

DEADLY BUSHERA ON THE MARKET

BY CAROL KASUJJA

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has warned Ugandans against consuming beverages produced by Mob Investments located in Bweyogerere, Wakiso district.

Some of the beverages UNBS warned against are Maisha mango juice, Kigezi Bushera, Real Flavoured mango and orange drinks.

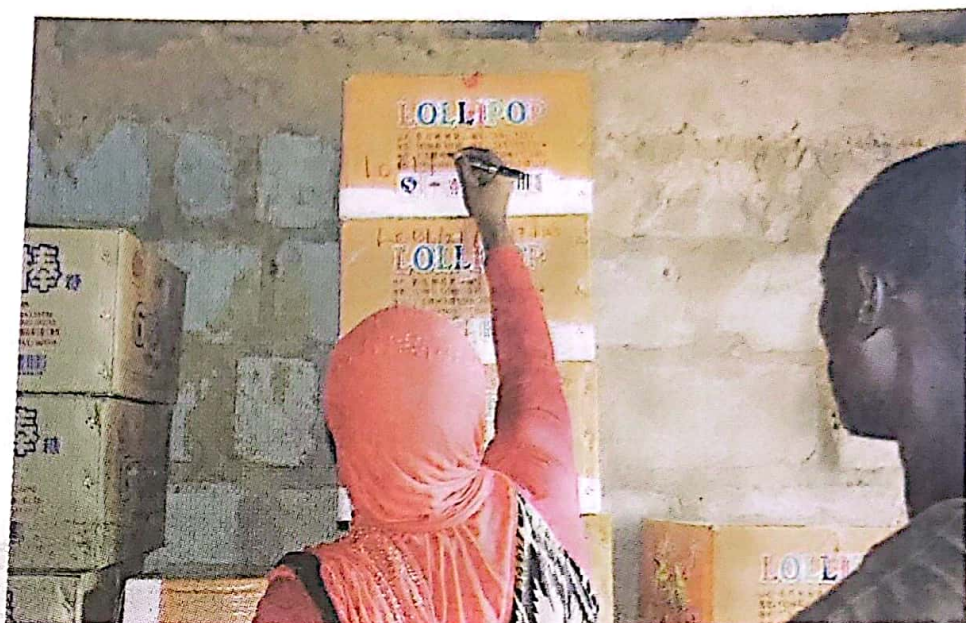
According to UNBS, Mob Investment does not meet the minimum requirements to manufacture the products.

"Our market surveillance team seized boxes of deadly juice from Bweyogerere. We inspected the manufacturer's premises and discovered that the conditions under which the flavoured drinks were being produced were unhygienic, posing a health risk to consumers. The were in complete violation of Uganda Standard (US) 28:2002 on code of practice for hygiene in the food and drink manufacturing industry," John Paul Musimami, the deputy executive director in charge of compliance, said.

He explained that every juice or *bushera* drink must have a visible expiry/manufacturing date and contacts indicated on the bottle. If the drink you are buying does not have those, do not take it because it is fake. Drinks made in Uganda must have a quality mark by UNBS in bold letters.

Meanwhile, UNBS also confiscated 369 cartons of expired confectioneries with altered expiry dates.

The confectioneries worth sh70m were seized from a warehouse belonging to Luck Star Business Link in Ntinda Industrial Area, Kampala.



The UNBS staff marking some of the goods impounded recently

RESULTS OF IMPROMPTU VISIT BY UNBS

UNBS publicist Godwin Bonge Muhwezi said when they visited Mob Investments, they found the labels on the products in foreign languages with conflicting expiry dates.

"We seized the confectioneries in line with our mandate to protect the public from consuming products that are likely to be harmful to their health. The original expiry dates were removed using thinners and replaced with locally printed stickers," Muhwezi said.

Muhwezi also noted that some products had conflicting shelf

lives. "For instance, we found conflicting shelf lives of 12 months and two years on the same products."

"We call upon company owners who are selling drinks to check the brands they give to people. We will soon conduct raids and anyone found supplying fake drinks will be arrested and charged in court. We cannot compromise on health issues. We are urging the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious elements on our toll free line: 0800 133 133," he warned.