

Viwang

E-Newsletter



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TBS, the Home of Standards



The Minister for Industry and Trade, Hon. Dr. Selemani Jafo (right) gets an introduction to the activities performed in the TBS Food Chemistry Laboratory during his familiarization visit at the Bureau's headquarters in Dar es Salaam.



Minister directs TBS to facilitate rapid SMEs growth



The Minister for Industry and Trade, Hon. Dr. Selemani Jafo addresses TBS management during his visit at TBS headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

By Neema Mtemvu

The minister for Industry and Trade, Dr. Selemani Jafo has directed Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to expedite its facilitation role to achieve rapid growth of SMEs sector for it to contribute to national development.

The Minister for Industry and Trade Selemani Jafo issued the directives during his recent visit at TBS headquarters in Dar es Salaam to inspect how it implements its roles in boosting trade and business development in the country.

“By supporting entrepreneurs in producing quality goods that can sustain domestic and global market competition would increase employment, national income, and overall economic growth,” he said.

He said TBS should provide all necessary support to entrepreneurs which will guarantee them accessibility to regional and global markets.

He insisted on the need for the bureau to

maintain diligence and professionalism, ensuring it does not hinder service delivery to traders.

Furthermore, he highlighted TBS's role in facilitating rapid private sector growth and achieving the government's objectives in fostering a competitive industrial economy.

He called on the need for TBS to collaborate with Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) and other institutions to ensure widespread use of the TBS Standards Mark of Quality by entrepreneurs.

Dr. Jafo highlighted the importance of monitoring businesses to prevent producers from compromising product

quality and endangering consumer health.

He said TBS is responsible to ensure that correct nutrient fortification of food products like maize flour, wheat, and cooking oil is observed.

He said compliance to correct nutrients is one of significant role that the bureau should uphold in safeguarding public health and preventing health issues that could undermine economic strength.

He said his ministry will continue to put more efforts in creating enabling environment for business operations, enhancing employment, and boosting GDP. well as in the East African Community (EAC).



The Minister for Industry and Trade, Hon. Dr. Selemani Jafo (left) gives his views after witnessing tests in the Food Chemistry Laboratory during his familiarization tour at TBS.



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TBS urges quality adherence for safer roads

By Maryam Abdulaziz

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) emphasized recent that car parts importers must adhere to quality standards to prevent road accidents and improve overall vehicle safety.

TBS's Standards Manager, Eng. Yona Afrika said non-compliance with these standards can lead to the use of substandard parts which increases the risk of mechanical failures, posing serious dangers to both drivers and passengers.

"Ensuring that car parts are up to standard not only protects lives but also contributes to the longevity and reliability of vehicles on the road," he said during the road safety week celebrations in Dodoma recently.

He said TBS is mandated to ensure that all imported car parts are tested for quality standards to maintain road safety.

He said they used the event to educate the public, emphasizing, among other things to ensure that all vehicles entering the country are safe and significantly contribute to road safety.

Speaking about motorcycles, Mr. Africa highlighted that they must meet specific quality standards, including the requirement for rearview mirrors that do not hinder navigation.

He emphasized that helmets

must be made from durable materials to protect the wearer in the event of an accident.

Even plastic helmets should have impact-absorbing properties, with soft padding inside to prevent direct contact with the plastic.

Africa noted that motorcycle helmets should cover the ears, with the minimum standard being a three-quarter helmet that covers the head, ears, and chin. He also mentioned the full helmet, which extends coverage to the chin.

However, he stressed that helmets permitted in Tanzania must cover the head down to the chin, and both helmet types must fit securely to avoid coming off during an accident.

He explained that helmets covering the ears have a strap underneath to ensure they remain in place.

"The other type covers the chin directly, meaning when you fasten it, it grips the chin. A person can avoid head injuries if they wear the helmet correctly and use the right type of helmet," he said.

"All road products, including speed bumps, road signs, and asphalt used in construction, are regulated by TBS. This highlights TBS's crucial role in road safety," he said.



Let us make clean cooking a reality for every household

On various occasions, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan has emphasized on the need for the country to switch from traditional cooking fuels to clean cooking fuels. This is in line with the government’s cooking energy campaign, cemented by the launching of the National Clean Cooking Energy Strategy for 2024–2034 in May, 2024. In her directives, the President has always underscored the critical importance of promoting clean cooking energy solutions, so as to prevent the deaths of millions of women and children affected by the use of traditional fuels.

Reflecting on Tanzania’s commitment to addressing the challenges posed by traditional cooking methods, President Samia has constantly highlighted the multifaceted benefits of clean cooking

energy, underscoring its potential to mitigate climate change effects, reduce respiratory diseases, and enhance national productivity. She has expressed her optimism in achieving the ambitious goal of 80 per cent clean cooking energy usage by 2034 stipulated in the strategy, emphasizing the collective efforts required for a sustainable and prosperous future for Tanzania.

In Tanzania, clean cooking fuels are essential to improving health, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. A significant portion of the population relies on traditional fuels like firewood and charcoal for cooking, which leads to indoor air pollution, deforestation, and health problems, especially respiratory illnesses.

Efforts to promote clean cooking in Tanzania focus on alternative fuels and

efficient cooking stoves. Alternative clean fuels include Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), which is touted as a clean source of energy due to its efficiency, lower emissions, and convenience, despite challenges like affordability and access especially in rural areas. Biogas is another option. Derived from organic waste, biogas has been promoted for rural communities and agricultural households. It is sustainable and reduces dependency on wood, although initial setup costs and maintenance can be barriers.

Other alternatives include ethanol and biomass briquettes. Ethanol fuel, made from locally sourced materials like sugarcane, and biomass briquettes made from agricultural waste, are gaining traction. They produce fewer pollutants compared to traditional biomass but still face issues around supply chains and production scale. Others are solar or grid electricity, and biomass cooking stoves which are designed to burn wood and charcoal more efficiently, reducing emissions and fuel consumption by up to 50%.

The National Clean Cooking Energy Strategy for 2024–2034, which was launched by the President, focuses on reducing the country's dependency on firewood and charcoal as cooking fuels. This initiative aims to bring clean cooking solutions to 80% of the population by 2034, addressing both environmental and public health concerns linked to traditional cooking methods. It aligns with Tanzania's broader development vision, recognizing clean cooking energy as essential for sustainable growth and improved public health. This approach aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the African Union's Agenda 2063, focusing on sustainable, affordable, and reliable energy solutions to enhance public health, reduce environmental degradation, and empower communities economically.

In line with the government's endeavour to get rid of traditional unclean cooking fuels,

Tanzania has implemented several standards and policies to promote clean cooking fuels, focusing on health, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) being the national standards body has a role in ensuring the realization of the National Clean Cooking Energy Strategy. The role is mainly played through establishment of national standards and overseeing their implementation. Specifically, the development and implementation of standards for ethanol fuels and cooking stoves will be a significant step in reducing the country's reliance on traditional biomass fuels like wood and charcoal.

Currently, the Bureau has managed to develop a number of standards on clean fuel, including *TZS 3119, Denatured ethanol for use as cooking and appliance fuel — Specification*, which specifies requirements for denatured ethanol fuel (bioethanol) for use as cooking fuel; and *TZS 2911, Ethanol fueled cooking appliances — Specification*, which stipulates the requirements for ethanol-fueled appliances for cooking. Other standards developed and under implementation by various stakeholders include standards for liquefied petroleum gas, biomass fuels, and domestic gas stoves for use with LPG. These standards, combined with other initiatives, reflect Tanzania's strong commitment to transitioning to cleaner and more accessible cooking fuels across the country.

Being the national overseer of observance of standards, TBS is at a pivotal position to transform cooking practices countrywide for the betterment of public health, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Every year, the harmful emissions from traditional cooking methods cause respiratory illnesses, premature deaths, and significant environmental degradation. Yet, the adoption of clean cooking fuels, such as LPG, biogas, electricity, and ethanol, offers a powerful solution.



In complementing the government's efforts, we call upon private sector players, financial institutions and other stakeholders to support the shift to clean cooking. By investing in infrastructure, creating favorable policies, and raising awareness, we can make clean cooking options accessible and affordable for all. We urge for prioritization and enhanced

advocacy, innovation and funding to ensure that the government's vision becomes a reality.

Together, we can promote healthier lives, reduce carbon footprints, and empower communities economically. Let us make clean cooking a reality for every household.

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

TBS collaborates with local authorities to combat illicit liquor



The Minister for Industry and Trade, Hon. Dr. Selemani Jafo (left) observes as members of the TBS Board of Directors take oath during the inauguration of the Board held at TBS offices in Dar es Salaam

By Rhoda Mayugu

The Government has instructed the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to collaborate closely with Local Government Authorities to eradicate the production of illicit liquor, which poses significant risks to consumer health and harms the economy.

The Minister for Industry and

Trade Hon. Dr. Selemani Jafo made the emphasis during the TBS Board of Director inauguration ceremony held in Dar es Salaam recently.

“This directive underscores the Government’s commitment to addressing the public health crisis and economic damage caused by substandard

alcohol production,” he said.

By collaborating with local Government authorities, it is possible to more effectively identify and shut down illegal operations, ensuring that standards for safe and quality alcohol are upheld.

Dr. Jafo highlighted that



such collaborative efforts are essential for safeguarding public health and reinforcing the integrity of the economy.

Additionally, the Minister noted that this approach will not only target the immediate problem of illicit liquor but also enhance overall standards compliance and consumer safety.

“Through sustained education and enforcement efforts, the Government aims to foster a more secure and regulated market for alcoholic beverages, ultimately benefiting both consumers and legitimate businesses,” he noted.

He insisted that legal measures should be imposed against factory owners who fail to meet TBS requirements.

the Government is finalizing regulatory procedures for TBS to provide sufficient guidelines on food fortification.

The regulatory process is nearing completion and will soon mandate food producers to incorporate essential nutrients into their products. This initiative is expected to help Tanzanians overcome stunting.

“I have already signed these regulations, and they are in the final stages. We are working to protect Tanzanians by ensuring that food production includes essential nutrients to safeguard children, pregnant women, and the community at large. By doing so, we will be contributing to the development of a healthier nation now and in the future,” he emphasized.

Prof. Othman Chande Othman, explained that the Board of Directors is actively working to ensure that TBS adheres to all regulations and procedures, aiming to improve the quality and safety of products available in the market.

Prof. Othman emphasized that the Board of Directors commitment includes reinforcing the implementation of national standards and collaborating with relevant stakeholders to address any challenges in maintaining high standards.

“This proactive approach is intended to contribute to the overall well-being of the public and support the nation’s economic development,” he said..

Dr. Jafo also mentioned that On his part, TBS Chairman

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



TBS urges public to adopt smart shopping habits

By Deborah Haule

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has urged the public to prioritise safety in their purchasing decisions to minimise the risk of foodborne illnesses and other health complications.

Senior Marketing Officer at TBS Ms Deborah Haule said this proactive approach not only protects individuals but also alleviates the financial burden on healthcare systems.

“Such illnesses not only affect individuals’ health but can also strain healthcare systems and contribute to economic losses due to increased medical expenses and decreased productivity,” she said.

Ms Haule said a healthier population translates to lower healthcare costs and a more productive society, fostering overall public health.

She said this shift in consumer behaviour encourages companies to invest in better practices, resulting in improved product safety and quality across the board.

“When consumers demand safer and more reliable goods, manufacturers are incentivized to adhere to rigorous quality standards,” she said after concluding public awareness campaign in Kigoma region whereby 2,730 citizens, including 110 entrepreneurs were reached.

The public awareness campaign that was delivered in open areas, including markets,

bus stations, and other crowded places covered Kigoma Ujiji Municipality and the districts of Buhigwe, Uvinza and Kasulu.

She said by investing more in standards can lead to increased exports, as international markets often favor countries known for their high-quality goods.

She said as businesses invest in maintaining high standards, this not only boosts local economies but also enhances the reputation of Tanzanian products in international markets, leading to potential growth in exports.

She said TBS’s initiative to foster this behaviour is crucial for creating a safer, more prosperous and sustainable future for all Tanzanians.

Ms Haule added that a culture of conscientious consumption leads to more efficient use of resources, as individuals are less likely to buy items they do not need or that will expire before use.

Additionally, TBS Senior Quality Assurance Officer Mr. Peter Musiba urged business owners to register their food and cosmetic premises for ensuring public health and safety.

“This process involves verifying that facilities adhere to established health and safety standards, which are crucial for preventing contamination and ensuring the quality of products,” he said.

Govt urges TBS to keep supporting entrepreneurial growth



TBS Public Relations Officer, Ms. Neema Mtemvu educates entrepreneurs on standards during the 19th East African Trade Fair in Mwanza

By Neema Mtemvu

The Government has underscored the importance of consistently fostering entrepreneurial growth to enhance contributions to a sustainable and competitive economy.

Industry and Trade Minister Dr. Selemani Jafo emphasized

this point at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) booth during the 19th East African Trade Fair in Mwanza.

“This support is crucial not only for enhancing the overall economic landscape but also for empowering individuals and small businesses to reach their

full potential,” Dr. Jafo said, urging TBS to continue its efforts in assisting entrepreneurs with product certification, a key factor for their success.

The minister explained that investing in the development of entrepreneurs is essential for creating a dynamic



and competitive economy, where businesses can thrive and contribute to sustainable development.

“TBS should continue in helping entrepreneurs produce quality products to boost the country’s economic growth,” Dr. Jafo added.

TBS Public Relations Officer Neema Mtemvu noted that during the fair, they engaged with entrepreneurs and traders, providing education and motivation on the importance of producing certified products.

Ms Mtemvu affirmed that

TBS will continue to support the government’s objective by ensuring entrepreneurs meet standards and produce quality products.

She explained that TBS utilised the fair to educate the public about the certification process, which helps eliminate trade barriers.

TBS’s goal is to ensure that entrepreneurs produce products meeting required standards, which protects consumer safety and facilitates access to both domestic and international markets.

This is in line with the East African Community (EAC) agreements, which allow certified products to be sold across member countries without additional testing.

Regarding consumers, Ms Mtemvu emphasized their role in ensuring products meet standards before purchase. Consumers should check product information on packaging and verify that products have not expired.

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

Entrepreneurs drilled on goods verification

By Deborah Haule

More than 200 entrepreneurs have been trained on the best ways to verify the quality of their products before getting into markets.

they have achieved great success, as they have provided education to stakeholders and solved the challenges they were facing.

The training was provided by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to traders, producers, distributors, and the general public who visited the standard body booth at the 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF 2024).

He said stakeholders have been educated about the various services TBS provides, including confirming the quality of products, management systems, testing services, and many more.

Francis Mapunda, TBS acting manager, Eastern Zone told reporters at the just-ended DITF 2024 that in this exhibition

Mapunda also said that people who visited the TBS pavilion were educated about inspections that are carried out by the organization, including products from abroad.



TBS officers educate entrepreneurs on standards during the 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair

“To all who wanted to import products from abroad, when they arrived at our booth, they got information about the procedures for importing products from abroad,” Mapunda said, adding: “We also provide calibration of equipments in our laboratories to help people who want to get the services for their equipment.”

The TBS official unveiled that at this year’s DITF there was an increase in the awareness of producers who wanted to certify their products and most of them wanted to know the procedures to follow to certify their products and finally be able to use the Standards Mark of Quality.

“Every individual got the services he/she needed, including those who want to open factories,” he said.

Neema Mtemvu, TBS Public Relations Officer said in the exhibition, more than 200 entrepreneurs visited TBS. TBS encouraged them to aim for quality in the products they produce in order to expand their market scope in the country as well as in the East African Community (EAC).

She said the service of certifying products for entrepreneurs’ is paid for by the Government,

they only need to go through the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) and get an identification letter.

According to Mtemvu, once the entrepreneurs get an identification letter, TBS starts the process of verifying their products for free.

Mtemvu also said that they used the exhibition to educate the public about banned cosmetic products including the steps to follow so that they can confirm the quality of their products.

She urged Tanzanians to make sure that the products they buy are those with the TBS quality mark and that those who do food and cosmetics businesses make sure they register their premises. She tasked cosmetics traders to ensure that they produce, import, distribute, and sell cosmetics that do not contain toxic ingredients; as such cosmetics are harmful to the health of consumers.

Mtemvu also stressed that they used the demonstration to call on industrialists to come to TBS for an inspection of the equipment that they use in the industry for tests.

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

TBS embarks on developing AI safety, security standards



TBS Quality Assurance Officer, Eng. Evance Jeremia, educates engineers during the 21st Annual Engineers Day 2024 at Mlimani City, Dar es Salaam

By Rhoda Mayugu

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has embarked on developing standards to address safety and security issues associated with Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Eng. Mohamed Kaila emphasized that AI represents the future trajectory of global technological advancements and that TBS is committed to ensuring consumer safety.

Speaking on during Annual Engineers Day, “This year’s celebration is unique because

we are showcasing how we are prepared to uphold the quality of all products including those used in engineering projects,” Kaila said.

He highlighted that this year’s Engineers’ Day theme centers around Artificial Intelligence and TBS engineers have proactively begun developing standards to manage the associated safety and security concerns.

Mr. Kaila also noted that TBS has made substantial investments in state-of-the-art equipment for product quality testing.

He provided examples of these investments, including Solar Simulator Machine capable of testing various types of solar panels without the need for sunlight, which enhances the accuracy and reliability of the tests and hydrostatic pressure testing machine capable of testing plastic pipes with a diameter from 12 mm to 800 mm.

“As TBS, we are well-prepared and extend an invitation to engineers and consultants to utilise

our laboratories for testing the quality of their products. This will ensure that when these products are used in various projects, their performance meets the expected standards,” he added.

Additionally, Mr. Kaila emphasized TBS’s readiness to collaborate with contractors, engineers, and manufacturers in the development of engineering standards.

He also encouraged engineers to adhere to standards provided by the bureau to ensure consistency and excellence across the industry.

The ongoing development of AI standards is part of TBS’s broader commitment to advancing technology while safeguarding public interests.

By addressing emerging challenges and fostering collaboration, TBS aims to support the safe and effective integration of AI technologies into various sectors.

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

Msigwa commends TBS for supporting sports at workplace



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, Mr. Gerson Msigwa, issues a trophy to the captain of the winning football team during the Viwango Sports Bonanza held in Dar es Salaam.

By Rhoda Mayugu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has been commended for supporting the Government's efforts to promote sports at workplace by allocating budgets and allowing employees to participate in sports to improve their health and build good workplace relationships.

The remarks were made recently in Dar es Salaam by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, Mr. Gerson Msigwa, during Viwango Sports Bonanza for employees organised by TBS.

He noted that this enhances creativity and efficiency in the workplace.

He advised the TBS board and management to allocate budget to build quality sports facilities at the workplace to provide employees with a better environment for participating in various sports.

On his part, the TBS Chairman, Prof. Othman Chande Othman, said that Viwango Sports Bonanza was initiated five years ago, aiming to improve employees health and build unity.

“Players compete as two different teams, but once the game is over, they come together, which fosters friendship,” said Prof. Chande.

Furthermore, Prof. Chande stated that these sports events would contribute to having more player options to represent Tanzania in international competitions.

The TBS Sports Chairperson, Nyabuchwenza Methusela, noted that Viwango Sports

Bonanza helps employees overcome mental health challenges by focusing on sports, which alleviates stress and increases their efficiency when they return to work.

“Through sports, mental and physical health is improved, and employees become more diligent because they have enhanced their mental and physical well-being,” Nyabuchwenza added.



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, Mr. Gerson Msigwa, addresses TBS staff during the Viwango Sports Bonanza held in Dar es Salaam

TBS education campaign reaches over 6,500 in Arusha districts



TBS Public Relations and Marketing Manager educates entrepreneurs during community awareness in Arusha.

By Neema Mtemvu

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has successfully extended its awareness campaign on quality issues to 6,597 people, including 97 entrepreneurs, across six districts in Arusha Region.

The districts covered are namely Karatu, Ngorongoro, Monduli, Longido, and Arusha. The campaign, which began on August 16th and ended on August 29th was conducted by TBS officials.

TBS Public Relations and Marketing Manager Ms Gladness Kaseka reported that the education was delivered in open spaces such as markets and bus stations, where large numbers of people gathered to receive information.

The campaign aimed to educate the public

about the importance of using certified products, how to report substandard or expired products, and the significance of carefully reading packaging information before purchasing.

Ms Kaseka emphasized that combating substandard products is a collective responsibility involving all Tanzanians.

She urged the public to avoid buying products out of habit and to check expiration dates before purchase. If they encounter substandard or expired products, they should contact TBS through its free customer service number.

Additionally, the campaign provided entrepreneurs with guidance on the procedures for certifying their products.



Ms Kaseka highlighted that the sixth-phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan recognises the role of entrepreneurs in economic growth and has therefore made the certification process free for small-scale entrepreneurs.

She encouraged entrepreneurs to take advantage of this opportunity by presenting an introductory letter from SIDO to begin the free certification process.

Certified products, according to Ms

Kaseka, assures consumers of safety and compliance with international standards, facilitating their sale abroad without barriers.

She noted that the campaign has reached about 97 districts nationwide and will continue in the future.

Entrepreneurs who participated in the campaign hailed TBS for its outreach and educational efforts.

“I now know that once my products have the quality mark, I can sell them anywhere without obstacles, as buyers will trust them being certified by TBS,” said entrepreneur Anna Swai.

TBS urges Singida entrepreneurs to adhere to standards

By Maryam Abdulaziz

Entrepreneurs have been urged to ensure their products meet high quality standards to compete effectively in the East African Community (EAC) market.

This call was made by Mr. Sileja Lushibika, a Quality Assurance Officer from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), during a seminar for 46 entrepreneurs and local residents at the Seventh Economic Empowerment Programme Fair held in Singida from 8th to 14th of September this year.

Mr. Lushibika highlighted that, under agreements between EAC countries' standardisation bodies, once a product is certified in one member country, it does not need to be re-tested when entering other EAC markets.

“Everyone who participated in these exhibitions received education on how to achieve quality certification. We provide

them with best practices for processing since there are essential guidelines to follow for a product to be of high quality,” said Lushibika.

He added that TBS is committed to supporting entrepreneurs through this learning process.

By adhering to these guidelines and utilizing available resources, entrepreneurs can enhance their product quality and increase their market competitiveness.

The Bureau's goal is to empower local businesses to meet international standards and take advantage of opportunities within the EAC market.

He emphasized that the government is currently covering all costs for small entrepreneurs to certify their products' quality for three years, with the expectation that they will have developed sufficiently by then.

TBS plans to continue educating entrepreneurs on obtaining quality marks and addressing SMEs concerns about the difficulty of achieving certification.

Mr. Lushibika encouraged entrepreneurs to take advantage of the free product certification opportunity, noting that the

application process has been simplified and can now be completed online.

Applicants are required to provide an identification letter from the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) when submitting their certification requests.



TBS Quality Assurance Officer, Mr. Sileja Lushibika, educates entrepreneurs during the 7th Economic Empowerment Programme Fair in Singida.



TBS urges public to buy certified, non-expired products

By Rhoda Mayugu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has urged public to buy certified and non-expired products to protect their health and avoid potential dangers associated with substandard goods.

Ms. Rhoda Mayugu, TBS Senior Marketing Officer made the remark during the recent Tanzania International Manufacturers Expo (TIMEXPO) which was held in Dar es Salaam.

“It is essential for the public to develop a habit of thoroughly inspecting and reading product package before buying. By doing so, consumers can be sure with the quality of the product and avoid the costs or health risks associated with using substandard products,” she said.

She further explained that buying certified products not only promotes better health outcomes but also supports the local economy.

She urged consumers to report any encounters with expired or substandard products, emphasizing that such reports are crucial for curbing the proliferation of substandard products in the market.

In facilitating trade, Ms. Mayugu stated the Government through TBS has set aside funds to help SMEs to certify their products free of charges, where by obtaining TBS certificate they can expand and penetrate local and foreign market.

Entrepreneurs need only present an identification letter from the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) to initiate the process.

“Once they arrive with the identification letter from SIDO, the certification process will commence immediately, with no fees involved,” she said.

“The Government’s motivation is to see that SMEs produce quality products, so that our

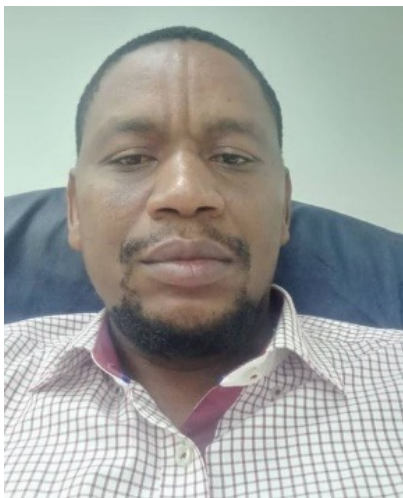
economy continues to grow and even reach the level of being one among the largest economies in Africa,” said Mayugu, adding that MSMEs have been recognized as important participants in developing the national economy.

On his part Mr. Aman Nyange, Marketing Officer Himo Tanners and Planters Ltd (HTPL), shared his positive experience regarding product certification, noting that obtaining the TBS quality mark has significantly broadened his market reach beyond Tanzania’s borders.

He echoed Mayugu’s remarks for SMEs to use government program of the free certification opportunity as this is a vital chance to enhance the credibility and marketability of products.

Nyange also encouraged traders and producers to visit TBS for educational resources on product quality and the importance of certification.

Tanzania’s blue economy: A catalyst for sustainable development



Masumbuko Noha

Tanzania, with its extensive coastline and rich marine resources, possesses immense potential to harness the economic benefits of the blue economy. By leveraging its marine wealth, Tanzania can contribute significantly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The blue economy is a term that encompasses all economic activities related to the ocean, seas, and coasts. It includes sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, marine tourism, renewable energy, and maritime transport. It has emerged as a promising avenue for sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Tanzania.



Six pillars of the blue economy. Source: Attri (2016), Blue economy: The past and present from the world and future directions for Thailand

According to the World Bank, the blue economy is “the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, job creation, and improved livelihoods, while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem.” This definition highlights the importance of balancing economic development with environmental protection

The potential of Tanzania’s blue economy

Tanzania’s blue economy offers a diverse range of opportunities. One such opportunity is in the area of fisheries and aquaculture. The country’s abundant fisheries resources can provide food security,

generate employment, and contribute to export earnings. Sustainable fishing practices and aquaculture development can ensure the long-term viability of these sectors.

Tourism is another opportunity in Tanzania’s blue economy. The country’s pristine

beaches, marine parks, and coral reefs attract millions of tourists annually. By promoting responsible tourism and investing in marine conservation, the country can capitalize on this sector while protecting its natural assets.

Maritime transport can also be exploited to build the country's blue economy. Tanzania's strategic location along major shipping routes makes it a potential hub for maritime transport. Developing modern port infrastructure and improving maritime services can enhance trade and connectivity.

Another opportunity in this aspect is renewable energy. Ocean-based renewable energy sources, such as tidal and wave power, offer a sustainable and clean energy alternative. Harnessing these resources can reduce dependence on fossil fuels

and mitigate climate change. Marine biotechnology is another opportunity that can be harnessed in blue economy. Research and development in marine biotechnology can lead to innovations in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and other industries which can ultimately contribute to the country's economic development.

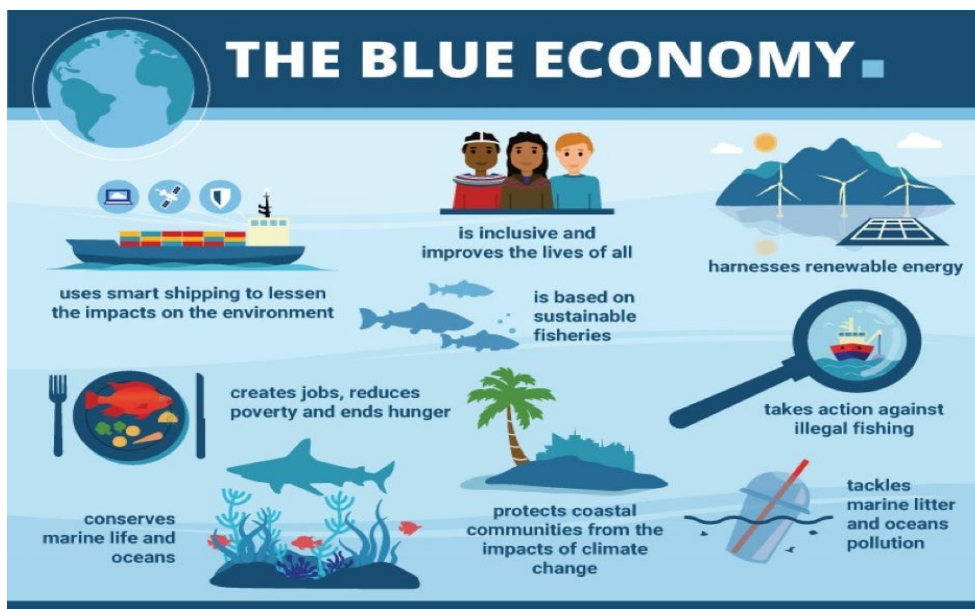
Contributions of the blue economy to the SDGs

The blue economy aligns closely with several SDGs. By creating jobs and generating income, the blue economy can help lift people out of poverty, especially in coastal communities, thus responding to SDG 1: No Poverty, while sustainable fisheries and aquaculture can contribute to food security and nutrition, thus addressing SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

Moreover, the blue economy

can generate employment opportunities and promote economic growth, thus realizing SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. Likewise, investing in marine infrastructure and promoting innovation in sectors like marine biotechnology can drive economic development, thus contributing to the realization of SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.

Furthermore, sustainable management of marine resources and conservation efforts are essential for protecting ocean ecosystems and biodiversity, in line with SDG 14: Life Below Water; whereas the blue economy can contribute to land-based conservation by reducing pressures on terrestrial ecosystems, thus realizing SDG 15: Life on Land.



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Challenges and opportunities of the blue economy

Tanzania possesses a significant potential in the blue economy. However, several challenges hinder its full realization. The challenges include unsustainable fishing practices which deplete fish stocks and damage marine ecosystems; land-based pollution and plastic waste which degrade coastal environments and threaten marine biodiversity; and climate change, i.e. rising sea levels and ocean acidification which pose significant risks to coastal communities and marine ecosystems.

Despite the challenges, there are opportunities and solutions. To harness the full potential of the blue economy, Tanzania must adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach which include sustainable resource management and in-

frastructure development. Under this strategy, the country needs to implement effective fisheries management plans and promote sustainable aquaculture; to invest in modern ports, transportation infrastructure, and renewable energy facilities; and to utilize specified fishing equipment, such as gill nets, adhering to relevant Tanzania standards including TZS 3001/EAS, Textile — Fishing gill nets — Specification.

The country can also strengthen marine conservation efforts by establishing and managing marine protected areas; reducing pollution and mitigating climate change impacts; and adopting and implementing relevant standards, such as TZS 3042/ISO 16304, Ships and marine technology — Marine environment protection — Arrangement and management of port waste reception facilities, to improve

port waste reception facilities.

Other opportunities can be tapped through research and innovation in marine biotechnology and other blue economy sectors, while enhancing cooperation with regional and international partners to address shared challenges and promote sustainable development.

By embracing the blue economy, Tanzania can create a more sustainable, prosperous, and resilient future for its people and its coastal ecosystems.

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Benefits of bioethanol as a clean cooking fuel



Miraji Kambangwa

Clean cooking fuels are fuels that meet specific emission rate targets and fuel recommendations to reduce indoor air pollution. Some examples of clean cooking fuels include alcohol/ethanol fuels (bioethanol) electricity, natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and biogas.

Clean cooking fuel is the agenda of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan with the government's goal of ensuring that 80 percent of Tanzanians use clean cooking energy by 2034 to protect the environment.



Ethanol (C₂H₅OH)

“Ensuring clean cooking access for all in Africa needs adequate, affordable, and sustainable financing for appropriate solutions and innovations; adequate global attention; and smart policies and partnerships. Successfully advancing the clean cooking agenda in Africa would contribute towards protecting the environment, climate, health, and ensuring gender equality. This summit underscores our commitment to advancing this agenda and providing a framework towards universal adoption of

clean cooking fuels and technologies across the continent,” said H.E. Dr. Samia when addressing the summit.

Worldwide, around 2.1 billion people still cook using solid fuels (such as wood, crop waste, charcoal, coal, and dung) and kerosene in open fires and inefficient stoves [2], and it is estimated that each year, 3.2 million people die prematurely from illnesses attributable to the household air pollution caused by the incomplete combustion

of solid fuels and kerosene used for cooking. Particulate matter and other pollutants in household air pollution inflame the airways and lungs, impair immune response, and reduce the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood (WHO 2024a).



H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan (3rd left) in solidarity with other leaders during the 2024 African Clean Cooking Summit (Picture by African News)

Traditional use of biomass for cooking can have harmful effects on people’s health and wellbeing, and the environment, leading to increased emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, poor indoor air quality, and deforestation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that around 60 people per 100,000 in Tanzania die prematurely each year from household air pollution (HAP).

HAP is a major health hazard caused by the inefficient use of solid fuels, like wood, charcoal, and coal, for cooking and

heating homes. The smoke from these fuels can contain high levels of pollutants that are harmful to health, including small soot particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs.

HAP can cause a range of health issues, including respiratory infections — HAP almost doubles the risk of childhood lower respiratory infections (LRI) and is responsible for 44% of all pneumonia deaths in children under 5. On ischemic heart disease, HAP accounts for over a million premature deaths annually. HAP is also responsible for approximately

12% of all deaths due to stroke and also responsible for 23% of all deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in adults in low- and middle-income countries. Moreover, household air pollution is responsible for approximately 11% of lung cancer deaths in adults. Women and children are especially vulnerable to HAP because they are often exposed to the smoke from cooking (WHO, 2024a).

Bioethanol/ethanol fuel is an alternative energy source derived from various sources such as food crops, biomass, and

algae, which is converted into fuel. It has recently emerged as a valuable and widely accepted bioenergy option for clean cooking to replace charcoal (2014 WHO guidelines).

In Tanzania, ethanol fuel, also known as ethyl alcohol is one of the clean cooking fuels used as a renewable fuel. The ethyl

alcohol contained in ethanol fuel is the same type of alcohol as found in alcoholic beverages. The main difference between ethanol fuel and alcoholic beverages is that the fuel is denatured to make it unfit for human consumption. In contrast, alcoholic beverages contain pure ethanol produced when yeast and microbes

ferment sugars in plants. Furthermore, ethanol fuel is denatured with a small amount of a denaturing agent, such as petroleum or gasoline, to make it undrinkable.



**Women in Haiti with ethanol fuel in bottles and ethanol cooking stoves
(Photo credit: Project Gaia)**

Benefits of bioethanol as a clean cooking fuel

Bioethanol/ethanol fuel is among the few fuels used for cooking that have the potential benefits for positive health [3], climate and environmental benefits [4], gender equality [5], increased employment

opportunity, earnings, time, and fuel-saving impacts [6], alongside other wider economic and welfare implications.

- **Health impacts**

Bioethanol fuels produce low emissions when burned and offer greater health benefits

that lower diseases caused by HAP. The use of bioethanol/ethanol fuel significantly reduces the negative health effects associated with open-fire cooking.

- Environmental impacts**

The environmental impacts of cooking using bioethanol include the lowering greenhouse gases and carbon neutrality, indoor and outdoor air pollution, biodegradability, deforestation, and the provision of warmth. Burning bioethanol is widely assessed to be a carbon-neutral activity, in the sense that the amount of carbon dioxide that is emitted during combustion is the same amount emitted by plants during photosynthesis [7].

- Economic and opportunity cost impacts**

The switching to using clean and modern energy sources for cooking has benefits beyond health and the environment, including a wide range of economic and opportunity benefits. These include job creation, gender equality/balance, reduced inequalities, reducing rural poverty, and enhancing energy security while at the same time reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels and their associated demand for foreign reserves, as well as wider economic sector

growth (e.g., in agriculture productivity and food security).

- Contribution to SDGs**

Bioethanol as clean cooking fuel can contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals in various ways, including strengthen agriculture (2, 15), improving health (3, 11), empowering women (5,10), improve livelihoods with green jobs (1, 8), reducing carbon emissions (13) and fighting deforestation (13,15).



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Conclusion

In the performance of its functions, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) regards the health, safety, environment, and general welfare of the people of the United Republic of Tanzania

(URT) by enforcing the National Compulsory Standards, TZS 3119, Denatured ethanol for use as cooking and appliance fuel — Specification, that specifies requirements for denatured ethanol fuel (bioethanol) for use as cooking

fuel and TZS 2911, Ethanol fueled cooking appliances — Specification, which stipulates the requirements for ethanol-fueled appliances for cooking.

To align with the agenda of the President of the United Republic



of Tanzania on clean cooking fuels, everyone is responsible for supporting, raising awareness, and understanding of the benefits of using more bioethanol as a domestic fuel, which results in positive impacts on human health, environment, and the country's economic development.

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