

## STATE AGENCIES IN TRADE SECTOR MEET CABINET SECRETARY



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Investments, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano (Seated at the centre) joins heads of state agencies under her ministry for consultations. She was accompanied by the Principal Secretary, State Department of Industry Dr. Juma Mukhwana (on the CS' left). Some of the state agencies' heads included: Seated: Dr. Robi Mbugua Njoroge- Executive Director, Anti-Counterfeit Authority (l) and Gideon Apiyo- Acting Chief Executive Officer, Scrap Metal Council (2nd left), Standing: Prof. Thomas Kipkurgat- Managing Director, Rivatex (extreme left), Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director Esther Ngari (3rd from right), Numerical Machining Complex Acting Managing Director George Makateto (2nd from right) and Kenya Industrial Property Institute Managing Director John Onyango (extreme right).

## CS REBECCA STATE AGENCIES TO ALIGN TO BETA

KEBS among State Agencies that have pledged to align to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda



*Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director Esther Ngari while addressing a consultative meeting called by Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano at a Nairobi hotel in January to align on the operations of state agencies that fall under the Ministry. Ngari updated the CS on the status of KEBS, including the development of a Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2027.*

*By Geoffrey Nyerere*

**I**nvestments, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano has directed Semi Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs) within her Ministry to align their programs with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) for better service delivery.

The CS invited respective heads of the SAGAs, who included the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Managing Director Esther Ngari for a consultative meeting at a Nairobi Hotel on the 24th January, 2024.

Miano said SAGAs had an important role to play in catalysing the revival of the country's trade and asked them to exercise their mandates to help achieve this goal.

"Your organizations are the levers of this Ministry, the tools we have to deliver on the targets given to us and I expect you to play your part to help realize these targets", said the CS.

Among the targets is for manufacturing to contribute 15% of the Gross Domestic Product by 2027.

The SAGAs were challenged to focus on improving their productivity and embrace good corporate governance and strict adherence to the rule of law if they were to succeed.

They should also prioritize innovation and embrace new technologies that would improve their processes and delivery.

Miano described SAGAs as sleeping giants that must now be awakened to play their rightful role in engineering the economic growth of the country.

She directed the Agencies to align their operations to the government's BETA agenda for better service delivery and to help improve the livelihood of Kenyans starting with those at the lower economic cadre.

Principal Secretary in the State Department of Industry Dr. Juma Mukhwana asked the SAGAs to onboard all their services to the eCitizen portal as required by the government to ensure transparent and efficient services to the public.

The KEBS MD who was among the CEOs that updated the CS on the status of their respective organizations said KEBS had finalized its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan whose key focus is facilitating trade and enabling a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

The Strategic Plan which is aligned to the BETA agenda, will enable KEBS to transform its regulatory and non-regulatory business operations to serve the country and the international community better.

The MD affirmed that KEBS was on course to attain its Key Performance Indicators and had improved its efficiency in among other areas the issuance of quality certificates, turnaround time for product testing and the development of new standards.

The MD pointed out that KEBS had so far developed over 12,000 standards which were currently in use.

She said KEBS needed support in upgrading its ageing infrastructure including development of modern testing laboratories to further improve on efficiency.

The MD also appealed to the Ministry to lobby for the passage of the 2019 Standards Bill to unlock some of the bottlenecks that the standards body is currently facing, including legal risks.

The MD said KEBS was aiming to double its revenue for the year, from Ksh. 6.2 billion in 2023 to 12 billion in 2024

**“Your organizations are the levers of this Ministry, the tools we have to deliver on the targets given to us and I expect you to play your part to help realize these targets”**

# NSC RE-ENERGIZES KEBS OPERATIONS WITH KEY APPOINTMENTS

By Urbanus Kissiu



*Caroline Outa moves from Mt. Kenya Regional Manager to head the Lake Region office.*



*Jackline Kang'iri is the new Mt. Kenya Regional Manager. She previously served as Chief Manager for Testing.*



*Bernard Nguyo who was Chief Manager, Quality Assurance at the Head Office moves to the Coast as Regional Manager*

The National Standards Council (NSC), the body that supervises the operations of the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) has appointed new sectional heads as it seeks to re-energize the Bureau's operations especially at the regional level.

The Council which met towards the end of last year appointed 19 new leaders and managers to head various KEBS offices in a bid to revamp the organization's operations to improve on service delivery and help it execute its mandate more efficiently and effectively.

Bernard Nguyo who was Chief Manager, Quality Assurance at the Head Office moves to the Coast as Regional Manager while Andrew Maiyo takes over as Chief Manager ICT. Maiyo was the Regional Manager for the Lake Region.

Caroline Outa who was the Mt. Kenya Regional Manager moves to the Lake Region to replace Maiyo with her previous position now being taken over by Jackline Kang'iri who was serving as Chief Manager for Testing.



*Charles Musee takes over as the new Chief Manager for Metrology at the Head Office from being Coast Regional Manager*

Josephat Bangi who was previously Chief Manager, Metrology now takes over as Regional Manager, South Rift while Abdinassir Harret is the acting Regional Manager, North Eastern.

Charles Musee takes over as the new Chief Manager for Metrology at the Head Office from being Coast Regional Manager with Cyrus Wambari replacing Ms. Kang'iri as Chief Manager Testing from leading the South Rift office.

Melvine Ougo has been appointed Acting Chief Manager for Human Resources at the Head Office. Melvine was previously Manager for Staff Training and Development.

Other appointments are:

- **John Kirimi Marete**, Chief Manager Administration, from Chief Manager ICT
- **John Kabue Maina**, Acting Chief Manager Quality Assurance, from Manager, Quality Assurance in the Food Division
- **Mildred Dangai Eboi**, Acting Manager Quality Assurance from Principal Quality Assurance Officer in the Food Division
- **Tom Oduor**, Manager-Testing Lake Region, from Manager-Inorganic Laboratory
- **Anthony Irungu**, Manager- Lab Management System at the Head Office from Manager-Food & Agriculture
- **Tabith Orwa**, Manager, Inorganic Laboratory at the Head Office

from Manager-Polymer Laboratory

- **Isaac Mugenya**, Manager- Food & Agriculture at the Head Office from Manager- Testing at the Lake Region
- **Dr. Caleb Luvonga**, Acting Assistant Manager & Head of Organic Lab at the Head Office from Principal Laboratory Analyst
- **Jerome Nzuba**, Manager- Polymer Laboratory at the Head Of-

office from Manager-Organic Laboratory

- **Victor Gacuca**, Manager-Mechanical Metrology from Manager- Instrumentation Metrology
- **Dominic Ondoro**, Manager Instrumentation Metrology at the Head Office from Manager- Mechanical Metrology.

KEBS Managing Director Esther Ngari

who communicated the appointments in a circular to all staff wished the newly appointed managers success in their new roles.

She requested the rest of the staff to accord them the necessary support and cooperation.

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Report cases to KEBS

# 1545



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# KEBS MD HOSTS ARSO PRESIDENT, SECRETARY GENERAL



African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) President Professor Alexander Dodoo, who also doubles up as Director General of the Ghana Standards Authority presents Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director Esther Ngari with the Authority's corporate brochure when he paid a courtesy call at the KEBS Headquarters.

By Solomon Kyenze

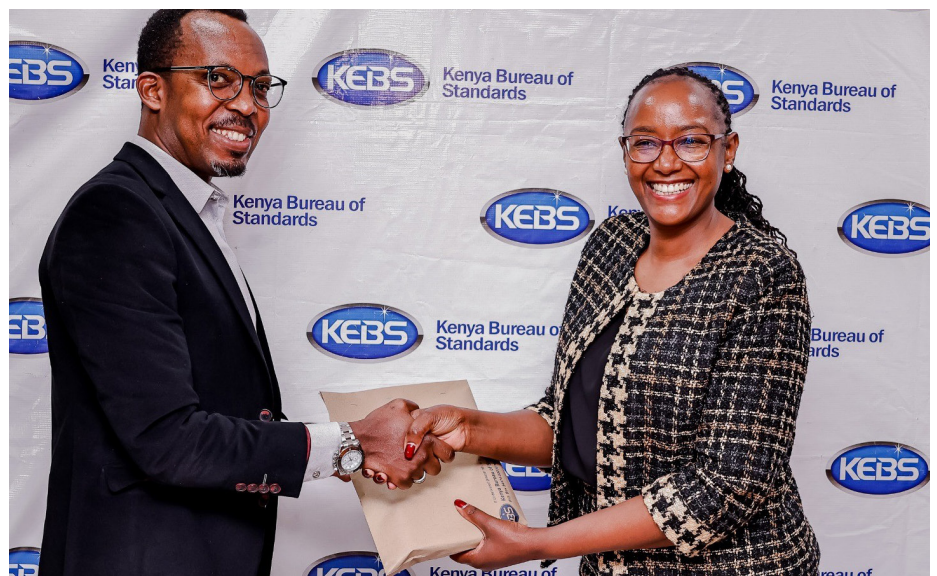
Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Managing Director Esther Ngari played host to the leadership of the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) who paid her a courtesy call at her office on the 24th January, 2024.

ARSO President Professor Alexander Dodoo who doubles up as the Director General of the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) was accompanied by ARSO Secretary General Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana during the visit to the KEBS Headquarters.

The discussions explored the possibility of a mutual recognition agreement between KEBS and the GSA on among other areas the common regulatory controlled areas, the GSA officials' benchmarking visit to KEBS as well as the possibility for training on performance management through the Balanced Scorecard methodology.

Ngari and Prof. Dodoo emphasised the need for increased trade between Kenya and Ghana, especially under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement/ Guided Trade Initiative, for which both Kenya and Ghana are participating countries.

The KEBS MD assured the ARSO officials of ongoing consultations by the Kenya government to fasttrack the establishment of a permanent ARSO Headquarters in Nairobi. She also welcomed the greater cooperation between KEBS and GSA, especially in capacity building and on benchmarking towards the development of the Kenyan National Quality Policy aligned to the African Quality Policy. Dr. Hermogene emphasised the importance of the ongoing initiatives for increased standards harmonisation and common/coherent regulatory framework for the implementation of the AfCFTA, including the Continental African Continental Technical Regulatory Framework (ACTReF), African Quality Policy, the Made in Africa Qualification Criteria document, the AfCFTA initiative on endorsement by African Ministers of Trade on the universal adoption of ARSO harmonised standards and dropping divergent national/regional standards as per AfCFTA TBT Annex 6.



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director Esther Ngari shares corporate documents about KEBS with African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) Secretary General Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana when a delegation from Organization paid her a courtesy call at the KEBS Headquarters.

# KEBS TO TIGHTEN SURVEILLANCE IN THE TEXTILE SECTOR



Participants who attended a workshop for textile stakeholders in the North Rift organized by KEBS in Kitale posing for a group photo.

By Solomon Kyenze

**T**he Kenya Bureau of Standards has assured the textile industry of intensified surveillance to check the proliferation of sub-standard garments into the country.

KEBS has challenged the industry to develop specifications for quality of textiles being used in the market to help weed out substandard products.

KEBS hosted textile industry players in the North Rift Region to a workshop in Kitale to sensitize them on product standards' requirements so as to ensure that textile products in the region were compliant.

Participants included representatives from the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Women in Business Association and manufacturers from the poultry

and chemicals industry. KEBS officers from the Quality Assurance, Market Surveillance, Standards Levy and Customer Care departments were also in attendance.

KEBS North Rift Regional Manager Vincent Cheruiyot said the workshop was in line with the Kenya government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) which recognizes the textile industry as a potential value chain that can spur economic growth.

Participants engaged KEBS on measures the organization was taking to deal with substandards imported textiles that were a key raw material in the textile sector.

Cheruiyot said proliferation of the substandard products was spurred by growing demand by consumers seeking cheap options as well as diversion of goods on transit into the

local market. Unscrupulous traders were also taking advantage of porous border points to sneak in sub-standard products.

The Regional Manager challenged manufacturers to ensure that the raw materials they are using are of high quality.

This, he said, could be achieved by developing specifications of the raw materials and verifying their quality before acceptance.

The manufacturers were also advised to be vigilant and report any cases that they may detect of sub-standard garments in the market.

Cheruiyot assured the participants that KEBS had stepped up market surveillance activities and was closely working with other government agencies to ensure such products were kept at bay.



Some of the textile industry players in the North Rift following the proceedings at a textile stakeholders workshop organized by KEBS in Kitale.

Participants requested KEBS to consider extending the validity of the S-Mark permits from the current 2 years to 5 years.

KEBS encouraged them to lobby for the same with the National Standards Council through some of their representative bodies like the KNCCI and the KAM.

Among those who addressed the workshop included the Chairman of the KNCCI in Trans Nzoia County Mar-

tin Waliaula and CEO Vincent Wekesa, KAM North Rift Region Chairman William Ong'are and Director of the Women in Business Association Gerude Khisa.

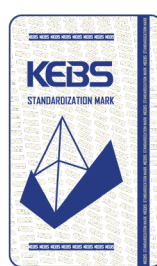
Other representatives from KEBS who made presentations during the workshop included Clement Komu, Assistant Manager for Quality Assurance, Benjamin Chelimo, Standards Levy Officer, Flora Serem, Market Surveillance Officer and Richard

Muchina, Senior Quality Officer. While thanking KEBS for the initiative, Waliaula urged textiles sector players in the region to establish an association through which they could better lobby for their interests.

Ong'are expressed optimism that the region's textile sector was destined for growth with recent support to local manufacturers like RIVATEX and Ken Knit by the government.



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# KEBS STAFF GO HIKING AT THE SCENIC NGONG HILLS



*The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) gym group take a moment for a group photo after a grueling hike of the Ngong Hills on February 3rd this year. The hike was the group's inaugural outdoor activity with plans to follow it up with a hike at the Karura Forest.*

**T**he Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Gym Group enjoyed a memorable fitness experience with an inaugural hike at the Ngong Hills on February 3, 2024.

The hike was a testament to our commitment to holistic fitness and outdoor activities.

Nestled just southwest of Nairobi, Ngong Hills promises a captivating hiking experience that showcases the natural beauty of Kenya.

Recently, we embarked on a journey along the undulating ridges of the hills, with the adventure proving to be a spectacular exploration of picturesque landscapes and physical challenges amidst the region's diverse flora and fauna.

## Scenic Beauty

Ngong Hills boasts a stunning landscape, with undulating peaks offering panoramic views of the Great Rift Valley and the vast plains below.

The vibrant greenery, adorned with occasional bursts of wildflowers, enhances the picturesque charm of the surroundings. As we ascended, each vantage point revealed a new facet of the Kenyan countryside, creating an immersive and awe-inspiring experience.

## Challenges and Rewards

The hike at Ngong Hills offers a balanced mix of challenges and rewards, making it suitable for hikers of various skill levels.

The well-marked trail presents steep ascents and descents, testing one's physical endurance and agility. However, with each challenge comes a reward – be it a breathtaking view from a ridge, a cool breeze rustling through the grass, or the sense of accomplishment at reaching the summit. Ngong Hills provides a holistic experience that engages the body, mind, and spirit.

## Flora and Fauna

Ngong Hills is a haven for diverse flora and fauna, contributing to the ecological richness of the region. Various butterfly species accompany hikers along the trail. The hills are also home to unique plant species adapted to the high-altitude conditions.

The presence of this rich biodiversity enhances the overall hiking experience, offering opportunities for nature enthusiasts to appreciate and connect with the environment.

The hike at Ngong Hills is an unforgettable journey through Kenya's natural wonders.

The panoramic vistas, physical challenges, and encounters with diverse flora and fauna collectively contribute to a rewarding and enriching experience. Ngong Hills stands as a testament to the remarkable beauty Kenya has to offer, making it a must-visit destination for avid hikers and nature enthusiasts alike.

## Appreciation

The KEBS Gym Group expresses sincere gratitude to the KEBS management for their invaluable support that significantly contributed to the success of our recent hike.

Looking forward, our next event will unfold amidst the tranquillity of Karura Forest, and we warmly invite our other colleagues to join us in appreciating the beauty of nature.

Your continued support is highly valued, and we anticipate sharing this enriching experience with you in the serene surroundings of Karura Forest.



# KEBS County Visits



KEBS staff members led by the North Rift Regional Manager Vincent Cheruiyot (Front row 2nd from right) when they met with Uasin Gishu County officials during the on-going sensitization tours for counties on 7th February, 2024.



KEBS staff members led by Mt. Kenya Region Quality Assurance Manager Peter Ndisi (3rd left), meeting with Embu County Trade CEC Francis Ndwiga during the on-going sensitization tours for counties on 7th February 2024.



Hellen Wahu, KEBS Corporate Communications doing a presentation during a media sensitization workshop in Embu on 7th February 2024.



Embu journalists attentively following the proceedings when KEBS hosted them for a sensitization workshop on February 7th 2024.



Uasin Gishu County journalists pose for a group photo with KEBS North Rift Regional Manager Vincent Cheruiyot (3rd from left front row) during a media sensitization tour on February 7th, 2024.



You are never too old to set another goal or to dream  
a new dream.

**C.S. Lewis**



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