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E-Newsletter



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TBS, the Home of Standards



Director General Dr Athuman Y Ngenya (right) issues a certificate to a manufacturer during a grant of licence ceremony at the TBS headquarters in Dar es Salaam

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“Produce according to standards”



Director General Dr Athuman Y Ngenya (right) issues a certificate to a manufacturer during a grant of licence ceremony at the TBS headquarters in Dar es Salaam

By Deborah Haule

Manufacturers in the country have been urged to adhere to the requirements of standards so as to protect consumers' health and safety.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Director General Dr. Athuman Y. Ngenya made the call during the grant of licenses and certificates ceremony held at the TBS headquarters in November 2020 whereas a total of 177 licenses and certificates were issued to manufacturers.

“Out of the issued 177 licenses and certificates, 88 were from Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (MSME's).

Those were for food, cosmetics, building materials, sanitizers, electrical appliances, mechanical tools, mattresses and packages,” said Dr. Ngenya.

Dr. Ngenya used the ceremony as a platform to remind the public that the obligation of supervising the quality of food and cosmetics is currently done by TBS thus, there is no any business person who is allowed to conduct food or cosmetic business in any market or premises without having TBS approval.

“During the period of July to September 2020, we have registered 2 139 business premises and 533 food and cosmet-

ics products,” said Dr. Ngenya.

Speaking on behalf of other SMEs, an entrepreneur Lily Kayombo asked the Government's institutions responsible for certification to jointly conduct inspection to curb substandard goods in the local market.

“There are still substandard goods like roofing sheets which are imported from nearby countries through porous borders, we urge institutions such as TBS in collaboration with other institutions to conduct joint inspections to arrest the unfaithful traders,” she urged



TBS cautions food processing MSMEs



Deputy Minister for Agriculture Omar Mgumba and Temeke District Commissioner Godwin Gondwe listen to TBS Marketing officer Deborah Haule at the TBS pavilion during the commemorations of the 2020 World Food Day in Dar es Salaam.)

By Deborah Haule

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has asked Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (MSMEs) in food processing to observe standards requirements and quality management procedures before engaging in production.

Speaking during the commemoration of the World Food Day held at regional level in Temeke district Dar es Salaam region recently, TBS Food Safety Officer Ms. Noor Meghji said the Government through the standards body has provided a chance for the MSMEs to certify their products for free.

She explained that in order to get free certification services from TBS, MSMEs are required to route their applications through the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) where they will get an introductory letter to TBS.

SIDO knows the SMEs better and it provides training prior to applying for

certification from TBS, we encourage them to pass through SIDO for the better start of their investments.

“Tanzania is estimated to have more than 800 000 MSMEs running different businesses and productions in various areas but a few of them have attended formal trainings. Most MSMEs tend to shy away from these training opportunities due to either lack of information or sometimes fear of costs,” she said.

According to the TBS food specialist, having known the poor financial bases of most MSMEs in the country, TBS exempts them from paying fees related to certification as a way to enable them to certify their products and enter the market.

She further said that it is a mandatory that all traders involved in food and cosmetics products to register their products and premises before commencing their businesses.

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Address

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

Contacts:

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



Let's sustain TBS training scheme to the emerging entrepreneurs

Since its establishment more than four decades ago, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has taken a leading role in offering training on quality assurance to the country's emerging Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

To a large extent, the country's standards watchdog has succeeded in training more entrepreneurs in managing their selected businesses with an eye on quality assurance. Today, than ever before, education has become an important aspect that plays a huge role in the modern, industrialized world.

People need a good education to be able to survive in this competitive world. Modern society is based on people who have high living standards and knowledge which allows them to implement better solutions to their problems.

It out of the realization of this fact that TBS has been undertaking entrepreneurial education and training to provide individuals with the ability to recognize commercial opportunities, self-esteem, knowledge and skills to act on them.

The TBS training has centred on instruction in opportunity recognition, commercializing a concept, managing resources, and initiating a business venture. It also includes instruction in traditional business disciplines such as management, marketing, information systems and finance. Entrepreneurs or the move towards self-employment is, and will continue to become, an increasingly important element of economic growth and development in Tanzania.

It is essential to have the infrastructure required to facilitate entrepreneurial mind-set and encourage self-employment. Having a culture of the



creation of a new enterprise is a critical aspect of this infrastructure, as it will encourage growing entrepreneurs to take the risk of starting a business.

TBS authorities have recognised that Tanzanian entrepreneurs have to face new challenges in this 21st century such as globalization, the rapid pace of innovation, the fast spread of technology and its high speed adoption in our lives. These factors and many others are changing not only how businesses and economies are functioning, but also the job market landscape.

To reap the benefits of quality assurance and standardization, in 2020 TBS trained more than 2 000 farmers, processors, distributors and sellers of palm oil in Kigoma Region on production, processing and preservation of the commodity.

The training programme was specifically tailored to raise the skills of the entrepreneurs and create an overall knowl-

edgeable people who can work independently without constant help and supervision from others. TBS trainers ensured that a robust training and development programme makes the selected entrepreneurs have a consistent experience and background knowledge of their businesses.

The ultimate goal of the training programme on edible oil production in Kigoma, Singida, Tabora and Dodoma regions lay wholly on the concept of increased productivity and adherence to quality standards.

For many decades, edible oil producers in Tanzania have been using traditional methods which do not adhere to the quality and safety requirements, thus endangering the health of consumers. Already, the TBS countrywide training programme is paying dividends as more entrepreneurs certify their products to enable them access local and foreign markets, as well as protecting the health of consumers.

The bureau under the enhanced training scheme has promised to broaden such training to ensure that producers of edible oil are reached in large numbers to enable them secure more markets within and outside the country.

Tanzania's SME sector consists of more than 3 million enterprises which contribute to 27 per cent of overall Gross Domestic Product. Most of them are in the agricultural sector, and more than half are owned by women. Some owners of these enterprises lack technical skills which is a stumbling-block to their success.

It is for this reasons that TBS has embarked on the vigorous education campaign as the most powerful weapon which can be used to change the way Tanzanian enterprises conduct their businesses with regard to adhering to quality standards.

***“To beat your competition,
make quality your
mission”***

TBS uses 5th Industrial Exhibition platform to meet stakeholders

By Neema Mtemvu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) used the 5th Industrial Exhibition as an important platform to raise awareness to its stakeholders on the need for acquiring Standards Mark of Quality.

Speaking during the exhibition at Julius Nyerere grounds along Kilwa Road in Dar es Salaam recently, TBS quality assurance officer Ms. Eugenia Kibasa said the exhibition had been an opportunity to meet and listen to various stakeholders.

“We have used this platform to inform participants, manufacturers and the public in general on the need of using the TBS Standards Mark of Quality and consuming goods certified by the Standards watchdog,” she said.

Ms. Kibasa said by acquiring the Standards Mark of Quality, manufacturers can penetrate the local market easily and confidently and expand to regional and global markets as the TBS Mark is recognized by the Partner member states in the region.

She said that harmonization of East African Standards by the East African Community member states has made it easier for products bearing Standards Mark from each Partner States to penetrate to the markets of each member States without any restrictions.

TBS used the exhibition as a means to reaching entrepreneurs and inform them on the TBS Standard Mark of Quality which is provided to MSMEs for free.

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

Over 2 000 palm oil stakeholders trained on quality issues

By Roida Andusamile

More than 2 000 farmers, processors, distributors and sellers of palm oil in Kigoma region have benefited from the training on production, processing and preserving the oil by adhering to standards.

Winding up the training on production, processing and preserving palm oil in Kigoma recently, Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Director of Quality Management Lazaro Msasalaga said that quality edible oil should adhere to the agricultural, processing and health procedures.

Msasalaga said most of local palm oil producers have been using traditional methods which do not adhere to the quality and safety requirements for edible oil. He asserted that the improper production of the oil can lead to the health effects to consumers.

For his part the Acting Head of TBS Western Zone Rodney Alananga asked processors to follow procedures in certifying their products since doing so would enable them to easily and confidently secure local and foreign markets as well as protect the health of consumers.

Meanwhile, closing the training in Nguruka Uvinza District, TBS Training and Research Manager Hamis Sudi said that the Government recognizes the contribution of Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) in supporting the economy of the country.

He said the Bureau would continue to provide such training countrywide to ensure that producers produce edible oil according to stipulated national standards in market related issues.

“I urge SMEs to use this important opportunity which the Government has provided so as to increase productivity,” he insisted.

Trade Officer from the Ministry of Industry and Trade Festo Kapela said that more than 50 % of edible oil used in the country is imported hence compels the Government to spend a lot of foreign currencies which could have been saved locally.

“East African countries depend much on imported edible oil, it could be an opportunity for local palm oil processing factories to improve their products and see how they can increase their incomes through it,” Said Kapela.

The training which involved 15 centres in Kigoma region is a continuous of similar ones which started in August, 2020 in Singida, Dodoma and Tabora region.

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

TBS impounds, destroys toxic cosmetics

By Roida Andusamile

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has seized and destroyed cosmetics with toxic ingredients valued at more than Tsh. 125 after impromptu inspections carried out in unregistered godowns in Arusha recently.

According to the TBS Acting Head of Certification Gervas Kaisi, the prohibited cosmetics were found in godowns named Kimario Cosmetics by TBS officials in Arusha and were confiscated in accordance with the Standards Act No. 2 of 2009 with its 2019 amendments.

Kaisi said that some Tanzanians have been using toxic cosmetics which contain mercury and hydroquinone ingredients for skin change with disregard to side effects.

According to the 2020 World Health Organisation (WHO) report, cosmetics which contain mercury if used for a long time can cause kidney, lung, skin, eye, nerve and food digestive system diseases.

The Finance Act No. 8 of 2019 mandates TBS to manage registration of food and cosmetics godowns, cafes and hotels the activity which was earlier carried out by the former Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA).

The enforcement of the Act started in July 2019, hence obliged sellers and manufacturers of cosmetics in the country to register their products and godowns.

“The Godown owner, Pamphil Kimario has agreed and paid Tsh. 3.5m as a fee for destroying the consignment approximately to be more than one tonne which could have caused health problems to consumers,” Said Kaisi.

Recently, TBS destroyed various cosmetics which were found unfit for human uses and were confiscated during inspections carried out in different parts of Arusha and neighbouring regions between January and November 2020.

Kaisi insisted that TBS would continue carrying out countrywide inspections meanwhile insisting manufacturers and cosmetics sellers to adhere to registration procedures to avoid inconveniences.

However, he required all dealers in cosmetics including sellers and manufacturers to be conversant with the list of prohibited cosmetics products which are available on the TBS website.

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

Sports and games for fitness — Shigela



TBS Director General Dr Athuman Y Ngenya (centre) shares jovial moment with some TBS players when he visited the teams during SHIMMUTA games in Tanga

By **Mussa Luhombero**

Tanga Regional Commissioner Hon Martine Shigela has urged heads of Government institutions to allow employees to participate in sports and games for the benefit of their health.

Shigela made the comment during the official opening of Public Parastatals and Private Institutions Sports Federation (SHIMMUTA) games held in Tanga in November 2020.

“Sports help maintain staff fitness and health as well as to enhance efficiency in their daily work,” he said.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) have stamped authority in the 2020 SHIMMUTA games winning two major trophies.

Having a word with TBS teams in Tanga, the

Bureau’s Director General Dr. Athuman Y. Ngenya congratulated players for their willingness to represent the institution in the tournaments. According to him, TBS has participated in the SHIMMUTA games for six consecutive years.

The TBS sport teams emerged the third winner in the tug of war game while in draught it scooped the third place after beating Muhimbili.

In women discipline, TBS sports reached quarter final stage and lost to the University of Dodoma team. On the tug of war competitions, TBS tug of war team emerged victorious against Mwalimu Nyerere College.



TBS Director of Testing and Metrology Eng. Johannes Maganga (Left) receives a trophy on behalf of TBS teams from Tanga regional commissioner Hon Martine Shigela. TBS sport teams emerged the third winner in the tug of war game.

This year TBS teams made it to quarter final in netball, volleyball, pool table and also made it to the semifinals of the draught and tug of war. Participation of TBS in this year's SHIMUTA games has not only made TBS to achieve awards but also helped the Bureau to promote its image to the public.

Meanwhile, TBS Director of Testing and Metrology Eng. Johannes Maganga commended players for commitment and hard work that enabled the teams to achieve the desired goal.

"We are satisfied with the way players expressed

commitment during the games that made them scoop several trophies, I urge them to continue with preparations for the next SHIMMUTA games... If we start preparations early, we will do more better in the 2021 games," said Eng. Maganga.

During the games, TBS had an opportunity to educate the general public and players from different organisations on the importance of using the TBS certified products, TBS functions and procedures to acquire the TBS Standard Mark of Quality. TBS promotion materials such as wheel covers and brochures were also distributed.



TBS tug of war team in action during SHIMMUTA games in Tanga

Human health risk associated with pesticides residue in food



By Immaculata Justin

Pesticide residue refers to the pesticides that may remain on or in food after they are applied to food crops. The maximum allowable levels of these residues in foods are often stipulated by regulatory bodies in many countries.

In crop production, pesticides are used for treatment of plants or soil for the purpose of protecting them from insects, weeds and other pest infestations. The benefits of pesticides application in food production are numerous from the food quality, safety and security perspective.

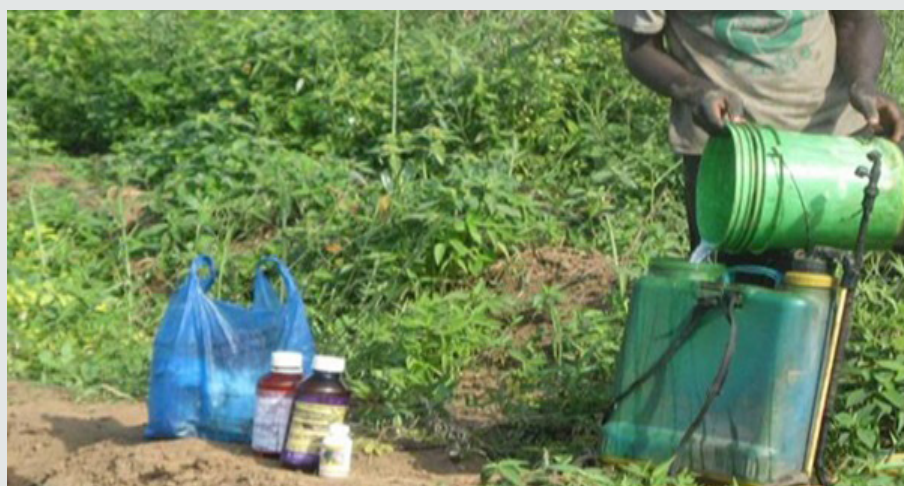
Presence of residues of pesticides in food is caused by several factors among which include failure of adhering to good agricultural practices, such as farmers not following application instructions as declared by manufacturer, overuse of pesticides or harvest of crops or livestock products recently treated with pesticide.

Presence of residues of pesticides in food is caused by several factors among which include failure of adhering to good agricultural practices, such as farmers not following application instructions as declared by manufacturer, overuse of pesticides or harvest of crops or livestock products recently treated with pesticide.

Pesticides production, importation and use in Tanzania is controlled as guided by legislations and guidelines for the purpose of ensuring rational use in order to safeguard human health as well as environmental protection. If application practices are not adequately adhered to the set guidelines, may lead to residues in the end product as a result, exposure to people through consumption of food.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission and national food control authorities for most countries have established MRLs for pesticides in food. As a food control body in the country, one of the core activities of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) is to develop Standards for food products. In course of developing the standards, MRLs for pesticides among other contaminants are set.

Other activities conducted by the Bureau in ensuring safe levels of pesticides residue in food includes food inspection and sampling, laboratory analysis and public education and delivery of information to stakeholders on food safety along the food chain.





Consumption of food containing pesticides residues in quantity above the recommended MRLs may cause health risk to people, which include toxic substances in the human body, allergic reactions and chronic health problems such as kidney and liver failure and cancer on long term exposure.

In order to avoid presence of residues of pesticides above the MRLs in food, one should

adhere to Good Agricultural Practices, including application of pesticides as per instructions provided by manufacturer on the label, avoiding harvest of crops or livestock products if recently treated with pesticides so as to allow residue concentrations to decrease over time to safe levels and sensible use of pesticides.



It is important to note that washing of fruits and vegetables before eating or cooking, discard of outer layers of leafy vegetables such as lettuce and cabbage, peel of fruits and vegetables when

possible and trimming of fat and skin from meat helps to minimize pesticides residue in food.

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



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