



Giving Thanks

Registrar General Mercy K. Kainobwisho hands over an appreciation gift to Apostle Grace Lubega from Phaneroo Ministries who was the guest preacher at the Annual Prayer Breakfast and Thanksgiving Service held in the Auditorium at the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre.



CONTENTS

PUBLISHED BY

Uganda Registration Services Bureau
Plot 1, Baskeevile Avenue, Kisolo,
P.O. Box 6848 Kampala Uganda

EDITORIAL STAFF

Provia Nangobi
Denis Nabende
Steven Baryevuga

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Denis Nabende
Sharp Mugabe

PHOTOGRAPHY

Andrew Lutaaya
Dominic Damulira

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Gloria Karungi



09
CUSTOMER
ENGAGEMENT WEEK
MARKED IN STYLE

We look forward to the Customer Engagement Week each year, and are thrilled to show our great appreciation to our client service professionals who work so hard every day to deliver amazing customer experiences for our clients



12

CONGRATULATIONS

Mao, who was accompanied by the Registrar General, Mercy K. Kainobwiso, Chairman Board of Directors, Ambassador Francis K. Butagira and Members of the Board also applauded URSB for being one of the most efficient Government agencies playing a key role in driving Uganda to middle-income status

SIMPO

Skills Money Lenders and Financial Institutions



17



26

PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Traditional medicine encompasses a wide range of health practices, approaches, knowledge and beliefs



30

INSOLVENCY WORKSHOP

Business Owners Encouraged to embrace rescue mechanisms

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S FOREWORD

2022 has been a very successful year for the Uganda Registration Services Bureau, and we are proud to tell you all about it in this newsletter. We are very excited about what 2023 has in store for all of us. This will be a year of growth and new opportunities for everyone at URSB. We appreciate your continued commitment to the organisation and our growth. We are confident we can make this mutually rewarding.

Delivery of timely, responsive, and moving registration services is our most treasured asset and the foundation on which we have built our organisation. Everyone at URSB knows that the only way to protect and improve our reputation is to exceed the client's expectations, meet our commitments, innovate in our services and deliver excellence (as our mantra says "centre of excellence for registration service"). By understanding and embracing our client's business needs, vision, objectives and goals, we will be able to build stronger and lasting relationships that will yield long-term results.

We have been able to streamline our services in line with adaptive processes and have started to yield results from the fine-tuning. In early December 2022, with the support of the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance, we unveiled the Online Business Registration System (OBRS), a platform we believe will revolutionize the way our clients can access our business registration



services with ease, remotely and in a faster way. All this part of our long-term All digital, all-online strategy to have all our services accessible online through an e-platform.

One of our other major achievement in the past year has been our ability to settle in our new permanent office building, the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre. The benefits of permanency coupled with the joint synergies from the other agencies that are housed under one roof will support the formalization. This we believe will stabilize and strengthen our existing client relationships, define and institutionalize operational processes targeted towards national social-economic development in support of government's vision.

In the last year, we have seen the most growth in creativity and innovation as inventors register and protect their intellectual property. We have extended our efforts to support this growing sphere to enable creativity for all the various arts

to thrive. We expect to see greater opportunities in this space in the New Year as we continue to spread the National Intellectual Property Policy that was passed by the cabinet in 2019.

We recognize the importance of the law amendments and related initiatives that provide a legally conducive environment that supports our mandate, but also the benefits for our clients. With support from the legislature, the Companies and Insolvency Acts were amended to align with today's business models that take special care to meet and exceed client business objectives. In order to achieve more, we are always investing in training our people, and improving our culture and work environment through activities and initiatives with the involvement of all stakeholders. We have more laws reworked and improved for amendment in 2023.

URSB is committed to delivering excellence and aspiring to be a World Class services provider. We hope to get certified under ISO 9001, a quality management system (QMS) enabling us to formalize our document processes, procedures, and responsibilities while achieving quality policies and objectives that meet customer and regulatory requirements and improve our effectiveness and efficiency on a continuous basis.

We look forward to your feedback so we can continuously improve all this and more. Blessings!



Registrar General - URSB

”

By understanding and embracing our client's business needs, vision, objectives and goals, we will be able to build stronger and lasting relationships that will yield long-term results.

Core values





EDITOR'S NOTE

What an amazing year 2022 was for the team at Uganda Registration Services Bureau. It was a year of amazing leaps and bounds and we are grateful for the relationships we built, and the partnerships we strengthened which have enabled us to continue to grow our brand through the services we provide to the Nation.

Every turn of the year, we evaluate whether we are meeting our client's expectations and endeavor to incorporate this feedback into the planned activities for the remaining half of the financial year. Part of our noticeable achievements in 2022, was the rollout of our latest Online Business Registration System (OBRS). For such a long time, the teams internally had been working on ensuring we have a system that is fully integrated with sister agencies that collect data and enables complete registration with minimal physical interaction. With the support of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, the development of the system was started and the system opened to the public on December 9, 2022. An account is first created to enable the filing of registration documents. Ugandans can now register business names and companies fully online. This is a plus for the country because for a long we have grappled with physical and partially online services. Several modules will be added to allow for continuous filing within the

company account. Once registration is complete, a copy of the registered documents and certificates will be saved on the company account for future reference. Gone are the days when clients reported the loss of their documents and run around trying to secure Police letters before applying for true certified copies. OBRS will be a game changer in improving the doing of the business environment in Uganda through swift and electronic services.

As we execute our duties, we are also cognizant of the environment in which we operate. Every year we identify and support indigent communities during our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) week activities. This year we were humbled when we paid a visit to Theresa Home for Orphans along Entebbe Road, managed by Father Raymond Kalanzi. We offered support to the over 20 babies he takes care of ranging from 0 months to 5 years. It was a touching experience interacting with the caretakers of the babies, you get reminded to always be your neighbor's keeper. Anybody interested in supporting the home can always pass by and provide assistance in form of pampers, powdered milk, washing powder, and dry ration to feed the babies, it is only through giving that your blessings get multiplied. A team from Uganda Registration Services Bureau also visited Kawempe National Referral Hospital where we interacted with

the Medical Director and explored how to support the maternity ward of the hospital. A number of equipment will be donated to the hospital to support the already highly constrained resources they have to work within. We remain committed to supporting communities and uplifting lives of people.

We used the same CSR period to share Christmas packages with our clients and we appreciate the feedback you provided us during that engagement. We will endeavor to incorporate your submissions into our work flows and deliver a seamless and exceptional service as you interact with us.

As we get into 2023, we will continue to engage our stakeholders and train people on our new OBRS to ensure filing is smooth riding for us all. We welcome feedback on the system through our available channels, WhatsApp 0712 448 448, Twitter @URSBHQ and the URSB email ursb@ursb.go.ug.

As I conclude, may the birth of Jesus, renew your faith and trust in God always leading the way. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and an excellent entry of 2023 full of Joy, good health, and good tidings.

Hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Provia Nangobi

Head PR and Corporate Affairs

VISION

Centre of
Excellence for
Reliable
Registration
Services

MISSION

To provide
accessible, reliable
and innovative
registration services
for a formalized
economy

**REGISTER
NOW**

CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT WEEK MARKED IN STYLE



Steven Baryeruga
Snr Communications, and Media Relations
Officer

The Uganda Registration Services Bureau marked its Customer Engagement Week 2022, a week-long celebration to recognize its clients across Uganda and elsewhere. Running from December 12th – 16th 2022, the Customer Engagement Week is an annual event celebrating the clients as well as the people who make customer service happen.

URSB is charged with the registration of businesses, intellectual property, and marriages and provides corporate rescue solutions for ailing entities, as well as enabling Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) access quick and affordable credit using their movable property as collateral through the Security Interest in Movable Property Registry System (SIMPO). The bureau's core mandate is to support the formalization of the economy through legal

registration services.

"We look forward to the Customer Engagement Week each year, and are thrilled to show our great appreciation to our client service professionals who work so hard every day to deliver amazing customer experiences for our clients," said Alex Anganya, Deputy Registrar General. "At URSB, our clients are our greatest asset and we are committed to

delivering the best experience possible. By combining our winning culture and outstanding employee experience with the latest technology we are able to deliver the best customer experience. We have also introduced new, user-friendly digital platforms like the Online Business Registration System (OBRS) that will enhance more responsive services for our clients" Anganya added.



The 2022 theme for Customer Engagement Week was "Because you matter"., URSB hosted a full calendar of fun and exciting events and activities across the 5 regional offices in Mbarara, Masaka, Mbale, Arua and Gulu, as well as the headquarters at Uganda Business Facilitation Centre and the Kampala branch offices at Georgian House and Posta Building.

The activities included a raffle draw for lucky clients, a name our services quiz, and a half-day virtual and physical engagement with trade associations like Kampala City Traders Authority (KACITA), the

Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Limited (UWEAL), Innovation Hubs, Faith Based Organisations, Institute of Certified Public Accountants (ICPAU) as well as the media.

During Customer Engagement Week and throughout the year, URSB celebrates all present and prospective clients for their dedication to the organization and makes a commitment to creating amazing customer experiences rooted in the URSB values with the sole aim of achieving the organizational vision of being the center of excellence for reliable registration services.

”

We look forward to Customer Engagement Week each year, and are thrilled to show our great appreciation for our client service professionals who work so hard every day to deliver amazing customer experiences for our clients





Intellectual property

rights grants
protection to the
creative

www.ursb.go.ug

MINISTER NORBERT MAO TIPS URSB ON SERVICE EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE



Andrew Lutanya
Ass. Registration Officer

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Hon. Norbert Mao appealed to the staff at URSB to maintain high levels of service quality when interacting with the public. The Minister made the remarks while touring Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) newly built head offices at the Uganda Business Facilitation center on Plot 1 Baskerville Avenue in Kololo on Tuesday October 4, 2022.

Mao, who was accompanied by the Registrar General, Mercy K. Kainobwisho, Chairman Board of Directors, Ambassador Francis K. Butagira and Members of the Board also applauded URSB for being one of the most efficient Government agencies playing a key role in driving Uganda to middle-income status. "I like to be associated with success stories and that was one of

the reasons I chose to honor the invitation to visit the new premises. You have built a brand as one of the best-performing agencies of Government and I request that you maintain it now that you are in your new home. Start an 'epidemic of excellence' and be commandos of excellence in Government service."

Mao added that staff should simplify information given to the public and improve awareness. "There is a need for you to step down your knowledge to the voltage of ordinary customers and break it down easily for them to comprehend and appreciate the need for registration and formalization"



Ambassador Francis Butagira, thanked the minister for honoring the invitation to visit the building and appealed for additional funding for URSB's planned activities "I sincerely thank you for honoring our invitation to visit the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre to see firsthand what we do. I appeal to you to support our requests for additional funding for activities such as regional service center expansion among others. We are not a consumptive agency. We generate non tax revenue from every funding we receive and always give Government value for money"

On her part, URSB Registrar General Mercy K. Kainobwiso reiterated URSB's commitment to being a key driver in Uganda's formalization agenda hinged to the Parish Development Model. 'We have a strategic plan to increase our presence across the country through decentralization of services. We are also prioritizing services reach-out through digitalization'

URSB is implementing and focusing on activities that reduce the burden for businesses in dealing with registration and licensing procedures, limiting the scope of application and streamlining the issuance processes. As an institution mandated with ensuring registrations are

properly effected, we will continue to engage and educate the public about the benefits and relevance of formalizing businesses, marriages and registering intellectual property.

URSB currently provides registration services regionally in Masaka, Mbarara, Gulu, Arua, Mbale and centrally operates from Georgian House, Posta Uganda and the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre located on Plot 1, Baskerville Avenue, Kololo. URSB

services can also be accessed digitally through website on www.ursb.go.ug by logging onto the e-services tab.

”

There is a need for you to step down your knowledge to the voltage of ordinary customers and break it down easily for them to comprehend and appreciate the need for registration and formalization.





SECURITY INTEREST IN
MOVABLE PROPERTY REGISTRY SYSTEM

It is now easier to **borrow money**

The Security Interest in Movable Property Registry
reveals real identity and credibility of both the
lender and borrower.

Terms and conditions apply

www.simpo.ursb.go.ug

SIMPO INTEGRATION WITH THE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRY THE JOURNEY SO FAR



Victoria A. Opetta
Registration Officer – Chattels Securities

A key characteristic of a movable collateral registry based on international standards is a centralized database where all security interests on various movable collateral may be registered. This was one of the aims of the reform of the Ugandan law on secured transactions, which commenced in 2016 and culminated in the enactment of the Security Interest in Movable Property Act (SIMPA), 2019, and the establishment of the Security Interest in Movable Property Registry (SIMPO) in September 2019. The movable property includes goods, tangible assets, intangible assets, investment securities, and negotiable instruments; examples of tangible assets are motor vehicles/cycles, tractors, and trailers.

Prior to the SIMPA, lenders

protected their interests in motor vehicles by having the Chief Licensing Officer (CLO), whose powers were being exercised by the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), endorse said interest on the registration/log book of the motor vehicle. The effect of the endorsement, commonly

”

some lenders embraced SIMPO and since its establishment, the registry has a record of the following notices: motor vehicles (16227), motor cycles (602), semi-trailers (186), tractors (156), and omnibuses (28).

called a caveat, was to stop any subsequent dealings in the

asset, (like sale of the motor vehicle to a third party) thus protecting the lender. With the SIMPA in place, secured creditors are required to register their interests in motor vehicles on SIMPO without necessarily placing a caveat in the logbook/registration book of the asset, which was deemed, by some stakeholders, to be insufficient for purposes of protecting lenders. Nevertheless, some lenders embraced SIMPO and since its establishment, the registry has a record of the following notices: motor vehicles (16227), motor cycles (602), semi-trailers (186), tractors (156), and omnibuses (28).

In 2020, the Traffic and Road Safety Act (TRSA), Cap 361 was amended to harmonise the practice at the motor vehicle registry and the SIMPA to the

effect that any person with a security interest like a lease, security or loan shall register the interest under the SIMPA. Subsequently, the Registrar of security interests under the SIMPA, is required to **immediately submit** to the CLO, returns of all registered interests, after which the CLO shall enter the interests in the relevant registration books, subject to proof of payment of registration fees.

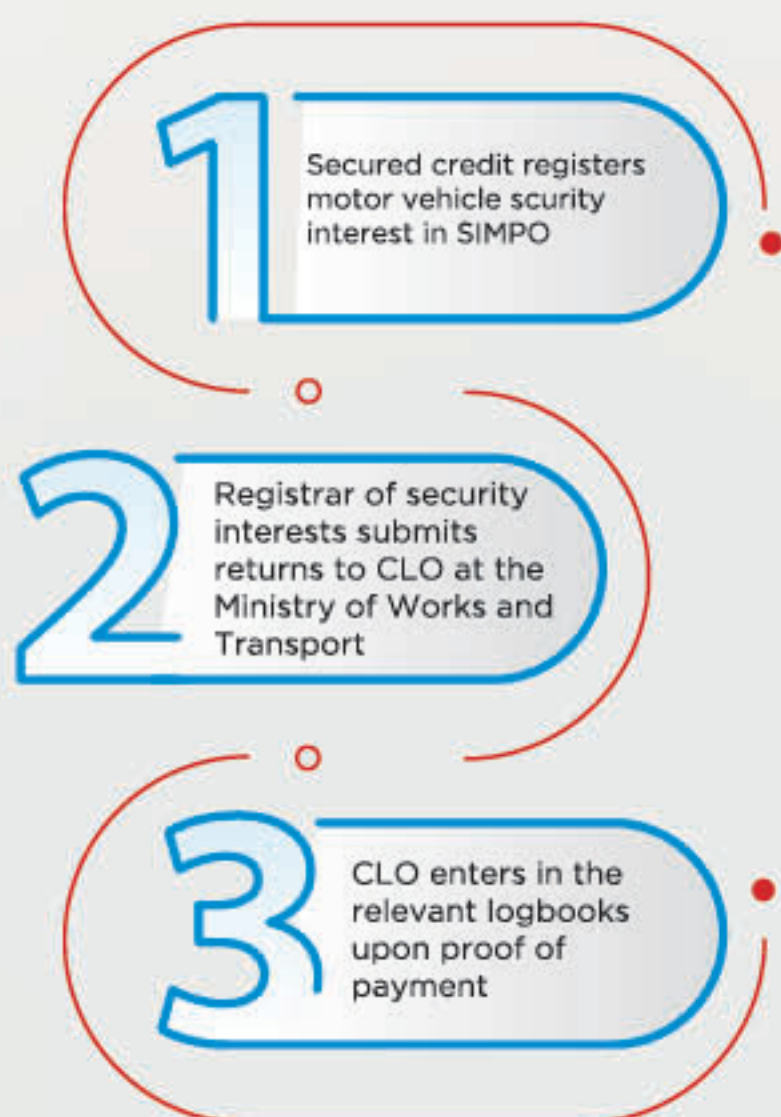


Figure 1: process flow for the registration of security interests in motor vehicles

The most profound effect of the TRSA 2020 amendment is that in the event of a conflict between a security interest registered on SIMPO, and a caveat on a logbook, the security interest on SIMPO takes precedence.

Following the legal reform, URSB initiated the process of implementing the cited provisions, with URA, URSB, and the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT) agreeing that integration between SIMPO and the motor vehicle registry system was the best way. Furthermore, other

options like submitting returns by email, in regular intervals, did not meet the key requirement of immediacy as laid down in the law. Finally, movable collateral best practice requires the non-involvement of the registry officials in the registration process, a practice that URSB is keen to maintain.

The overall objective of this system integration is to establish a seamless process for endorsing security interests in registration books through registration on SIMPO and automated transmission of returns to the CLO. The integration will also involve the harmonization of fees from the client-facing interface (one PRN for both SIMPO and caveat fees).

As of 31 December 2022, URSB had made some headway in the integration with contractors from URA and URSB commencing the development of an Application Programming Interface (API). According to <https://www.mulesoft.com>, an API is a software intermediary that allows two applications to talk to each other. Thus, the API between SIMPO and the motor vehicle registry system will enable the transmission and receipt of vital data on a security interest in a motor vehicle. This process is scheduled to be completed by January 2023.

The anticipated benefits for our clients include harmonized business processes and a reduction in turnaround time for registration of security interests in motor vehicles. We hope to provide our registrants with a good customer user experience and obtain mileage for the SIMPO registry within the lending community. Furthermore, we expect an increase in registry activity and non-tax revenue (NTR) since some lenders were committed to the registration of caveats but with little or no interest in perfection on SIMPO.

The Chattels Unit is grateful for the support provided by top management, especially high-level lobbying to expedite approval processes, and looks forward to the completion of this activity.

HAVE YOUR DREAM WEDDING

Apply for & acquire a special license
and get married anywhere even
at the beach

www.ursb.go.ug





MONEY LENDERS SKILLED ON USE OF MOVABLE PROPERTY AS COLLATERAL



Uganda's business environment was severely impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic, which reversed gains in capital growth and opened up financing gaps. To enhance the capacity of lenders to find alternative ways of providing capital for mostly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs),

the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and the Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority (UMRA) initiated training targeting money lenders and non-deposit taking institutions to support their efforts in offering capital for businesses using the movable property.

URSB runs the Security Interest in Movable Property Registry System (SIMPO), an online registry that allows the use of movable property as collateral to secure loans from licensed lenders. A two-day training targeting a wide range of stakeholders in the financial services sector focusing on

availing a sustainable path for them to advance funds for private business capitalization and investment whilst fostering growth and reduce poverty was organised.

Speaking at the sensitization workshop, Alex Anganya, Deputy Registrar General of URSB, said, "As URSB, we believe it is not only enough to register businesses. We are also working on ways to address the needs of Uganda's entrepreneurs. We are very pleased to partner with UMRA in this training, enabling us to increase our support to small businesses with viable options to increase their capital using their movable properties through our SIMPO registry."

Movable assets include crops, equipment, vehicles, intellectual property assets, and other items owned by individuals and small business owners - different from land, which most financial institutions require as collateral for loans.

Additionally, the training was intended to support money lenders with a priority for female-led enterprises as a support mechanism to encourage their sustenance. Although Ugandan women own about 40 percent of their country's private enterprises, they represent only 9 percent of credit. A major barrier facing women entrepreneurs is their limited ownership of

land, which banks usually require as collateral. They also have little access to financial management training and often lack experience in dealing with financial institutions.

The training sought to address these issues by finding innovative ways to

processes, financial literacy, and networking as well as mentoring. "I have greatly benefited from the sensitization program, especially on how to use the SIMPO registry," said Julia Mpanga, one of the women who participated in the training. "I am now better equipped with information on how to lend against movable properties to grow my business. The networking and sharing of experiences with fellow lenders in business have been invaluable. I thank URSB and UMRA for this initiative."

Giving MSMEs access to credit and increasing their economic power is also more likely to translate into improved livelihoods for a wide cross-section of society, and women entrepreneurs are more likely to employ other women. URSB is providing weekly training to help people access and use the SIMPO system.

”

The training was intended to support money lenders making a priority for female-led enterprises as a support mechanism to encourage their sustenance.

provide loans to women using their movable property and covers requirements and



PICTO



► Stella Alibateese (L) the National Data Protection Director hands over a certificate Of Registration to Registrar General Mercy K Kainobwisho



► Dr. Mohamed El Munir A. Safeldin (2nd L) the UNICEF Representative to Uganda and Registrar General Mercy K Kainobwisho (3rd L) pose for a photo with other staff after a meeting at the UNICEF Headquarters in Kampala



► URSB Staff pose at the finish line after participating in the 2022 MTN Marathon



► URSB Staff hand over an assortment of items to Teresa House, an orphanage

DRIAL



► Mr. Amos Wekesa CEO Great Lakes Safaris and Registrar General Ms. Mercy K Kainobwiso pose with some members of the URSB Young Leaders Cohort at the UBFC

► Staff pose for a group photo during the annual prayer breakfast and thanksgiving service held at UBFC 🙏



► Steven Baryevuga interacts with students who visited the URSB stall at the UMA International Trade Fair in Lugogo. 🙏



► **Moments
from URSB
Staff Team
Building
Events**



UNDERSTANDING COPYRIGHT PROTECTION IN UGANDA



Ronald Lutunda

*Senior Registration Officer, Uganda
Registration Services Bureau*

Copyright protects expressions of literary and artistic works like books, music, drawings, and dances. Copyright protects only the form in which ideas and information are expressed. Copyrights protection is granted for a certain period of time, and upon expiry, the works fall in the public domain.

There are certain exceptions and limitations to the protection that are permissible without the creator's permission. The most important such use is "fair use". Copyright has two types of bundles of rights; economic and moral rights.

The Economic rights aim at securing the financial or pecuniary interest of the author by the conferment of an exclusive right to exploit the work commercially. They give the owner exclusive rights to reproduce or distribute copies of the work, prepare derivative works, and perform, display, and broadcast the work publicly. An example of economic rights is where an author of a book can also benefit from movie

adaptations of their books as well as sales of merchandise associated with the book or movie.

Moral rights enable the copyright owner to claim attribution, and object to the distortion and mutilation of her works. Moral rights protect the author's honor and reputation in regard to the work. An author's right to object to the modification or derogatory action in relation to his or her work is most often used to object to any treatment or use of their work by others that the author/creator feels could damage his or her reputation or integrity. A common example of this is often seen in elections when artists or songwriters object to the use of songs from their repertoire by candidates with controversial opinions or reputations.

Copyright plays an important role in encouraging enterprise and stimulating

economic activity. It provides a vital incentive for the creation of many intellectual works. Without copyright protection, it would be easy for others to exploit these works without paying any royalties or remuneration to the owner of the work. Copyright not only provides protection to the creator's original work but also to the reproduction by various means of all or parts of that work or works

In Uganda, copyright is governed by the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act, 2006, and the Copyright and Neighbouring Regulations, 2011. The Act repeals the Copyright Act of 1964 and provides for administration, registration, collecting societies, and offenses among other matters. Under the Act, Uganda Registration Services Bureau



is the designated Copyright Information Office and the Registrar General is the Registrar of Copyright.

Accordingly, the Registrar of Copyright is mandated under Section 42 (1) of the Act to; process applications for licenses to be issued by the Minister under section 17, register works and productions to be registered under this Act, register collecting societies, give guidance to and discipline collecting societies, register assignments, licenses, and transfers of copyright, register copyright contracts relating to the exploitation of rights, provide copyright and neighboring rights information service to the public and users of copyright works, in collaboration with collecting societies, advise Government, on matters relating to copyright and neighboring rights and perform any other duty or function relating to copyrights, neighboring rights and collecting societies as may be necessary for the better functioning of this Act or as the Minister may by regulation prescribe.

The law also provides for collecting societies, which are crucial in the promotion and protection of copyright. These are voluntary membership entities mandated by copyright holders to administer and manage copyright and neighbouring rights on behalf of the members. They are also known as Collective Management Organisations (CMOs). They provide effective

administration of copyright and neighboring rights where individual administration is not possible. Despite their potential to make authors, artists and composers economically benefit from their works, CMOs have been posting dismal performances. Lack of the necessary leadership and knowledge to run a CMO effectively contributes to this.

In an attempt to address some of the challenges faced by CMOs, there is a need to encourage self-compliance and good governance. This can happen by the regulator providing technical advice, training, mentorship and coaching. There is also need for CMOs to uphold the principles of good governance. Such reduces government's administrative burden and associated costs of regulation while providing the necessary checks and balances for stable CMOs.

Use of partnerships with relevant institutions to support CMOs growth in the market to streamline services provided to CMOs. For instance, a partnership with the International Centre for Arbitration & Mediation would be essential to manage and resolve conflicts that develop in CMOs and often contribute to their reduced performance. Another strategic partnership could be between the Copyright Office and Uganda National Cultural Centre, the Uganda Communications Commission.

Digitalization of registration and supervision by the Copyright Office. This would substantially

improve supervisory capacity, increase efficiencies, minimise costs associated with regulation and streamline administrative processes.

It is also worth mentioning that with the emergence of digital age, characterized by digital technologies such as the internet, scanner, digital cameras, smartphones, smart televisions, e-book and, social media, this has caused strain in copyright protection. This is due to the relative ease in reproduction of copyrighted material, the ease in sharing & distribution of copyrighted material, the availability of compact storage devices, and the challenge of detecting or tracing the sources of such infringement due to the apparent similarity between the original and the duplicate copies. More worrisome, is the fact that it threatens the economic benefit and livelihood of the rights owner as well as discourages more creative works in that space.

There is need of legislative response in addressing the social menace of the digital era. In addition, authors and creators of creative media content should in addition to the legal framework, adopt independent modern technological measures such as block chain and watermarking technology to protect their work and prevent undue exploitation.

ONLINE BUSINESS REGISTRATION SYSTEM ROLLED OUT

In execution of our mission to provide accessible, reliable, and innovative registration services for a formalized economy, the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) with support from the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance has developed an Online Business Registration System (OBRS) to support Business Registration and Insolvency services of the Bureau.

OBRS is a fully-fledged electronic registration system that will facilitate seamless registration of companies, business names, legal documents, Insolvency, and

other related services that will reduce the time and cost of doing business, ease access to business-related information required in making investment decisions, improve the competitiveness of the investment environment and drive economic growth.

The system will allow clients to create accounts through the client's portal, make applications and get real-time feedback in the comfort of their offices/homes and without any physical engagement with staff.

The system will be rolled out in two phases; The first

phase will focus on new registrations which will include; name reservations, company incorporation, business name registration, and all related services. This will also cover subsequent/post-registration filings for all entities registered through OBRS and the filing of legal documents for individuals.

The second phase will involve onboarding entities that are already registered by URSB and creating accounts to enable them to access all filing options through OBRS. This phase will also include Insolvency services. The system can be accessed via

www.obrs.ursb.go.ug

TUSIMBUDE

Online Business Registration System (OBRS) is **NOW LIVE.**



Pay



Register



Manage

With
support
from



MINISTRY OF ICT & NATIONAL GUIDANCE

A Knowledge and Productive Society driven by ICT & National Ideology



SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IS VITAL FOR UGANDA'S HEALTH SECTOR



Mercy K. Kainobwisho
Registrar General - URSB

COVID-19 which was first reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) on December 31, 2019, and declared a global pandemic on January 30, 2020, has reignited the debate on the role of traditional medicine in the treatment of illness, concerns on scientific development and intellectual property rights. Intellectual property is any creation of the human mind that is protected by the law against unlawful use by others. The need to protect traditional knowledge and the associated traditional medicine has increased, especially in order to stop unauthorized and commercial misuse of such knowledge.

The WHO defines traditional medicine as “the sum total of knowledge or practices, whether explicable or inexplicable, used in diagnosing, preventing, or eliminating a physical, mental,

or social disease, which may rely solely on past experience or observations passed down verbally or in writing from generation to generation.” It is referred to as “complementary” and “alternative” medicine in various places.

Traditional medicine encompasses a wide range of health practices, approaches, knowledge, and beliefs that include plant, animal, and mineral-based medicines, spiritual therapies, manual techniques, and exercises, which are used singly or in combination to treat, diagnose, and prevent illnesses, as well as to maintain well-being. It also includes therapeutic approaches that have existed for hundreds of years prior to the emergence of modern scientific medicine. Traditional medical knowledge may be used for scientific study and

can help indigenous and local communities innovate and be more creative.

Protection for health

While traditional medicine plays an important role in Uganda's healthcare system, there are concerns such as low prices paid for traditional medicinal plants; insufficient documentation and verification of herbalist's claims; and lack of preservation of medicinal extracts for extended shelf life. Traditional healers are not rigorously involved and linked to accessible research institutes, as well as the secrecy of some therapeutic practices.

Traditional healers have limited access to cutting-edge equipment for research development and training, and traditional medicine practices are not taught as part of official health-care training curriculum. Traditional medicine in



Uganda is still largely based on observation and personal experience, buried in the socio-cultural fabric and specifically directed toward people's ethics and metaphysical views, and anybody, even quacks, can practice it.

In traditional medicine, the level of protection for innovation and inventions is not commensurate with the potential of traditional pharmacopoeia and the dynamism of researchers. Some indigenous researchers publish their works without any intellectual property rights.

Intellectual property rights

The law of intellectual property is often characterized as

incentivizing inventors to create works for the public good by regulating the public's use of such works to guarantee that authors and inventors are fairly paid for their efforts. An effective and equitable intellectual property system can assist in realizing intellectual property's potential as a strong weapon for economic development, social and cultural well-being, and progress through works like protecting traditional medicine knowledge and products.

Additionally, traditional medicine should have its intellectual property rights protected due to its enormous economic potential. Traditional medical knowledge is currently

under danger from external commercial interests. The increased economic interest in natural medical resources and accompanying traditional knowledge is justified by many of the current medications and vaccines generated from plant-based compounds. Traditional knowledge has to be protected and recognized as a key issue of global concern since it provides an alternative and locally appropriate means to solve some public health concerns, like Covidex in Uganda.

Legislation under traditional medicine

Uganda recently enacted the Traditional and Complimentary Medicines Act, 2019 whose

purpose is to establish a council to govern and regulate traditional and complementary medicine practice, to register and license practitioners, and to address other relevant issues like appointing a committee to ensure protection of the rights of practitioners. However, the Act is silent on protection of traditional knowledge. The ongoing clinical trials on natural therapeutics by Ugandan innovators under the flagship of the “Pathogen Economy” are anticipated to result in protectable intellectual property assets.

The National Intellectual Property Policy, 2019 provides for intellectual property driven indigenous technology development and commercialization. Uganda Registration Services Bureau coordinates Intellectual

Property Policy implementation

”

Traditional medicine encompasses a wide range of health practices, approaches, knowledge, and beliefs that include plant, animal, and mineral-based medicines, spiritual therapies, manual techniques, and exercises, which are used singly or in combination to treat, diagnose, and prevent illnesses, as well as to maintain well-being

by spearheading formulation of legal framework and creation of a traditional knowledge database.

The envisaged database will serve the purpose of preservation of traditional knowledge, assisting patent examiners locate prior art when determining grant of a patent, sources of information (defensive protection), promoting documentation, identifying communities entitled to rights, benefit-sharing, and providing means of recording existence of traditional knowledge. Recognizing traditional forms of creativity and innovation as protectable intellectual property is a historic shift that enables indigenous and local communities as well as the government to have a say over the use of their traditional knowledge by others.

ACCESS THE FOLLOW- ING **SERVICES ONLINE**

1. Name Search
2. Name Reservation
3. Business/Company Registration
4. Filing of Annual Returns
5. Filing of Marriage Returns
6. Searches and registration of security interests
7. Filing of intellectual Property registrations
8. Filing of Insolvency documents



BUSINESS OWNERS ENCOURAGED TO EMBRACE RESCUE MECHANISMS DURING DIFFICULT TIMES



Denis Nabende
Snr PR and Corporate Affairs Officer

The business community in Mbarara City has been encouraged to make use of available rescue mechanisms to avert the risk of closure. The call was made by Mbarara Circuit Resident Judge, Lady Justice Joyce Kavuma while officiating at a regional training of stakeholders on the Insolvency Law held at Hotel Triangle in Mbarara City. "The Insolvency Act and Companies Act have numerous rescue mechanism that ailing businesses can embrace to avert going under. The Insolvency Act in part five and six provides for individual and corporate restructuring that involves a reorganization of a debtor's business affairs. I applaud URSB for its deliberate effort in sensitizing its stake

holders on Insolvency matters" she said. Lady Justice Kavuma also appealed to practitioners to work closely together and build a wide network "I implore all of you to present here as practitioners to work together and build a strong Insolvency system that promotes quick support for businesses that need help and quick exit for those that want to close."

On his part, URSB Board Chairman HE Amb. Francis Butagira said the training was part of URSB's wider vision of achieving its contribution towards the National Development Plan (NDP III) program of developing the private sector through strengthening the corporate



rescue framework. "We will focus on creating awareness amongst the Insolvency practitioners and members of the business community about Insolvency laws and practices to improve the competitiveness of the private sector," he said. In her remarks, URSB Registrar General Mercy K Kainobwiso committed to creating an enabling environment for the practice of Insolvency in Uganda as a whole "We are improving our processes to create an enabling environment for efficient resolution of Insolvency matters. As part of our "All Digital, All Online, "

strategy, we are in the process of automating all Insolvency services to facilitate timely quick and easy access. We are developing an online registration system where practitioners will be able to upload Insolvency related documents onto the system for registration. On behalf of URSB, I pledge to continue with these engagements to sensitize stakeholders about Insolvency and also enhance our capacity to

handle Insolvency cases. The training attracted over 150 participants who included Lawyers, Chartered Secretaries, Accountants as well as members of the business community in Mbarara.



URSB WINS INAUGURAL 'CHAMPION OF THE YEAR IN PUBLIC SECTOR' AWARD



Maria Gloria Karungi
Client Relations Officer

Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) has been named the inaugural winner of the 'Champion of the year in public sector award in the Startup Uganda 2022 annual awards. The award ceremony was held at the closure of the Uganda Innovation Week held from the 22nd to 24th of November 2022 at Mestil Hotel in Kampala under the theme Uganda's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: Unlocking the Missing Links.

URSB, was presented with the winners' award by the State Minister for National Guidance at the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Hon. Kabbyanga Godfrey Baluku.

The 'Champion of the year in the public sector award is designed to recognize the achievements of national support entities nominated and voted for by the public. Winners are said to have

transformed their public profile and positioned themselves as leaders in their chosen fields.

In his award handover speech, Hon. Kabbyanga said the government was impressed with the strategic interventions initiated to enhance Uganda's growing innovative spirit that

has also seen the country ranked as one of the most entrepreneurial nations on earth. 'The work I see here today is great for our nation. I want to thank all partners who are supporting the Government to enhance our citizen's creativity in business and other sectors of the economy.' He said.

Receiving the award, Alex Anganya, the Deputy Registrar General said URSB remained committed to supporting the national entrepreneurial ecosystem and was placing a specific focus on supporting the registration, protection, and promotion of start-ups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). 'It is important to celebrate entrepreneurs as the bedrock on which Uganda's economy is built. We also recognize the support our stakeholders have given



us in this journey and awards like this one are proof of this partnership.' Anganya said.

The Startup Awards recognize the most innovative startups with nominations for the best startups in health, education, creative industries, technology, agriculture, the best university innovation, and the leading support enterprise which was

bagged by URSB. The event also featured panel discussions, workshops, and master classes where startup ecosystem stakeholders contributed to theme conversations and evening fireside events that allowed for peer engagement, partnership formation, and networking.

The awarding ceremony marked

the end of the 2022 edition of the Uganda Innovation Week which brought together innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, government stakeholders like URSB, and development partners to discuss wins, misses, and opportunities for growth in the innovation space. There was a major rebrand this year with a focus on countrywide innovations.



Marking World Aids Day 2022

On 1st December 2022, as part of joining the rest of the World to commemorate the International World AIDS Day, URSB held a sensitisation engagement with staff on how to end the scourge. Front led by the HIV/AIDS Committee, URSB has a clear strategy on supporting measures geared towards curbing HIV/AIDS and ensuring that the ribbon is hoisted with prestige. Ending stigma at the

work place remains a priority for the Bureau.

The event had a special appearance by Gloria Nawanyanga a young person living with HIV who shared her life journey growing and growing into an achiever and later a key anti-HIV Stigma advocate. Gloria also urged staff to always speak out openly about HIV because it was the most efficient way to end stigma and encourage others to live positively.



► Ms. Gloria Nawanyanga addressing URSB staff as part of activities to mark International World Aids Day at the auditorium of the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre.



► Staff attending the public lecture



► Ms. Gloria Nawanyanga while addressing URSB staff



► From Left to Right: Ms. Gloria Nawanganya, Mr. Alex Anganya (Deputy Registrar General) and Ms. Stella Kakwezi (Chairperson URSB HIV/Aids Committee) listen to presentations



*Highlights from **The Annual Prayer and Thanksgiving Breakfast***





OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA
HANDLES



+256 712 448 448



@URSBHQ



URSBHQ



Plot 1 Baskerville Avenue, Kololo,
P.O.Box 6848, Kampala - Uganda



ursb@ursb.go.ug



www.ursb.go.ug



+256 417 338100
0800 - 100 006