



Kenya Bureau of Standards
Standards for Quality life

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NEWSLETTER

KENYA'S STANDARDS' JOURNEY EPITOMIZED BY KEBS' HALF CENTURY OF EXISTENCE



IN THIS ISSUE

KEBS MARKS GOLDEN JUBILEE

REGIONAL METROLOGY CONFERENCE HELD IN MOMBASA

KEBS ROOTS FOR ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STANDARD

MADE-IN-KENYA EXPO PROMOTES LOCAL PRODUCTS

KEBS' TURNS 50

KEBS now key in country's economic agenda

IMPORTANT MILESTONE FOR KENYA'S STANDARDS AS KEBS CLOCKS 50 YEARS

By Geoffrey Nyerere



The main administrative block at the Kenya Bureau of Standards Headquarters in Nairobi

July 2024 marks the Golden Jubilee for the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and with it an important milestone for the country's quality and standardization aspirations.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards was established in July 1974, and ever since, the organization has undergone momentous growth and transformation. The organization is now an integral part of the country's push for sustainable development.

At inception in 1974, KEBS' mandate was merely overseeing development of standards and quality control for a limited number of locally made products. However, ever changing national developmental dynamics have seen the KEBS

mandate transform over the years and with it additional functions.

KEBS is now charged with overseeing wider aspects of standards development as well as other critical functions that include Metrology, Conformity Assessment, Training and Certification services.

The re-establishment of the East African Community (EAC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has also seen the body assigned functions that cut across regional borders including overseeing harmonization of Standards, Measurements and Conformity Assessment regimes for regional integration.

KEBS influence has with time further

grown, surpassing local and regional levels. By affiliating to global quality standards' organizations, KEBS has enabled the country to leverage on opportunities at a global scale to develop and grow its trade while adopting policies that protect the well being of local citizens and the environment.

Among the international organizations that KEBS is an active member include the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), CODEX Alimentarius, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) all which are influential in setting and overseeing global trade rules.

Today, KEBS' mandate has been expanded exponentially, and is guaranteed under the Standards Act, Chapter 496 of the Laws of Kenya. The organization's mandate includes;

- Promotion of standardization in industry and commerce.
- Making arrangements or providing facilities for the examination and testing of commodities and any material or substance from or with which and the manner in which they may be manufactured, produced, processed or treated.
- Controlling the use of standardization marks and distinctive mark.
- Preparing, framing, modifying or amending specifications and codes of practice.
- Encouraging or undertaking educational work in connection with standardization.

- Providing for co-operation with the Government, representatives of any industry, any local authority, other public bodies or any other person, with a view to securing the adoption and practical application of standards
- Providing for co-operation with the Government or the representatives of any industry or with any local authority or other public body or any other person, with a view to securing the adoption and practical application of standards.
- Providing for the testing of locally manufactured and imported commodities with a view to determining whether such commodities comply with the provisions of this Act

With such a mandate, KEBS is at the very heart of the country's economic development as the driver of standards that are the lifeline for the growth and sustainability of trade.

Over the years, KEBS has also forged close working relations with several public and private sector organizations in execution of its mandate. Some of these entities include the Ministry of Health (Public Health Division), Department of Weights and Measures, Pest Control Board, Kenya Dairy Board (KDB), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), Consumer Federation of Kenya (COFEK), Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Anti-Counterfeit Agency (ACA), Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), Kenya National Chamber of Commerce (KNCC) and the Kenya Police.

The next half century provides exciting prospects for KEBS as the country breaks into new grounds that demand sustainability.



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Esther Ngari.



National Standards Council chairman Mr. Anthony M. Muniyiri.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE AFFIRMS IMPORTANCE OF METROLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By Solomon Kyenze



Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Mrs. Esther Ngari, addresses the Regional Metrology Conference which was held in Mombasa on 15th July, 2024.

Delegates from more than 15 countries across Africa attended the 2024 Regional Metrology Conference in Mombasa where the importance of metrology, as a catalyst for sustainable growth, was affirmed.

Over 70 delegates travelled to the coastal city for the 3-day conference that was hosted by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) whose theme was, "Measurements for Sustainability".

In her speech during the official opening of the Conference, KEBS Managing Director, Mrs. Esther Ngari, observed that the world's technological advancement has heavily relied on metrology which plays a critical role in promoting sustainability and addressing the challenges facing the planet.

"Metrology, as we are all aware, plays a crucial role in promoting sustainability and addressing the pressing challenges facing our planet. Sustainability is about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Metrology, as the science of measurement, is integral to achieving this goal," Mrs. Ngari noted, adding that by providing accurate and reliable measurements, metrology enables informed decision-making, promotes efficiency and facilitates the development of sustainable practices across various sectors.

The Managing Director also outlined the important role played by metrology in ensuring sustainability in various industries by saying, "Accurate measurements are essential for monitoring and managing resources efficiently, reducing waste

and minimizing environmental impact. By establishing standardized measurement techniques and units, metrology helps organizations track their progress towards sustainability goals and make informed decisions."

She further observed that all sustainability issues ranging from energy technology, environment and climate, healthcare, e-mobility, quality products and services, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), digital transformation, quality infrastructure and sustainable cities, which featured as points of discussion at the Conference, all depended on metrology.

Mrs. Ngari said the Conference's theme resonated well with the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development and the collective quest for "The Africa

we want” initiative which aims for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development to transform Africa. It was also well aligned with the EAC Vision 2050 and other regional and international policies geared towards economic transformation, trade facilitation and sustainable development.

She said the Kenya government recognizes the importance of sustainable development and the crucial role that measurements, in this instance metrology, can play in fostering the sustainable growth and development of our economy.

“The government recognizes the potential of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to catalyse development and has, through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), put in place policies and mechanisms designed to unlock the innovative potential of the sector, with metrology among the key components of these mechanisms,” Mrs Ngari said, while applauding the timing of the conference at this moment when Kenya is focused on the importance of measurements as a driver of its economic growth.

The Managing Director said the conference offered a unique opportunity to learn many metrological concepts and to exchange various scientific research findings for the common good of our society.

She told the gathering that KEBS had taken a lead role in sustainability, en-

shrining it as a driving force for its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan as it undertakes its core mandate of overseeing Standards, Metrology Conformity Assessment services in the country.

Mrs. Ngari pointed out that KEBS had developed sustainability-based standards in the region like in the e-mobility industry where the organization has been a leader in developing standards for the sector.

KEBS also projects to develop and adopt about 290 standards by 2027 that aim to mitigating climate change, thereby, increasing the relevant climate mitigation standards. The KEBS is also offering measurement solutions in energy consumption and gas monitoring measurements to keep track of greenhouse emissions, as well as environmental monitoring measurement solutions, among others.

“Without accurate measurements, sustainable development goals will remain unattainable,” she said, pointing out that the attainment of sustainable development goals would depend on the ability to measure accurately and precisely.

The Managing Director observed that the future of metrology lies in its continued evolution and adaptation to meet the evolving needs of society, and that to confront the challenges of climate change, resource depletion and environmental degradation, metrology would

play an increasingly critical role in supporting sustainable development initiatives worldwide.

Mrs. Ngari said KEBS, as a National Metrology Institute, was open to collaboration and was committed to offering the most reliable measurement solutions and support.

The Conference was also addressed by representatives from the Kenya National Accreditation Service and the Weights and Measures Department as well as other distinguished metrologists from across the continent.

Metrology, as we are all aware, plays a crucial role in promoting sustainability and addressing the pressing challenges facing our planet.



Dr. Katya Delak, US National Institute of Standards and Technology, delivers the keynote speech that centered on Metrology and e-Mobility during the official opening of the Regional Metrology Conference in Mombasa on 15th July, 2024

KEBS ROOTS FOR ISO 50001 ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STANDARDS AMID SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CONCERNS

By Solomon Kyenze



Mr. Charles Maru, Chief Manager, National Quality Institute Kenya Bureau of Standards' presents a gift to a participant during the Energy Management System Workshop in Naivasha on June 26th, 2024. He represented the KEBS Managing Director, Mrs. Esther Ngari during the official opening of the workshop.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) is encouraging manufacturers to adopt the ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management System (EnMs) standard for sustainable energy management in the wake of growing climate change concerns.

Standard which provides a robust framework designed to ensure sustained energy-efficiency gains. Efficient energy use has come into sharp focus in recent years as the global economy reels from unprecedented climate change challenges that have visited devastating consequences on the global socio economic fabric.

The ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management System is among initiatives to mitigate some of the challenges by ensuring efficient energy use.

KEBS, as the national custodian of the ISO 50001:2018 EnMS standard, has rallied the industry to adopt the policy for efficient energy use. KEBS mobilized energy professionals from the private and public sector to an energy management workshop in Naivasha on June 26th to drum up support for the standard under the theme, "Driving Energy Efficiency: Adopting ISO 50001 for Sustainable Energy Management Practices". The workshop was a build up to the inaugural Energy Management workshop by KEBS in September 2023 in Nairobi.

KEBS Managing Director, Mrs. Esther Ngari, while addressing the workshop, highlighted the grim environmental challenges the world was currently facing including elevated rainfall and floods, droughts and famine all which demanded for decisive collective action.

"We stand today on the edge of a new frontier - a frontier of climate change, a frontier of unknown threats and opportunities. We have seen the recent devastation caused by elevated rainfall and floods on one hand and extended drought and famine on the other hand. This grim manifestation of climate change is a wake-up call for each one of us to take and support climate change mitigation measures in order to safeguard the present and protect the future," Mrs. Ngari observed.

The Managing Director called for sustainable energy management practices across all sectors of the economy stating that the government was stepping up climate adaptation and mitigation efforts including green energy, smart agriculture, de-carbonized manufacturing, e-mobility and green building, all which are aimed at the attainment of zero carbon by 2050.



Ms. Winfred Kimuya of the Metrology Department at the Kenya Bureau of Standards makes a presentation during the Energy Management System Workshop in Naivasha on June 26th, 2024.

Mrs. Ngari pointed out that the government, in the 2024 Budget Policy Statement, has committed towards sustaining a Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda for economic recovery and improved livelihoods through creating a supportive and conducive environment for the growth of renewable energy, making it more competitive with the abundant renewable energy sources and accelerating the transition to a more sustainable energy future.

Furthermore, to support production of reliable and affordable energy, the government is allocating funds towards alternative energy technologies.

The Managing Director implored the participants to adopt the ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management System standard explaining that it provides a robust framework designed to ensure sustained energy-efficiency gains.

The standard further provides requirements that, if implemented, enable institutions to develop a policy for more efficient use of energy, set targets and objectives to meet that policy, gather data to better understand and make decisions concerning energy use, measure the results, review the effectiveness of the policy, and continually improve energy performance.

She also pointed out that implementation of the standard provided an opportunity for legal compliance with part VIII of the Energy Act CAP 314 of the Laws of Kenya containing far-reaching provisions on energy efficiency and conservation for which compliance is mandatory and for which penalties upon contravention are understandably substantial.

The meeting tackled some key topics around Energy Management Systems including reviewing energy management in the 21st century, the legal framework of energy management and the benefits of ISO 50001, as well as the roadmap to adopting the standard. Success stories on integration of ISO 50001 with other management systems were also featured.

Mrs. Ngari ended by calling on energy stakeholders to support KEBS to drive climate adaptation and mitigation efforts through standardisation for a sustainable future.



Participants pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the Energy Management Workshop in Naivasha on June 26th, 2024.

KEBS, KENYA ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS PARTNER IN MADE-IN-KENYA EXHIBITION

By Urbanus Kissiu



Mombasa Governor, Abdulsamad Shariff, while officially opening the 4th Edition of the Changamka Shopping Festival at the Oshwal Centre, Mombasa on 4th July, 2024.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) partnered with among others, the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) to sponsor the 4th edition of the Mombasa Changamka Shopping Festival which was meant to promote locally manufactured products.

The Exhibition, which was held at the Oshwal Centre in Mombasa between the 4th to 7th July, 2024, saw tens of local manufacturers showcase high-quality Made-in-Kenya products, in line with the Buy Kenya Build Kenya initiative which KEBS promotes as part of efforts to grow the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector.

Customers attending the exhibition were treated to hundreds of items at discounted prices. Mombasa Governor, Abdulsamad Nassir, who officially opened the fete expressed satisfaction at the level of innovation and diversi-

ty within the manufacturing sector and pledged his government's support for local manufacturers.

"As the County government of Mombasa, we are committed to the growth of the local manufacturing sector. We will work hand in hand with our manufacturers, providing them with skilled workforce to ensure efficient and effective services that will promote their operations. By working together we will be able to foster economic growth and development of our region", the Governor assured.

The KAM Coast Region Chairman, Mr. Abdallah Athman, expressed gratitude for the support from the county government and other stakeholders in promoting the Buy Kenya Build Kenya initiative to enhance competitiveness and productivity.

Mr. Athman said the Changamka Shopping Festival has often provided a gold-

en opportunity to exhibit 100% Made-in-Kenya products, with shoppers directly interacting with manufacturers which provides a solid customer care experience.

KAM Head of Consulting and Business Development, Ms Joyce Njogu, described the Changamka Shopping Festival as a significant occasion for KAM that represents the Association's commitment to promoting and supporting locally made products.

Ms. Njogu explained that the festival kicked off in 2016 then known as the Kenya Manufacturing Summit and Expo and has since grown to become KAM's flagship event.

Other sponsors included the Stanbic Bank Kenya, NCBA Bank Kenya, Smart Expo India and the Grass Roots Business Fund.



Shoppers exploring locally made products during the 4th Edition of the Changamka Shopping Festival at the Oshwal Centre, Mombasa on 4th July, 2024

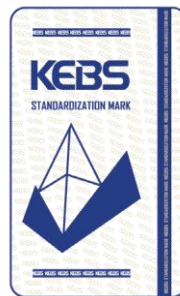


One of the presenters during the Changamka Shopping Festival



Kenya Bureau of Standards
Standards for Quality life

Buy Products with



KEBS Marks of Quality for a Quality Life

PICTORIAL

Regional Metrology Conference



A panel discussion as the Regional Metrology Conference got underway in Mombasa between the 15th to 17th July, 2024.



Some of the participants drawn from 15 countries in Africa and beyond attended the Regional Metrology Conference held at the coastal city of Mombasa between the 15th to 17th July, 2024



Participants follow proceedings during the 3-day Regional Metrology Conference held in Mombasa between the 15th to 17th July, 2024 and hosted by the Kenya Bureau of Standards.



Mr. Charles Musee, Chief Manager, Metrology-Kenya Bureau of Standards addresses the Regional Metrology Conference held in Mombasa on July 15th to 17th, 2024



Mr. Bernard Nguyo, Coast Regional Manager, Kenya Bureau of Standards addresses the Regional Metrology Conference in Mombasa on the 15th July, 2024.

Changamka Shopping Festival at Oshwal Center, Mombasa



KEBS was honored to host Mombasa Governor, Abdulsamad Shariff Nasir, at the grand opening of the @KAM_Kenya Changamka Festival at the Oshwal Centre Mombasa exhibition.



Governor, Abdulsamad Shariff, visits some of the stalls at the Changamka Shopping Festival in Mombasa

Meet us halfway

Let's do this together

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Strive not for success alone but for a life well-balanced and fulfilling.

Catherine Pulsifer



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#ThankYouForbelieving

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