

TBS Commits to prepare more standards on livestock, agricultural sector

By Rhoda Mayugu



Ms. Idd explained that TBS prepares Standards through technical committee which involves various stakeholder on the relevant sectors which includes academicians, manufactures, traders, regulators, consumers, processors and responsible ministries.

She said that TBS has five Technical Committees in agricultural and livestock sector which are fertilizers Technical Committee (AFDC10), Pesticides Technical Committee, food pollutant Technical Committee, agriculture Technical Committee (AFDC27), seeds Technical Committee (AFDC30), agricultural machines Technical Committee (GDTC 5) and animal feed Technical Committee (AFDC 9).

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has committed to develop more standards on livestock and agricultural sector for sustainable development and safety of products from the sector in the country.

Speaking during the agricultural and livestock exhibition held at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro, TBS Standards Officer Ms. Mwajuma Idd said more standards which should be developed shall be on seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and animal feed.

“TBS is the only organization mandated to prepare standards of products and services offered in the country. It is also mandated to regulate safety and quality of food products; thus, apart from preparing standards of all other products, it is also well organized to look after standards for agricultural and livestock sector,” She noted.

TBS Standards Officer Ms. Mwajuma Dukulai speaks to visitors at the Bureau's pavilion during the agricultural and livestock exhibition held at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro.

According to the Standards Officer, all of the Technical Committees involve stakeholders of agricultural and livestock sector to avoid confusions during implementation of the developed standards.

Pointing some stages of the development of standards, Ms. Idd said that usually proposed standards are sent to stakeholders and public for comments, then the same proposed standards are forwarded to the world Trade Organization (WTO) for them circulate to other countries for more recommendations.

“Our aim is to develop standards for agricultural and livestock products that provide confidence to manufactures, processors and consumers,” She explained.

However, TBS used the exhibition as an opportunity to educate and create awareness to participants on the core functions of the Bureau, procedures to acquire the TBS Mark of Quality and new TBS role which were earlier done by the former TFDA.



Manufacturers urged to certify products



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Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade Eng. Stella Manyanya signs the visitors' book at the TBS pavilion during industrialization exhibition organized by the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TANTRADE) at Sabasaba grounds in Dar es Salaam. Looking on is the TBS Marketing Officer Ms Deborah Haule.

Manufacturers of various products have been urged to certify their products and obtain the TBS Mark of Quality so as to access local and international markets easily.

Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, Eng. Stella Manyanya made the remark during industrialization exhibition organized by the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TANTRADE), held at Sabasaba grounds in Dar es Salaam in December last year.

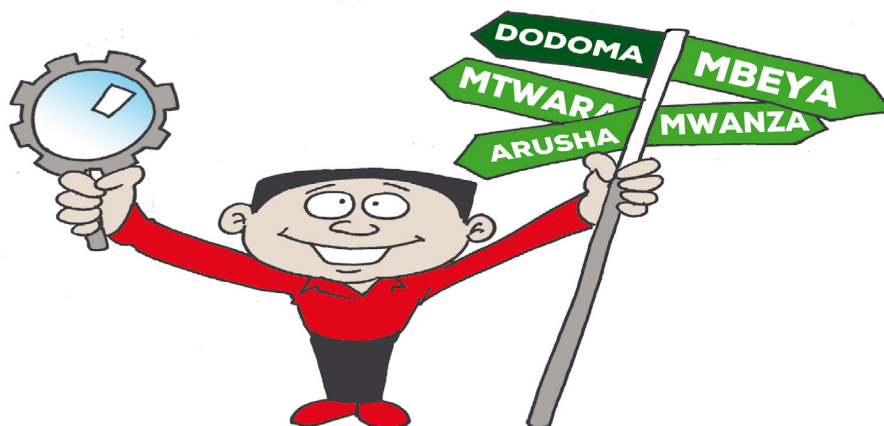
Eng. Manyanya said apart from easily accessing local, regional and international markets, the TBS Mark of Quality gives manufacturers confidence in their products, and provides assurance to consumers or buyers that the products bearing it are in conformance with the requirements of the relevant

Tanzania Standard.

"The TBS Mark of Quality identifies a product as reliable product of acceptable quality to be trusted by consumers and buyers, thus, manufacturers should value the mark," Insisted Eng. Manyanya.

Speaking at the event, TBS Quality Assurance Officer Ms. Mary Kapwani said, TBS participated in the event with the aim of bringing Bureau's services closer to manufacturers especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's).

TBS has been using different forums to make sure that more people are aware of its activities and educating the manufacturers on the importance of certifying their products and services for the betterment of the country. Such forums are like exhibitions, community awareness campaigns to students at different levels and general public, engagement in the media and branding activities.



We commend ePS extension to cover food, cosmetics safety control

Since January 2017, Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has been using electronic transaction for all payments due to the Bureau. The Electronic Payment System was officially put into use in January 2017 for TBS offices located in Dar es Salaam and became full-fledged in April, 2018. Since then, all TBS customers within and outside the country can only make their payments to TBS bank accounts by applying a unique Control Number (CN) for each bill (Debit Advice) generated from TBS Electronic Payment System.

The Finance Act of 2017 requires that all public moneys be collected through the Government e-Payment Gateway system (GePG). In view of this, TBS developed a billing system known as TBS Electronic Payment System (ePS) which is used to prepare and track bills (Debit Advice) issued to TBS customers for payments.

The TBS Electronic Payment System is integrated with the Government Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG) system. The systems (GePG and ePS) exchange financial transactions with banks, i.e. NMB, NBC and CRDB; mobile banking application (Sim banking) and mobile phone-based money transfer

systems namely T-Pesa, MPesa, Tigo Pesa, Airtel Money and Hallo Pesa.

The terms for making TBS payments for all issued bills through ePS are through direct deposit to the Bank Branch (CRDB/NBC/NMB TBS accounts) using Control Number issued from TBS ePS; through Mobile Money – T-Pesa/Airtel Money/M-Pesa/Tigo Pesa/Hallo Pesa by choosing “Government Payments” and Control Number issued from ePS; or through Bank Transfer which can be made from any Commercial Bank to: NMB/CRDB/NBC TBS accounts using TISS/SWIFT by specifying Field 59 (Account Number) and Field 70 (Control number).

Last year, the Bureau’s mandate was expanded to include more functions which were formerly mandated to the now defunct Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) namely food and cosmetics premises and products registration. This was part of implementation of the Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms to Improve the Business Environment, published in May 2018 by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, which articulates regulatory reforms necessary for building a conducive business environment by addressing regulatory hurdles and creating a smart, functional and fair business regulatory regime in Tanzania.

The transfer of functions from the then TFDA meant that the Bureau had to swiftly expand its ePS to include food and cosmetics safety control modules. The additional modules cover food and

cosmetics premises and products registration.

Electronic payment provides safe and secure transactions while lowering the percentage of cash and cheque transactions and it is very convenient compared to traditional payment methods. Since you can pay for goods or services electronically at any time from any part of the world, you do not have to spend time queuing in banks or offices waiting for your turn to transact. Nor do you have to wait for a cheque to clear at the bank so you can access the funds. E-payment also eliminates the security risks that come with handling cash money and cuts down expenditures in paper and postage.

The use of ePS is highly commendable as it is in line with the policy of the Fifth Phase Government which calls for efficiency in delivery of services to the public, as well as the Government's desire to improve trade facilitation by building an enabling environment to support business. The expansion

of electronic service delivery to cover food and cosmetics safety control will no doubt solidify gains made in the provision of standardization and quality assurance services, thereby boosting the Bureau's contribution to the realization of national objectives.

We would, therefore, like to commend TBS Management for embarking on the use of electronic payment system and for continually improving the system to be more inclusive and effective. The benefits enumerated above have already been realized in this short period.

Although some challenges still exist, we believe those are normal bottlenecks which usually happen at the beginning of implementation of any programme. We believe that when it finally stabilizes, electronic payment system will enhance the Bureau's service provision and smoothen its path towards realization of its strategic objectives and the National Vision 2025.

Entrepreneurs counselled on standards

By Roida Andusamile

Entrepreneurs in Kigoma Region have been encouraged to make efficient use of training on standardization and quality assurance services offered by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) for proper implementation of the standards.

Kibondo District Commissioner (DC) Mr. Luis Bura made the comment on his opening speech read on his behalf by the District's Administrative Secretary (DAS) Mr. Ayoub Sebabili.

He said that meeting requirements of standards was important for the goods and products to compete in the local and global markets.

"The trainings on Standards Mark of Quality offered by TBS to manufacturers will increase the value of goods thus enhancing their competitiveness in the local, regional and international markets," He said.

He said the engagement of the private sector in the production of goods and services is of paramount importance and it contribute to economic growth



Kibondo District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Mr. Ayoub Sebabili (seated centre) with TBS Officials (seated left from DAS) Mr Gervas Kaisi and Hamisi Sudi after a training on standardization and quality assurance to entrepreneurs in Kigoma region.

and poverty alleviation in the country.

“The Government envisions to make its people graduate to middle income status by 2025, that will be achieved by building a strong manufacturing sector. This kind of trainings to entrepreneurs will increase productivity in the manufacturing activities thus boosting their earnings and contribute to the growth of the country’s economy” He added.

On his part, Kasulu District Commissioner (DC), Mr. Simon Anange said working individually instead of formulating groups of entrepreneurs in the district was one of the challenges facing business growth in the district.

He encouraged entrepreneurs to form and work in groups that can help them access financial opportunities and other banking services to expand their businesses.

He said the improvement of infrastructures including roads, railways and air transport is reducing the cost of doing business and creating immense opportunities for entrepreneurs to prosper.

Mr. Anange said producing goods that meet requirements of standards is important for not only the safety of consumers but for the economy of the country.

TBS urged to monitor SMEs



Mtwara District Commissioner Mr Evod Mmanda (third seated from right) in a group photo with TBS officials (seated) after opening of a seminar to manufacturers, food processors and cosmetics traders in Mtwara. The seminar aimed at educating stakeholders on standards and production of quality products.

By Roida Andusamile

Mtwara District Commissioner Mr Evod Mmanda has asked Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to closely monitor and support small manufacturers to ensure they produce quality goods.

Speaking during the opening of a seminar to manufacturers, food processors and cosmetics traders in Mtwara, Mr. Mmanda said monitoring them would be part of solutions to ensure production of quality products to suit both internal and external markets.

Mr. Mmanda said time has come for the officials to go out of offices and take services to the premises of manufacturers.

He advised that the Bureau can also use various media channels including social networks to educate the manufacturers and the public at large.

The DC stated that small and medium scale entrepreneurs are important in economic growth and the country’s development, hence there is a need to educate them on better practices in the manufacturing sector.

He said education on the use of Standards Mark of Quality, quality assurance, packaging and hygiene at working premises will transform the way most SMEs operate.

However, Mr. Mmanda urged stakeholders to be patriotic and be faithful when producing or selling their goods since contrary to that could endangers health of consumers and users.

Earlier, speaking on behalf of Lindi Regional Commissioner Godfrey Zambi, Lindi District Administrative Secretary Mr. Thomas Safari said food producers and processors should avoid producing goods without adhering to the requirements of

“Production of goods that meet requirements of standards protect the health of consumers, having low quality products in the markets would result into adverse outcome,” he said.

standards.

He said Lindi Region mines a lot of salt but most of producers are selling randomly without adding value through iodination and certify their products which delays their development.

He said time has come for salt producers to certify their products in order to add its value and sell quality finished goods.

TBS has been sensitizing processors, producers and traders of food and cosmetics in Southern zone in districts of Mbinga, Songea, Mtwara and Lindi with the aim of educating stakeholders on standards.

TBS embarks on sensitisation campaign for small industries in Singida Region

By Neema Mtemvu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has embarked on a programme to sensitise and educate industrialists whose products are not certified being one of its initiatives to industrialisation.

Talking in Singida Region, Tanzania Bureau of Standards Inspector Mr. Domisiano Rutahala said once sensitised the industrialists would certify their products hence access into the market and improve the country's economy.

He said the programme to educate entrepreneurs who own small industries on the importance of certification started in Singida Municipality.

Rutahala said that the exercise also went to the districts of Itigi, Manyoni, Ikungi, Kiomboi, Mkalama where it has attracted some business persons who have already started to apply for certification on their products.

He said TBS officials sensitised and educated owners of sunflower process on the importance of TBS Mark of Quality for almost three weeks.



TBS Inspector Mr. Domisiano Rutahala (centre) speaks to one of maize flour producers in Singida Municipality. TBS run a special programme to educate entrepreneurs who own small industries on the importance of certification as one of its initiatives to industrialisation.

“We have been here for three weeks to conduct this exercise and reach industrialists and producers whose products are not certified to hear from them and support them to reach the required standards,” He said.

According to Rutahala,

“*most of them were happy when we approached them at their working premises and have responded well and pledged to convey the message to others so that they certify products,*”.

Rutahala said apart from education, they also conducted impromptu visits to cosmetics dealers and confiscated all banned products which threatens health of consumers.

All the banned cosmetics were removed from the market because they pose high risk to users including skin cancer.

Meanwhile, Singida Association of Processors Chairman Mr. Juma Mene insisted on quality training for sunflowers processors since they face a lot of challenges in obtaining the TBS Mark of Quality.

The exercise was conducted in Singida Region whereas more than 40 industries were visited.

SMEs reminded to certify their products



TBS Director General Dr. Yusuf Ngenya speaks in one of the consultative meetings between the Government, traders and investors held in Coast, Morogoro and Dar es Salaam recently

By Neema Mtemvu

STAKEHOLDERS of consultative meetings between the Government, traders and investors have been sensitized on opportunities for SMEs to access the TBS Mark of Quality free of charge and new roles of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

Speaking during the meeting, TBS Director General Dr. Yusuf Ngenya, informed stakeholders on opportunities that they could benefit after meeting the requirements of standards during production.

He informed that TBS will certify

quality of products of SMEs for three years without any payment to enable them access local and foreign markets.

Dr. Ngenya said the Government established the programme to enable SMEs to produce quality goods and expand market of their products.

He further urged SMEs and other interested persons to make use of the opportunity especially during this time when the Government is insisting on industrial economy.

“TBS as a facilitating institution helps SMEs to certify their goods

free of charge, it is for their own good in order to avoid unnecessary barrier to access local and international markets,” Dr. Ngenya said.

He said once they certify their goods it would help them to produce sustainable products which would be sold anywhere including in regional markets such as EAC and SADC.

Dr. Ngenya explained that TBS aims at supporting traders to conduct their activities for the benefit of the whole country, without interfering with laws.

He added that due to its importance, the organisation has participated in the meetings which have enlightened various issues regarding standards.

According to him, the organisation would continue sensitizing the public on standards issues for both local and imported goods.

The meeting which was held in coast Region, Morogoro and Dar es Salaam and attended by 13 Ministers aimed at finding solutions to challenges facing traders and investors in the country.

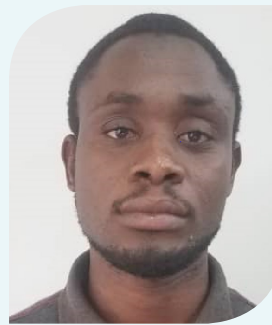
TBS Director General Dr. Yusuf Ngenya speaks in one of the consultative meetings between the Government, traders and investors held in Coast, Morogoro and Dar es Salaam recently.

The power of engineering specifications (standards) on social and economic development in Tanzania towards Vision 2025

Engineering Specifications play a key role in supporting the growth and development of a country's economy as well as in improving the quality of life for citizens. As such, there is a significant link between a country's engineering capacity and its economic development. However, the extent to which engineering specifications can aid development is also dependent upon governments committing funds and resources required for Engineering / infrastructure projects, as well as developing a favourable business environment with good regulations and without corruption.

There are roles engineering specifications can play and make contribution in pursuit of the national development. The Engineering specifications role is critical and is needed in the construction and maintenance of social and economic infrastructures, and this is a key pillar for the realization of the Tanzania Development Vision 2025. (Refer Five year Development plan (FYDP II))

The vision 2025 is made up by five major attributes with the aim of guiding Tanzania development and the expected country welfare by 2025. Two major attributes of the vision with socio-economic perspective are to achieve high



By Mohamed Kaila

quality livelihood and a competitive economy capable of producing sustainable growth and shared benefits.

The following are the areas where Engineering specifications used to reach social and economic developments;

Infrastructure development;

Engineering specifications have a direct role in designing, construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance of ICT, water supply, agriculture and irrigation equipment, to mention a few. It is also the responsibility of engineers to ensure adherence to moral behaviour in the field and compliance with standards on quality and safety in order to realize value for money of the infrastructure and equipment.



Utilization of domestic natural resources;

Tanzania is blessed with abundant natural resources that could be harnessed more effectively by using engineering specifications to develop our country. Such resources include fertile land, forestry, iron ore, natural gas and renewable and non-renewable

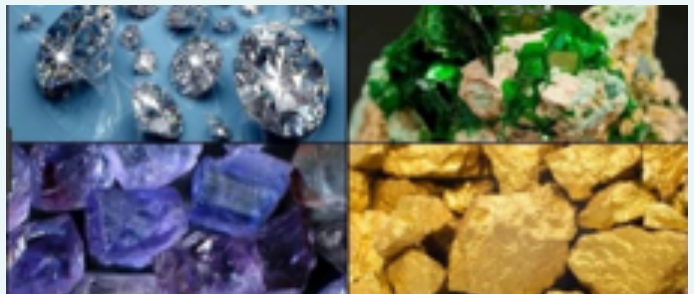
Feature articles

energy sources including hydropower potential, wind, coal, and mines, solar and geothermal energy.

By applying engineering specifications on industrial development, it will provide opportunities for citizens on targeting industries such as fertilizer factories,



cement factories, steel factories, food processing factories, chemicals factories and so on. All this will create an opportunity for Tanzania community to develop an industrialized country through our own resources.



Facilitation of social and economic transformation;

through application of engineering specifications as a major driving force for the realization of development. The role of specification is to create an environment for technological innovation to meet the increasing demands of our people. We expect Engineers to help us transform the way we do business in our country by innovating solutions as well as product and services that will open up avenues for Government, private sector and society at large to accelerate economic growth, efficiency and increase national cohesion.

Investing in engineering practices with appropriate specifications and skills will contribute to the economic development and create job opportunities for citizens in long term return. Human capital concept describes that individuals develop their capacity to generate incomes and improve career disciplines through engineering education and skills training in reproduction of economic development. Engineering practices stimulate important role in the knowledge based society because the knowledge and human capital generated by engineering skills

drastically changes the economic development.

Therefore, the effective output of growth and economic development would be even more pronounced than the pronounced entrepreneurs after applying Engineering specifications.

In supporting the growth of the country's economy through engineering, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards introduced four supervisory committees commonly known as Divisional (Standards) Committees in engineering fields. The supervisory committees comprise of about 12 members each. Members are drawn from a cross-section of stakeholders that include the government, academia & research, manufacturers, distributors and consumers.

Under each Divisional Committee there exists Technical Committees of up to eight members which are committees of experts from a cross-section of stakeholders.

Currently, there are over 30 Technical Committees responsible for development of various Tanzania Standards in the engineering fields.

Participation in standardization and its benefits

Standardization is the process of developing standards, the standards can either be specifications, requirements, guidelines, test methods or code of practices that are established to guide best practice on creation of goods or provision of services. It is a consensus-based process carried out by all interested stakeholders. There is a misconception that Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) is the only entity that carry out the process at National level on its own. This is not true; TBS only offers secretariat to standardization process at national level through coordinating and hosting the activities.

Several literatures highlight the benefits of standards and standardization, while the benefits of taking part in standardization have not captured the interests of experts who write on the field of quality infrastructures. Standards mean that consumers can have confidence that their products are safe, reliable and of good quality. Regulators count on standards to help develop better regulation, knowing they have a sound basis thanks to the involvement of Nationally-established experts.

Standards can have a significant impact on the products that incorporate them and on the marketplace. For example, standards can provide assurances of performance, reliability, safety and interoperability that eliminate inhibitions to sales. Often, increased sales volume reduces production costs of commonly used components that support standards. Standards also provide guidance to designers and researchers and also eliminating costly errors due to inconsistency.



By Salim Mohamed

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) is mandated to be the custodian and an overseer of observance of standards in Tanzania. TBS have put in place the standards development procedure which ensures consistency in standardization at national level.

According to the procedure, Stakeholders can have a chance to participate in the standardization process through a number of ways. Firstly, during the preliminary or proposal stage where by there is an open room for any interested individual or organization to submit new work item proposal (standards to be developed) on certain subject matter. Also, interested stakeholders can also participate in standards development during committee stage which involves physical meetings and hence participate in the technical discussion of the developed standards. Once the standards are approved by committees for further stages, the standards are circulated to the general public for commenting, during this stage there is also a chance for interested stakeholders to participate in the standardization process by submitting their comments.

In view of the above, there is wide room for interested individuals or organizations to participate in standardization through a number of ways and hence accrue the benefits resulted from the process. Although it is true that all users of the standards experience these benefits (whether they participated in the development or not), participation ensures the extra benefits compared to non-participants.

Feature articles



Firstly, the participating personnel have a chance to grow professionally simply by getting opportunity to work with leaders in the field and to witness standards development processes that maximize cooperation and consensus building and eventually cooperate and individual image and credibility is improved.

Also, participants of the standardization process have a chance for early access of specifications and guidelines and also having stronger knowledge on the standards and their operating conditions and environments prior to their publication. This can bring business competitive advantage above competitors who were not involved in standardization.

Participation in standardization process provide access for networking since technical committee meetings can be considered as meeting points for various stakeholders such as manufacturers, regulators, consumers and academicians. Hence, Networking provides a chance for improved market access and acceptance.

In addition to the above, participation in standardization provides a room for participants to influence the technical contents of the standards to favor their trading or production environment without compromising to the quality and best practice.

Awareness creation among all relevant individuals and organizations of the advantages of being involved in standards development activities is of paramount importance. Wide stakeholders' participation in the standardization ensures an open and transparent process and also simplifies and promotes the implementation of standards.



