

Coffee authority issues October 1 ultimatum for unlicensed firms

By Noah Jagwe

The Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) will continue to close all coffee dealers, buyers and factories that do not meet the required standards for processing and handling coffee.

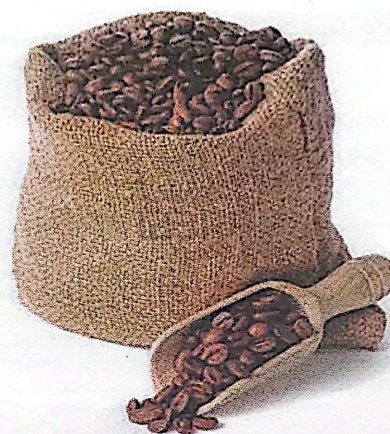
Apollo Kamugisha, the acting director of development services at the authority, said all those involved in coffee trade and do not have licences must apply to acquire them in order to operate. In 2011 Uganda's coffee came close to being rejected on

the international market because it was said to be mouldy.

Kamugisha noted that for six years, UCDA has sent out advisories to people in the coffee value chain to use the right processes and ensure proper handling and storage, but many remain adamant.

"We are saying enough is enough to the factories without international grades. Coffee is food; you cannot put food in substandard factories and storage facilities," he said.

Kamugisha said by October 1, no factory or trader will be allowed to



operate below guidelines for coffee quality.

"If you have not upgraded your machines since 2011, we will not give you a licence," Kamugisha said.

He said the dealers and traders have been warned since 2011, but have intentionally or inadvertently refused to comply.

The Government has also designed a coffee development programme it expects to use to eradicate poverty by 2020, after it was realised 68% of farmers are

involved in coffee farming.

The remarks were made at the recent unveiling of Celebrate Hope Ministries Coffee Factory, a sh500m facility to help the locals in Kyotera to add value to their coffee and deliver the locals from poverty to wealth.

"There is need for farmers to work as a group because I believe this will add value to their coffee and increase production hence strengthen the management of farming cooperatives," Frederick Gume, the state minister for co-operatives said, as he launched the factory.

FOREX Rates

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar	3595	3615
Euro	4175	4271
Pound	4664	4763
Kenya	34 47	34 9

