appropriate systems of conformity assessment; inspection, testing and certification performed become a reality for all sectors. It is our esteemed honor to acknowledge the work of the TBS management and committed staff members who have piloted the Bureau over the last 45 years through its early development and who have provided a solid foundation for the exciting and challenging road ahead.

•••••

“TBS mark – A symbol for quality”

RC wants zonal laboratories for product testing

By Roida Andusamile

Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr. Binilith Mahenge has asked the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to open zonal laboratories for testing locally produced goods.

Speaking in Dodoma at the opening of training for sunflower oil processors and food and cosmet-

ics traders, Dr. Mahenge said such services needed to be close to manufacturers across the country.

He commended TBS for a job well done thus far, but insisted that more had to be done to improve its functions, including construction of zonal laboratories which would help to mini-



Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr. Binilith Mahenge addresses participants of a workshop for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) (not in picture) when opening the workshop which was held in Dodoma. Seated are the TBS Research and Training Manager Mr. Hamisi Sudi (right) and TBS Acting Head Central Zone Mr. Sileja Lushibika.

mize unnecessary delays of products testing. He said the laboratories are important since there are an increased number of factories in the country.

The RC noted that Dodoma alone had more than 3,000 new industries which require various services from TBS. He urged the officials of the standards watchdog to work hard to meet manufacturers' demands as well as support the government's industrialization drive.

Dr. Mahenge said the organization should have a special window to serve large investors in a bid to improve the business environment and reduce unnecessary delays.

"Dodoma is prepared to ensure a conducive business and investment climate that would attract both local and foreign investors," he said.

Commenting on the training Dr. Mahenge said the different topics presented to participants would help to improve the quality of their products thus make the products competitive regionally and internationally.

TBS Research and Training Manager, Mr. Hamisi Sudi said the organization aimed to educate small and

medium producers to have a common understanding on issues regarding standards and certification.

He said during the financial year 2019/2020, TBS conducted training to SMEs in Western Zone, Lake Zone and Central Zone and that in Central Zone training was conducted in Iramba, Kondoa, Manyoni, Singida, Kongwa and Dodoma districts.

Mr. Sudi said there was a good response for participants whereby 489 participants attended the awareness training from the said districts. The organization intends to conduct similar training in Northern and Southern Highland Zones by June this year, he said.

Apart from TBS, the training also involves stakeholders from the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), the health sector, and business and community development officers at district level.

"It is quality rather than quantity that matters"

Entrepreneurs urged to maintain products' quality



Singida Regional Commissioner Dr. Rehema Nchimbi (centre, seated) poses with participants of a workshop for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) and their trainers after opening the workshop held at VETA in Singida. On her left is the TBS Training and Research Manager, Mr. Hamisi Sudi.

By Roida Andusamile

Singida Regional Commissioner Dr. Rehema Nchimbi has urged producers of various products in the region to maintain quality and standards requirements so as to protect consumers and boost their businesses.

She was speaking to producers and entrepreneurs during the opening of an awareness training that was organized by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) in Singida Municipality. The training brought together food and sunflower cooking oil processors in the area.

The RC said standards are a key factor in promoting businesses in and outside the country and that whoever is engaged in any form of pro-

duction must abide by standards' requirements.

She said quality and certified products give assurance to reliable market and profit, thus urging producers to strive to acquire the TBS standards mark of quality on their products.

"Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) is here for you. We must use this opportunity to learn and gain new skills," she said.

Dr. Nchimbi insisted that substandard food items affect people's health and safety and that is why the government through TBS and other bod-

ies is keen to ensure whatever is produced has to comply with respective standards requirements.

“TBS is not an enemy of producers. Instead, it helps all of us to understand important issues including regulations that govern production in our industries and processing factories,” she said.

On his part, the TBS Training and Research Manager, Mr. Hamisi Sudi said the Bureau will continue to provide education to the public regarding standards and quality assurance activities.

He said TBS recognizes and value the contribution of local producers and that so far it has reached 221 entrepreneurs in Iramba, Manyoni and Singida districts.

“For safety and higher efficiency, always buy TBS-marked/certified electrical appliances”

TBS continues to offer support for SMEs

By Neema Mtemvu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards has reiterated its commitment to provide free certification services for three years for the Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) granted standards mark licences under special programmes.

This was said recently by the Director General of Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Dr. Athuman Ngenya during a grant of licence ceremony held at TBS headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

Dr. Ngenya said the decision was taken to support SMEs so that they grow into large scale producers – a move which will contribute to the overall industrialization drive of the country.

“All SMEs issued with standards mark licences today who were introduced to us by the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) will receive free certification services for three years,” he assured.

He noted that the government had embarked on the programme of assisting SMEs to produce quality goods

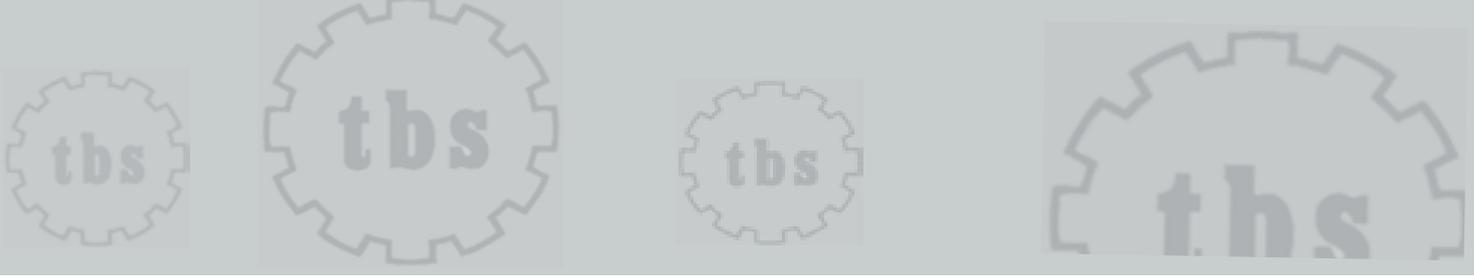
to enable them to expand markets of their products by easily accessing domestic, regional and foreign markets.

He urged SMEs and other interested parties to make use of the opportunity especially during this time when the government has been insisting on industrial economy.

“TBS as a facilitating institution helps SMEs to certify their goods free of charge. It is better for SMEs to grab the opportunity in order to avoid unnecessary barriers in accessing regional and foreign markets,” said Dr Ngenya, adding that certifying goods would also enable SMEs to access EAC and SADC markets.

He also informed manufacturers that the Financial Services Act of 2019 had added more roles to TBS, namely food and cosmetic products registration, which were originally performed by the now defunct Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA).

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Awumsuri Mongi whose company Vision Control & Superintendence Limited was granted with a system certificate, thanked the Bureau for the cooperation



accorded to them during the registration process.

“It has taken us a very short period of time to get this certificate, it would increase trust to our clients and enable us to conduct our business with more confidence,” he said.

A manufacturer identified as Salem Kaman urged the Bureau to conduct extensive education on its functions. He said many entrepreneurs do not have enough information regarding functions of the certification bodies.

“Most of us feared costs involved in obtaining the standards mark licence, we did not understand it is provided free of charge by TBS. We urge you to continue educating us on your rules,” he said.

During the ceremony, 96 manufacturers including 27 Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) were granted standards mark licences, tested products certificates, system certificates and licence extension.

“Quality is remembered long after the price is forgotten. Always use TBS-certified products”



TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya (left) and the Director of Testing and Metrology Eng. Johanes Maganga (second left) chat with manufacturers during a grant of licences ceremony held at TBS headquarters, Ubungu, Dar es Salaam.



secondary schools and 3,658 ordinary citizens.

He urged citizens to create a culture of buying certified products and reading the dates of product manufacture and expiry as one of the consumer protection strategy in order to avoid losses and health risks. He reminded them that the war against substandard products is not for TBS only but the whole nation.

Mr. Simon also insisted on the importance of traders registering their premises on the online platform available on TBS website and citizens to continue reporting in case they encounter substandard products in the market.

During the campaign, TBS officials sensitized SMEs in production of cereals, cooking oil, bread, honey, dairy products and groundnuts on the procedure for getting the TBS standards mark of quality free of charge.

On the other side, the Headmaster of Chief Kidulile Secondary School, Mr. Kapelela congratulated TBS on the campaign noting that it is a good move as the students are coming from different villages and interact with various people, so they are the right target as ambassadors on standards issues. He advised TBS to ensure they reach more schools.

The sensitization campaign is sustainable and would be conducted later to other districts namely Rombo, Lushoto and Hanang.

Awareness campaign reaches over 8000 in Southern Highlands Zone



TBS Quality Assurance Officer Ernest Simon (third left, in red T-shirt) educates buyers on how to read products labels at the Tandale Market in Rungwe, Mbeya, during an awareness campaign in the Southern Highlands Zone.

By Gladness Kaseka

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has continued with its awareness campaign to sensitize citizens and entrepreneurs at district level in the Southern Highlands Zone regions, on various issues regarding standards.

The campaign aimed at creating more awareness on the importance of certified products and registering food and cosmetics premises. It involved people residing in Mpanda district

in Katavi region, Ludewa district in Njombe region and

Rungwe district in Mbeya region, including students.

TBS Quality Assurance Officer, Mr. Ernest Simon said the campaign was conducted in market areas, bus stands, schools and open areas where many people attended.

He added that the campaign managed to reach more than 8,000 people including 64 SMEs, 4,381 students in primary and

“Quality is everyone’s responsibility”

Consultative meeting stakeholders sensitized on standardization



TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya addresses stakeholders in a consultative meeting held in Musoma. Among the participants are the Minister for Investment, Hon. Angellah Kairuki (second left, seated) and the Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, Eng. Stella Manyanya (left).

By Neema Mtemvu

Members of consultative meetings between the government, traders and investors have been educated on how to acquire the standards mark for free and ways to overcome challenges regarding quality assurance issues.

Speaking in a meeting held in Mwanza, the Director General of Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Dr Athuman Ngenya informed the stakeholders on opportunities they get particularly those whose products meet standards requirements.

He particularly mentioned the opportunities provided by the organization to the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) including free certification of their goods for three years, so as to enable them expand market and overcome trading obstacles.

The consultative meeting for the Lake Zone regions of Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Mwanza started on February 24, 2020. More than eight ministers and deputy ministers attended the meeting which aimed at getting solutions for challenges facing investors.

Dr. Ngenya said the government established such programme in order to help entrepreneurs produce high quality products so as to access markets. He urged entrepreneurs and citizens to use the opportunity especially during this time when the government is pushing the industrialization agenda.

“TBS as a facilitating institution provides certification services to SMEs for free aimed at developing local factories,” Dr. Ngenya said.

He said SMEs’ certified products would easily overcome trade barriers and access regional and international markets. He elaborated that the objective of TBS is to assist traders to do their activities without interfering with rules and laws of the country.

“Quality does not only begin with a letter Q. It must be followed by U”

tion is a way of putting in place practical solutions that are reproducible and harmonized, which could help host countries in their response to many of the issues that they face when helping refugees. This applies to relief items, record management and documentation systems, engineering, environmental management, public policy, societal security and safety, water and sanitation services, all subjects which are the heart of refugee problems and can be applied to mass evacuation and community resilience and quality of life.

Standardization plays an enormous role in resolving and addressing the socio-economic issues concerning refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and creating durable solutions to forced displacement. One way in which standardization performs its role is in supporting public policies. Standards are the main tool in formulating regulations which are necessary to the proper function of economies and societies as they support markets, protect the rights and safety of citizens and ensure the delivery of public goods and services.

Regulations, also called administrative laws and rules, are the primary vehicles by which governments implement laws and objectives. They are specific standards or instructions concerning what individuals, businesses and other organizations can or can-

The role of standardization in addressing social-economic issues for refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons



Miriam George

Standardization is the process of implementing and developing standards based on the consensus of different parties that include firms, users, interested groups, manufacturers and governments. Standardization can help to maximize compatibility, interoperability, safety, repeatability or quality.

The idea of standardization is close to the solution for a coordination problem, a situation in which all parties can realize mutual gains, but only by making mutually consistent decisions, it is the great role in resolving and addressing the social-economic issues for the refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and creating durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa. A

standard is a technical document to be used as a rule, guideline or definitions and is created by bringing together all interested parties such as manufacturers, consumers and regulators of a particular material, product, process or service.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a refugee is a person who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence, he/she has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group while a returnee is a person who returns to his/her country after being away for a long time due. Internal displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who are forced to flee their homes but remain within their countries' borders, are often referred as refugees, although they do not fall within the legal definition of refugee.

Standards are a very important building block in giving directions and solutions to different socio-economic aspects. Standardiza-

Feature articles

not do. When applied in the context of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, this brings about solution to the ensuing social-economic issues.

As clarified earlier, standards are formulated by bringing together all interested stakeholders. These stakeholders may include returnees and many other stakeholders, hence bringing about the best solution in resolving and addressing the socio-economic issues for the refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons through provision of actual information and documentation in addressing specific issues.

Standards also promote basic human rights like safe food, clean water and adequate sanitation. As it is very important to obtain all the basic needs, standards ensure that there are no weak links in food supply chain. Standards facilitate agricultural trade and food safety and security, addressing the difficulty of many harmed communities including refugees. Other standards relating to safer drinking water and wastewater services ensure simple, better and cheaper solutions for clean drinking water and provision of adequate non-sewerage sanitation.

Furthermore, standards set the basis for fighting corruption. Corruption, recognized as a global phenomenon, is one of the most destructive and complex problems of the 21st century and which in many ways has also led to conflicts in many countries especially in Africa, as it leads to deprivation of people of their basic and critical services such as food, electricity, education, healthcare, sanitation and clean water, resulting in hatred and conflicts. The underlying philosophy of standardization is one

of eliminating the opportunity for corruption by changing incentives, by closing off loopholes and eliminating misconceived rules that encourage corrupt behavior, ensuring the best internal best practices, and establishing the rule of law and justice.

Democracy is an integral part in bringing about sustainable development in the society. Standards are a basis for constitutional systems and strong electoral institutions for free and fair elections, Specifications on what should be done on election provides a comprehensive guide for the design and implementation of quality management systems by electoral authorities, providing objective criteria for the evaluation of electoral processes, with a major focus on delivering credible elections, and this brings about free and fair election.

Last but not least, standards contribute to emphasis on peace and trade. Standards facilitate trade and the importance of standards to refugee problem should be understood from the fact that, trade is the catalyst of peace and solution to international conflicts. Global peace is an ideal form of freedom, peace, harmonious atmosphere and happiness among and within all nations and peoples. Global peace thrives better during enhanced global trade.

According to the UNHCR, Africa is among the worst affected region with many displaced people in the world. Almost more than third of the world's forcibly displaced people are from Africa. Standardization may bring about solutions to the socio-economic issues facing the refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and help create durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa.

“When you buy a product always look for the TBS mark which assures you of quality, reliability and safety”

Standards an effective tool to combat socio-economic issues for refugees in Africa



Filbeta Magidanga

Political instabilities, civil wars, religious, tribal and ethnic violence displaces a great number of people all over the world forming a vulnerable group of people called refugees. According to the UN 1951 Refugee Convention, a refugee is “any person who owing to a well-founded fear of

being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside of the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”.

The world host over 70 million displaced people with Africa being the most affected host having over 6.3 million refugees and 14.5 million internally displaced people. Two African countries, South Sudan and Somalia, are among the top five sources of refugees in the world. Other African countries, especially Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia, also host the most refugees in the world (UNHCR 2018). This great number of refugees in Africa raises an alarm to the continent on how to better deal with the problem.

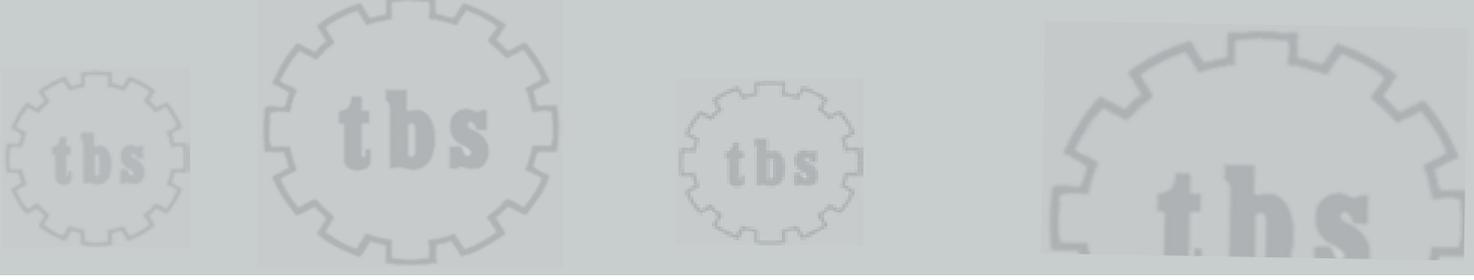
The presence of refugees in any given country amounts to several social and economic problems both to host countries and the refugees themselves. Refugees often suffer from violations of their human rights, that primarily forced them off their homes; and experience further threats to these rights in the period of their displacement and others in the process of return to their home society with children, elderly and women being the most vulnerable group.

Standardisation can serve a vital role in addressing the subjects which are at the centre of refugee problems since it is a way of unifying practical solutions which could help host countries as they respond to many issues facing them during the handling of refugees. This applies to engineering, environmental management, relief items, public policy, community security and safety, water and sanitation services.

The gaps in the electoral systems which causes unfair elections in Africa results to conflicts, political instabilities and finally people’s displacements. To alleviate this problem, there are various international standards in place that include a technical specification, ISO/TS 17582: 2014 which gives a detailed guide for the design and implementation of quality management systems and processes for continual improvement by the electoral authorities. All these are vital blocks in enhancing peace in Africa and ultimately solving the refugee problem.

On the other hand, standards have always been used to create a fair ground in conducting trade globally. They are normally used to overcome technical barriers to trade, decrease trade disputes and ensure the smooth functioning of the free trade areas. Therefore, trade enhanced by standards serves as a catalyst of peace and solution to international conflicts that may result to the problem of refugees.

The other area that standards can demonstrate their effectiveness in permanently solving the problem of refugees is through the formation of public policies. Standards are important tools that enhance the abilities of various governments when addressing the strategies and policies with the aim of providing durable solutions for refugees. Standards are a basis for supporting regulations, they are absolutely necessary in the proper functioning of economies and socie-



ties since they ensure the availability and delivery of public goods and services, safeguard the rights and safety of citizens and support markets functionalities.

ISO 37001:2016, Anti-bribery management systems and ARSO ARS 1651: 2018 on Good Finance and Grant Practices, are some of the international and regional standards that can help in addressing one of the dominant problems which result to refugees, named corruption. Conformity to these standards will ensure permanent solution to the problem of refugees by eliminating misperceived rules that promote corrupt behaviour, and demonstrate justice and the rule of law.

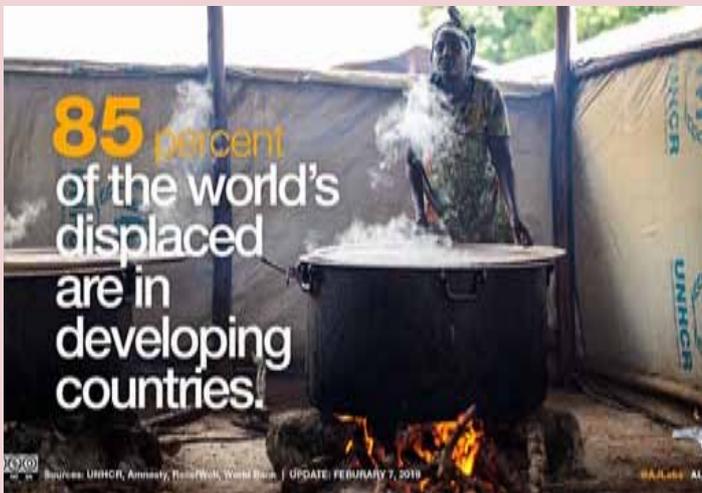
It is also very obvious that the presence of refugees in any given states amounts to devastating impacts on the environment and its natural resources such as deforestation, erosion, poaching and pollution of catchment areas and water sources. It is in the wake of these impacts and many others that the international organisation for standardisation has also put in place different standards focusing on environmental restoration and management including ISO 14001:2015 and its counterparts such as ISO 14006:2011. In Africa, standards under different technical committees are developed with the aim of protecting the environment through sustainable utilisation of available natural resources. They include the ARS/AES 02: Fisheries - for the sustainable harvesting of fish as well as ARS/AES

03: Forestry - for sustainable management of forests.

Clean water, safe food and adequate sanitation are also perceived among the basic human rights that can be ensured by standards. These rights ought to be enjoyed by both the host communities and the refugees in any country around the globe. The provisions in ISO 22000:2005, ISO 30500:2018, ISO 24510:2007 and ISO 24511:2007, address issues related to food management systems, safer drinking water and wastewater services. All of the aforementioned standards address the situation of many vulnerable communities, including refugees in Africa.

Generally speaking, standardization in Africa can greatly assist in paving a way towards solving the persistent problems that face the refugee communities, the host countries and their home countries hence making the world a better place for every individual.

“To beat your competition, make quality your mission”



Food being prepared in a refugee camp (Courtesy: UNHCR)



A child drinking water in a refugee camp (Courtesy: UNHCR)



**Your Partner
in Global Trade**