

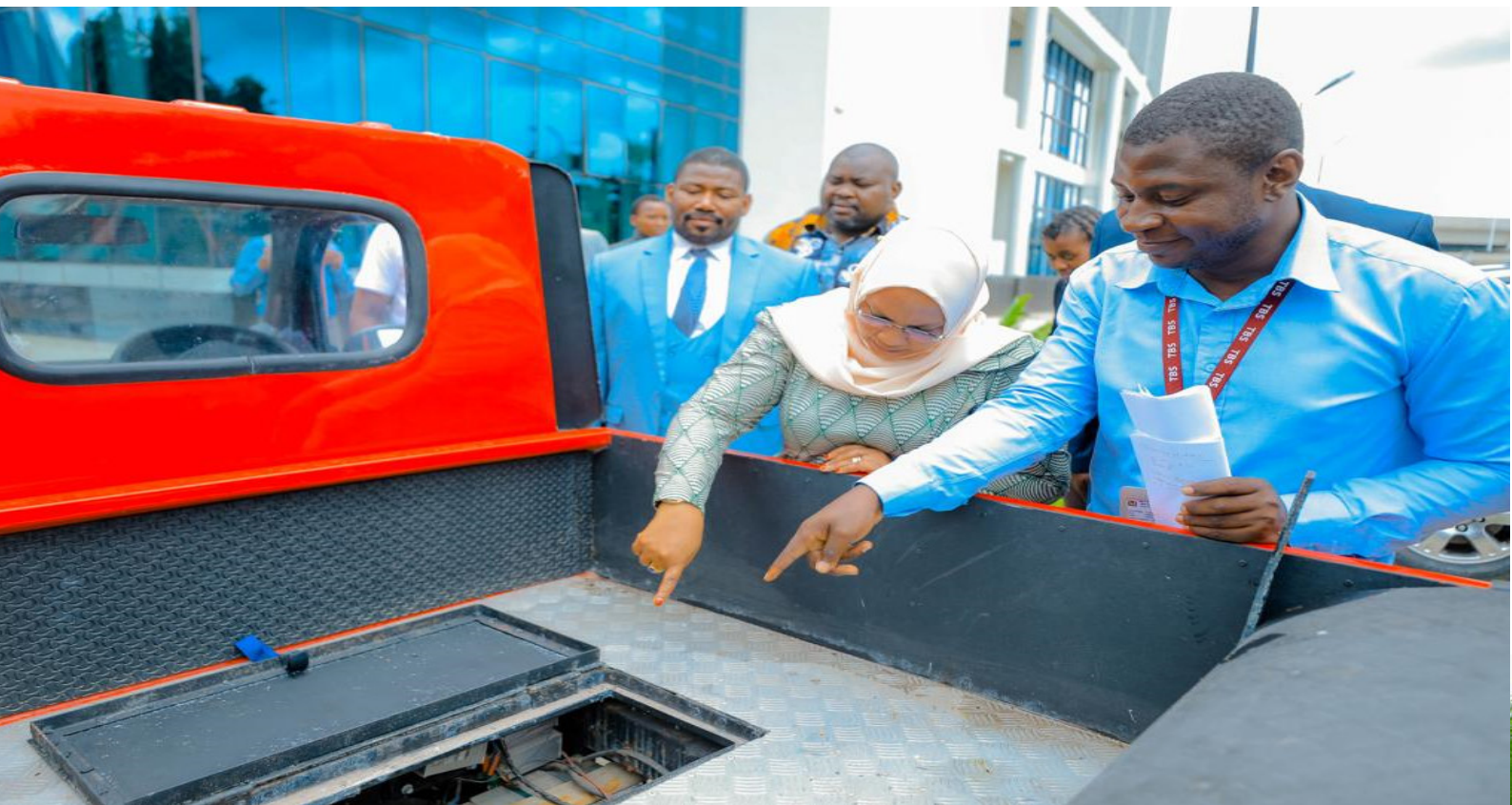
Viwang

E-Newsletter



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TBS, the Home of Standards



TBS tests first ever locally made electric car



The Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, Dr. Ashatu Kijaji (MP) inspects the first ever locally made electric car as the Acting Head of the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory Mr. Ramadhan Shija apprises her on the progress of testing of the vehicle during her visit to the Bureau.

By Deborah Haule

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has completed the preliminary inspection and testing of the first ever locally made electric car and advised minor improvements before issuing licence for mass production.

This was unveiled in Dar es Salaam recently by the Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, Dr Ashatu Ki-

jaji during her visit to TBS.

"TBS has identified few things in the locally made electric car that need to be worked on before issuing licence and certification for entering in the market," Dr Kijaji said.

She noted that when all the things advised by TBS are worked on, the car will be licenced and ready to enter the mar-

ket and operate in the country. She said that TBS experts are expected to meet with Mr Ally Masoud, the owner of the first-ever locally made electric car and advise him on the things to be worked on, particularly on the wheel steering and the chassis.

A 49-year-old cartoonist, radio producer and radio presenter, Mr Masoud unveiled his electric car in Dar es Salaam recently.

Moreover, Dr Kijaji assured him that the government will continue providing all necessary support to ensure mass production of the type of car is made possible.

In line with this, Dr Kijaji said the government is encouraging the youth to cultivate a culture of creativity, a fundamental initiative in creating self-employment and contributing to the country's economic development.

"Mr Masoud's creativity is sending a very important message to all the youth in the country; that it is possible to make their dreams come true by developing their ideas," she said.

Dr Kijaji noted that the government through her ministry and the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) has been working closely with Mr Masoud since he started to develop the car.

"TBS must oversee that all goods meet the country's standards, which is necessary for the safety of the people's health as

well as protecting the country from being a dumping place."

"This is why the locally made electric car was brought here at TBS to get inspected and tested in regard to its quality to see if it meets the country's standards before certification is granted and a licence issued for mass production," the Honourable Minister said.

Speaking recently, Mr Masoud said since Tanzania does not have its own technology for making car engines; Kaypee Motors bought it from outside the country for a reasonable price. The chassis and body were designed locally.

He said his journey to making the electric car began in 2013 when he started thinking about the issue and he first designed a small truck that he resolved to make. He said Kaypee Motors has started receiving some orders, adding that his company is trying to solicit funds for machines to enable it to go for mass production.

Earlier, the TBS Standards Manager Eng. Yona Afrika had paid a visit to the Kaypee Motors Workshop located at the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) along Nyerere Road and assured the manufacturer that TBS would use international standards to test the vehicle's quality before providing certification and licence for mass manufacturing.

On his part, Mr Masoud hailed the stage reached by Kaypee Motors in making the first electric car in the country under the guidance of SIDO and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

He said his company has been receiving full support from the government through the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and COSTECH.

"We are pleased with the way the government, Tanzanians and TBS received the launching of the new electric car in the country," he said.

"TBS mark of quality: An assurance that you are buying a quality product"

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TBS, the Home of Standards



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TBS urges manufacturers to observe standards

By Mussa Luhombero

Industrial owners and other manufacturers have been urged to ensure that their operations are conducted in areas that meet the standards as a way to protect the health of consumers.

The advice was given by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) official, Mr. Domisiano Rutahala while speaking with participants in the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) exhibition held in Dodoma recently.

He said TBS participated in the exhibition because of its huge role in the whole production chain and in particu-

lar, the promotion of the industrial sector in the country.

According to Rutahala, one of the TBS obligations is to prepare and implement the standards of all goods produced in the country.

He, therefore, said ensuring quality control and safety of the goods is one of the obligations of the Bureau.

The exhibition was organized by the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) to coincide with the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, observed around the world on 28th April every year.

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



TBS MSCS accreditation a commendable milestone

On 12th May 2022, Tanzania Bureau of Standard (TBS) was awarded the accreditation certificate for its Management Systems Certification Services (MSCS). This followed the accreditation against ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements by the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) on 28th March 2022.

The accreditation certificate handover ceremony was held in Dodoma and graced by the Deputy Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade, Hon. Exaud Kigahe (MP). It was attended by the TBS Board Chairman, Prof. Othman C. Othman; the TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya; the TBS Director of Quality Management, Mr. Lazaro Msasalaga; other TBS directors, managers and staff; representatives of certified entities; other stake-

holders and members of the press.

A statement by SADCAS on the occasion said by obtaining accreditation in systems certification, TBS had become the first such body to be accredited by SADCAS in Tanzania. SADCAS's statement named the scopes in which the Bureau's Management Systems Certification Services was accredited as Quality Management Systems to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 (Certification to ISO 9001:2015), IAF Codes 3 and 12; accreditation number QMS-CERT 004; Food Safety Management Systems to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/TS 22003:2013 (Certification to ISO 22000:2018), Category C, Subcategory CI; accreditation number FSMS-CERT 003; and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points Systems to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 (certification to TZS 1770:2016), Category C, Sub-category CII; accreditation number HACCP-CERT 003.

The TBS Management Systems Certification Body was established in 2010 as part of Quality Control services. In April, 2020 the body lodged an application for accreditation with SADCAS. After a two-year painstaking process that included systems documentation and rigorous stage 1 and stage 2 audits, the section was finally accredited as per the requirements of the standard.

The certification was issued after SADCAS was satisfied that the Bureau's Management Systems Certification Services fulfilled the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015. The standard contains principles and requirements for the competence, consistency and impartiality of bodies providing audit and certification of all types of management systems.

Organizations go through a great deal of work, time and effort to implement management systems such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and many others. These management systems are implemented and certified for many reasons, and one of these reasons is recognition. Organizations want their clients, customers, consumers and other interested parties to recognize that their management systems follow specific standards and comply with certain requirements.

When a certification body is accredited, it means that an accreditation body has verified that it follows a series of standards and requirements that guarantee that their service is impartial, consistent, reliable and recognized internationally. These strict and regular checks that certification bodies undergo provide trust and credibility to the certification. Thus, accredited certification provides confidence to clients, cus-

tomers, regulators and other interested parties that the organization is complying with the specific standard, code of conduct or requirement.

The accreditation of TBS's Management Systems Certification Services will surely benefit local organizations and companies. With all embedded benefits coupled with reduced costs and increased convenience, local organizations will almost certainly choose the Bureau's accredited system certification. In situations where local organizations are required to choose between and among accredited system certification bodies, TBS will now be the most convenient choice.

We congratulate the Board of Directors, Management and members of TBS staff on the deserved success. We appreciate the team work and responsible attitude to the work in the demanding process of preparation for the accreditation. We believe this milestone has given the Bureau a competitive edge in its systems certification services.

This accreditation will certainly provide senior management with an efficient management process, improve communication, improve service delivery and increase efficiency and effectiveness. Most importantly, it will increase the Bureau's reputation and credibility among its customers.

We call upon all organizations that want to stand out above the crowd to go for system certification by an accredited certification body. Luckily, organizations will not have to go far for this service as it is now available in their immediate vicinity, at Tanzania Bureau of Standards.

“Buy products with TBS Mark”

Kigahe urges TBS to maximize use of accreditation certificate



The Deputy Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade Hon. Exaud Kigahe (MP) (right), receives the accreditation certificate for the TBS Management Systems Certification Services (MSCS) from the SADCAS Certification Scheme Coordinator Mr. Victor R. Mundembe, during the accreditation certificate handover ceremony held in Dodoma.

By Deborah Haule

The Deputy Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, Hon. Exaud Kigahe has commended the Tanzania Bureau of Standard (TBS) for achieving management systems accreditation status and urged the Bureau

to maximize the use of the accreditation certificate attained.

Speaking in Dodoma recently at a ceremony where TBS was awarded the accreditation certificate by the Southern African Development Community

Accreditation Services (SADCAS), Hon. Kigahe said that the accreditation certification would help to address the challenges faced by public and private entities which were forced to seek the service from outside the country. He advised TBS

to provide affordable rates to companies and other entities in need of the service so as to allow the majority of them to have access to the service.

Hon. Kigahe directed that the staff attached to the certification board must be well versed in the field in order to provide better services.

He called upon private and public sectors to go for TBS certification as far as the management systems are concerned.

Speaking during the event, the TBS Director General, Dr

Athumani Ngenya called upon the public and private entities to take advantage of the certification as it gives them ability to maintain consistency and increase customer confidence.

He said a Management Systems Certification Body offers technical assistance in areas of certification services and understanding of the requirements of the standards and auditing against respective International Standards.

Technical assistance programmes are designed and implemented to promote

understanding of requirements of the key certification and accreditation standards.

TBS provides Management Systems Certification Service to manufacturers and service providers from both public and private sectors regardless of the size and type of their businesses.

The certification service is provided to confirm that the organization or business entity carries out its activities in conformity with relevant International Standards.



The Deputy Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade Hon. Exaud Kigahe (MP) (left), hands over the accreditation certificate for the TBS Management Systems Certification Services (MSCS) to the TBS Board Chairman, Prof. Othman C. Othman (centre) and the TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya, during the accreditation certificate handover ceremony held in Dodoma.

TBS destroys substandard products in Rukwa

By Neema Mtemvu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has impounded and destroyed substandard food and cosmetic products that were illegally sold in the market thus endangering the health of the people.

The TBS Acting Manager for Western Zones Mr. Rodney Alananga said the substandard goods were destroyed in Sumbawanga, Rukwa Region recently.

“We have seized and destroyed various low food and cos-

metic products worth 25 million which were being traded illegally in markets,” he said.

Mr. Alananga said the low-quality products were seized during the operations carried out between February and May this year in different parts of the Western Zone regions.

He said some of the goods seized had expired already and others prohibited were on the list of prohibited products as stated in the Standards Act No. 2 of 2009 due to their ef-

fects on people’s health, the environment and the economy.

He said after impounding the substandard products, the owners were given stern warning and required to pay all the costs to be used in destroying them.

He therefore called upon all stakeholders including importers, distributors, retailers and consumers to abide by the laws on selling and using high quality products that meet national standards.



Destruction of substandard products worth 25m/- in Rukwa

Tanzania appointed EAC Standards Management Committee Chair



The TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya speaks during the East African Standards Committee (EASC) meeting

By Gladness Kaseka

The East African Standards Committee (EASC) of the East African Community (EAC) has appointed Eng. Yona Afrika Mwampagatwa from Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) as the chairperson of the Standards Management Committee (SMC).

The appointment was made during the EASC's ordinary meeting held from 27th to

29th April 2022 in accordance with the EAC calendar of Activities during the period of January to June 2022.

The meeting also appointed Mr. Jerome Ndahimana from Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) as Secretary of SMC. The new SMC leaders will hold their positions for the period of three years effective from April 2023.

The meeting further recommended Eng. Afrika for a position of representing EAC secretariat in the ARSO/SMC.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Officers of the region's National Standards Bodies while Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) and the Weights and Measure Agency (WMA) were also in attendance.

Speaking outside of the meeting, the TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya said each country might be having its own interests as far as their economy and welfare of its people is concerned, but at one point one needs to focus on the region as a whole.

Dr. Ngenya insisted on the importance of harmonizing standards in fostering trade across the region and promised to ensure Tanzania through TBS is adopting harmonized standards on time.

“The EAC population is fast growing with the latest entrance of DRC, hence the need of convening such meetings with the view of harmonizing our standards”, he said.

On his part, the Executive Di-

rector of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Dr. David Livingston Ebiru insisted that it was important to harmonize standards to enable the EAC to have a big market which is guided by standards.

As provided in the SQMT Act, 2006, the East African Standards Committee made follow up of recommendations, decisions and issues which were made during the last ordinary meeting and provided directions to the technical subcommittees for next financial year of 2022/2023 as directed by the EAC Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment.

The committee considered the progress reports from the EAC established Technical Sub-Committees: Standards Management Committee; Quality

Assurance, Metrology, Testing, Codex Forum; and TBT Forum. It also considered the Work Plan for the 2022/2023 geared towards provision of conducive environment of cross border trade in the EAC region.

The committee further provided direction on harmonization of East African Standards, quality assurance activities, testing, technical berries to trade, metrology and Codex forum issues aimed to facilitate cross border trade in the EAC.

Among the 41 harmonization Technical Committees (TCs), Tanzania will host 13 TCs while Rwanda will host 4 TCs, Kenya 12 TCs, Burundi 1 TC and Uganda 11 TCs.

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

10 students emerge winners of TBS essay competition



The Top Ten (10) Winners of the African Standardization Day Essay Competition for the year 2021/2022 show their certificates.

By Mussa Luhombero

Ten students from various higher learning institutions in Tanzania have emerged winners of an essay competition organised by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) as part of the events to commemorate the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) day.

The announcement of the winners was made in Aru-

sha recently, in an event presided over by the Acting Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mr. Frank Mwaisumbe.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Mwaisumbe hailed TBS for successfully organising the competition and the ARSO Day to recognise efforts made by experts in preparing standards of goods and services for human prosperity and mak-

ing the world a safe place.

“On behalf of the government, I want to recognise the good work by our experts who make part of the expert committees in preparing standards of goods and services as coordinated by TBS,” he said.

The student who emerged as the first winner of the competition will represent Tanzania

in the regional competition and at the continental level.

The theme for this year's essay writing competition was "The role of standardization in promoting African pharmaceutical and medical devices industries to attain self-reliance and resilience in combating Covid-19 and future pandemics".

The Acting RC said TBS in collaboration with ARSO and other global organisations work together to prepare global standards that help to open up borders and ensure the health and safety of humans and their

assets, environmental preservation and public education.

"The use of global standards helps in removing trade impediments between rich and poor countries, thus improving the national economy and people's living standards," he said.

He said TBS should collaborate with global institutions to invest in modern technology to improve the quality of goods and services thus contributing to the growth of the economy.

He said one of the challenges that most entrepreneurs face

is the failure to comply with standards, thus denying them an opportunity to penetrate regional and global markets.

He urged TBS to work with standards authorities from the neighbouring countries to harmonise standards that would help local entrepreneurs easily penetrate the regional and global markets.

TBS has been coordinating essay competition at the national level, including providing information and inviting students to participate.



The Acting Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mr. Frank Mwaisumbe presents certificate to the overall winner of the African Standardization Day Essay Competition for the year 2021/2022.

TBS stresses consumers' right to food safety

By Deborah Haule

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has said consumers have the first obligation to determine and check the quality and safety of food to avoid consuming contaminated food.

The remarks were issued recently by the TBS Director of Testing and Metrology, Eng. Johanes Maganga on behalf of TBS Director General, when Tanzania joined the global community to commemorate the World Food Safety Day.

"Consumers have the first and foremost responsibility of ensuring that food consumed is safe. I call upon all stakeholders to observe food safety standards," he said, adding

that it was important that the environment for selling food is clean as when unsafe food is consumed, there is a greater chance of developing diseases.

He said food can be contaminated by many things including pathogens, poisonous chemicals, hard stones, bones and other garbage.

"Consumers have the right to get correct information in the product labels including dates of manufacture and expiry to help them make right decision to buy and consume the product," he said, adding: "When you go to the market to buy products, you must make sure that they are of high quality."

For industrial food items, Eng. Maganga said consumers are required to read carefully the information provided by checking the date of manufacture and expiry.

While maintaining that food safety is not a one-man show but should involve stakeholders' contribution in the whole production chain, Eng. Maganga said TBS prepares standards for food items, inspects industries, markets as well as import food items to ensure that they meet the required standards.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), unsafe food limits trade because where food is not safe, there can be no food security and, in a world where

"Quality begins on the inside... and then works its way out"

TBS urges entrepreneurs to participate actively in industrialisation



The Director of Human Resource and Administration, Ms. Viola Masako (left) issues standards mark licence to a manufacturer on behalf of the TBS Director General, during a grant of licence ceremony at TBS headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

By Rhoda Mayugu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has urged entrepreneurs in the country to certify their products to participate actively in industrial production that will contribute to job creation.

The TBS Director of Human Resource Management and Administration, Ms. Viola Masako made the call recently, when represented the Director General Dr Athuman Ngenya at the

issue of certificates and licences to manufacturers whose products were certified after meeting the required standards.

During the event, TBS granted 211 licences of which 115, which represent 55 per cent were issued to small scale entrepreneurs.

Ms Masako said they granted 96 licences, representing 45 per cent to manufacturers of

other goods like food, cosmetics, footwear, construction and electricity materials, mattresses and packaging materials.

"I commend you for using the opportunity to certify your goods after meeting the standards, which is one of the achievements of the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan in paying the costs for testing and certifying the goods," she said.

She said the government has bolstered the Bureau's capacity to offer such services meant to make locally made products competitive in domestic, regional and global markets.

She said in a bid to support the government's efforts to empower entrepreneurs in the country, TBS has continued to set aside a budget for serving SMEs to get licences to use the TBS standard marks of quality.

She said the whole process from inspection, testing and the provision of certificates and licences of the standard mark of quality is free of charge.

She said this year TBS has set aside 256m/- to serve entrepreneurs, adding: "This is a huge opportunity for entrepreneurs to certify their products so that they can easily penetrate the domestic and global markets."

According to Ms Masako, the government asserts that using certified products was safe and thus calls for public awareness aimed at increasing the use of products bearing the TBS standards mark of quality.

"We call upon all entrepreneurs to follow procedures in certifying their products to avoid incurring losses when they are seized for being traded illegally," she said



The Director of Human Resource and Administration, Ms. Viola Masako (left) chats with a client during a grant of licence ceremony held at TBS headquarters recently

TBS, FCC warn traders on substandard, counterfeit products



The TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya (right) and the FCC Director General, Mr. William Erio examine products for quality and genuineness during a joint press conference.

By Neema Mtemvu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and Fair Competition Commission (FCC) have warned business people to stop dealing with substandard and counterfeit goods in the market as stern legal measures will be taken against them.

The TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya and FCC Director General, Mr. William Erio made the remarks recently, when talking about the claims of increased substandard goods particularly on electricity in the market.

Dr. Ngenya said integrity should be an important virtue that business people in the country are required to cultivate in order to do business smoothly.

"TBS has the obligation to ensure that importers and manufacturers bring to the market high quality goods that meet the required standards and reflect the value for money," he said.

He said TBS has been undertaking various campaigns to create awareness to business people and consumers on how to identify substandard goods.

Dr. Ngenya said TBS works closely with FCC and other institutions to make sure that consumers get high quality goods.

He said TBS is continuing with awareness campaigns but if the business people do not stop importing substandard goods, the Bureau will change the modality

of inspecting imported goods.

On his part, the FCC Director General Mr Erio urged manufacturers to abide by the country's standards because making low quality goods would make them face legal measures.

"When importers bring into the country substandard or counterfeit goods, they may face penalties between 10m/- to 50m/- or penalty equivalent to the value of the goods imported," he said, adding that the culprit may also be sentenced between five to 15 years in jail.

Mr Erio urged Tanzanians to buy goods from registered shops to avoid incurring losses for using low quality products.

TBS enlightens Southern Highlands citizens on goods standards



Awareness campaign in Southern Highlands

By Staff Reporter

More than 15,000 people from four districts of Songwe in Songwe Region, Mufindi and Iringa in Iringa Region and Wanging'ombe in Njombe Region have been provided education on identifying and buying goods that are certified by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

This is part of a three-week campaign conducted by TBS in the regions where it also used the opportunity to sensitize business people to register food and cosmetic premises.

The campaign that is centred on quality of products was carried out in various places namely primary and secondary schools, markets, bus stations, auction markets and other open spaces.

Speaking at the event to wind up the TBS campaign, the Head of Education Department in Mafinga District Council Mr. Stephen Shemdoo commended TBS for pro-

viding the fundamental education on how to identify and buy quality and certified products.

He also urged TBS to form permanent clubs in secondary schools that will deal with issues related to standards. This will be an important stepping stone towards making the education on standards of goods sustainable.

On her part, the TBS Public Relations and Marketing Manager, Ms. Gladness Kaseka reminded the people that the war against substandard goods should be fought by the whole public and not TBS alone.

In this campaign carried out in three regions, TBS reached 15,865 people of whom, 9,144 were students and 6,721 citizens.

Ms Kaseka said during the campaign, TBS officials explained to students and teachers the

importance of standards in their daily lives.

She said TBS informed the public particularly entrepreneurs on the free certification and registration service offered by the Government to small entrepreneurs through TBS.

Ms Kaseka urged people who were pro-

vided education on standards to become good ambassadors to sensitize the public on identifying and using certified goods.

She also asked the public to provide information to TBS whenever they encounter substandard goods in market.



Awareness campaign in Southern Highlands

Katavi milk producers, processors counselled on standards

By Staff Reporter

Milk producers and processors have been counselled to observe standards in the production process to protect consumers' health and penetrate wide markets.

This was said by the Tanzania

Bureau of Standards (TBS) Public Relations Officer Ms Neema Mtemvu at the event to mark the end of the National Milk Week held recently in Katavi region.

"Milk producers and processors should observe the

standards for milk products. They should certify the milk products with TBS as an important step in penetrating wider markets both domestic and international," she said.

She said TBS participated in the

National Milk Week to provide education on standards to entrepreneurs so that they can make quality products to compete in the regional and global markets.

Lack of knowledge on standards procedures, she noted, has been one of the factors for the presence of low-quality products as well as losses of raw milk in the market.

She said milk producers and processors should take advantage of the huge EAC market where, according to agree-

ments, goods certified in one country can be traded in all countries without impediments.

“TBS provides free certification services to micro and small-scale entrepreneurs. What is required from them is to obtain an introduction letter from the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) in order to start the process of getting standards mark of quality,” she said.

She said TBS will continue to provide education to entrepreneurs to bolster their

contribution in the economy particularly in jobs creation.

She said TBS also used the National Milk Week to create awareness to entrepreneurs and other participants on how to identify substandard goods which are destructive to the economy.

Ms Mtemvu urged participants to become good ambassadors by joining hands with the government in the fight against substandard goods in the market.



TBS Standards Officer, Mr. Joseph Tarimo enlightens visitors on TBS services during the National Milk Week held in Katavi Region.

Geita entrepreneurs encouraged on standards

By Mussa Luhombero

Entrepreneurs in Geita Region have been encouraged to produce goods that meet national standards to easily penetrate domestic and regional markets.

This was said by the TBS Lake Zone Chief Food Safety Officer Mr. Julius Panda at the closing of the week-long Fahari ya Geita exhibition recently.

“We used the Fahari Geita exhibition as a platform to educate entrepreneurs in the region to certify their goods which is a fundamental step in expanding and penetrating wide markets,” he said.

He mentioned some of the TBS obligations including to prepare and manage the national standards, provide technical advice to industrial producers to make high quality goods, measuring and approving industrial measurements as well as providing training to workers in industries.

He said also that participants in the Fahari ya Geita exhibition were informed about the TBS role of registering food and cosmetics premises.

“This TBS role is of paramount importance because it aims at ensuring goods distributed or sold in the country are preserved in places that meet quality and safety standards,” he added.

Mr Panda said most of the entrepreneurs in the region fail to meet the criteria needed to certify their goods due to limited capital.

He said also that some of the entrepreneurs lacked proper places that meet the required standards for carrying production activities.

“During the Fahari ya Geita exhibition we encouraged entrepreneurs to make use of the opportunities to access capital provided in the district councils,” he said.

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

Traders told to certify their products

By Rhoda Mayugu

Small scale traders have been urged to certify their goods with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) which would enable them to penetrate and compete in domestic and international markets.

This was said by the TBS Senior Food Safety Officer, Ms Immaculate Justin at the climax of the business exhibition week for small scale business people dubbed Machinga Complex Day recently held in Dar es Salaam.

She said TBS participated in the Machinga Complex Day to provide education on the need to certify their goods to meet the country's standards and penetrate easily the local and global markets.

She said certified goods give confidence to consumers and may become an important market promotion that may help expand the size of the market and generate more revenue.

"By certifying their goods, small scale business people avoid unnecessary disturbances including making regular tests to check the quality of the goods before entering into the market," she said.

She said small scale business people and other manufacturers must observe the country's laws and regulations to boost the quality of goods.

She urged entrepreneurs whose products have met the required standards to regis-

ter them at TBS as a way to abide by the laws to support the industrialisation agenda and compete in the global markets.

She urged small scale business people and other interested parties to make use of the opportunity and certify their goods to meet the required standards, especially during this time when the government has been insisting on an industrial economy.

She said an entrepreneur is required to fill a form and attach documents including business licences, Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) as well as an introductory letter from the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO). When TBS receives the entrepreneur's application, they work on it and inform the entrepreneur of the arrangement to be made for the TBS inspector to make a preliminary inspection of the goods.

She appealed to all entrepreneurs who participated in the Machinga Complex Day to make use of the opportunity by registering, certifying and obtaining licences of the standards mark of quality from TBS.

The government had embarked on a 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. TBS as a facilitating institution helps SMEs to certify their goods free of charge.

TBS told to enhance monitoring on food safety

By Deborah Haule

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has been asked to enhance monitoring over food safety which is a fundamental component in protecting people's health and penetrating domestic and global markets.

The Kondoa District Commissioner Dr. Khamis Athumani Mkanachi made the remarks recently when opening training on food safety and how to fight aflatoxin in maize and groundnuts to food processors and distributors in Kondoa.

"TBS should intensify training and other awareness campaigns on food safety to protect the health of the people and the economy of the country," he said.

He said food safety is fundamental in protecting the health of the people and in penetrating domestic and international

markets, thus contributing to economic development.

He said food safety should be given priority in all aspects as unhealthy food may cause serious health problems to consumers and economic effects.

He urged the training participants to make efficient use of the knowledge they will acquire doing training by spreading it to others especially on how to combat aflatoxin so that the community and the whole nation may be free of the problem.

On his part, the TBS Standards Officer, Mr Ally Kingazi said processors and distributors should use the knowledge gained on aflatoxin in order to enhance food safety in the society as well as avoid incurring losses in case they sell contaminated food products in the market.

He said when contaminated food products are seized, they are destroyed, which could be a huge loss to their businesses.

He said after conducting training and campaigns in 18 districts in the country, evaluation shows that there is a very low awareness of the problem of aflatoxin in the society.

On her part, the Bahi District Commissioner Ms Mwanahamisi Munkunda advised TBS to make the training on food safety and combating aflatoxin a sustainable initiative.

The training was organised by TBS through the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) programme.

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

TBS urges innovators to abide by standards



TBS Quality Assurance Officer Mr. Sileja Lushibika, speaks to students who visited the Bureau's pavilion at the National Science, Technology and Innovation exhibition held at Nane Nane grounds in Dodoma.

By Deborah Haule

Tanzania Bureau Standards (TBS) has advised innovators to certify the quality of their products in order to access markets worldwide without restrictions.

The call was made recently by the TBS Quality Assurance Officer, Mr. Sileja Lushibika, while addressing the innovators and other participants of this year's

National Science, Technology and Innovation (MAKISATU) exhibition held in Dodoma. "We need to innovate products targeting domestic and global markets," said Lushibika, adding that the government is committed to uplifting entrepreneurs through TBS by allocating annual budgets to help small scale entrepreneurs certify their products.

He said under the government programme, an entrepreneur whose products meet standards requirements is served free of charge for three years. He mentioned one of the criteria for their eligibility as having a business licence, being Tanzanian citizens and being recognized by the Small Industries Develop-

ment Organisation (SIDO). "Once entrepreneurs meet the criteria, SIDO will introduce them to us and the applicant will be supposed to apply online and be allowed to process the activity without coming to TBS offices," said Lushibika. Mr. Lushibika said through the exhibition, TBS had an opportunity to educate the entrepreneurs and innovators so that they get to know that there is such an opportunity from the

government and there is a budget allocated to them every year. "All the innovators in the country should use the opportunity as long as they have met the criteria and TBS will serve them for free," said Lushibika. Mr. Lushibika said it is TBS's responsibility to help them in fixing the flaws in their innovations so that they can ultimately target the domestic and foreign markets, citing Mr. Ally Masoud's electric vehi-

cle which was brought to TBS for testing and certification. He stressed that when innovators certify their innovations with TBS, they have a great opportunity to find markets, especially considering that the Bureau had already entered into agreement with the East African Community partner states for the export of local goods.

TBS hypes competency for laboratory workers

By Rhoda Mayugu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has said regular training to laboratory workers is necessary to equip them with latest technology to improve their competencies in day-to-day operations.

This was said in Dar es Salaam recently by the TBS Director of Standards Development, David Ndibalema on behalf of the TBS Director General, during the training to 52 laboratory workers from public and private institutions.

"The training empowers and enhances their competencies

so that they can fulfil their obligations while observing standards requirements," he said.

Mr Ndibalema underscored the importance of providing regular training to laboratory workers in order to update them with new technologies.

"This training is a unique opportunity for the laboratory workers to prepare for changes in laboratory technologies thus pursue their day-to-day operations efficiently," he said, noting that the training has been received with a positive response.

Although TBS had targeted to provide training to 25 laboratory workers only, the number went up to 52, which is the sign of growing demand for training of laboratory workers from public and private institutions.

He said also that TBS organised the training targeting industrial laboratory workers and those from the public institutions taking into consideration the significance of testing goods which is an important requisite in ensuring standards are observed.

On his part, the TBS Research and Training Manager Mr.



Training to laboratory experts

Hamisi Mwanasala said the training to laboratory workers is intended to provide them with scientific knowledge on issues related to quality control and correct way to preserve laboratory documents.

He said laboratory operations are fundamental in observing standards requirements in the production process.

Mr Mwanasala said testing various samples of goods in laboratory is important in ensuring that standards requirements are observed.

He said machine technology is changing every day, which also effects testing of samples in the laboratory.

He said TBS is entitled to provide education to stakehold-

ers from various sectors in the economy. For example, industries that have been granted permission to use standards mark of quality are supposed to test the samples of goods regularly to check whether they meet the required standards.

He said industries that have no laboratories must send samples of goods for testing in TBS laboratories on quarterly bases.

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

TBS develops over 200 environmental standards

By Deborah Haule

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has developed over 200 environmental management standards that would be used for making regulations which are fundamental in environmental protection and management.

The remarks were made recently by the Environmental Standards Officer from TBS, Ms. Nasra Hussein, while speaking about environmental issues to participants of the Youth and Environment Festival held in Kibaha District, Coast Region.

"The Youth and Environmental Festival has been an important platform in educating the public about various issues pertaining to environmental management standards to enhance their participation in protecting the environment," she said.

She said environmental standards are typically set to prohibit specific activities, mandating the frequency and methods of monitoring, and requiring permits for the use of land or water.

Some of the environmental management standards prescribe requirements and limits for sewage,

air pollution, sound pollution, solid wastes, noise characteristics, fuel venting and exhaust emissions, radiation rays and environmental control.

She explained that by developing environmental standards, it will be easy to note to what extent certain amounts of waste can pollute the environment.

She added that the environmental standards should preserve nature and the environment, protect against damage, and repair past damage caused by human activity.

She cited how excessive sound can cause problems to people and their health and thus the standards and regulations to be deployed will help regulate and bring harmony to the society.

She cited an example that excessive sound in residential areas and hospitals may cause disturbances to the people as well as health problems. She urged the general public to visit TBS offices to get more information and copies of environmental standards.

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

Tanga entrepreneurs told to observe standards



TBS officers, Mr. William Mhina and Ms. Bahati Samillani attend a visitor to the Bureau's pavilion during a trade exhibition organised by Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) in Tanga.

By Gladness Kaseka

The processors of food, spices and sisal products in Tanga Region have been urged to give priority to training offered by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to raise goods standards and penetrate wide regional and global markets.

TBS Food Safety Officer Mr.

William Mhina made the remarks in Tanga recently, during a trade exhibition organised by the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA).

"TBS is ready to support manufacturers in making high quality goods that can compete in the domestic, regional and in-

ternational markets," he said.

In the same vein, he advised government institutions, non-government organisations and private sector organizations that oversee manufacturers to make sure that standards are observed in the whole production chain.

He said one of TBS's obligations is to support business growth and ultimately enhance jobs creation and economic growth.

"We have participated in the Tanga trade fair to provide education to entrepreneurs, identify and address challenges they face and inform them on how to register and certify their goods," he said.

Mr Mhina said the government sets aside between 150m/- and 200m/- annually to serve entrepreneurs with various services including education

on how to produce high quality goods, certification and registration of goods and premises.

He encouraged micro and small entrepreneurs in the region and the country to make effective use of the opportunity to register and certify their goods freely, the services which are fully funded by the government.

One of the participants in the trade exhibition, Ms Ashura Omari from Kilindi District, dealing with sunflower oil processing said she started sunflower processing without

observing quality standards procedures and her business was closed. However, after getting detailed information from TBS, she was ready to register her business in order to produce high quality cooking oil to protect consumers' health and penetrate the wider market.

She urged other entrepreneurs to go to TBS and attend various training offered by the Bureau so as to observe procedures in producing high quality products.

“To beat your competition, make quality your mission”

Complete vehicle inspection centre on time, contractor told



The Chairman of the TBS Board of Directors, Prof. Othman C. Othman (centre) being apprised on the construction of the inspection centre for imported used motor vehicles by the TBS Director of Quality Management, Mr. Lazaro Msasalaga. Looking on is the TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya.

By Deborah Haule

The Chairman of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Board of Directors, Prof. Othman Chande Othman has instructed the contractor working on the vehicle inspection centre to complete the project by the end of June, 2022.

Prof Othman issued the instruction recently accompanied by the TBS Board members

at the Port of Dar es Salaam, while inspecting the construction work of the facility and see how far it will meet the deadline.

“We have come here to talk with the contractors as well as TBS who are overseeing this project to see if the current momentum of the project execution is satisfactory and if they will complete it within the set

deadline,” said Prof Othman.

Prof Othman said the contractor should complete the construction of the facility by the end of June, 2022, to ensure the vehicle inspection work in the country begins by July this year.

He also said that during the visits they have noted that construction of the facility is

underway, but the pace is unsatisfactory, as they planned all the work to be completed before the end of June, 2022.

Prof Othman directed the TBS Management to make a close follow-up of the project and intervene in case of unnecessary delays.

According to Prof Othman, the facility under construction would be inspecting vehicles before leaving the port to enter the country and that when complet-

ed, the facility would be able to inspect eight vehicles at a time.

On his part, the TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya, said two months earlier the Prime Minister, Hon. Kasim Majaliwa had visited the site and assured that the centre would be operational by the beginning of July, 2022.

“So, we have come here to make sure that the last statement we gave to the Prime Minister is implemented and that the work

will begin as planned,” he said.

He also said after the visit they have seen that the pace of construction of the centre is not satisfactory, so they have instructed the TBS person in charge of the area to continue monitoring closely to ensure the construction work is completed as early as possible.

He said when the facility is completed, it would be economically productive, as all that is done for the business facilitation and



The Chairman of the TBS Board of Directors, Prof. Othman C. Othman (right) being apprised on the construction of the inspection centre for imported used motor vehicles by the Head of Maintenance Section, Mr Frank Kibumo (left). Looking on is the TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya and other TBS officers.

TBS urges traders to refrain from toxic cosmetics business

By Mussa Luhombero

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Director General Dr. Athuman Ngenya has ordered traders to refrain from importing, manufacturing, distributing and selling toxic cosmetics in the country.

Speaking during a conference that brought together importers, distributors, retailers and manufacturers of cosmetics in the country recently, Dr. Ngenya said according to a recent study made around the world, most of the ingredients used in some of the cosmetics are harmful to human beings.

Dr. Ngenya said that TBS has a responsibility in protecting the society in every place in the country, so after receiving the

information related to the study, the Bureau saw the increased need to protect the Tanzanian citizens from using cosmetics containing these ingredients.

He also explained that there is a standard for cosmetics that prescribes certain ingredients that can be used in certain areas and also prohibits certain ingredients in certain cosmetics.

The DG said TBS has decided to call the people who are involved in the importing, marketing, distribution and production for the purpose of educating, negotiating and telling them that cosmetics products with these ingredients should not be used due to studies showing that their long-

term use brings health risks.

In addition, Dr Ngenya said that the organization has seen it fit to meet the stakeholders with the aim of building mutual understanding and avoiding the potential harm in the country due to the use of products containing such ingredients.

He said in order to fulfil the organization's responsibility of protecting the citizens as well as implementing other national strategies, TBS will continue to organize similar meetings for manufacturers of various products in the country and create a common awareness of products that meet the requirements of the standards.

“It is quality rather than quantity that matters”

TBS sensitizes block manufacturers on standards



The Director of Testing and Metrology, Eng. Johanes Maganga (centre) speaks during the opening of the stakeholders' meeting between TBS and blocks manufacturers on behalf of the TBS Director General.

By Rhoda Mayugu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has urged building block and brick manufacturers to observe standards to ensure construction of solid and strong buildings.

The remarks were made by the Acting TBS Director General Eng. Johanes Maganga in Dar es Salaam during the opening of a meeting between TBS and blocks manufacturers.

"Block and brick manufacturers should make sure the materials used in block making are of high quality as well as observing the right ratios in mixing them," he said, mentioning some of the materials like clay, sand, cement and water.

He noted that the construction of a building using low quality bricks may endanger the safety of the people who are going to reside in the building.

Eng. Maganga added that block manufacturers

are important stakeholders in the construction sector and in making sure that the construction of buildings meets the quality standards.

During the meeting, block manufacturers requested TBS to visit stakeholders in their manufacturing sites to inspect and train them on making quality blocks. They asked TBS to arrange meetings with block manufacturers to provide education on 'marking and grades' that are used in block making in the country.

They also asked TBS to provide more awareness and educational services on 'frost weathering action' which is important before buying blocks and erecting a building.

Eng. Maganga pledged that TBS will work closely with block and brick manufacturers to make sure that they produce high quality products needed in constructing solid and strong building.

Chemba, Babati upbeat on fight against aflatoxin

By Deborah Haule

Chemba District in Dodoma Region and Babati District in Manyara Region have raised concern over health-related risks due to food contamination by aflatoxin if serious measures are not taken.

The District Commissioners of the two districts made the remarks separately when opening training to food processors and distributors on maize and groundnuts in their respective areas organised by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) recently.

Chemba DC Mr. Simon Chacha said experts in food, health, agriculture, livestock, nutrition, business and community development should increase vigilance in ensuring that food consumed is safe.

“Food safety should be given priority and seriously observed in our areas to protect the health of the people from eating food contaminated by aflatoxin,” he emphasized.

TBS organised the training in Chemba District through the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) from May 18th to 20th this year.

Mr Chacha urged TBS to make the training sustainable to ensure that food safety is ob-

served to protect the health of the people.

He added that food processors and distributors have a crucial role to play in ensuring that aflatoxin-contaminated food does not enter into the markets.

On his part, the Babati District Commissioner, Mr. Jacob Twange said food safety should not only be given priority in protecting the health of the people but also the country's economy in both domestic and global trade.

He said food contaminated by aflatoxin may cause serious health risks that may cause the nation to incur high costs of treating its people.

“I call upon all the participants to use the knowledge gained in the training to make sure food contaminated by aflatoxin does not enter into our markets,” he noted.

He said aflatoxin mostly affects maize and groundnuts which make a major part of the staple food in the country.

“It is for this reason that the training conducted by TBS has come at the right time in efforts to protect the health of the people,” he added.

“Quality is everyone's responsibility”

TBS told to invest in digital systems

By Mussa Luhombero

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has been asked to invest in equipment and digital systems to match with the fourth industrial revolution.

The investment should go alongside equipping TBS employees with skills on the modern digital facilities to raise the quality and standards of measurements of goods and services.

The remarks were made by the Ukerewe District Commissioner, Mr. Denis Mwila, when representing the Mwanza Regional Commissioner during the World Metrology Day held in Mwanza recently.

He emphasized that employees should be equipped with skills on digital technology to operate efficiently the measurement equipment for high quality results.

“I urge manufacturers, hospitals, business people and the public to make use of correct standards necessary for boosting economic growth,” he said.

He said the commemoration of World Me-

trology Day reminds stakeholders and the public on better use of measurements.

Mr. Mwila said for example the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) has embarked on using smart meters that have multiple use to include other services.

He said the role of TBS is to make sure that the digital revolution through use of digital equipment meet the country's measurement standards.

Most Tanzanian industries use high technology facilities in production and TBS is obliged to check whether they meet the required standards.

He said the science of measurements is of paramount importance in diverse sectors including economy, energy, industry, research, health and environment.

He added that the science of measurements is an aiding tool in making symmetry of measurements to meet the global standards.

***“Quality is not an act.
It is a habit”***

Assessment of sugar levels in carbonated soft drinks from the Tanzanian processing plants



Joseph Mwashuiya, PhD

1. introduction

Sugar is a building block of carbohydrates and naturally found in a range of foods, including vegetable, fruits, milk and honey (Zaitoun et al., 2018). It can also be in added form in a variety of food products like flavored yoghurt, sweetened beverages, baked goods and cereals (Kreigel, 2015; Zaitoun et al., 2018). In this context, sugar plays a big role in sweetening, preservation, fermentation, coloring and texturing of food products (Zaitoun et al., 2018). Sugars are an important source of energy with glucose being the most important as about 130g of it is required by brain and red blood cells per day (Buyken et al., 2018).

It is also described as the critical for adequate metabolic function to both prevent stress on the body and avoid depletion of critical cellular components (Zaitoun et al., 2018).

Humans have an appetite for sugary things, but a high level of free sugars intake is of concern, because of its association with poor dietary quality, obesity and risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (Kreigel, 2015; WHO, 2015; Goldfein, 2016; Zaitoun et al., 2018). In this case, several scientific organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Scientific Advisory Council on Nutrition (SACN), the Dietary Guideline Advisory Committee (DGAC) and the American Heart Association (AHA) have recommended significant restriction on upper limit of sugars consumption (Rippe et al., 2016). For example, recently, WHO and SACN issued guidance recommending an upper limit of free sugars at 10% of calories, with an ultimate goal of reducing sugars consumption to 5% of calories (Kelly et al., 2003; Louie et

al., 2015; WHO, 2015; Rippe et al., 2016). This is explained based on the fact that free sugars threaten the nutrient quality of the diets by providing significant energy without specific nutrients, thereby providing a positive energy balance (Kelly et al., 2003; Louie et al., 2015). In this basis, for every average-sized adult who is both eating and drinking enough to maintain a healthy body weight (roughly 8,700KJ per day) should have at maximum 54g (equivalent to 12 teaspoons) per day of free sugar (Dickinson and Matwiejczyk, 2016; Petrova, 2018).

This study assesses the level of sugar in carbonated soft drinks from the Tanzanian beverage processing plants. As the country we need this study as it provides a general picture of the level of free sugars in the sweetened beverages processed in the country.

2. Methodology

A total of 200 samples of carbonated soft drinks were conveniently collected from 9 processing companies across the country and sent to Tanzania

Bureau of Standards (TBS) laboratory for analysis. In this context the samples were collected based on their availability as the retained samples of the processed batches in the surveyed plants. Each of the collected samples was degassed before determination of brix and density from it as shown in the standard methods (AOAC, 2011). Furthermore, mass of sugar in each of the containers of soft drink was estimated and interpolated as shown in other studies (Agbazue et al., 2014; Louie et al., 2015).

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Level of sugar in brix values

The results of assessment of all 200 samples by using densitometer and refractometer are ranged between 8 and 18.8 brix values degree at 20°C. This has shown that sugar levels are virtually within the range for soft drinks as specified by standards. In this case, all samples collected from the surveyed plants have complied with requirements of TZS 390 of brix value not less than 7.5 degrees at 20°C. This fact brings the discussion to a general remark that Tanzanians are drinking suitable carbonated soft drinks with respect to the level of sugar as per brix values.

3.2. Level of sugar in mass per bottle

sugar in percentage of carbonated soft drinks arranged based on their respective processing plants in containers that their respective capacities hold more than 54 g of sugar. In this respect, more than 10% of carbonated soft drink samples from each (01, 03, 04, 06 and 07) among nine processing plants contained more than 54g per bottle. Therefore, there is a possibility for consumers of these products to drink all the content per day unless precautioned on the danger of excess sugar in the diet. This is explained based on the fact that WHO recommends consumption of 54g as a maximum limit for every person as a precaution to poor dietary quality, obesity and risk of non-communicable diseases.

Figure 1 shows the quantity of

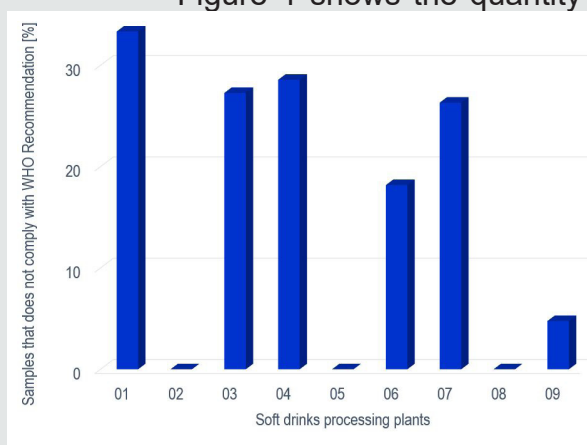


Figure 1 — Carbonated soft drinks arranged based on their respective processing plants in containers that can lead consumption of more than 54 g of sugar if fully consumed in a day (WHO recommends consumption of 54 g as maximum limit per day)

In connection to this finding, other studies have specifically highlighted the following as the health damages caused by high level of sugar in diet (Agbazue et al., 2014; Kreigel, 2015; WHO,

2015; Goldfein, 2016; Zaitoun et al., 2018): dental deterioration – cavities in teeth, bleeding gums, failure of bone structure, and loss of teeth; diabetes, hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia;

heart disease, arteriosclerosis, mental illness, depression, senility, hypertension and cancer; and harmful effect in unbalancing the endocrine system and injuring its component glands



such as adrenal glands, pancreas and liver, causing blood sugar level to fluctuate widely

4. Conclusion

This work has established that the levels of sugar in the analyzed samples from all the surveyed processing plants are within the accepted limits with respect to brix values as highlighted in TZS 390. However, as far as WHO Guideline is concerned, the same analyzed samples with respect to level of sugar in gram per bottle capacity has shown questionability of more than 10% of samples collected from each of the five different processing plants.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that people with less need for sugar can be guided to take products that have less than 54 g of sugar per bottle. On the other hand, those in need of high or quick energy, like sportspersons who have no medical restrictions, should be guided for the products with more than 54 g of sugar per bottle. Furthermore, in order to prevent negative cumulative effects of sugar in the body, soft drinks should be taken sparingly and be avoided if possible. Natural drink sources of energy should be preferred.

Acknowledgment

This work is based on the assessment of products pro-

cessed by using industrial sugar conducted through co-operation between TBS and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA). In this regard, I would like to acknowledge the participation of all authorities and team members from both sides.

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Food safety and the UN Sustainable Development Goals



Mary Ottaru

Access to sufficient amounts of safe food is key to sustaining life and promoting good health. Safe food allows for the uptake of nutrients and promotes long-term human development and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SDGs are a call for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet; they are a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The 17 Goals are all interconnected and are to be collectively achieved by 2030.

Sufficient, safe and nutritious foods are clearly identified as relevant to all SDG, which reaffirms the interdependence between health and well-being, nutrition, food safety, and food security. The integral role of food safety is a critical factor in achieving these SDGs, which are likely to be unattainable without adequate, safe and healthy food:

SDG 1: No poverty



Economic losses associated with unsafe food go well beyond human suffering. Safe food has a positive impact on income generation. A healthy individual is more-able to engage in productive activities to earn a living; safe food con-

tributes to increased nutrition, improved health and food security. Conversely, poor health can hinder people's ability to work and this, coupled with the cost of healthcare due to foodborne diseases, can push individuals and entire families into poverty.

An unsafe food supply will also hamper socioeconomic development, overload health-care systems and compromise economic growth, trade and tourism. Also, rejection of food exports in international markets can result in severe economic losses.

SDG 2: Zero hunger



At the 1996 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Rome World Food Summit, food security was defined as a 'condition that exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life'. The safety of food is a global concern and it is widely acknowledged that there can be no food security without food safety.

According to FAO, despite the availability of sufficient food for all, there are now 820 million hungry people in the world. The goal focus is an end to hunger and malnutrition through sustainable agriculture and food systems. In order for that to be achieved, as stated in target 2.1, there is a need to "ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round".

Unsafe food creates a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, which can lead to long-term developmental delays in children. Achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture can only be achieved when food is safe for people to eat.

SDG 3: Good health and well-being

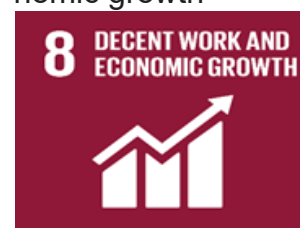


SDG Goal 3 aims to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." It is estimated that around 600 million people fall ill and approximately 420 000 die from food-borne diseases every year. The most vulnerable in the society are infants, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with compromised immunity.

Food safety has a key role to play in achieving target 3.3, which calls for the end of epidemics such as AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, as well as combatting hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases. A number of communicable diseases, including hepatitis A and many water-borne diseases are known to be related to food.

Similarly, target 3.9 calls for the substantive reduction in the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination. Food contaminated with heavy metals or with naturally occurring toxins can cause long-term health problems including cancer and neurological disorders.

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth



The goal aspires to "promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all."

The agriculture and agri-food sectors are the mainstay of employment in Low Middle Income Countries (LMIC) and a major driver of sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. Globally, there are 1.1 billion people working in agriculture alone, with many millions more relying for their livelihoods on work further along the agri-food chain, in processing, packing and retail as well as many other associated industries.

Traditional food markets form part of the social fabric of communities and are an important source of livelihoods for millions of urban and rural dwellers. Moreover, for many developing countries, a lucrative export market is available and if they can comply with the exacting regulatory environment that governs trade in food, they can gain access to that market and contribute to target 8.1 and thereby also promote the livelihoods and incomes of small-scale

producers and family farmers, which contributes to both SDG 1 and SDG 2. As such, unsafe food can cause economic loss and increase the unemployment rate in agri-food sectors.

SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production



According to FAO, more than 1 billion metric tons of food per year is never consumed in a world where one in nine people are still undernourished. Given that a third of the food produced globally is lost or wasted, responsible consumption and production could go a long way to resolving issues of hunger. Safe food not only has a positive impact on health but also on sustainable consumption and hunger.

Applying food safety measures can help ensure food is not spoiled due to contamination, poor storage and unsafe levels of processing agents, among other factors and help achieve target 12.3, which aims to “halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”.

SDG 17: Global partnership for the goals



The goals aim to enhance North-South and South-South cooperation by supporting national plans to achieve all the targets. Target relevant to food safety is target 17.11, ‘Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling

the least developed countries’. Safe food promotes international trade. In this context, addressing food safety is a way of increasing the benefits and reducing the risks of trade. Also, food safety addresses the vital need for multi-stakeholder collaboration to collectively build more inclusive, resilient and sustainable societies.

It is beyond any doubt that improving food safety systems will result to the successful attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These SDGs are interconnected and mutually reinforcing; success in one of these goals can also generate change in others less directly associated with food safety.

*** Ms. Mary Ottaru is a Standards Officer at TBS.**

“TBS mark – A symbol for quality”



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