

UNBS QUALITY AWARDS

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Movit scoops UNBS quality award

By Samuel Balagadde

Movit, a manufacturer of cosmetics has scooped the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) top quality award this year. The annual event held at Pearl of Africa Hotel in Kampala last week recognised local companies whose products have consistently met both national and international standards. The gala was organised to promote quality and encourage local businesses to produce goods that match the set standards. This is both for the safety of consumers and to ensure that buyers get value for money.

This year's theme: "Promoting Ugandan manufactured Products", echoes the current government trade policy of Build Uganda Buy Uganda (BUBU) aimed at stimulating growth in the economy by encouraging consumption of locally manufactured goods.

UNBS lauds Movit

The UNBS executive director, Dr Ben Manyindo, praised Movit and other companies for their consistent good performance. He said Movit met the rigorous certification standards and compliance measures.

He said this year's quality awards coincide with the ongoing BUBU campaign. As part of the campaign, UNBS is offering support to Small Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to ensure that they meet the required standards.

Last financial year, Manyindo said UNBS scaled up its certification activities and issue 899 certification permits mainly to SMEs to gain access to regional and international markets.

"Standards are important in ensuring that products remain competitive in the local and international markets.

"Quality products are not only important in ensuring that the customer gets value



Agnes Baguma, the director of quality and regulatory services at Dairy Development Authority joins Movit staff after they emerged the overall winners for this year's UNBS quality gala held at Pearl of Africa Hotel in Kampala last week

for money, but also promote both local and international trade thereby contributing to economic growth," Manyindo said.

The categories for the quality awards this year included; Overall Winner which Movit bagged, first runner up, Winner from the SMEs and Winner of the Services Award.

The companies identified through the Product Quality Certification Scheme are required to have quality goods in terms of customer safety and capability of accessing the lucrative regional and international markets.

Manyindo said to attain certification, a company has to apply to UNBS and quality auditors are dispatched to the factory for an audit based on standards applicable to the product. He said during the exercise samples of the product are taken to UNBS for testing.

Trade ministry responds

Michael Werikhe, the state minister for trade, while handing over the top quality award to Movit, praised UNBS for organising the awards, saying it has promoted



Robert Kitenda pledged to deliver better products during the UNBS Quality Awards

competitiveness of local products through standardisation and quality assurance.

"The Buy Uganda Build Uganda policy and strategy, from which tonight's theme was derived, has made strides in ensuring that locally manufactured products get a fair share of the local market," Werikhe added.

He said countries that have become industrialised have often built the competitiveness of their local industries by first winning the hearts of local consumers, before going on to dominate international markets.

Private sector

Gideon Badagawa, the executive director of Private Sector Foundation

Uganda (PFSU), said quality is what enhances competitiveness. He said Movit and other companies that have been recognised should be emulated.

He said the BUBU policy developed by the trade ministry is driven by the private sector with support from PSFU and Uganda Manufacturers Association. He said they were advocating for consumption of locally manufactured goods.

"Today, Uganda's import bill stands at a whopping \$6.2b (sh21 trillion) while the export capacity is merely \$2.8b (sh9trillion)," he said.

He added that we import goods worth \$800m from China, yet we export goods worth \$27m (sh90 trillion) to China. He said with a trade deficit of more than \$3b (sh11trillion), Uganda must quickly implement a policy that stimulates growth in the economy.

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Excellence

Bruce Mpamizo Movit's director for sales and marketing attributed their achievement to adherence to UNBS quality assurance guidelines. He said the company produces over 180 cosmetics products with most dominating both the local and regional markets.

He said UNBS has also been instrumental in linking them to international certifying bodies for products it has not begun working on.

Robert Kitenda, the media and advertising manager of Movit, said their products are popular in the region.

He said the support of the UNBS quality assurance team and advice on best practices have sustained them in the first position in the cosmetics industry despite other mushrooming products on the market.

"Movit chairman and founder Simpson Burundi always emphasises quality above all other aspects in the production chain. The quality of our products is demonstrated by the increased demand and positive feedback from consumers," Kitenda said.



Bruce Mpamizo, Movit's director for sales and marketing showing off the awards scooped at the gala