



Kenya Bureau of
Standards
Standards for Quality life

New Year Edition **2024**

NEWSLETTER

2023: A TRANSITIONAL YEAR FOR KEBS



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KEBS Bids Eventful 2023 Goodbye

KEBS Consolidates Standardization
Journey in 2023



KEBS staff members communicating a strong theme of pulling together as they bid 2023 goodbye during a staff party at the end of last year.

By Geoffrey Nyerere

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) welcomed 2024 with excitement and anticipation as the national standards body gears to commemorate its Golden Jubilee.

Kenya's journey towards excellence in standardisation and quality commenced in 1974 with the formation of KEBS and since then the country has distinguished itself as a trend-setter in quality standards development which has had a significant impact on the nation's trade, reputation and well-being of its citizens.

Being KEBS' Golden Jubilee year, 2024 bears special significance for KEBS as one of the organisations that will heavily be relied upon to unlock the potential of the Small and Medium Scale Enterprise sector and help in delivering the government's transformative Bottom Up economic agenda.

KEBS Managing Director Esther Ngari while giving an outlook for 2024 said the year heralds an exciting era for KEBS as the organisation sets its sights on enhancing service delivery, harnessing cutting-edge technology

and forging strategic partnerships.

While addressing staff during Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano's visit to KEBS Headquarters towards the end of last year, Ngari said KEBS was looking forward to a year of unprecedented growth, away from the challenges that characterised the organisation in 2023.

She said priority was to keep building on the initiatives adopted to drive innovation and to set new industry benchmarks in order to help propel the country towards faster economic growth.

The MD expressed optimism that KEBS will continue to play a pivotal role in the global standards and quality sphere owing to the strong foundations laid in its structures and operations.

"With a clear vision, KEBS is on course to become a respected leader in standards and quality. This is deeply ingrained in our core values; professionalism, sustainability, customer focus, patriotism, integrity and team spirit. A pure reflection of our culture," she said.

KEBS can also look forward to closer cooperation from the government in 2024, with CS Miano pledging to the KEBS community during her visit to support and cooperate with the organisation in order to enable it fulfil its constitutional mandate.

Said the CS, "KEBS is a vital foundation for our nation's well-being. By standardizing processes, products, and services, KEBS instils trust and confidence across the Kenyan economy. Its' impact is profound, reaching every corner of our market and safeguarding our collective future."

She further added, "The government fully recognizes KEBS crucial mandate and stands firmly with the organisation. My Ministry will provide unprecedented support through policies that will continue to maintain high standards, ignite innovation, and cultivate excellence."

Miano pointed out that the KEBS performance contract which has grown steadily after the worldwide standstill of Covid 19, is a true depiction of the drive that this organization holds.

KEBS has also revised its programs aligning all its activities to the ideals of the AU Agenda 2063, Kenya Vision 2030 and the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.

This commitment and loyalty to the Government agenda, the CS said encourages her Ministry to back all activities done by KEBS in helping the country given the delicate role that the organisation undertakes.

Miano challenged the staff to uphold standards in order to assure

safety, quality and integrity and reminded them of the importance of their work in shaping a secure and dependable marketplace.

KEBS is expected to build on the platform of engagement with international standards-setting bodies in 2024, especially after highly successful engagements in 2023 when the organisation played host to top leadership of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) which helped

“The government deeply appreciates your commitment to excellence and your adaptability in meeting these challenges head-on. You are the unsung heroes who make everyday life safer and better for every Kenyan

CS. Miano.



catapult Kenya into the international spotlight.

During 2023, KEBS also had the privilege of having some of its staff members appointed to sit on international committees. The committees comprise the Technical Management Board (TMB) of ISO, the ISO Committee for Conformity Assessment (CASCO) and the Intra-African Metrology Systems (AFRIMETS) for the Joint Committee of Regional Metrology Organizations (JCRB).

The invaluable experience they gather at these international forums will help enrich the KEBS experience setting the organisation to further excel at the international quality standards front.



KEBS MD Esther Ngari share a light moment with fellow KEBS staff members in December, KEBS welcomes 2024 with a renewed sense of unity and togetherness.



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2023, A year of achievements for KEBS despite harsh operating atmosphere



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director Esther Ngari at her office. Her appointment as substantive MD was one of the key highlights of KEBS' activities in 2023.

By Solomon Kyenze

Despite a difficult operating environment occasioned by global economic challenges whose negative impact was felt locally, 2023 still emerged as one of the most industrious in the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) history.

It was a year that KEBS consolidated its vision of becoming a global leader in standardisation. Some of the key highlights in KEBS 2023 calendar included:

1. Launch of 416 new emerging standards

During celebrations to mark the World Standards Day on October 16th, KEBS launched 416 new emerging standards across various sectors spanning from food, electrotechnical, agriculture, chemical, engineering, leather, and textiles. Ten of the standards relate to intelligent transport systems and come at a time when the country is grappling with

the nightmare of road carnage that claims hundreds of lives annually.

The ten standards will help the country meet target number 3.6 under SDG 3, which aims to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents. It will also contribute to meeting target number 11.2 of SDG 11, focusing on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

The World Standards Day commemorates the critical role of quality in the daily lives of citizens, and the positive impact that quality has on businesses, consumers and society at large.

The day, which serves as a platform for advocating compliance with quality standards, consumer protection and continuous innovation, provided the perfect setting for the local standards industry led by Industry, Trade

and Investments Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano to launch the new emerging standards.

The launch helped fortify Kenya's relentless pursuit of excellence, safety and innovation, with the CS describing the standards as the backbone of the aspirations of Kenya Vision 2030, and congratulating KEBS for ensuring that local products are globally competitive and offer both quality and safety.

2. Development of the KEBS 2023-2028 Strategic Plan

KEBS 2023-2028 Strategic Plan which was refined during the year redefines KEBS operations as the national standards body in the next five years, having a significant impact on the country's social economic development.

The Plan is anchored by 3 main pillars; trade facilitation, technical services and standards. These pillars are further complemented by the strategy foundations which are technology, innovation, institutional capacity, and the policy and legal framework.

This is a testament to KEBS' mission of providing standardisation, metrology, and conformity assessment services that safeguard consumers and facilitate trade for a sustainable future.

The Strategic Plan will provide an enabling environment for businesses, including the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda value chain to prosper.



Some of the 15 double cab vehicles launched by KEBS in October to support its nationwide operations

It was arrived at through an extensive consultative process that involved both internal and external stakeholders among them the Industry, Trade and Investments Ministry.

3. Recognition by International standards bodies

The year also saw KEBS host top leadership of some of the global key players in standardisation and quality, including those from the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The visits helped catapult Kenya into the international spotlight, affirming our steadfast dedication to excellence.

Several KEBS staff members were meanwhile honoured with appointments to join the membership of several international committees, including the Technical Management Board (TMB) of ISO, the ISO Committee for Conformity Assessment (CASCO) and the Intra-African Metrology Systems (AFRIMETS) for the Joint Committee of Regional Metrology Organizations (JCRB).

This has demonstrated the quality of expertise at the KEBS, and also promises good tidings for the national standards body and the country as the experience they gain from those bodies will be invaluable.

4. Appointment of new staff members

The KEBS family grew further during the year with the recruitment of 108 new staff members. KEBS now has 1,119 qualified staff who are distributed across its various offices around the country.

The additional staff have come in handy in helping KEBS serve the country better as it fulfils its constitutional mandate.

5. Appointment of new senior management

The organisation saw several senior appointments made in the course of the year, which has gone a long way in stabilising its leadership and projecting a positive image of steady stewardship to the outside world.

Key appointments include Esther Ngari as the substantive Managing Director, as well as Chris Kibet as the Director for Human Resources and Administration.

The appointments also extended to the National Standards Council where a new Chairman, Peter Munyiri was appointed during 2023.

Munyiri has since been appointed by the President to serve as Kenya's High Commissioner in India.

6. New fleet of Vehicles

The organisation boosted its nationwide operations by acquiring 15 new state-of-the-art all terrain vehicles.

The fleet of double cab vehicles was flagged off by the National Standards Council Chairman Peter Munyiri flanked by the Bureau's Managing Director Esther Ngari at the KEBS head offices on October 24th 2023.

Though a difficult year, the monumental achievements made by KEBS in 2023 have helped strengthen the organisation's position as the national standards body, besides fortifying its position in the global standardisation stage.

Chairman Munyiri's short stint leaves lasting impact on standards' entrenchment



Outgoing National Standards Council Chairman Peter Munyiri (right) joins Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano (Center) and Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director Esther Ngari on stage as the CS addressed KEBS staff during her first official visit to the KEBS Head office on December 19th 2023.

By Solomon Kyenze

Peter Munyiri's tenure as chair of the National Standards Council (NSC) though short lived, has left an indelible mark in the standards sector, laying a firm foundation for the future of the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).

Munyiri was appointed by H.E. The President as Kenya's High Commissioner to New Delhi, India in October last year.

The President had demonstrated his faith in Munyiri's abilities earlier in July last year when he selected him from the private sector to head the NSC, the policy-making body that supervises and controls the administration and financial management of the KEBS.

Munyiri's tenure at the helm of the Council has had a profound impact on the immediate and long term future of KEBS.

One of his key achievements has been helping the development of the KEBS 2023-2028 Strategic Plan and specifically having it aligned to the Kenya Kwanza development agenda. The Plan is expected to have a long term impact on not only the operations of the standards body, but also the country's social economic development.

KEBS is a strategic organisation that is mandated to support the realization of the government agenda towards industrialization for socio-economic development and the Strategic Plan has been carefully crafted to align to the Bottom-Up

Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) as well as the fourth medium term plan.

The new strategic direction is geared towards transformation of processes for enhancement of service delivery and organisational resilience. It enables KEBS to transform its regulatory and non-regulatory business operations to serve the country and the international community better.

The Strategic Plan will specifically impact trade facilitation, providing an enabling environment for businesses, including the BETA value chain to prosper.

Through Munyiri's leadership, KEBS has been able to operationalize the strategic direction by developing strategies that were further subject-



The Chairman (right) does a jig during the KEBS end-year party in December 2023.

ed to stakeholders' review and validation yielding the Strategic Plan.

Among the other key moments for the outgoing Chairman was overseeing the process of selecting and appointing a substantive Managing Director to take over the helm of the KEBS.

A rigorous process that attracted both local and international applicants was midwived by Munyiri's NSC culminating in the appointment of Esther Ngari.

While formally presenting Ngari to KEBS on the 16th October last year, the Chairman described the appointment as landmark, and one of the significant decisions by the Council that was bound to have far reaching implications.

He expressed pride that Ngari, who had been acting in the role, had emerged the most qualified from the transparent and competitive process which was a positive indication of the internal capacity that the national standards body had.

Munyiri praised Ngari's resilience, focus and dedication describing her as results-driven, attributes that KEBS will require going forward if it is to successfully navigate through the challenges of the future.

The NSC Chairman also joined KEBS staff at an end of year party, and was at hand to receive Industry, Trade and Investments Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano when she toured KEBS Headquarters during a busy December.

During the end-year party Munyiri highlighted some of the accomplishments by management during the year towards staff welfare and career progression.

He cited the successful negotiations with Union leaders as well as the positive engagement with the Salaries Review Commission that have led to the upgrading of KEBS staff salaries to grade 7A. These two milestones will have a profound effect on staff welfare.

The management also effected major changes in leadership and staff development, promoting several employees while those who were on acting capacity were confirmed.

Munyiri's expressed confidence that he would be leaving KEBS, and by extension the standards sector in capable hands and with stable leadership which would assist KEBS to effectively and efficiently execute its constitutional mandate.

“ KEBS is a strategic organisation that is mandated to support the realization of the government agenda towards industrialization for socio-economic development and the Strategic Plan has been carefully crafted to align to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) as well as the fourth medium term plan ”

Standards sector mourns NSC member Gilbert Langat

By Urbanus Kisiu



The late Gilbert Langat on December 8th last year while attending an end year party at the Kenya Bureau of Standards. He was serving his second term as a member of the National Standards Council.

The regional standards and trade sector is in mourning following the demise of Gilbert Kiprono Langat on the 28th December 2023.

Langat, an authority in the East African logistics sector, suffered cardiac arrest while undergoing treatment for renal failure at a hospital in Kericho.

He was an outstanding member of the National Standards Council (NSC), the policy making body that plays a supervisory role over the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), and has served for many years as Chief Executive Officer for both the Shipper Council of Eastern Africa and the Kenya Shippers Council.

Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano mourned Langat by describing him as a pillar of the NSC and a formidable force at the national standards body KEBS where he served as Chairman of the Technical, Trade and Permits Approval Committee and as a member of the Finance Staff and General-Purpose Committee.

The CS said his death had cast a shadow of sorrow across the country, particularly within the spheres of trade and facilitation and operational efficiency, citing the pivotal role the late Langat played in the development of the Port Charter which has had a significant impact on the country's trade.

"His rare blend of expertise, foresight, and dedication not only reshaped our trade landscape but also set a new paradigm in operational excellence and service delivery. His visionary leadership steered us towards a future where efficiency and effectiveness are not just goals, but standards we live by", said Miano.

She observed that Langat's exceptional service and leadership led to his reappointment in 2018 as a member of the NSC and that throughout his tenure at the Council, the deceased distinguished himself through a series of innovative solutions and strategic initiatives that significantly advanced the nation's trade practices.

"The departure of Gilbert Langat is more than just a loss; it marks a defining moment that compels us to reflect on the extensive impact of a man whose life exemplified extraordinary dedication to our nation's trade sector. His journey was not merely a career; it was a mission imbued with visionary leadership and unwavering commitment. The legacy he leaves behind is not only enduring but also an inspiration that will enlighten and guide future generations," the CS said.

She urged the standards and trade sector to recommit itself to the ideals championed by Langat for the sustained welfare of the nation's trade.

Outgoing NSC Chairman Peter Munyiri eulogised Langat as a dedicated member of the Council who contributed immensely to elevation of trade standards and shaping policy that strengthened Kenya's trade standing globally.

He noted that Langat's tenure as the CEO of the Shippers Council of Eastern Africa and his involvement in various national committees demonstrated his broad impact on Kenya's trade and infrastructure development.

He previously served as a Board member of the Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA), and member of among other organisations

the Railway Consultative Committee, the Chief Executives' Forum, the National Business Agenda, Railways Training Institute and the CEO Forum System. He also chaired the Mombasa Port Corridor Charter and Presidential Round Table Committee.

He held an Executive MBA from Copenhagen Business School/Inoorero University and has received training on Corporate Governance from the International Centre for Leadership and Development (ICLAD) and the Institute of Internal Auditors among others.

Langat is survived by his wife Charity and daughter Shirlene. The KEBS community condoles with the family and prays that his soul rests in eternal peace.



A Tribute to Gilbert Kiprono Lang'at, Member of the National Standards Council.



The late Gilbert Langat (extreme left) observes as Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano plants a commemorative tree when she toured the Kenya Bureau of Standards in December last year.



The late Gilbert Langat (left) accompanied by Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director Esther Ngari (right) as they conducted Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano on a tour of KEBS



The late Gilbert Langat (center) enjoys a light moment with Kenya Bureau of Standards staff members on December 8th last year. It was one of his last official engagements as a member of the National Standards Council.



The late Gilbert Langat (extreme right) witnesses the launch of new vehicles for the Kenya Bureau of Standards in October last year.



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Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

Helen Keller



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

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

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