

Prone to risks: Companies, especially those in the construction and machinery sector are prone to risks that can present serious impact on workers' performance.

Work place safety and risk handling is important

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As organisations strive to achieve targets, one important aspect is almost forgotten - work place occupational health and safety.

Many organisations, especially those in the manufacturing and construction sector are prone to risks that can impact performance.

Occupational safety and health is defined as the science of anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of hazards arising in or from the workplace that could impair the health and wellbeing of workers.

This definition is contained in the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2006 that details how workers should be protected against workplace harm.

Occupational safety and health has the capacity to impact productivity and has had serious impact on the performance of Uganda in relation to other East African countries.

According to Georges Asea Aswa, the head of risk at KCB Uganda, it is important to ensure that companies adequately minimise risks presented to workers in the currently demanding work environment.

Companies, he says, often face different kinds of risks on a daily basis, some of which have far reaching im-

plications on the survival and sustainability of a company.

"Companies need to train and educate employees to embrace anti-risks measures as well as integrating them in all their actions and decisions," he says.

Ronaldly Miti, the health and safety manager at Uganda Breweries, says such risks cause loss of valuable time through Loss Time Accident (LTA), if they are not well attended to.

Early this week, Uganda Breweries launched a campaign to mark 10 years of "No Lost Time Accident", a campaign that seeks to create a safe working environment not only at UBL but across Uganda as a whole.

Loss Time Accident is a type of accident that causes an employee to skip work for a day or more to pursue treatment.

Such kinds of accidents are common in large plants with heavy machinery.

The commitment to attain a safer working environment through promoting the Loss Time Accident campaign, according to Miti should not only be an individual concern but a collective effort on the wider journey to attain safety excellence.

Miti also believes that this should be the measure of how far organisations care about the health and safety of their workers.



ACHIEVED

Through the Loss Time Accident campaign, Ronaldly Miti, the health and safety manager at Uganda Breweries, says there have been impressive deliverables considering that employees have taken it upon themselves to ensure that they are safe while working around heavy equipment, flammable and hazardous materials.

This has been a key achievement which Miti says, has been put as one of the company's year-on-year targets as it bids to give back to Ugandans.

Relentless efforts have through this campaign, been showcased to attain zero harm resulting from careless handling of heavy equipment and machinery.

Challenged. Heavy machinery sites such as Bujagali Hydro Power dam have high risk that need to be mitigated through special and focused attention. FILE PHOTO

SAFETY

Anticipating:

Occupational safety and health is the science to anticipate, recognise, evaluate and control of hazards arising in or from the workplace that could impair the health and wellbeing of workers.