

KEBS HOSTS AFRICA'S TOP METROLOGISTS



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Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry at the Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana (right), presents a plaque to Dr. Wynand Louw (left), in appreciation for his service as AFRIMETS' Secretariat Chair from 2006-2023, during the organization's 17th General Assembly hosted by KEBS in Nairobi.

KENYA HOSTS 17th AFRIMETS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly emphasizes importance of
Measurements for sustainable development

Kenya HOSTS 17TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTRA-AFRICA METROLOGY SYSTEM-AFRIMETS

By Geoffrey Nyerere



Chief Guests at the AFRIMETS General Assembly led by the Principal Secretary, State Department of Industry Dr. Juma Mukhwana (2nd left) and Kenya Bureau of Standards Director, Quality Assurance and Inspection, Dr. Geoffrey Muriira (centre) and National Standards Council Member, Momanyi Nyabonyi (extreme left), enjoying a jig as the Assembly got underway.

The 17th General Assembly of the Intra-Africa Metrology System- AFRIMETS was held in Nairobi between 29th July- 2nd August, 2024 bringing together top metrologists from across Africa and beyond.

The General Assembly, whose theme was "Measurement for Sustainability", was originally slated for Ethiopia, but last minute cancellations saw Kenya, through the Kenya Bureau of Standards, stepping in as hosts.

It was officially opened by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry at the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana and attended by heads of national metrology institutes from

across the continent, representatives of various metrology organizations and officials from AFRIMETS.

Dr. Juma Mukhwana, in his speech, encouraged African economies to embrace accurate and internationally accepted measurements to unlock the continent's economic potential.

Dr. Mukhwana said there was a need for African economies to standardize their products for intra-Africa trade to thrive and to tap into global trade, and called on Africa to prioritize measurements in order to boost industrialization

Dr. Mukhwana pointed out that despite having the youngest population and an abundance of raw material,

Africa still rely on foreign markets for the supply of 85 percent of its manufactured products.

He said it was imperative that Africa develops systems and policies around metrology that can supplement industrialization so that the continent can consume more of what it produces.

The Principal Secretary emphasized the need for accurate and reliable measurements to accelerate and promote industrialization and trade in Africa. "As we develop these measurements, we need to ask ourselves one question, what difference will they make to our people", PS. Juma posed.

Dr. Mukhwana said accurate measurements were the cornerstone of quality infrastructure and have a profound impact on every aspect of our lives, from industry to innovation, commerce to conservation.

He underscored the importance of accurate measurement and monitoring for sustainable growth amid the shift towards sustainable future development. He pointed out that Africa's commodity-based economies, heavily reliant on extractives and agricultural exports, cannot thrive without a solid foundation of measurement.

Dr. Mukhwana, who was accompanied by National Standards Council member, Ms. Momanyi Nyabonyi and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Director of Quality Assurance and Inspection, Dr. Geoffrey Muriira, observed that Africa was facing a huge challenge to stay abreast of technological developments and to meet health, safety and sustainable environmental requirements.

He said this directly relates to the continent's ability to prove measurement equivalence and provide analytical assurances for export products.

The Principal Secretary however expressed optimism that AFRIMETS, through association with the Pan

African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI), the African Standards Organisation (ARSO), the Inter-African Cooperation for Accreditation (AFRAC), and the African Electrotechnical Standardisation Commission (AFSEC), could facilitate the international linkages to enhance a suitable environment for trade and sustainable development.

Dr. Mukhwana further said that through closer collaboration, African economies can realize industrial growth and progressively eliminate technical barriers to trade, thereby boosting their exports to the developed world.

He also expressed Kenya's commitment to measurements and said the country was enacting a National Quality Infrastructure policy to establish a legal framework to streamline and enhance the efficiency of the country's national Standardization, Metrology, and Accreditation matters.

Dr. Muriira, who was representing the KEBS Managing Director, Mrs. Esther Ngari, said the organization, as the custodian of the National quality standards, has a broad mandate of offering the most accurate measurements for the country's developing economy and facilitating sustainability in industrial production.

The Director highlighted the importance of accurate measurements in fostering sustainable development, enhancing quality of life, and ensuring environmental stewardship. He observed that metrology had gained greater significance for the continent as it pushed towards implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to create a single continental market for goods and services and free movement of businesspersons and investments.

Dr. Muriira noted that with the appropriate metrology measures, products from Africa will be measured against the same standards as those from other parts of the world, eliminating technical barriers to trade, reducing costs, and enhancing the credibility of African products. This will help open new markets for our goods and services, spurring economic growth and development across the continent.

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KEBS URGES FOR COOPERATION WITH MANUFACTURERS ON STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

By Solomon Kyenze



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Esther Ngari, while addressing the Business, Trade and Investment Good Governance Summit organized by the Public Service Governance International, in Nairobi on July 5th, 2024.

Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Esther Ngari has urged for closer cooperation on standards development with manufacturers so as to plug gaps affecting production. Ngari asked manufacturers to liaise with KEBS and suggest areas in need of new standards that could strengthen manufacturing.

The Managing Director made the suggestion while addressing the Business, Trade and Investment Good Governance Summit organized by the Public Service Governance International at the Luther Plaza Conference Centre, Nairobi on 5th July, 2024.

She said standards are critical for the sustainability and success of business and added that KEBS was prepared to

play its statutory role of fostering standardization for the sake of the country's economic growth.

"Promoting standardisation in commerce and industry is a core statutory mandate of the Kenya Bureau of Standards and one which has direct implications on the economic growth of the country", the Managing Director said,

Ngari described the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector as an emerging force in the country's industrial development and the government was keen to establish a conducive environment through which the sector could thrive.

She cited the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) as

one of the interventions by the government to harness the potential of MSMEs. "The MSME sector is a driving force for the country's economic transformation since the sector has the ability to generate jobs, foster innovation, and create a livelihood for our citizens", Ngari observed.

The Managing Director said it was incumbent upon KEBS to complement government's support for the MSMEs by laying in place systems and policies that act to empower their growth through training and certification.

She stated, however, that even as KEBS and the government work towards fostering standardization for the benefit of commerce, the industry should also be encouraged to

share experience on areas that could be improved so as to better production.

"The Kenya Bureau of Standards works earnestly to develop and curate standards that promote the best interests of our country. We continuously engage the industry in the development of new standards that are meant to be applied to various processes and it is my wish that manufacturers and producers will continue to reach out to us in areas where they feel there are insufficient standards so that we can work with them to develop them", Ngari advised.

The Managing Director said Kenyan products can only attain the right global standards through closer co-

operation among all industry players which would in turn contribute towards enhancing acceptance of local products at the global trade market. "It is of utmost importance as a country that our goods and services are seen to conform to global standards since this opens doors for Made in Kenya products to gain acceptance at the global market", said Ngari..

The Managing Director pointed out that the KEBS Strategic Plan 2023-2027 deliberately creates avenues for MSMEs to thrive by smoothing any legal bottlenecks that have been a hindrance to the growth of business, as well as promoting opportunities that the business community can leverage for growth and development.

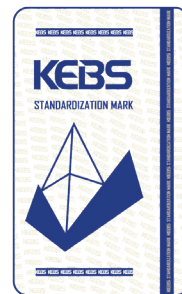
The Summit was also addressed by the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Public Service Governance International Ambassador Esther Waringa and representatives from the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, the Kenya Revenue Authority, the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

The MSME sector is a driving force for the country's economic transformation since the sector has the ability to generate jobs, foster innovation, and create a livelihood for our citizens



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KEBS TO ADOPT POLICIES TO SPUR GROWTH IN THE TEXTILE SECTOR

By Solomon Kyenze



Mr. Bernard Mukhwana, Kenya Bureau of Standards Assistant Manager, Quality Assurance in charge of textiles, makes a presentation during the textile stakeholders' forum in Kariobangi, Nairobi.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) is collaborating with relevant government departments to develop policies that will revive and boost competitiveness for the local textile sector.

The sector is beset with a myriad of challenges that impede its efficiency, hampering realization of its full potential as a key driver of economic development. The state of the sector was discussed during a textile stakeholders' forum held at Kariobangi, Nairobi in June which also delved into remedial measures that could revamp and resuscitate the sector.

KEBS Managing Director, Esther Ngari, who addressed the forum, acknowledged the importance of the industry to the country's economic growth

and called for concerted efforts from various stakeholders to enable the sector to play its rightful role in the country's production.

Some of the challenges identified as facing the sector include a harsh business atmosphere with high operating costs, limited access to financing and inadequate infrastructure. The sector also largely depends on outdated production technology, which compromises productivity and competitiveness.

Stakeholders also pointed out that a scarcity of high-quality local cotton had forced them to rely heavily on expensive imports, which often ended up in increased production cost, besides posing a risk to quality control. The influx of second-hand

clothing and competition from Asian markets has also continued to hit the industry hard, restricting its growth.

Ngari agreed that the challenges, which mostly affected firms operating outside the Export Processing Zones, had led to reduced operational efficiency and competitiveness and pledged more government support to revive the sector's fortunes.

She stated that KEBS was actively refining policies to create a more supportive business environment for textiles, including streamlining regulations to enhance both local and global expansion.

The Managing Director asserted that efforts were being adopted to boost

local cotton production by offering various forms of support, including implementing protective policies against imports, and enhancing the promotion and branding of Kenyan textiles to improve market presence and competitiveness.

She at the same time reiterated the government's commitment to embrace technological innovation through adoption of advanced, sustainable production methods that position Kenya as the forefront of global textile trends.

KEBS was meanwhile stepping up capacity building initiatives for the textile sector, customizing training and certification programs in order to significantly enhance the skills and productivity of the sector's workforce to increase their value addition and boost its international competitiveness.

"Our expansive workforce shows lower productivity and value addition than global standards, pointing to a critical need for enhanced skills training and modernization of technology," the Managing Director stated.

She said KEBS was keen to adopt and implement strategic initiatives that would spur quality and competitiveness in the sector. This includes investment in standardization with KEBS prepared to vigorously enforce standards that assure quality, safety, and environmental integrity.

The organization was also assisting local firms to navigate both domestic and international markets more effectively by guiding them on standards compliance so as to enhance uptake of their products in the global market.

KEBS also looks forward to closer collaboration with sectoral stakeholders to enhance sustainability including textile manufacturers, environmental experts and regulatory bodies by developing eco-friendly practices.

"By engaging with stakeholders across various sectors, KEBS ensures that policies and standards are robust, relevant, and supportive of industry growth. Together with industry stakeholders, KEBS is dedicated to shaping a textile sector that is innovative, sustainable, and globally competitive. This cooperative approach guarantees that our initiatives and standards are well-grounded in the current needs and future aspirations of the industry, paving the way for a thriving textile market in Kenya and beyond," the Managing Director said.



Participants at the Textile stakeholders' forum in Kariobangi, Nairobi pose for a group photo at the end of the event.

KEBS SPONSORS STUDENTS TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OLYMPIAD IN KOREA

By Solomon Kyenze



Kenya Bureau of Standards Principal Marketing Officer, Ms. Immaculate Chege (left), joins the Thika High School and Moi Girls High Nairobi team that represented the country at the 17th International Standards Olympiad held in Korea between the 23rd to 25th August, 2024.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) sponsored Moi girls and Thika high students to participate in the 17th International Standards Olympiad held in Korea between the 23rd to 25th August, 2024.

The competition, which is open to high school students, is meant to encourage the students to acquire a deeper understanding of how international standards affect their lives.

It is sponsored by the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards and the Korean Standards Association in collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

More than 40 participants from 10 countries will participate in the competition, with Kenya, through KEBS, sponsoring two teams of three who are drawn from Moi Girls High School, Nairobi and Thika High School. It is the third time that Kenya is sponsoring teams to the Olympiad.

Ms. Immaculate Chege, KEBS Principal Marketing Officer, said the Olympiad presents a golden opportunity for youngsters to inculcate a sense of quality in their lives.

"This competition is for young people to learn more about standards and to participate in the process of developing standards that can be

adopted for use internationally", explained Ms. Chege.

KEBS, which collaborates very closely with the organizing bodies, involved a series of schools in a rigorous pre-qualification exercise to select the Kenyan representatives to the Olympiad. Incidentally, Moi Girls High School also participated in the 2021 Olympiad going as far as winning the ISO award.

Ms. Chege said the two Kenyan teams had prepared well for the 2024 edition and were aiming to win the Platinum Prize which is the ultimate, and one that comes with cash incentives as well as global recognition.



Students from Thika High School and Moi Girls High School, Nairobi who represented Kenya during the 17th International Standards Olympiad held in Korea between the 23rd to 25th August, 2024 posing with the Kenya Bureau of Standards flag while in Korea. KEBS sponsored them.

She expressed KEBS' commitment to transforming Kenya into a global leader in standards solutions, and said capturing young minds in the quest to entrench quality as a way of life was a giant step in asserting Kenya's leadership in standards.

"With our vision to be a global leader in standards' solutions, global standards will start here by participating in international competitions like the International Standards Olympiad", said the Principal Marketing Officer. Ms. Chege said KEBS has been pro-

moting initiatives designed to inculcate a sense of standards in our youth. This includes engaging them in educational forums like the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Shows where they get to interact with KEBS standards' champions. KEBS also partners with schools in tree planting initiatives during which students are introduced to standards as well as KEBS broader mandate.

The Principal Marketing Officer also believes events like the International

Standards Olympiad go a long way in raising awareness about standards for the young. "By engaging schools to take part in competitions like the International Standards Olympiad, we are helping inculcate a culture of standards among our youth and in the process entrenching a culture of standards in our country", she said.

Ms. Chege encouraged more schools to take part in future pre-qualification exercises for the International Standards Olympiad.



The Moi Girls High School team that competed at the 17th International Standards Olympiad in South Korea when they visited the Kenya Bureau of Standards ahead of the Olympiad for orientation. Here, they're being congratulated by Hellen Wahu, KEBS Principal Communications Officer, at the KEBS offices.

KPA RECERTIFIED BY KEBS FOR ISO 9001:2015 QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

By Solomon Kyenze



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Esther Ngari (2nd from right), while presenting the Kenya Ports Authority management with recertification for ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System.

The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) has been recertified by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) for the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System.

This follows rigorous audits of the Authority's Quality Management System by KEBS, as the accredited Certification Body, which affirmed KPA's dedication and consistency in adhering to the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System requirements.

KEBS, as an accredited Certification Body, operates under the stringent guidelines of ISO/IEC 17021, ensuring impartial third-party assessments of quality management practices.

The KPA received the official recertification at its premises on 16th July, 2024, during an occasion addressed by the KEBS Managing Director, Esther Ngari, and witnessed by her KPA counterpart Captain William Ruto.

Mrs. Ngari, while congratulating the Authority for the feat, pointed out that the KPA had demonstrated relentless pursuit of excellence and a rigorous adherence to the highest global standards in quality management.

"The Kenya Ports Authority has demonstrated unwavering commitment to a Quality Management System that meets and often exceeds international benchmarks. This certi-

fication confirms KPA's dedication to continual improvement and sustainable excellence", the MD observed.

She said KPA's excellence and adherence to ISO 9001 was visible across all its operational sites, from Kipevu and Lamu to the Inland Container Depot and the liaison offices in Kigali and Rwanda, with each meticulously evaluated confirming the highest standards of excellence.

She recalled KPA's journey to attaining its first ISO 9001 certification, which was awarded on 18th March, 2009, which attests to the organization's commitment to sustained quality and leadership in public service management systems.

"The journey of Kenya Ports Authority over the past 15 years, maintaining your certification without interruption, is a profound testament to your dedication to sea-borne trade. This dedication encompasses marine operations, cargo handling, and short-term warehousing—crucial elements that sustain the robust flow of our trade network", said Mrs. Ngari.

The Managing Director however challenged the KPA, as well as other organizations that have received the ISO 9001:2015 certification, not to rest on their laurels, but to pursue other ISO certifications for excellence throughout their operations. She had in mind ISO 14001:2015 certification for environmental man-

agement and ISO 45001 certification for Occupational Health and Safety to protect and boost the productivity of employees, as well as embracing evolving standards and expectations of both local and international stakeholders for continual growth.

KEBS will conduct the next audit on KPA in January 20th, 2026, where it will seek to uncover even greater opportunities for enhancement, ensuring that KPA not only meets but sets new benchmarks in quality and operational excellence.

Ngari also noted that KEBS Certification Body's accreditation by the Dutch Accreditation Council, RVA, symbolizes a tripartite testament to

the organization's competence, credibility and commitment, all which were crucial pillars supporting both bilateral and multilateral trade, and by extension, economic growth.

KEBS, as an accredited Certification Body, operates under stringent guidelines.



Kenya Ports Authority staff are joined by Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Esther Ngari, in displaying the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System recertification awarded to the Authority by KEBS.

PICTORIAL

17TH AFRIMETS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NAIROBI (AUGUST 29TH JULY- 2ND AUGUST, 2024)



A section of metrologists from across Africa who attended the 17th AFRIMETS General Assembly in Nairobi



Grace Ateka, Kenya Bureau of Standards Head of Dosimetry, makes a presentation during the 17th AFRIMETS General Assembly.



A participant keenly following the proceedings at the 17th AFRIMETS General Assembly in Nairobi



Richard Odak, Kenya Bureau of Standards Head of Temperature Lab, makes a presentation at the General Assembly.



Redemta Cherotich (left), Kenya Bureau of Standards Ag. Marketing and Customer Care Chief Manager, enjoying a light moment during the 17th AFRIMETS General Assembly



Charles Musee, Kenya Bureau of Standards Chief Manager, Metrology, during the 17th AFRIMETS General Assembly

KEBS MD TOURS HOLILI, OLOITOKITOK ONE-STOP BORDER POINT



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Esther Ngari (centre), in a group photo with Oloitokitok KEBS staff.



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Esther Ngari, meets staff at the Organization's Oloitokitok office.



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Esther Ngari, and Director, Quality Assurance & Inspection, Dr. Muriira Karau, inspecting some of the goods at the Oloitokitok entry point.



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Esther Ngari, and Director, Quality Assurance & Inspection, Dr. Muriira Karau, inspecting tyres passing through the Holili One-stop border point.



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Esther Ngari, meets staff at the Holili office.



The Managing Director's tour was meant to assess KEBS' operations in inspection of incoming goods.



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Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have,
and only you can determine how it will be spent.

Carl Sandburg



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EDITORIAL TEAM: Managing Editor: Verah Akomo **Content Editor:** Geoffrey Nyerere,

Editorial Consultants: Humphrey Odhiambo, Solomon Kyenze, **Content contributors:** Urbanus Kissiu,

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For feedback, queries or comments, please contact the communications office via Email: communications@kebs.org | Tel: 020 6948458/265

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