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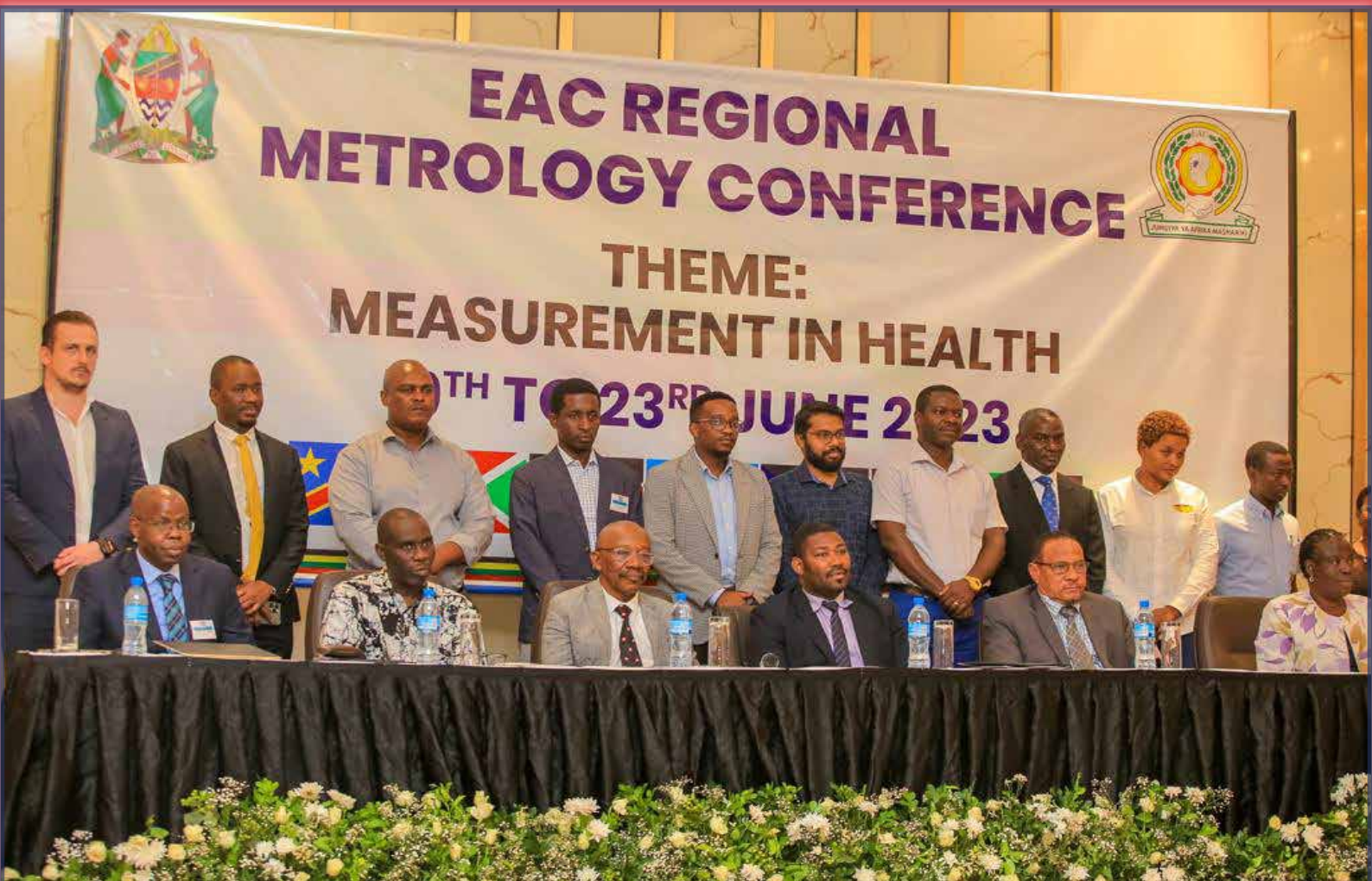
E-Newsletter



ISSUE NO: 028 APRIL - JUNE 2023

TBS, the Home of Standards

Govt vows to bolster laboratory measurements



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, Dr. Hashil Abdallah (third right, seated) poses with EAC delegates during the EAC Regional Metrology Conference held in Dar es Salaam recently.

Govt vows to bolster laboratory measurements



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, Dr. Hashil Abdallah addresses delegates during the EAC Regional Metrology Conference which was organized by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and held at JNICC in Dar es Salaam recently.

By Neema Mtemvu

The Government has vowed to continue investing in scientific research and extending its support to laboratory technicians in the country to enable them to come up with solutions to various challenges.

This will focus on increasing the efficiency in the metrological part to enable local laboratories to become capable of making accurate measures that will be reliable in terms of quality both locally and around the globe.

The Permanent Secretary of the Minis-

try of Investment, Industry and Trade, Dr. Hashil Abdallah made the statement recently, while addressing delegates at a Metrology Conference which was organised by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

“As part of recognising the importance of metrology in the country, we will continue to support scientists to enable them to conduct research and be able to come up with solutions and also enable laboratory technicians to conduct measurements for better results,” he said.



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, Dr. Hashil Abdallah inspects metrology equipment during the EAC Regional Metrology Conference which was organized by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and held at JNICC Dar es Salaam recently. He is accompanied by delegates from the EAC Secretariat and metrology institutes and standards bodies in EAC Partner States.

Furthermore, Dr. Abdallah commended metrology workers for their commitment to the measurement sector by providing quality and standard measurements which are reliable both locally and internationally.

He also challenged delegates from the East African Community Partner States to consider the importance of having quality measurements in improving health conditions since they play a bigger role.

“You should understand that metrics are not just about putting numbers on the report books but they play a bigger role in various health issues including making medical decisions and treatment plans, which leads to people’s wellbeing,” he said.

On his part, the TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya said the purpose of the conference themed ‘Metrology in health’ was to acknowledge the importance of metrology in daily basics including the health sector which is more important to human life.

He said, TBS decided to focus on the health metrology sector due to its importance and also of various challenges including wrong decisions which mostly produced wrong results. “Sometimes medical tests have challenges including getting invalid results where sometimes the problem is in the test, that’s why we have decided to start there,” said Dr. Ngenya.



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TBS urged to enhance standardization training

By Mussa Luhombero

Tanzania Bureau of Standards has been urged to enhance training to enable manufacturers and food processors to add more value on quality production.

The urge was issued recently by the Arumeru District Commissioner, Ms. Emmanuela Kaganda during the World Metrology Day commemoration held in Arusha.

"The awareness on manufacturing quality products has to be taught to manufacturers and food processors especially in villages since there are people who store their foods for a long time without regard to safety," said DC Kaganda.

She commended the Bureau's efforts in disseminating information on standardization and conformity assessment including food safety and quality, but urged for more robust campaigns especially at the grassroots.

Prior to her call, the TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya had vowed to continue providing the awareness on quality production to food processors and manufacturers in an effort to avoid health effects in the society.

Citing incidences of health problems in the society including stomach problems that are largely caused by the consumption of various food products that do not meet the required quality, Dr. Ngenya said the Bureau endeav-

ours to ensure the general public is aware of what is required in matters of quality and safety.

He said the Bureau conducted a study on the awareness on standardization and found out that there is little knowledge, thus need to continue giving the awareness through training especially to the manufacturers and the MSMEs.

The Director General said his organization is optimistic to continue disseminating knowledge including product verification knowledge through seminars and various exhibitions to enable the mass understand more about products quality.

He added that through the verification motive, the public will learn also about business verification through the metrology sector that guarantees the public to be using products that have met the required standards.

"Products measurement is very important since it gives assurance of the product manufactured...so producers, processors, distributors are supposed to verify their products," he added.

This year's World Metrology Day celebration was focusing on the contribution of standardization of food products on global food value system through the Measurement Supporting Global Food System (MSGFS).



Recognizing the importance of metrology in health

In June 2023, the East African Community held its first Annual Regional Metrology Conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The activity went hand in hand with providing awareness of the importance of metrology in society, business, manufacturing industries and other sectors in the region.

The theme of the conference was “Metrology in Health”. This theme was chosen since modern health care relies to an ever-increasing extent on quantitative measurements. Many of these measurements are made on various samples in medical testing laboratories where great care is exercised. Diagnosis and treatment often depend strongly on traceability of these physical measurements and it is important that quality control is adequate.

About 27 different papers were pre-

sented during the conference from all the EAC Partner States namely Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The papers discussed the importance of metrology in relation to health in mass, volume, temperature, pressure, time and frequency, photometry, acoustics and radiation.

In the regional, verification and calibration of medical devices is yet to be acknowledged as an important factor in the health industry. One way of facilitating good decision making in providing health care in the region is through stimulating verification and calibration need to provide test results which are traceable and suitable for medical practice.

The challenges in the realm of health measurements are complex and ever-evolving, from accurate assess-

ment of diseases, patient monitoring, manufacturing of medicines and medical devices. Therefore, the accuracy, reliability, and relevance of our measurements are of paramount importance in medical decision making.

The effectiveness of quality control steps depends directly on the accuracy and confidence with which the test and measuring instruments can yield test results. Thus systematic and periodic checking measuring instruments is very essential for reliable measurements. Today's global economy depends on reliable measurements and tests, which are trusted and accepted internationally.

To ensure accurate and reliable measurements in the region, the Conference deliberated on the creation of awareness in various ways, including EAC Secretariat to convene a joint meeting between EAMET and EAC Health Department to develop a roadmap for awareness creation to health practitioners on the importance of using accurate measurement in health facilities within the region. It was also agreed during the conference on the need to develop EAC regulations, policies and guidelines that will regulate the calibration, verification, and use of medical devices within the region. It was further agreed that Partner States

will initiate a high level awareness creation and sensitization to policymakers, on the importance of metrology and the use of accurate measurement in the health sector. Equally agreed was a roadmap for awareness creation to both medical practitioners, health facilities and the general public on the importance of calibration, verification, and maintenance of medical equipment

These efforts are aimed at improving health care and services in the region. EAC encourages all Partner States to create awareness among health practitioners for betterment of health services to the society.

We commend the efforts made by EAC in strengthening measurements in health care. In the health care sector, errors can be costly. Where instruments are out of tolerance, they may give false information. In the field of medical treatment or diagnostics, this could mean a missed opportunity to save lives. A key factor in developing and maintaining medical equipment of sufficient accuracy is correct and continued calibration, which involves comparison of the device against an equal or better standard.

***“TBS mark of quality:
An assurance that you
are buying a quality
product”***

Standards bodies submit standards for EAC harmonization



Delegates attending the EAC Standards Committee pose for a group photo on the sidelines of the meeting at the EAC Headquarter office in Arusha recently.

By Gladness Kaseka

Tanzania has submitted three standards claims before the 25th East African Standards Committee meeting, for due consideration. The claims would later be approved to feature in the East African Standards (EAS) catalogue.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Director of Quality Management, Mr. Lazaro Msasalaga singled out claims

on Foods General Requirements (second edition), Nutrition Labelling Requirements (second edition) and claim on the use of Nutrition and Health (second edition) as standards that will be considered for harmonization and later domestication by EAC Partner States.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the committee meeting that brought together

chief executives of regional bureaus of standards from the seven Partner States.

"The sole purpose of such standards is not only to facilitate trade within the EAC, but also to protect consumers of these products," Mr. Msasalaga explained.

The TBS official said Tanzania had rolled out the three standards that the packag-



ing of products within the regional economic bloc and the nutritional benefits of such products get harmonized among the Partner States. The Managing Director of

Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Bernard Njiraini, on his part disclosed that the meeting would also approve 69 standards with a view of facilitating trade across the region.

“Our objective is to enable mutual recognition of standards marks,” the KEBS boss said.

Mr David Livingstone Ebiru from the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) disclosed that the meeting would also delve on a number of conformity assessments, with a particular focus on Codex Alimentarius, or ‘Food Code’, which is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Un-harmonized standards and other trade documentation and duplicative inspections and testing hamper

trade, causing overall delays and increases the cost of doing business within the EAC.

According to the International Organization for Standardisation (ISO), harmonized standards are “standards on the same subject approved by different standardising bodies or authorities, that establish interchangeability of products, processes and services, or mutual understanding of test results or information provided according to these standards.”

MSMEs urged to produce quality products

By Deborah Haule

Arusha Regional Commissioner Mr. John Mongella has challenged micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to manufacture quality products as the country gears towards semi-industrialized economy.

The move also seeks to bolster the trade and industry sectors, according to Mr. Mongella.

Speaking in Arusha recently, while handing over licences to manufacturers whose prod-

ucts were confirmed to meet the requirements of the standards, the Regional Commissioner stressed the importance of producing quality products as the country eyes semi-industrialized economy by 2025.

“Getting there entails manufacturing goods and products that would stay relevant in a competitive market,” said Mr. Mongella as he handed over licences and tested products certificates to 113 MSMEs.

According to Mr. Mongella, products from Tanzania have high chances of competing in the global market as long as they get certified.

“It is for this reason that you should not be taking these licences for granted,” he insisted.

He reiterated the government’s commitment of creating an enabling environment for MSMEs to thrive. In the same vein, the Regional Commissioner challenged the standards watchdog



Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mr. John Mongela, speaking to manufacturers during a grant of licence ceremony in the Northern Zone.

to stay true to its legal mandate. Tanzania aims to become a semi-industrialized country by 2025, for which the contribution of manufacturing to the national economy must reach a minimum of 40 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product.

To achieve this, the country aims to transform from being dominated by natural resource exploitation activities and extractive industries to become an economy with a broad and

diverse base of manufacturing, processing and packaging industries that will lead both the productive as well as the export trade sectors.

Earlier on, TBS Director of Quality Management, Mr. Lazaro Msasalaga informed the Regional Commissioner that the institution will continue prioritizing promotion of standardization, safety and quality assurance in industry and commerce through standards development, cer-

tification and registration. "Our primary duty is to ensure that all products get inspected and certified before they reach end users," he explained.

He equally challenged businessmen to register their business locations with a view of enhancing service delivery.



Entrepreneurs hailed for certifying their products



TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Y. Ngenya issues a standards mark licence to a manufacturer during a grant of licence ceremony in Dar es Salaam.

By Rhoda Mayugu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has hailed entrepreneurs for certifying their products and services which guarantees them access to regional and global markets easily.

TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya hailed entrepreneurs for meeting such an important criterion during a grant of licence ceremony which was held at TBS offices, Ubungu Dar es Salaam recently.

“You have been awarded these certificates and licences since your products have met the required standards, so you are required to continue producing quality products to gain more confidence from buyers, thus guaranteeing a reliable market,” said Dr. Ngenya.

The certificates and licences were granted to manufacturers of cosmetics, building materi-

als, lubricants, electrical equipment, packaging materials as well as management systems.

“Now you are eligible to sell your products and services within the East African Community and other regions without hesitation,” he stressed. Additionally, the Director General said the government has continued to support the SMEs development by paying all of the costs of products certification.

“The government has been so supportive in a way that it has covered all costs of product verifications to enable entrepreneurs to continue to grow and contribute to economic development,” he added.

During the ceremony, TBS issued 264 licences and certificates, including 257 products licences and certificates and seven management system certificates after meeting the required criteria.



TBS Director General Dr. Athuman Y. Ngenya chats with entrepreneurs during a grant of licence ceremony held at TBS offices Ubungu, Dar es Salaam.



TBS, LGAs sign deal on food, premises registration



Eng. Aman Mafuru, the Deputy Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary and TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya sign an agreement between TBS and Local Government Authorities on cooperation in the registration of food and cosmetics business premises.

By Neema Mtemvu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has signed a partnership agreement with Local Government Authorities in Dar es Salaam on the registration of food and cosmetics business premises in an effort to promote the well-being of the end user.

The agreement will be dealing with various tasks including verification of premises before giving permission to operate to ensure that the business is meeting the TBS requirements which will guarantee safety in the services.

According to the Bureau, there are about 4,140 food stores and 1,060 of cosmetic buildings from different municipalities that have been granted the permission to operate after meeting the requirements.

“TBS and the local government authorities are going to be cooperating in registering food and cosmetics buildings to ensure that only qualified premises will be allowed to conduct the business,” said Eng Aman Mafuru, the Deputy Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary.

He said the local government authorities has wide access to the citizens including the SMEs so a pact with TBS will lead to business improvements to ensure the safety

and health of the customers.

Additionally, Eng. Mafuru said the partnership will increase effectiveness such that services will be provided timely while 40 per cent of the collection from the operation will be taken by the City Council.

TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya said the purpose for their partnership is to keep promoting safety in the production field to ensure that customer safety

remains number one priority for the standards body.

Dr. Ngenya added that their co-operation will help increase revenue since the number of premises will be increasing and more business will be conducted.

“As a standards body we are obliged to protect the well-being of the citizens and to do so, we have seen it wise to join hands with Local Government Authorities,” said Dr. Ngenya.



The Deputy Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary Eng. Aman Mafuru and TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya show a signed agreement between TBS and Local Government Authorities on cooperation in the registration of food and cosmetics business premises.

Food stakeholders advised to abide by standards



The TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Y. Ngenya (centre, seated) joins food stakeholders in a photo during the celebration of World Food Safety Day in Dar es Salaam recently.

By Rhoda Mayugu

Food stakeholders in the country have been urged to abide by standards set by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to protect the health of the people in the country.

TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Ngenya, made the call recently when speaking with various stakeholders representing various ministries, regulatory institutions, food producers and processors during the celebration of World Food Safety Day, which is celebrated on July 7 every year.

Dr. Ngenya said food safety is vital to human health that has to be protected by any means necessary, since the effects of unsafe food are high including health and economic effects.

“Consumption of unsafe food has been associated with various diseases, as well as causing other health challenges such as poor growth especially in children, poor nutrition, also some infectious and non-infectious diseases,” said Dr. Ngenya.

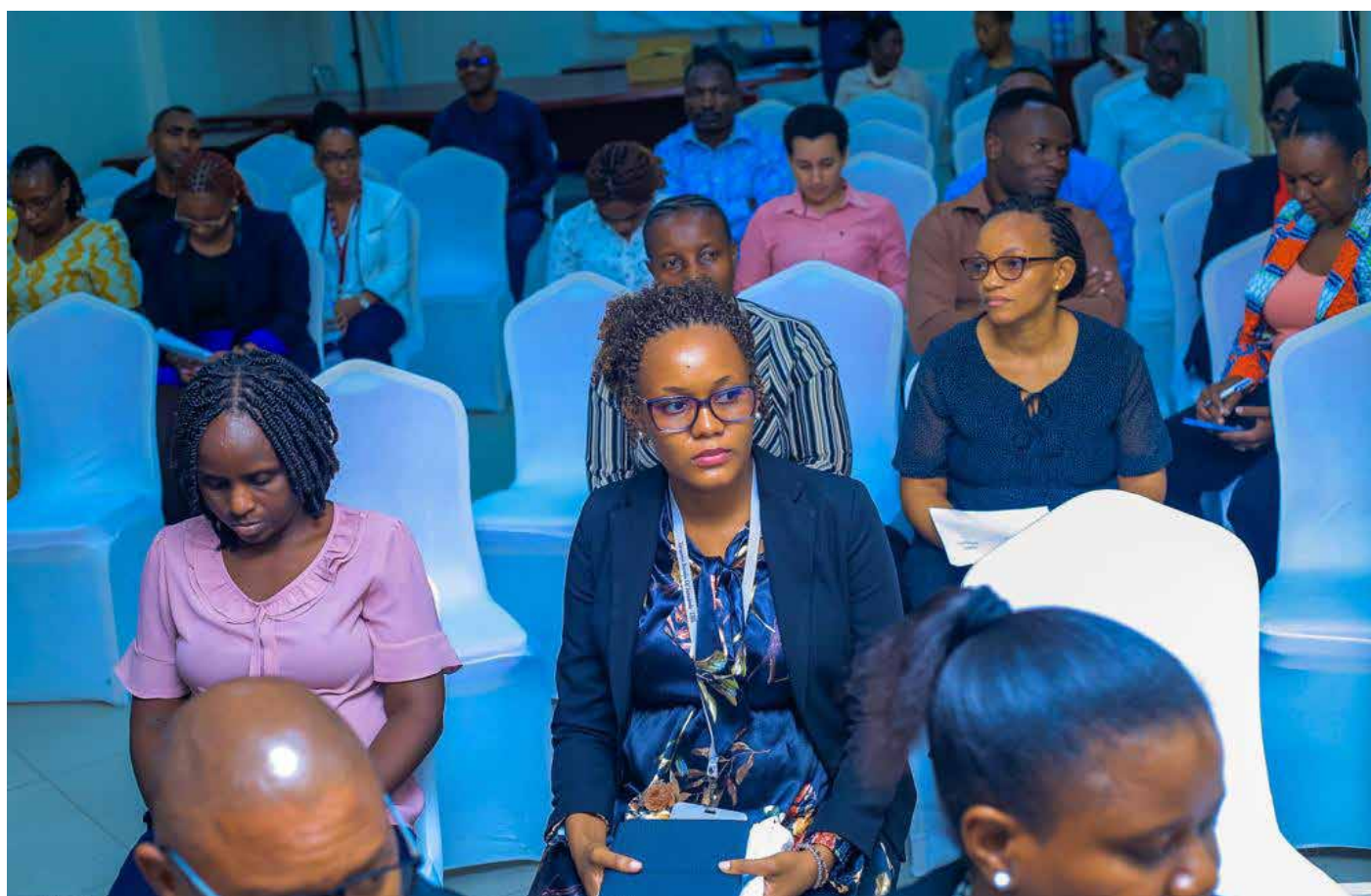
Speaking about the magnitude of the problem, Dr Ngenya said the effects of the diseases caused by unsafe food are greater in developing countries, while most victims are children under the age of five.

He added that according to WHO statistics, it is projected that every year, one person in ten people suffers problems related with unsafe food consumption while more than four thousand people among the victims, die.

DG Ngenya also stressed the importance of food standardisation to ensure that food products are manufactured within the requirements of the

standards to enable them to penetrate in markets. "These standards are specific to guide producers to produce good and safe food products to be able to penetrate in both regional and the global markets," he stressed.

Dr. Ngenya said initiatives for proper production systems including good manufacturing practice, better agriculture systems, and good hygienic practices must be implemented to ensure the safety of the food path.



A section of food safety stakeholders who attended World Food Safety Day celebrations organized by TBS.



A section of steel of food vendors who attended workshop organized by TBS

UNIDO supports TBS in promoting MSMEs compliance

By Gladness Kaseka

Key experts from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) have attended a special pedagogical training for trainers (ToTs) by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with the aim of building their capacity to promote compliance, costs reduction and market access among micro-, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.

The training is part of a series of capacity building interventions under the European Union (EU)-funded QUALITAN project which aims to promote quality and standards for Tanzania's MSMEs.

A total of forty (40) experts from TBS headquarters and zonal offices including those in charge of planning, standardization, testing and metrology, training and research, among others, participated in the training which took place in Bagamoyo, Coast Region.

The project facilitates MSMEs to access compliance testing, reduce compliance costs whether in monetary terms or time delays, and access market and cross-border trade. These interventions will also contribute towards synchronization of various elements of the quality infrastructure.

Speaking about the training, the UNIDO Tanzania National Pro-

gramme Officer, Mr. Gerald Runyoro, said that the objective of the training is to prepare TBS trainers to be able to educate their colleagues and other stakeholders involved in order to realize the objectives of the project.

This, he said, is part of the QUALITAN project which focuses on strengthening TBS capacity including the functioning and reach of laboratories, standardization activities, ICT and management of information systems.

"The ultimate goal is to support the MSMEs in order for them to comply with quality and standard requirements in order for them to access local and international markets," he disclosed.

According to him, the project squarely fits into UNIDO's mandate which is also fully recognized by Sustainable Development Goal nine (SDG-9), which calls for building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.

"As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNIDO promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. We appreciate the financial support by the European Union and collaboration from

TBS for jointly working together to achieve the overall objective of the project," Mr. Runyoro said.

On his part, the TBS Director General, Dr. Athuman Y. Ngenya, expressed appreciation to UNIDO and EU for the project describing it as a shot in the arm to them in efforts to ensure quality and standards in the country.

"Our goal is to have sustainable standardization for high quality livelihood society through the promotion of standardization, safety and quality assurance in industry and commerce. So the QUALITAN project adds to our efforts towards that overall objective," he said.

Dr. Ngenya explained that through the project, TBS endeavours to increase MSMEs compliance with standards to widen their market access and enhance consumer protection.

Besides the pedagogical training, the QUALITAN project will also build capacity of TBS laboratories across the country through training and equipment provision, provide field attachments and study tours to key TBS experts.

TBS to increase its efficiency, service delivery



A glimpse of the construction of the Dodoma TBS Viwango House in progress

By Gladness Kaseka

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) will increase its efficiency and service delivery in Central and Lake Zone regions when its state-of-the-art laboratories and its headquarters in Dodoma come operational early 2024.

TBS Board Chairperson, Prof. Othman Chande Othman made the pledge after inspection

of the construction progress of the six-storey building of the Bureau's new designated headquarters and test house.

He said upon completion, the Central and Lake Zone customers will benefit as they will spend a shorter time to take their samples for testing unlike when they rely on the Dar es Salaam testing facilities.

So far, he said, the construction has reached 35 per cent and he was satisfied with the construction pace.

"The construction progress is per the contract terms, the quality and standards are on course" said Prof Othman, adding: "The laboratories will be state-of-the-art which will include sample testing for both local and foreign

consumers and will increase efficiency by 50 percent.”

The construction of the building which costs 25bn/- is expected to be completed by March 2024. When completed, the Dodoma test house will ease workload of the main laboratories in Dar es Salaam but also ease dispensation of services for Central and Lake Zones regions’ customers. It will also cut cost as they will not be required to travel long distances to meet the services unlike currently when they are supposed to go to Dar

es Salaam for testing services.

Prof. Othman said the laboratories will be fixed with the latest technological facilities which will be inter-connected with other laboratories. Moreover, the Dodoma-based facilities will have the capability and technology to test electronic devices.

On his part, Project Consultant, Mr. Casmil Ntobangi said the project is going on as scheduled and he was optimistic that it will be completed on time.

He assured the Bureau’s Board

that they will play their best to submit the project as per the contract to fast-track service delivery as well as accommodate TBS staff relocation to Dodoma as per Government directives.

The Project Contractor, Eng. Ramadhani Yassin from NECC Ltd said they are on the right track and they might submit even before schedule as they have addressed some of the challenges including water which would cause delay.



TBS Board of Directors Chairperson, Prof. Othman C. Othman chats with the Project Contractor of the Viwango House construction in Dodoma, Eng. Ramadhani Yassin from NECC Ltd. regarding the progress of work during an inspection tour.

TBS, councils partner in strengthening food, cosmetics control



The Executive Director of Ukerewe District Council, Mr. Emmanuel Sherembi (right) and the TBS Lake Zone Manager Ms. Happy Kanyeka (left) display the signed cooperation agreement between TBS and Local Government Authorities on registration of food and cosmetics business premises.

By Deborah Haule

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Local Government Authorities to jointly undertake food premise registration.

The MoU was signed by the TBS Lake Zone Manager, Ms. Happy Kanyeka and Mwanza councils' executive directors and witnessed by the Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary, Mr. Balandya Elikana.

Ms. Kanyeka noted that all councils that signed the contracts would start their operations effectively July 1st 2023 and that the Bureau's expectations are to see the services provided reach the community at the grassroots level.



She said one of the challenges to be addressed following the agreement would be delay of services to customers due to shortage of staff.

In addition to the signing of the MoU, TBS provided one tablet to each council to be used by inspectors in performing the joint tasks.

Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary, Mr. Elikana said the government's mission is to ensure that the region has a strong network for quality control and cosmetics safety.

"The partnership between TBS and Local Government Authorities will help ensure regulatory activities are done faster and

more efficiently," said Mr. Elikana, calling upon the inspectors to take care of the issued tablets.

On his part, Ilemela Municipality Mayor, His Lordship Renatus Mruga praised TBS and the government for their decision to enter into partnership that will bring about efficiency of the implementation of the duties.

Manufacturers told to observe standards

By Mussa Luhombero

Manufacturers have been urged to observe standards in order to compete in the domestic and global markets.

Equally, by complying with standards, their goods can penetrate a wider market as well as sustaining competitiveness in global markets.

The Dodoma Regional Administrative Secretary Mr. Ally Gugu said in Dodoma recently that observing products standards guarantee consumers safety and boost their sales volume.

Mr. Gugu made the remarks during the event to provide licences and certificates to manufacturers after their products met the requirements of standards.

He said the use of the standards mark of quality gives assurance to consumers that the products were produced in a safe and hygienic environment.

He said one of the government's obligations is to ensure that its citizens consume goods that have been produced in safe and hygienic environment.

"The government through the Tanzania Bureau of Standards will make sure important information on quality and safety of the goods are made available on time and low quality goods are removed from the market," he added.

Mr. Gugu urged the Bureau to continue providing education when making inspections in industries and market places to make sure that products standards are observed.

He encouraged manufacturers



The Dodoma Regional Administrative Secretary Mr. Ally Gugu (right) issues a standards mark licence to a manufacturer during a grant of licence ceremony in Dodoma.

to be good ambassadors to other producers who are yet to acquire licences to use the quality mark with an ultimate goal to have all goods in the market meet the required domestic and global standards.

On his part, the TBS Central Zone Manager Mr. Nickonia Mwambene said the manufacturers in Dodoma, Singida and Tabora were granted licences and certificates after their goods

complied with national and other standards.

One of the benefits that the manufacturers will get for certifying their goods is the penetration of a wider market as well as enhancing their competitiveness in the market.

TBS urges MSMEs to use free services

By Gladness Kaseka

Tanzania Bureau of Standard (TBS) has called on micro, small and medium entrepreneurs (MSMEs) and other goods producers in Tanga region to embrace the government's offer of free conformity assessment services with the aim of empowering them to effectively compete and expand their market scope into East African ter-

ritories and Africa at large.

TBS Northern Zone Manager, Engineer Joseph Mwaipaja made the call recently, while briefing journalists who visited the Bureau's pavilion at the 10th TCCIA- Tanga Trade and Tourism Exhibition which took place at Mwachako Grounds in Tanga.

He said product classifica-

tion is vital in devising a marketing strategy that helps to create effective customer-centric marketing strategies.

He explained that Tanga had recently become an international trade gateway after the government implemented numerous strategic mega projects like improvement of Tanga Port and the building of the East Africa



TBS Officer, Ms. Zainabu Mziray talks to visitors of the TBS pavilion during the 10th TCCIA Tanga Trade and Tourism Exhibition which took place at Mwachako Grounds in Tanga.



Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

He pointed out that the projects will be a game changer by bringing other opportunities through increased demand for goods and services.

Earlier, Investment, Industries and Trade Acting Permanent Secretary Mr. Conrad Millinga who officially launched the exhibition on behalf of the Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade asked the business stakeholders to effectively use the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) agreement that will progressively

eliminate tariffs on intra-Africa trade, making it easier for African businesses to trade within the continent and benefit from growing the Africa market.

He noted that for entrepreneurs to benefit with AFCFTA, they are supposed to improve their products because quality is key to achieving a competitive edge as it promotes greater customer satisfaction.

On 13 December 2018 through AFCFTA East African Partner States which are Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania agreed to make trade

between them and with other countries cheaper, faster and more straightforward in a significant boost for economic integration in East Africa and continental trade facilitation.

The AFCFTA was founded in 2018, and on 9th September 2021, the Parliament of Tanzania ratified the agreement.

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

TBS to train over 600 entrepreneurs



A section of MSMEs who attended a workshop organized by TBS through the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) project

By Neema Mtemvu

At least 600 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are required to attend training on the prevention of aflatoxin in grains to enable them to sell quality products that will ensure sustainable markets.

The programme supervised by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) through the Tan-

zania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) project, will enable entrepreneurs engaged in grain business to alleviate poisonous substances from products that endanger both business and the health of final consumers.

This came as a result of several types of research carried out by TANIPAC in various areas in

Morogoro and Dodoma including Kiteto, Kongwa, Gairo, and Kilosa which found that they are among the places most affected by the presence of aflatoxin.

TBS TANIPAC's Project Chairperson, Mr. Jabir Abdi, said the training will enable the maize and groundnut dealers to be able to alleviate the challenge which will enable the

products to penetrate markets.

“Due to the presence of the aflatoxin in these regions, TBS decided to disseminate more knowledge on how to prevent these grain products from the poison,” said Mr. Abdi recently during one of those trainings.

Mr. Abdi said the training is vital to the traders since food safety is faced with various challenges including the aflatoxin which is likely to affect both

business and human health, such that through the training, the SMEs will get the chance to add more knowledge.

He added that the training will have various positive impacts including the protection of final consumers’ health, business sustainability since the grain products will be undergoing various tests, and ensuring the availability of safe and clean food in the country.

“For that cause, all of us are required to implement various sustainable plans including frequent food testing to ensure the safety of our products,” he added.

Furthermore, he challenged grain stakeholders to consider guidelines given by professional farmers including conducting proper drying before storing products to prevent them from contaminating or being attacked by destructive insects.

TBS seizes banned products in Western Zone

By Deborah Haule

Prohibited goods worth 35m/- have been seized following inspections conducted by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) in three regions of Western Zone.

The TBS Acting Manager for Western Zone, Mr. Rodney Alananga said at the recently that the operation was conducted in 651 business premises out of which 154 were found with prohibited goods.

“After seizing the banned goods, the traders were given 14 days to produce statements explaining where they obtained them before facing legal measures,” he said when wrapping up the operations conducted in Rukwa, Kigoma and Katavi regions.

The importation of prohibited goods has been completely banned for reasons linked to human health, the environment and the protection of endangered species of flora and fauna.

He mentioned the goods impounded as being vehicles DOT 3 brake fluids, electric wires and second-hand under garments.

He said during the operation, they seized one and half a tonne of second-hand undergarments.

“Wearing second-hand undergarments is risky because they may cause and spread skin diseases to the users,” he elaborated.

Mr. Alananga said TBS has been providing public education to traders and consumers on the risks associated with second-hand undergarments and that they have been banned from use in the country.

He said TBS is now targeting to provide public education at the grassroots level to make sure that the used undergarments are removed from the market.

He said some unfaithful traders have been bringing the banned undergarments into the local market using unofficial routes.

Moreover, he added, the DOT 3 brake fluids have already been banned in the country be-



cause they do not meet the national standard requirements.

“To continue using the DOT 3 brake fluids in vehicles may cause fire or brake failure leading to accidents,” he noted.

Mr. Alananga said also that among the seized products were electric wires that were banned for use in the country but some unfaithful traders have continued to

bring them into the country. “The electric wires impounded do not meet the requirements of the standards and thus may cause home fire disasters,” he added.

TBS commits to offer public awareness on standards

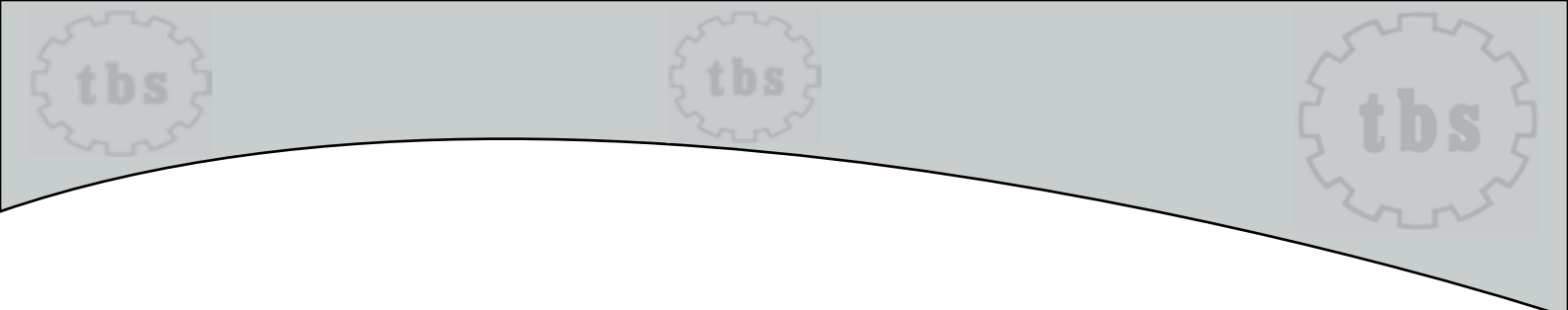


TBS Quality Assurance Officer, Ms. Beatrice Lema enlightens visitors on TBS services during the Barcode Week Exhibition in Dar es Salaam.

By Staff Reporter

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has pledged to continue providing awareness of the need to purchase quality goods to make sure that it becomes part and parcel of Tanzanian lives.

This was said by the TBS Quality Assurance Officer, Ms. Beatrice Lema during Barcode week exhibitions in Dar es Salaam recently.



TBS used the event to educate the public on its activities including product certification, foods and cosmetics product and premises registration, products testing and inspection of the imported products.

Ms. Lema said TBS was mandated to check the quality of the local and imported products, so local manufacturers, traders and importers are obliged to check the products before reaching the markets.

She said consumers should check and verify the products before buying them since they are the final customers and decision-makers.

“Since the consumers are the final buyers and also the primary victims to low-quality products, if they build the tendency of checking the condition of the products first, our local markets will be full of quality products,” she added.

On her part, TBS Marketing Officer Ms. Rhoda Mayugu said the responsibility of ensuring the quality of products in our country is not only for TBS but the public including the manufacturers, importers, suppliers and consumers.

She said manufacturers have the obligation of making goods that meet all the required national standards in order to protect consumers’ health as well as penetrating regional and global markets.

“If TBS and the stakeholders cooperate, we shall boost our country’s economy since our products will be penetrating the global market,” she said.

She added that the Government has been putting more effort to build a strong economy which is sustainable by certifying SMEs products free of charge whereby they can reap immense benefits by producing products that meet the required standards, building consumers’ confidence, and fetching high market prices.

“The Government through TBS ensures that necessary guidelines relating to the quality and safety of the products are given time to ensure products that do not meet the required standards are removed from the market,” said Ms. Mayugu.

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

TBS urges public to use certified products



TBS Senior Quality Assurance Mr. Hamisi Seleleko, disseminates information on standards and quality assurance during the 6th Exhibition of the National Economic Empowerment in Kigoma.

By Rhoda Mayugu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has urged the public to buy certified products while checking expiry dates to avoid using substandard products that can be dangerous to human health and the environment.

The call was made by Mr. Hamis Seleleko, Senior Quality Assurance Officer (TBS) during the 6th Exhibition of the National Economic Empower-

ing Council in Kigoma Region.

"We encourage the public to read the information found on the products and to check quality mark and expiry dates. This is due to the presence of both expired and low-quality products in the markets which are endangering the environment and human health," said Mr. Seleleko.

Mr. Seleleko also urged the public to avoid using cosmet-

ics products that have been banned by the government due to toxic substances, and he sensitised the matter by showing various samples of products that have toxic substances to the public who attended the exhibition and called upon them to address the standards body immediately whenever they come across such products.

TBS had a chance to train SMEs who attended the exhibition by



TBS Senior Quality Assurance Mr. Hamisi Seleleko, disseminates information on standards and quality assurance during the 6th Exhibition of the National Economic Empowerment in Kigoma.

educating them on procedures to acquire the TBS mark licence to add more value to their products. Moreover, visitors were informed on the Government's programme to empower MSMEs by certifying their products

free of charge for three years.

"The government's motivation is to see that MSMEs produce quality products, so that our economy continues to grow and even reach the

level of being one of the largest economies in Africa," said Seleleko, adding that MSMEs have been recognized as important participants in developing the national economy.

It is quality rather than quantity that matters



Buy building materials that meet standards, public told

By Neema Mtemvu

People seeking to build houses and other projects should scrutinise and acquire building materials that meet the required standards and are a true value for money.

This, according to Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary, Mr. Emil Kasagala will be an important step in addressing the problem of low quality building materials in the country.

“Building materials that do not meet the true value for money like iron sheets, nails and reinforcement bars can result in huge loss to buyers and weak building infrastructure,” he said on Wednesday after meeting importers and manufacturers of building materials in the region.

He said already most people are forced to spend more money

than they could have otherwise injected into other projects for maintaining the houses because they used knowingly or unwittingly poor quality materials.

He said manufacturers and importers of building materials have a fundamental obligation to observe the country's laws to avoid selling poor quality building materials in the local market.

“Importing and manufacturing low quality building materials is turning the country into a dumping place and destroying the country's economy,” he said.

He said substandard building materials make locally made materials uncompetitive in the market and ultimately kill domestic industries.

On her part, a TBS official

from the Lake Zone, Ms. Nuru Mwasulama said public awareness campaigns carried out by TBS on the need to produce quality building materials are of paramount importance.

“People planning to build houses and other projects should make due diligence in obtaining materials that meet TBS standards,” she said insisting that importers and manufacturers have the primary obligation to ensure they sell building materials that meet the country's standards.

She said TBS will continue to conduct a series of programmes including frequent inspections to eliminate low quality products from markets, but before that, creating awareness of quality products to manufacturers and importers is recommended

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

TBS to improve participation in Saba Saba exhibition



TBS Public Relations and Marketing Manager, Ms. Gladness Kaseka briefs journalists (not in photo) on TBS participation in the 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair during a press conference prior to commencement of the DITF exhibition.

By Staff Reporter

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has announced to participate in the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (Saba Saba) 2023, where apart from providing instant services, the Bureau aims to empower small entrepreneurs.

This was said in Dar es Salaam recently by the Bureau's Public

Relations and Marketing Manager, Ms. Gladness Kaseka, while speaking to journalists regarding the Bureau's plans to participate in the Saba Saba Exhibition taking place from 28th June to 13th July, 2023.

She said the Bureau expects to participate differently this year, where among other improvements, there will be a special

desk to serve micro, small and medium entrepreneurs.

She said to be served exclusively, MSMEs need to have an identification letter from SIDO, a Taxpayer Identity Number (TIN) and a business licence where they will get TBS services to acquire quality mark free of charge.



Ms. Kaseka said they are doing so because the Government through TBS always allocates TZS 100 to 200 million every year to ensure that they serve MSMEs.

“But in this year’s exhibition we will make sure we visit entrepreneurs in their areas where they will have placed their products to find out their challenges for those who have not had their products certified until now,” said Ms. Kaseka.

She explained that for those who are from the Dar es Sa-

laam Region, the Bureau will plan how to reach them after collecting their database and for those who are from outside the region, the Bureau will devise a way to reach them on different events so as to develop their database too.

She asked all entrepreneurs to cooperate with TBS Saba Saba officials as the Bureau’s aim is to ensure that all products produced by MSMEs are certified.

Regarding the premise and product registration for food and cosmetics products, Ms. Kase-

ka said that they will get the service instantly at Saba Saba.

She said what they need to have is TIN, business layout picture and a business licence and that they will be provided with services on the spot because TBS services are currently available in the system.

In addition, she said the exhibition will be an opportunity for them to learn the activities of the organization, express their opinions and have their challenges solved right there.

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

TBS educates traders on need for safe, quality cosmetic products



Acting TBS Manager for the Western Zone, Mr. Rodney Alananga educates traders in cosmetics on adherence on standards and regulatory requirements in their businesses.

By Neema Mtemvu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has provided education to traders in cosmetics to enable them sell cosmetic products of acceptable standards in accordance with the laws.

The education was provided recently in Kigoma, Rukwa and Katavi regions in Western Zone, with a focus to empower the recipients to import and sell permitted products in order to protect the lives of consumers and Tanzanians in general.

Rodney Alananga, the Acting TBS Manager for the Western Zone said in Kigoma recently as he wound up the education programme to cosmetics stakeholders that if they do not abide by the law, they will frequently be incurring losses from seizure and confiscation of their products including fines.

"We also appeal to transporters of passengers not to carry prohibited cosmetic prod-

ucts," he said and stressed that traders must abide by the laid down regulations and procedures when importing cosmetic products.

In regard to views and recommendations given by the stakeholders, Mr. Alananga said they have been received and will be addressed. Among them are a request to TBS to increase efforts to control the cosmetics market by imposing more controls and conduct frequent inspections at border entry points including the port of Dar es Salaam.

In response, Mr. Alananga said: "TBS will continue to educate the public and conduct shop to shop and border areas inspection while taking stern measures against all violators."

He added that the Bureau is the organ responsible for overseeing the quality and safety of both imported and locally produced cosmetics products.

TBS impounds, destroys substandard goods worth 33.6m/



Destruction of substandard products in Dodoma

By Gladness Kaseka

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has impounded and destroyed substandard food and cosmetics products worth 33.67m/-.

The inferior products were seized in shops, warehouses, bars, hotels and stores in all district councils in Dodoma, Singida and Tabora regions recently.

TBS Quality Assurance Officer, Mr. Sileja Lushibika, said in Dodoma recently that the products destroyed were seized following an inspection in 4,144

places between August 2022 and March this year.

He said food items worth 11.9m/- weighing 2,098 kilogrammes and cosmetics worth 21.7m/- weighing 1,410 kilogrammes were destroyed.

According to Lushibika, the products destroyed are those which are out-dated and those with toxic ingredients. He said the presence of products whose shelf life has expired and those with toxic ingredients affect

consumers' health and the economy in general. time to time to check out their quality.

"The outdated food items have deficiency of important nutrients which can cause diseases including cancer," he said.

On cosmetics with toxic ingredients, he said that they affect human skin, eyes, women reproduction systems, growth of children and may cause skin cancer.

TBS insisted that it will continue to carry inspections in all regions, urging business people to inspect their goods from

Also, Mr. Lushibika reminded business people to make sure they preserve their goods as per the manufacturing guidelines, to avoid selling cosmetic products with toxic ingredients to consumers as well as low quality food products.

Furthermore, he urged business people to certify and register their goods and for the public to provide necessary support in ensuring that the local market is not turned into a dumping place.



Destruction of substandard products in Dodoma



Ulega urges TBS to serve customers timely



TBS Quality Assurance Officer, Mr. Daniel Marwa, attends entrepreneurs during the celebration of the World Milk Week in Tabora.

By Rhoda Mayugu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has been urged to certify products within the required time-frame to enable manufacturers and MSMEs to get sustain-

able markets domestically and globally without difficulties.

The call was issued by the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Hon. Abdallah U-

lega (MP), during the celebration of World Milk Day held in the Tabora Region recently.

He said, certifying products timely will enable producers



TBS Quality Assurance Officer, Mr. Daniel Marwa, attends entrepreneurs during the celebration of the World Milk Week in Tabora.

and entrepreneurs to penetrate markets on time hence enabling their products to compete fairly.

"I urge the national standards body to make sure that the manufacturers and the MSMEs are obtaining the standards mark licences within the required time by following the guidelines set by the Government," said Minister Ulega.

On other hand, TBS Quality Assurance Officer, Mr. Daniel Marwa said TBS was pleased with the number of milk product manufacturers and MSMEs who attended the exhibition as most of their

products have been certified.

Mr. Marwa added that TBS visited MSMEs in their booths and provided them with education on how to produce quality products by complying with standards to ensure that their products do not contain substances that would affect human health.

"The reaction was good, a number of small and medium-sized entrepreneurs attended to showcase their products... most of them have certified their products, and those who have not, were given the education on the advantages of product certification including market

sustainability," said Mr. Marwa.

Moreover, Mr. Marwa added that through the exhibition, TBS managed to address the public by providing the knowledge of how to read the information written in various product packages to ensure that they do not buy expired products.

"Information found on various product packages is valuable to customers since it assures them that the product has been checked by TBS and makes it easier for the customers to know whether the product is valid or expired," he said.

Contribution of standards in achieving health and well-being

ers in developing countries. tural and economic aspects.



Fatuma Mauniko

Food safety has multiple dimensions, and it is intrinsically linked to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as zero hunger, good health and well-being, poverty elimination, gender equality, water and sanitation, sustainable production and consumption, and climate change.

The integral role of food safety in achieving these SDGs was highlighted during the WHO/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/African Union (AU) International Food Safety Conference in Addis Ababa earlier in 2019. Hence, there is a need to recognize that the SDGs will be unattainable without adequate, safe and healthy food, particularly for domestic consum-

Considering the importance of food safety for public health and overall socioeconomic development, ensuring safe and healthy food for all individuals is crucial. Achieving food safety is a complex endeavour in addressing various challenges throughout the value chain, influenced by many internal and external factors, including scientific, socio-cul-

Food safety is a shared responsibility, and it needs joint efforts of all stakeholders; governments, food business operators, consumers and academics across the food chain, to include the broader network beyond food and health and to engage the food security, nutrition, environmental and socioeconomic sectors for making food



safety a long-term investment.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), amongst other responsibilities, ensures food safety in the country. In so doing, it has the mandate to formulate, promulgate and implement national standards in different sectors, including the Food and Agriculture sector, with over (30) technical committees responsible for the development of standards covering food technologies, food safety, agricultural produce, livestock and livestock products, poultry and poultry products, etc.

To ensure the quality and safety of the products, the following continue to be done on standardization activities:

- Developing and reviewing national food standards;
- Involvement of stakeholders relevant to their areas of expertise in the development of national food standards; and
- Participation in the regional and international food standards setting to ensure requirements set align with national practices.

Contribution of standards on the health issues

To protect from foodborne diseases posed by biological, chemical and physical hazards,

among other parameters, food products standards establish the safety maximum level limits on the following parameters: -

a) Food additives

A food additive can be defined as a substance whose intended use will lead to its incorporation into the food or affect the food's characteristics. Food additives generally benefit the food producer, processor or consumer. For the consumer, additives can improve the organoleptic qualities of foods, improve the nutritional value, or ease the preparation of ingredients and meals.

Their functions can usually be classified as one of the following:

- i) to maintain or improve nutritional quality;
- ii) to maintain or improve product safety or quality;
- iii) to aid in processing or preparation; and
- iv) to enhance sensory characteristics (FDA, 1979, 1992).

Food products standards stipulate the permitted food uses or usage levels of food additives in alignment with the requirements of codex standards and should be declared on the Label. But as regulators, we need to challenge ourselves to the risk associated when food additives and other artificial chemicals are combined.

b) Heavy metal contaminants

Food contamination with heavy metals is another concern for human and animal health. The most common heavy metals are mercury, lead, chromium, cadmium, and arsenic. The concentration of heavy metals in water resources, air, and food is assessed in this regard (Mousavi et al., 2013; Ghorani-Azam et al., 2016; Luo et al., 2020). Metals, among the other environmental pollutants, may also occur naturally and remain in the environment. Hence, human exposure to metals is inevitable, and some studies have reported gender differences in the toxicity of metals (Vahter et al., 2007; Tchounwou et al., 2012).

Heavy metals may frequently react with biological systems by losing one or more electrons and forming metal cations with affinity to the nucleophilic sites of vital macromolecules. Several acute and chronic toxic effects of heavy metals affect different body organs. Gastrointestinal and kidney dysfunction, nervous system disorders, skin lesions, vascular damage, immune system dysfunction, birth defects, and cancer are the some of the complications of heavy metal's toxic effects. Simultaneous exposure to two or more metals may have cumulative effects (Fernandes Azevedo et al., 2012; Cobbina



et al., 2015; Costa, 2019; Gazi et al., 2020). High-dose of heavy metals exposure, particularly mercury and lead, may induce severe complications such as abdominal colic pain, bloody diarrhoea, and kidney failure (Bernhoft, 2012; Tsai et al., 2017).

To protect human health, maximum levels of heavy metals are set in food products standards in alignment with established limits by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

c) Pesticide residues and veterinary drugs

i) Pesticides residues

A maximum residue limit (MRL) is the highest level of pesticide residues that is legally tolerated in or on food or feed when pesticides are applied correctly following Good Agricultural Practice.

ii) Veterinary drug residues

The maximum residue limit (MRL) is the maximum concentration of residues legally tolerated in a food product obtained from an animal that has received veterinary medicine. Traces of active ingredients and metabolites that remain in food after being applied on the farm or in postharvest handling or treatment of animals are considered to be toxicological and can be found in different types

of food products such as animal tissues, milk, honey, eggs, etc.

More than 1,000 pesticides are used worldwide to ensure food is not damaged or destroyed by pests. Each pesticide has different properties and toxicological effects. According to WHO, maximum levels for pesticides residues and veterinary drugs in the food products standards should be established.

iii) Biological agents

Bacteria, parasites and viruses are the major causative agents of foodborne diseases and sources of contamination from the environment. They could enter food during production, harvest, storage, retailing and preparation for consumption. Good hygienic practices should be examined during food products' production, processing and handling. Food products standards set microbiological limits level to safeguard the health of the consumers.

iv) Naturally occurring plant food toxicants

Some plant foods evolve defence mechanisms to protect themselves from predators by producing inherent chemicals as secondary metabolites. These metabolites are beneficial for the plant but toxic to other organisms, including humans. Hydrogen cyanide (HCN), Ochratoxin,

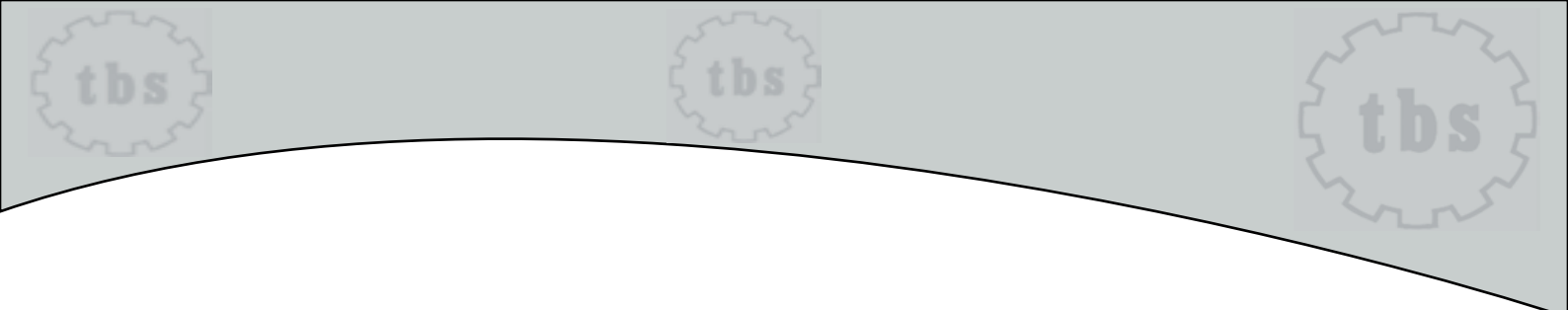
and tannins are examples of naturally occurring toxins and are available in different types of plant food products.

Consumption of it may result in acute toxicity, including nausea, dizziness, stomach discomfort, vomiting, and skin allergies, whereas chronic health consequences can cause irreversible harm to essential organs and systems such as the immune system, kidneys, and reproductive system, and in severe cases, they can be carcinogenic and fatal. Food products standards set the maximum limits level to safeguard consumers' health with regard to these toxins.

Capability of the food industry to supply safe food

Food production, processing and marketing are conducted by a highly fragmented large number of small producers and handlers who lack appropriate knowledge and expertise. They are responsible for processing different food products for domestic consumption through open markets, supermarkets, schools, hospitals, restaurants, street food vending and other methods.

Equipping them with appropriate knowledge and expertise on Good Agricultural Practices, Good Beekeeping practices, Good Fishing Practices and Good Animal Husbandry can ensure the availability of safe



raw materials. Training them in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system will ensure the requirements of the standards are observed throughout the food value chain.

Conclusion

Due to technological changes and national, regional and international market expansion, various interventions need to be implemented to ensure food safety in achieving public health

and overall socioeconomic development. First and foremost, the food value chain need to be updated and improved to provide analytical skills for monitoring of microbiological and chemical contaminants to reassure communities of safe food supply. Also, there is a need to improve risk assessment data based on the level of exposure to different contaminants and institute a strict mechanism to identify potential risks on the food products to be used as national reference data, also considered on the formulation

and reviewing of food products standards. Moreover, more efforts are needed in integrating epidemiological data for rapid detection and response to outbreaks of foodborne diseases to protect human health.

Ms. Fatuma Mauniko is a Standards Officer at Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

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

Importance of standardization in ensuring LPG quality in Tanzania



Eng. Maneno Ally

Standardization is the process of developing and implementing technical standards based on the consensus of different parties that include firms, users and government organizations. Standardization process helps to specify characteristics of products, processes and services that protect human life, safety and the environment.

LPG being an environment-friendly and clean fuel, is a replacement for traditional fuels like coal and firewood. On account of shortage of traditional fuels, the use of LPG as cooking fuel has become unavoidable for people in both rural and urban areas. Today, LPG is an ideal fuel for modern kitchens and has bet-

LPG is made up of a number of gases under the LPG products label, including propane, butane, iso-butane and mixtures of these gases. It is stored in steel vessels ranging from small gas bottles to larger gas cylinders and tanks.

LPG process

The LPG process begins with natural gas processing and crude oil refining. This is a precursor to the LPG process and LPG products, as it separates the LPG from the raw natural gas and oil, which is the beginning of the LPG refinery process.

The LPG process continues with LPG fractionation, to separate the LPG into its constituent gases: propane, butane and isobutane. It is then placed in large LPG tanks and LPG cylinders for storage and distribution.

LPG standardization

Like any other product, LPG needs to be standardized to ensure quality and safety in its use. At national level, national standards for LPG

and its storage exist. At EAC level, the harmonized standard for LPG also exists.

The standardization process helps to maintain the quality of LPG by setting up the requirements for storage facility of LPG such as cylinders in term of safety and capacity. Standards also specify the requirements, sampling and test methods for LPG such as commercial butane which is used as domestic, industrial and engine fuel. Moreover, standards specify LPG composition by percent in volume such 20 percent maximum for propane and 80 percent maximum for butane.

Advantages of LPG

The advantages of LPG cannot be overemphasized. They include the following:

• Eco-friendly

LPG/propane reduces greenhouse emissions and your carbon footprint because it is a much cleaner fuel source than petrol.

• Improved performance

LPG engines require less maintenance, are easier to clean, and have longer lasting durability than gasoline engines.

- **Cost savings**

LPG fuel reduces the cost of running and maintaining home lawn equipment by up to 40%.

- **Easily available**

Propane is an abundant fuel source that experiences less price volatility than gasoline. It does not go idle if kept in storage for long periods.

- **Poverty alleviation**

The long-term outcome of LPG is poverty alleviation, particularly with reference to how microfinance for LPG can enable poor communities to access fuel.

LPG policy in Tanzania

Government policy on energy has set a target of 75 percent of the population to have access to clean cooking technologies and identifies LPG as the right fuel to use. This can be achieved through LPG promotion programmes under the government together with

public awareness campaigns on LPG benefits and safety.

With Tanzania's LPG consumption steadily growing, investment in the sector has become notable as various investors from the value chain are jumping into the industry. Standardization process is required to meet the demands of new investments in the oil and gas sector.

Eng. Maneno Ally is a Standards Officer at Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

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

Food standards are a significant tool in preventing foodborne diseases



Mary Ottaru

Safe food is a primary determinant of human health and well-being. And even though it is a fundamental human right to access safe, nutritious and healthy food, many communities cannot exercise the right to safe food. As a result, people will suffer from foodborne diseases, which will significantly impacting public health and development.

Unsafe food can cause acute or chronic diseases – including more than 200 diseases ranging from diarrhoea to cancers, which sometimes lead to permanent disability or death.

Foodborne diseases are caused by consuming food or beverages contaminated with harmful levels of bacteria, viruses, parasites, or

chemicals. The symptoms of foodborne illnesses can range from mild to severe and may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, and abdominal pain. In extreme cases, foodborne diseases can lead to hospitalization and even death.

The World Health Organization (WHO 2015) estimates that more than 600 million people fall ill and 420,000 die every year from eating contaminated food. Nobody should die from eating food. These are preventable deaths.

World Food Safety Day is celebrated annually on 7 June to draw attention and mobilize action to prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks and raise awareness on food safety's importance.

This year's theme, 'Food standards save lives,' highlighted the role that food standards play in ensuring the safety and quality of food, ultimately saving lives.

When you eat, how do you know your food is safe? Food standards are rules and regulations that ensure that food is safe, nutritious and of good quality. They cover everything from the farming and produc-

tion of food to its storage, transportation and packaging.

Food standards are critical in preventing foodborne diseases by ensuring food is produced, processed and distributed safely and hygienically. They define the maximum levels of additives, contaminants, residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs that can be safely consumed. Furthermore, food standards specify how the food should be measured, packaged and transported to keep it safe. They also ensure that food is nutritious and quality, essential for maintaining a healthy diet. They include guidelines for food safety management systems designed to identify and control food safety hazards. Thanks to the application of food standards on nutrition and allergen labelling, consumers can know whether the food will be good for them.

Food standards require producers to prevent contamination and minimize the risk of foodborne diseases. For example, food standards may require that food be cooked to a specific temperature to kill harmful bacteria, that surfaces and equipment be cleaned and sanitized regu-

larly, and that food be stored at appropriate temperatures to prevent the growth of bacteria.

Food standards have a significant impact in reducing the incidence of foodborne diseases. For example, implementing food safety regulations such as the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system has significantly decreased foodborne diseases over the past few decades.

However, there is still work to be done to further reduce the inci-

dence of foodborne diseases. In many developing countries, food safety regulations are not as strict as they could be, and there is a lack of enforcement of existing regulations. Additionally, new challenges, such as the globalization of food production and distribution, mean that food standards must be continually updated and strengthened.

Foodborne diseases are a significant public health concern, but food standards can help prevent them by ensuring food is produced, processed

and distributed safely and hygienically. By adhering to food standards, food producers can reduce the risk of contamination and minimize the likelihood of foodborne diseases. It is crucial for consumers to be aware of food standards and to choose products that comply with these standards to ensure that they are consuming safe and healthy food.

Ms. Mary Ottaru is a Standards Officer at Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

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



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