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Insurance companies encouraged on agriculture insurance

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Over 700 Graduate in Insurance Training College's Eighth Graduation Ceremony



L -R: Zake Ronald, Board Chairman, ITC, Alhaji Kaddunabbi Ibrahim Lubega, IRA, CEO, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi, Saul Sseremba, CEO / Principa and to the back Alex Ndibwami, Academic Registrar and Sylvia Mwebesa Kajubi, Insurance Training College during the 8th graduation at Hotel Africana.

Over 700 graduates were awarded certificates and diplomas in the celebrated during the eighth graduation ceremony of the Insurance Training College.

The ceremony, attended by prominent figures in the finance sector, marked a historic day for both the graduates and the institute, signaling a continuous commitment to shaping the insurance sector in Uganda.

During the ceremony, the principal of the college, Saul Sseremba emphasized the importance of professionalism in building capacity, fostering trust with clients, and driving innovation for industry growth.

" I wish to remind you graduands, that the transformation of this industry hinges on you as professionals. It is through professionalism that we can build capacity to perform our

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Ugandan coffee receipts close to \$1 billion worth of value

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Jubilee-Allianz Kenya appoints insider as new principal officer

Jubilee Allianz General Insurance Kenya Limited has appointed Sylvester Nzioka as chief operating officer and principal officer, effectively making him the head of the business in Kenya.

The insurer said in internal communication Mr Nzioka has taken up the position, effective January 1, succeeding Adja Samb who has led the insurer since July 2021.

Mr Nzioka is an insider, having held several leadership roles within the group, including his recent position as chief strategy and transformation officer at Jubilee Allianz Uganda.

"In this role, he (Mr Nzioka) will oversee the strategic and day-to-day running of the company. This appointment is subject to receiving all necessary regulatory approvals," said Amine El Kernighi, Sanlam-Allianz General Insurance regional executive director for eastern and southern Africa (including Ghana and Nigeria).

"His previous roles have equipped him with a blend of experience and insights to excel in this new role, and his passion for customer excellence will undoubtedly contribute significantly to our continued growth and success.

Mr Nzioka was also the transformation lead for Anglophone Africa within Allianz Africa between April 2019 and April 2022. He served as the head of alternative channels at Allianz Insurance Kenya between July 2016 and December 2018.

He is replacing Ms Samb, who has taken over the position of chief operating officer for Sanlam-Allianz – a joint venture between Sanlam Limited and Allianz SE in which Allianz holds about 40 percent stake.

"We are grateful for Adja's leadership and contribution to the company's performance and wish her all the success in her new important role within the Group," said Amine El Kernighi.

Allianz SE and Sanlam Limited said early September last year that they have received regulatory approvals for the joint venture that will create the Pan-African non-banking financial services company with a presence in 27 countries in Africa.

The two said the joint venture is expected to have a combined group equity value of about R35 billion (Sh292 billion), giving customers a broader offering of insurance products tailored to their needs.

Uganda, the second-largest coffee producer in Africa, is on track to achieve a record-breaking export value of nearly \$1 billion in the 2020/21 season. According to the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), the country exported 6.68 million 60-kg bags of coffee between October 2020 and September 2023, worth \$986 million. This is a 17% increase in volume and a 26% increase in value compared to the previous season.

The impressive performance of Uganda's coffee sector is attributed to several factors, including favorable weather conditions, increased acreage of coffee trees, improved quality and productivity, and strong global demand. Uganda mainly grows robusta coffee, which accounts for about 80% of its exports, followed by arabica coffee. The main destinations for Uganda's coffee are the European Union, Sudan, India, Morocco, and the United States. Coffee is a vital source of income and livelihood for millions of Ugandans, especially smallholder farmers who make up 95% of the coffee growers. The government has been supporting the sector through various initiatives, such as providing free seedlings, promoting value addition, enhancing market access, and strengthening farmer organizations. The UCDA has also set a target of increasing coffee production to 20 million bags by 2025, which would make Uganda one of the top coffee producers in the world. The future prospects of Uganda's coffee industry are bright, as the country continues to invest in improving the quality and quantity of its output, as well as diversifying its markets. Uganda's coffee has a unique flavor and aroma that appeals to both local and international consumers. As the world's appetite for coffee grows, Uganda is well-positioned



Ugandan coffee receipts close to \$1 billion worth of value

to capitalize on this opportunity and reap the benefits of its rich coffee heritage.

HOW DOES UGANDA COMPARE TO OTHER COFFEE PRODUCERS?

Coffee is Uganda's most valuable export commodity, accounting for about 20% of the country's total export earnings. Coffee also provides livelihoods for millions of smallholder farmers and rural workers, who depend on it for their income and food security.

Quality:

Uganda produces mainly robusta coffee, which is a hardy and high-yielding variety that grows well in low altitudes and warm climates. Robusta coffee has a strong and bitter taste and is often used for instant coffee or as a filler in blends with arabica coffee, which is a more delicate and aromatic variety that grows in higher altitudes and cooler climates. Arabica coffee commands a higher price and demand in the specialty market, where consumers are looking for distinctive flavors and aromas.

Uganda does produce some arabica coffee, mainly in the mountainous regions of Mount Elgon and the Rwenzori Mountains, where the climate and soil conditions are favorable. However, the quality of Uganda's arabica coffee is often inconsistent and variable, due to factors such as poor harvesting and processing practices, lack of quality control and certification, and inadequate infrastructure and storage facilities. As a result, Uganda's arabica coffee often fails to meet the standards and expectations of the specialty market and is sold at lower prices than its competitors.

Sustainability:

Uganda faces several environmental and social challenges that threaten the sustainability of its coffee sector. Climate change is one of the major threats, as it affects the rainfall patterns, temperature levels, pest and disease outbreaks, and soil fertility that are essential for coffee production. Climate change

also increases the vulnerability of smallholder farmers, who have limited access to resources and adaptation strategies to cope with the changing conditions.

Another challenge is deforestation, which is caused by the expansion of agricultural land, logging, charcoal production, and urbanization. Deforestation reduces the biodiversity and ecosystem services that support coffee production, such as pollination, water regulation, soil conservation, and carbon sequestration. Deforestation also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, which exacerbate climate change.

A third challenge is poverty, which affects many of the smallholder farmers who grow coffee in Uganda. Poverty limits their ability to invest in inputs, technologies, training, and certification that could improve their productivity, quality, and income. Poverty also exposes them to risks such as food insecurity, malnutrition, illiteracy, poor health, and human rights

violations.

Competitiveness:

Uganda has a competitive advantage in terms of its natural endowments for coffee production, such as its fertile soils, abundant rainfall, diverse agro-ecological zones, and genetic diversity of coffee varieties. Uganda also has a large domestic market for coffee consumption, which provides a stable demand and income for its producers.

However, Uganda faces several constraints that limit its competitiveness in the global market. One of them is the low productivity of its coffee farms, which average about 700 kg per hectare, compared to over 2,000 kg per hectare in countries like Vietnam and Brazil. The low productivity is mainly due to factors such as aging trees, poor agronomic practices, inadequate inputs, lack of irrigation systems, pest and disease infestation.

"Non-compliance is a result of lack of sufficient knowledge, since tax laws are hard to understand. In order to improve compliance, URA will continue to translate more tax materials into languages understood by taxpayers. This will be done to the web portal as well," he added. The Commissioner General encouraged the Chinese community to reach out to URA in case of any challenges and assured them of URA's zero-tolerance to corruption among its staff.

Ambassador Zhang Lizhong noted that the handbook is a testimony to the value of the partnership between China and Uganda.

"China and Uganda have witnessed the growth of bilateral trade volumes and investment levels in the past. The embassy has hosted more engagements in Uganda and is eager to explore more opportunities," he acknowledged.

IRA Engages insurance CEOs on ESG Policy

The Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) has recommended that insurance companies integrate the Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) policy into their core long-term strategies to ensure the sustainability of their businesses.

During the 58th CEO breakfast meeting at Serena Hotel on Thursday, Alhaji Ibrahim Kaddunabbi, the CEO of IRA, encouraged insurance companies to embrace corporate governance principles and foster inclusivity by actively welcoming diverse ideas. "We have told them they need to look at the ESG issues and the people they recruit are of new divergent ideas, the business

must be able to talk to the needs of people you are serving and that can make our businesses sustainable," he said

Kaddunabbi stressed the need for companies to address ESG issues and hire individuals with innovative perspectives. He emphasized that businesses should be attuned to the needs of their clientele to ensure long-term sustainability. Highlighting the impressive growth in written premiums for the year 2023, with a 13% increase from September figures compared to the previous year (2022), Kaddunabbi expressed optimism that by the end of December 2023, all premiums would experience significant improvement.

He acknowledged for premium payment speed and customer acquisition strategies, Kaddunabbi anticipates that 2024 will mark the implementation of microinsurance regulations, with numerous products awaiting approval.

"We have registered growth, which means by the close of the year will expect all the premiums to improve significantly. There are many areas to be improved and we need to improve on how fast companies pay premiums and how people must buy.

Looking forward, he projected that over 10,000 agents are registered and they would be engaged in selling agricultural microinsurance

by 2024, benefiting many Ugandans in the informal sector.

The microinsurance policies are envisioned to facilitate easier access to insurance for small-scale individuals, particularly in the health and agriculture sectors. "First of all, we expect the micro insurance regulation to be out. Secondly, we have seen many partnerships being done and the micro insurance which are about 4 now has come up with products for approval and they are talking to Uganda and if it takes root, many Ugandans will be served," he said. He also said that 2024 will be the year for microinsurance and many products for Ugandans in the informal sector, in his prediction

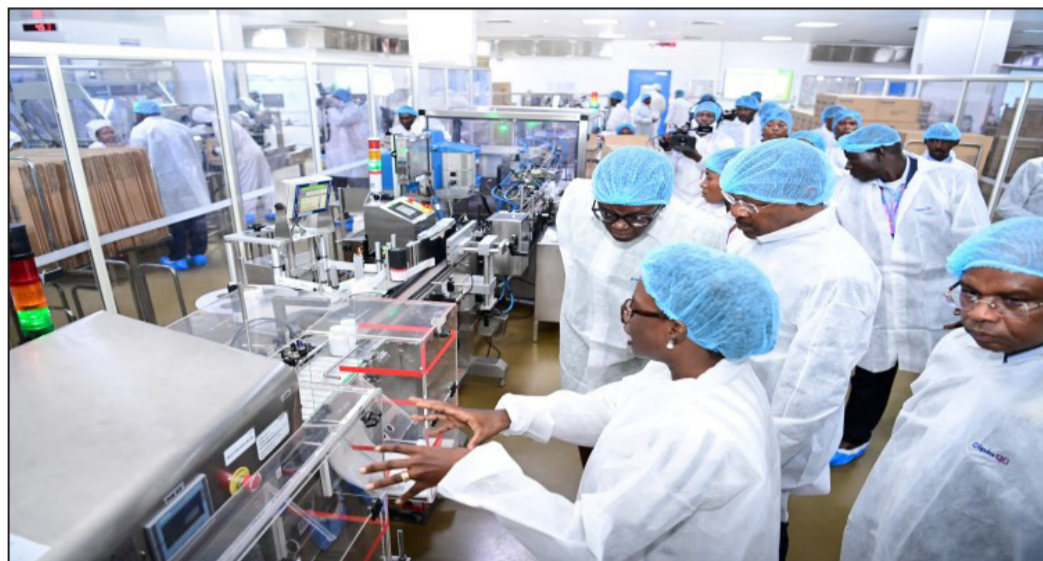
for 2024, the IRA boss said microinsurance regulations will be for approval.

Alhaji Kaddunabbi views that the year 2024, must increase the variety of products available and initiate the development of numerous offerings.

He emphasized research, technology, and innovation should guide the sector in determining the most relevant products for future competitive advantage.

"Many companies do not want to invest in research, deliberate investing in research and development for future competitiveness is very vital. Diversity, equity, and inclusion, people who can come up with those stupid ideas that can be sustainable and can turn around the company,"

Commonwealth Speakers visit, applaud CIPLA Quality Chemicals



The Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth visiting the CIPLA factory

Speakers and Presiding Officers from the Commonwealth have visited the CIPLA Quality Chemicals Industries Ltd (CIPLA QCIL) in Luzira, a Kampala suburb, where they were amazed at the factory's capacity to produce essential medicines that African countries largely import from abroad.

The CIPLA QCIL plant is one of the four pharmaceutical

manufacturers in Africa accredited by the World Health Organisation to manufacture anti-retroviral drugs, anti-malarial drugs among others.

The delegation led by Deputy Speaker, Thomas Tayebwa, toured the factory on Friday, 05 January 2024 and commended the Ugandan government for coming up with such a

factory with medicines that are tailored to solve African problems.

"This is an eye opener to us that we can solve African problems using African solutions, we are very proud of Uganda" said Rt Hon. Ackson Tulia, Speaker, Parliament of Tanzania.

Tulia said she was sure her counterparts from other African countries will spread

the 'gospel' on the work being done at CIPLA Quality chemicals, to other nations saying "the continent is ready to accommodate products from a fellow African nation".

She was, however, concerned that the company supplies medicines to only 15 countries, moreover in Africa and urged government to consider the western market.

"I believe that Africa can also offer solutions to the rest of the world, we would like to see you cross the borders," Tulia said.

The visiting Speakers, Tayebwa said, have the ability to influence their countries to consider importing from Uganda medicines such as Anti-retroviral drugs, anti-malarial drugs, and medicines to treat diabetes which are currently manufactured at CIPLA QCIL.

"These are the Speakers who preside over national budgets in their countries, they do oversight on how government is doing its work. We are urging them that from here they should go to their

governments and ensure that medicines produced here should not be procured from Europe or Asia," Tayebwa said.

Tayebwa remarked that some Speakers confessed that some of the companies from where their governments procure such essential medicines are not half of CIPLA QCIL in capacity.

He commended the company which he said was now both a national and continental pride.

"These are the people who saved countries like South Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic when Europe and America could not export to Africa, they stepped in and saved Africa. This plant is no longer about quality chemicals, it is a national and continental pride," Tayebwa said.

The Chairman for CIPLA QCIL, Emmanuel Katongole, hailed Parliament for considering the plant for the Speakers' visit, saying the company is able and ready to expand their export market.

Ugandan startups attract \$5m funding in 2023 as Kenya leads in Africa

Ugandan startups attracted \$5m worth of investments in 2023, a new study shows.

According to data compiled by Africa startups deals database Africa: The Big Deal, some of the startups that attracted funding in 2023 were EzyAgric, an agritech startup and Ridelink, a transport company that secured funding from Google under its initiative dubbed Google for Startups Black Founders Fund.

Others are Laboremus Uganda that has built a KYC platform for banks and fintech companies in Africa, and agritech startup Emata that secured \$2.4 million in seed funding to expand its agri-loan offerings across East Africa.

Uganda is dwarfed by Kenya, which, according to the report, attracted the most funding (\$880 million in 2023, 28% of the continent's total. Its share of Eastern Africa's funding grew from 86% in 2022 to 91% in 2023.

Over 700 Graduate in Insurance

FROM PAGE 1

duties better and serve our clients diligently," Sseremba said.

He urged the graduates to be ambassadors of the institution, carrying its legacy into the workforce and making a positive impact on the insurance sector.

He also highlighted the college's achievements, including the launch of the advanced diploma in insurance, partnerships with international markets, and efforts to incorporate insurance into secondary school curricula.

He said the success of their programs was underscored by the accreditation of graduates in various countries, showcasing the institution's global recognition.

"When we launched the advanced diploma in insurance, the highest qualification, we were overwhelmed by the response from the market within and the region. Next year, we shall be graduating the first cohort of the advanced diploma



Grandaunts attending their 8th graduation ceremony at Hotel African in Kampala recently

and we feel proud that we have come this far," said.

Notable milestones were acknowledged, such as the collaboration with the Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority and the introduction of training programs in the pensions sector.

The chairman of the board, Ronald Zaake, expressed gratitude to key supporters,

including the permanent secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi, CEO of the IRA, the National Council for Higher Education, and the Institute's governing council.

"Today, most of the CEOs have passed through the college, which is also another testament of the impact the college has on the sector," he opined.

Alhaj Ibrahim Kaddunabbi Lubega, CEO of the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA), invited attendees to celebrate the graduates' accomplishments.

He emphasized the critical role of insurance in ensuring financial stability and protecting individuals and businesses from unforeseen risks, especially in the face of globalization and increasing

risk complexities.

"As we witness the globalization of the market and increasing complexity of risks, the role of the training insurance professionals is even more critical," Kaddunabbi said.

He noted that the insurance industry has continued to grow despite shortcomings in all the other fields.

For instance, he said, that by the third quarter of the year (September), the insurance industry had registered sh1.22trillion in gross written premiums, which is a 6-percentage point growth when compared with the same period last year.

"I am also happy to note that claims for both life and none life accounted for 39.1% of the total gross write premiums, and this was a total of sh309.5b," he pointed out.

He also revealed that next year, the IRA will be opening up three regional offices in Mbarara, Mbale and Gulu.

This he said, is intended to enable them go closer to the

people they serve and also be accessible by anyone who needs their services.

The ceremony recognized a total of 720 graduates, with 499 receiving certificates in proficiency, 170 in insurance, and 51 earning diplomas in insurance.

The guest of honor, Ramathan Ggoobi, lauded the college for its role in transforming the perception of the insurance sector in Uganda.

He highlighted the sector's positive impact on economic growth, financial inclusivity, and the ability to mitigate risks, fostering innovation and economic transformation.

Ggoobi also lauded the college's dedication to producing high-quality human capital for the insurance sector, with a special mention of graduates' successful integration into the industry.

"The eighth graduation ceremony of the Insurance Training College not only celebrates the achievements of the graduates but also underscores the institution's pivotal role in shaping a robust and professional insurance sector in Uganda and beyond," he said.

Zep-Re Insurance Marks 30 Years with Commitment to Financial Inclusion

In a celebratory event attended by key figures in the finance and trade sector, ZepRe Insurance commemorated its 30th anniversary, at the Kampala Serena hotel, recently. Dr. Edward Damulira, Commissioner of Financial Services at the Ministry of Finance, stressed the importance of financial inclusion, acknowledging the low insurance penetration in the country at just around 1%. He expressed gratitude to the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA), for their collaboration on numerous reforms aimed at enhancing the industry and urged the government and industry experts to boost insurance uptake.

Al Haji Ibrahim Kaddunabbi Lubega, the Insurance Regulatory Authority Chief Executive acknowledged for its pivotal role in promoting skills development through the Zep-Re Academy and commended Zep-Re, for its a significance in the African insurance landscape.

"May I commend Zep-Re for its commitment to excellence and for being a catalyst for positive change. Such events demonstrate the commitment to the mandate of Zep-Re, and also their determination to contribute to the growth of the insurance market, and the entire humanity," said Al Haji Ibrahim Kaddunabbi Lubega, the Insurance Regulatory Authority Chief Executive.

Hope Murera, Zep-Re Managing Director / CEO, highlighted the company's extensive footprint, operating in nine African countries with a robust financial foundation of



L - R; Ms. Hope Murera, Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer, Nicholas Malombe, Associate Director - Life and Micro Insurance, Priscilla Nansubuga, Key Account Manager, Milton Asimwe, Country Manager Uganda and Charles Gatimu, Senior Regional Manager (Kenya and Uganda) Zep-Re



Chief Guest Al Haji Kaddunabbi Ibrahim Lubega, celebrating 30 years of ZEP -RE at Serena Hotel Kampala recently

half a billion dollars. Murera emphasized Zep Re's commitment to financial inclusion, stating that insurance is crucial, especially for vulnerable communities like pastoralists in the Horn of

Africa. During the celebrations, the discussion shifted towards the challenges facing the insurance industry in Africa, focusing on the need for increased awareness,



affordability, and accessibility. Murera said mobile penetration was a powerful tool for outreach, urging the industry to innovate and invest in technology to serve a wider market.

"With mobile penetration now, it's much easier to reach many people cheaply. So, the insurance industry therefore needs to keep innovating, investing in technology, new product, skills to be able to

serve that market. We have been serving that other market, and now we need to change tact," she said.

Comparing Kenya and Uganda, Murera acknowledged Kenya's relatively better performance in the insurance sector, attributed to early adoption of micro-insurance regulations and significant investment in training actuaries.

Zep Re's Country Managing Uganda, Milton Asimwe, expressed gratitude to the government, partners, and the Insurance Regulatory Authority for their support, pledging to move beyond traditional re-insurance solutions.

He said the last 30 years mean so much for the company, having registered exponential growth, and strength in financial terms.

He added that the company can also now support the Insurance and re-insurance markets much better because with the 30 years of growth, its balance sheet has grown.

He elaborated that Zep Re's Uganda office opened in 2017, and by then the company was doing under \$1million, but has since grown to about \$25 billion.

Kaddunabbi commended Zep Re's commitment to excellence and positive change, emphasizing the company's role as a partner in Uganda's insurance landscape.

He said the event served as a platform for industry leaders to connect, network, and explore potential collaborations, reinforcing the collective commitment to driving growth within the insurance sector.



30,000 trees for 30 years

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO INNOVATION & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH OF (RE) INSURANCE IN AFRICA



KENYA



CÔTE D'IVOIRE



ZAMBIA



ZIMBABWE



RWANDA



SUDAN



UGANDA



ETHIOPIA



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Insurance Players Embrace ITC Conference in Mbarara



Saul Sseremba, CEO / Principia, Insurance Training College, address the guests

Prominent figures in the insurance sector enthusiastically participated in the 4th International Insurance Conference hosted by the Insurance Training College (ITC) at the Las Vegas Garden Hotel in Mbarara, Western Uganda.

Uganda's insurance sector is undergoing a transformative shift as it recognises the importance of environmental, social, and governance (ESG).

ESG represents Environmental, Social, and Governance, critical elements employed to evaluate the sustainability and ethical implications of an organization's activities and investments.

This was evidenced at the two-day conference which took place on 26th - 27th October 2023 was exercised under the theme; **"ESG and Sustainability Trends for Today's Organization"** sponsored by Uganda Insurers Association (UIA).

The conference deeply discussed Issues including ESG strategies that organisations need to adopt as they strive to meet the unique insurance needs of Ugandans.

The Conference also aimed at bringing together international experts from academia, government, the insurance industry, and civil society to deliberate on the issues and pave the way for the continued growth of the insurance sector.

It was also an opportunity for practitioners and stakeholders to analyse ideas and discuss the latest trends in the insurance sector given the current developments.

The conference constituted a myriad of engagements & activities like tree planting in line with the environment conservation theme.

UIA CEO Jonan Kisaakye pointed that the resolutions can be implemented for accountability and pledged to continue our close collaboration with ITC.

"In our pursuit of actionable resolutions for enhanced accountability, we have earnestly called for and pledged to sustain our collaborative efforts with ITC. Reflecting on the invaluable discussions held throughout this two-day conference, we, as a team, have evolved into proficient environmental conservation advocates," remarked Kisaakye.

In particular, we congratulate the Insurance Training College on the successful conference and applaud the ESG initiative because we believe that all of us must play a part in preserving the environment.

The keynote speaker, Greg Coleman, Founder and Managing Director of Future Energy Partners, emphasized that incorporating an ESG strategy into a company's operations involves a deliberate sequence of actions.

"Your carbon footprint mirrors your lifestyle. Through the reduction of your carbon footprint, you can safeguard the planet and alleviate the impact of climate change," he articulated.

He added that ESG factors shape understanding risk in the industry. They are also crucial for pricing and developing bespoke products:

Alhaj Kaddunabbi Ibrahim Lubega, the Chief Executive Officer of the Insurance Regulatory Authority, underscores the persistent significance of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) considerations within the insurance industry.

With insurance companies currently processing claims stemming from

natural disasters, there's an imperative for these companies to scrutinize critical risk assessment factors.

"ESG is a new phenomenon & is here to stay! Insurance companies are facing claims resulting from natural disasters. IRA is undertaking ESG guidelines framework in prep for the proper transformative shift in the view of having sustainable insurance practices," he said.

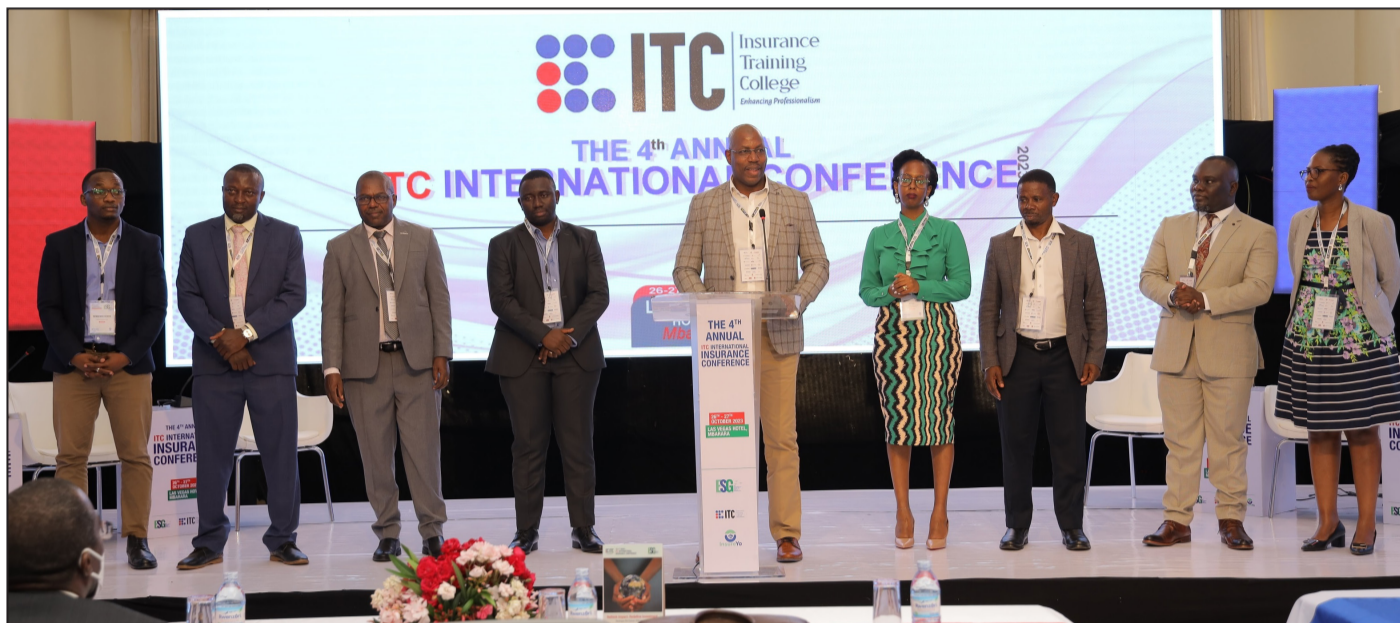
He emphasized why the insurance industry and the country as a whole must establish means of operating within the ESG framework.

In his address, the CEO/Principal ITC Saul Sseremba underscores that to address the present trends, the Insurance industry in Uganda needs to strategically incorporate ESG concepts

"The conference is an opportunity to share knowledge, build bridges and foster meaningful collaborations. I encourage you to take full advantage of the networking opportunities available here," he said

"The adoption of ESG in the insurance sector is the realization that we are the stewards of change. The purpose of this conference is to commit to action not just for the insurance sector but for the whole economy," Sseremba, added

The conference targeted Members of ITC, Partners, members of the public, Partner training institutions in the region, Government officials and regulators in East Africa and beyond, CEOs in the insurance industry, and



Ronald Musoke, Chairman Organising Committee and other members during the 4th Annual ITC International Insurance Conference



L -R: Alhaj Kaddunabbi Ibrahim Lubega, IRA, CEO, Zake Ronald, Board Chairman, Insurance Training College and Mr. Sande Protazio, Director Planning, Research and Market Development

Civil society organizations.

With the majority of the majority of insurers incorporating the ESG factors into their investment decisions, the sector is poised to capitalize on the emerging opportunities for policy underwriting and business expansion.

Uganda Reinsurance Company (Uganda Re), Technical Officer, Namiiro Vivian said the conference was insightful and opened the eyes of players in the sector, this is the most crucial time to talk about ESG considering the challenges within the environment, pollution, and carbon emission

"We have issues to do with gender diversity, governance is talking the issues of boards, investment speaking to the purpose, and businesses giving value. Our minds have been opened but now



Greg Coleman, Managing Director, Future Energy Partners, Keynote Speaker

we have a name for it, ESG is adding value, it is time to mind about the things we have been blind to," she said Sande Protazio, Director of Planning, Research & Market Development at IRA

of Uganda said that ESG discussions have highlighted the need for entrenching ESG considerations in the business module and its implications in the insurance sector for the underwriters have to consider ESG considerations at the back of their minds as they do underwrite,

"If you are underwriting a risk that is going to cause damage to the environment, you could make it unattractive by charging it an expensive premium or should consider rejecting it. ESG is going to be a growing concern and it will involve a lot of scrutiny," he said.

He said players should not look at ESG as a complaint issue but as a competitive issue than those without, as a regulator they have started on the ESG journey.

Islamic Insurance; why Ugandans stand to benefit

The Bank of Uganda recently issued the first Islamic Banking license finally ending the long wait for operationalizing Islamic finance in Uganda.

This followed the Parliament of Uganda's amendment of Section 115b (2) of the Financial Institutions Act which struck out the provision of the requirement for a Shari'ah Advisory Council, and replaced it with one of Bank of Uganda to institutionally address operational issues relating to Islamic Banking.

This is a much welcome development even for other financial services such as Insurance. As the Insurance Regulatory Authority of Uganda (IRA), we are also in advanced stages of finalizing Takaful regulations to pave way for the operationalisation of Islamic insurance in Uganda, to complement traditional insurance. One issue we have been grappling with which Islamic banking has now addressed is the investment of insurance funds. Islamic

Banking will provide halal investment options that Takaful operators will invest their funds on behalf of the members.

Just like traditional insurance, Islamic insurance, also known as Takaful, provides coverage for a variety of risks, such as property damage, loss and health-related expenses and compensates the insured person once an insured against risk occurs whilst adhering to shariah principles.

While both Takaful and conventional insurance guarantee you in the event of unforeseen events, and participants make contributions in form of premiums, Takaful is based on the principles of mutual protection, co-operative risk and profit sharing. Although its origin lies in Islam, it is available to all people irrespective of their faith.

Besides the principles above, takaful works in a distinctly different way from conventional insurance products. Policyholders pay into a fund and they retain an ownership

interest in the fund. It is worth noting that contributions from the participants are later invested into Sharia-compliant investments to derive investment income. In the event of the fund generating a surplus, the profits are shared among both the participants and shareholders, creating a 'win-win' situation for all participants. Likewise, the losses are shared mutually.

Operationalizing Takaful in Uganda presents immense benefits for the Ugandans/insuring public. Key among them is inclusivity. Currently, there are people who need better risk protection tools but do not feel comfortable with conventional insurance products. Takaful would thus provide an alternative for people to choose what they are more comfortable with.

Additionally, Takaful insurance policies are based on ethical and moral standards that are consistent with Shariah principles; thus Islamic insurance policies do not involve interest-based transactions, gambling, or

speculation. This means that all transactions should be based on real economic activity. This poses less risk than conventional insurance to the stability of the financial system.

Takaful insurance encourages risk sharing where all participants contribute to a pool of funds which is used to indemnify participants who suffer a loss, meaning that the risk is shared among all participants. The profits made from investing the funds are distributed among members, giving an advantage over conventional insurance. It also promotes better risk management by both insurers and their customers.

Furthermore, the policies are transparent and accountable, meaning that participants are fully informed about the operations and performance of the Takaful fund. This promotes trust and confidence among participants and ensures that the Takaful fund is managed efficiently and effectively.

Also important to note is that while conventional insurance

providers use underwriters to assess an applicant's level of risk before setting their premium, takaful products are generally offered at a set price. However, there are a few exceptions to this rule; if someone develops a serious health condition for example, the provider may ask them to increase their contribution to the medical takaful fund. A request of this kind will, however, always be based on solid medical evidence.

As IRA, we shall continue to support efforts aimed at creating formidable options such as Takaful as they present a good opportunity to boost insurance penetration in Uganda. Once operationalised, it will promote an inclusive, competitive and more stable insurance industry.

As a way of preparing sector players for this emerging opportunity, we are continuously sensitizing them about Takaful to make them



Alhaj Kaddunabbi Ibrahim Lubega

ready to tap into this new area of insurance. We also pledge to support all efforts aimed at providing Takaful and re-takaful insurance in the country. Public awareness campaigns will also heighten in earnest once the regulations are passed by the Minister of Finance.

The writer is the Chief Executive Officer of the Insurance Regulatory Authority of Uganda



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

AUTHORISATION OF REINSURERS, INSURERS, HEALTH MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATIONS, INSURANCE BROKERS, REINSURANCE BROKERS, LOSS ASSESSORS, LOSS ADJUSTERS, RISK ADVISORS AND BANCASSURANCE AGENTS EFFECTIVE 2nd JANUARY 2024

Website: www.fiancetrust.co.ug

x. Housing Finance Bank Limited
P. O Box 1539 Kampala
Website: www.housingfinance.co.ug

xi. I&M Bank (Uganda) Limited
P.O Box 3072, Kampala
Website: www.orient-bank.com

xii. KCB Bank Uganda Limited
P.O Box 7399 Kampala
Website: www.kcbgroup.com

xiii. Mercantile Credit Bank Limited
P.O Box 620, Kampala
Website: www.mcb.co.ug

xiv. NCBA Bank Uganda Limited
P.O Box 28707, Kampala
Website: www.nc-bank.com

xv. Opportunity Bank Uganda Limited
P.O Box 33513 Kampala
Website: www.opportunitybank.co.ug

xvi. Post Bank Uganda Limited
P.O Box 7189, Kampala
Website: www.postbank.co.ug

xvii. Stanbic Bank (U) Limited
P.O Box 7131, Kampala
Website: www.stanbicbank.co.ug

xviii. Standard Chartered Bank Uganda Limited
P.O Box 7111 Kampala
Website: www.sc.com/ug

xix. Tropical Bank Uganda Limited

P.O BOX 9485 Kampala,
Website: www.trobank.com

i) Loss Assessors

i. Assiduous Claim Handlers & Loss Assessors Limited
P.O Box 609, Ntinda
Email: assiduousadjusters@gmail.com

ii. Bengal Assessors Company (U) Limited
P.O. Box 30319, Kampala
Email: dpadipkumar@yahoo.com

iii. Proba Loss Assessors & Loss Adjusters Limited
P.O Box 70193, Kampala
Email: probaservices1@gmail.com

iv. Uprise Insurance Loss Assessors Limited
P.O Box 26373, Kampala
Email: alvinbyaruhanga@gmail.com

v. Protectors International Loss Adjusters Limited
P.O Box 12298, Kampala.
Website: www.protectorsuganda.com

vi. Migwez Loss Assessors Limited
P.O Box 108599, Kampala
Email: migwezltd@gmail.com

vii. Fox Loss Assessors Limited
P.O Box 75653, Kampala
Email: foxadl.assessors@gmail.com

viii. Ancient Professional Insurance Assessors Ltd
P.O Box 11081 Kampala (U)
Email: ancientassessor@gmail.com

ix. Subrogate Insurance Loss Assessors Limited

P.O Box 120925, Rubaga Road
Email: mdsubrogatelossassessors@gmail.com
com/amonadritld@gmail.com

j) Loss Adjustors

i. Sapphire Adjusters Company (U) Limited
P. O. Box 4956, Kampala,
Email: info@sapphireadjusters.com

ii. Vericlaims Adjusters and Properties Limited
P.O Box 28496, Kampala
Website: www.vericlaims.com

iii. MPU Insurance Loss Adjusters Limited
P.O Box 11081, Kampala, Uganda
Email: info@mpu.co.ug

k) Loss Assessor and Loss Adjustors

i. Aliwali Diamond Engineers and Loss Adjusters Limited
P. O. Box 8656, Kampala
Tel: 0414699263/0702415507/0772457148

ii. Elite Assessors and Adjusters Limited
P.O Box 497, Kampala
Website: www.elitmanagement.com

iii. Five Motors Loss Assessors and Loss Adjusters (U) Limited
P.O. Box 12636, Kampala
Email: motorcareclinic@gmail.com

iv. Premier Adjusters and Risk Advisors Limited
P.O. Box 22546, Kampala
Website: www.multipleconsult.com

l) Loss Assessors and Risk Advisors

i. Barfric Insurance Assessors and Investigators Limited P.O Box 6782, Kampala
Email: barfricltd@gmail.com

ii. SSEL Engineers, Loss Assessors and Risk Advisors Limited P.O Box 9966, Kampala
Email: sainebyoona@yahoo.com

iii. Geometal Engineers and Loss Adjusters Limited P.O Box 34285, Kampala
Email: info@geometalengineers.com

iv. Zim Insurance Loss Assessors and SR Limited P.O Box 16255, Kampala
Email: zolm.international@yahoo.com

v. A & F Insurance Risk Advisors & Loss Adjusters Ltd P.O Box 114973 Kampala, GPO
Email: afinsurancerriskadvisors@gmail.com

m) Loss Adjustor and Risk Advisors

i. Edgeline Loss Adjusters and Risk Advisors Limited
P.O Box 23442, Kampala
Email: info@askcorporateconsults.com

ii. General Adjusters Uganda Limited
P.O Box 24393, Kampala
Web: www.generaladjusters.co.ug

iii. International Adjusters Uganda Limited
P.O Box 22781, Kampala
Email: international.adjusters@starcom.co.ug

iv. Landmark Loss Adjusters and Risk Advisors
P.O Box 118815, Kampala
Email: pssembajja@landmarkadjusters.com

v. Quantum Meruit Loss ASSESSORS & Risk Advisors Limited
P.O Box 11517, Kampala
Email: qmlossassessors@gmail.com

n) Risk Advisors, Loss Adjustor & Loss Assessor

i. Claimcare Loss Adjusters (U) Limited
P.O Box 8407, Kampala
Email: info.ug@claimcare.co

ii. Assess International Surveyors Limited
P.O Box 30902 Kampala
Email: absharma007@gmail.com

o) Risk Advisor

i) Techrisk Advisors & Loss Adjusters Limited
P.O Box 131001, Kampala
Email: techrisk1@gmail.com

The public is required by law to deal with ONLY licensed players.

Members of the public are further reminded of the existence of an **Online COMPLAINTS BUREAU system (iracomplaints.go.ug)** to which they may lodge insurance-related complaints. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer at the above address.

The Authority is committed to being a "Model Regulator of a Secure and Developed Insurance Industry"

#DrivingInsuranceGrowth
Alhaj Kaddunabbi Ibrahim Lubega
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WILLIS TOWERS WATSON LOOKS TO FUTURE, WINS FIRE AWARD

By Sarah Nabakooza

Navigating the volatile insurance broking sector is no small feat in all markets, Uganda inclusive. Willis Towers Watson Uganda Insurance Brokers (WTW) is a resilient company that has overcome all obstacles, sustained market share and flourished.

WTW is privileged to be a recipient of Financial Reporting (FiRe) Awards since 2018 in different categories, a testament of the Company's commitment to excellence.

Amos Byaruhanga, WTW's management accountant, says winning the FiRe award for this year is a testimony of their commitment to presentation of financial and

non-financial information in a comprehensive and easy-to-understand form that is useful to all our stakeholders.

"Our financial reports are elaborate, highlight our commitment to various aspects of sound financial reporting, corporate governance, corporate social responsibility, sustainability reporting, risk management and compliance. They are in line with international financial reporting standards (IFRS), Companies Act, 2012 and insurance Act 2017, Laws of Uganda" he said.

He said the reports give the various stakeholders an overall picture of the company performance over the past years, in relation to the budget and industry requirements.

Ritah Mutesi Kabayiza,



Ritah Mutesi Kabayiza

WTW's executive director, says the firm opened shop at the tail end of November 2012 and is proud of the 10+ journey thus far, thanks to the tremendous support from their growing Clientele.

With roots dating way back to 1828, WTW is a leading global advisory, broking and solutions company that helps clients locally and around the world turn risks



Byaruhanga (right) receiving a FiRe Award from an official during a dinner organised by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda at the Kampala Serena Hotel

into paths for growth," she said in a recent interview.

She further pointed out that with over 40,000 colleagues in 140+ countries, they pride themselves in customizing unique risk solutions for clients across different sectors of the economy.

"In Uganda, our client relationships continue to grow year on year, making us the preferred insurance advisor while nurturing long term mutual relationships.

WITH ROOTS DATING WAY BACK TO 1828, WTW IS A LEADING GLOBAL ADVISORY, BROKING AND SOLUTIONS COMPANY.

"We continuously invest in our people as we believe that when you get one of us, you get all of us. The

consistency in service irrespective of who receives the first call has won us the trust of many."

Mutesi further says with over 53 licenced insurance brokers, WTW is proud to be a key player contributing in excess of sh55b in insurance premiums to the market.

WTW remains committed to People, Planet and Profit as it builds a sustainable business that will contribute to Uganda's economy for years to come.

Your Trusted Risk Advisor

Our success comes from challenging the status quo to bring you fit-for-purpose Risk and Insurance Solutions.

Together, we unlock potential

Willis Towers Watson Uganda Insurance Brokers Ltd

P O Box 73628, Kampala, Uganda, | Ground Floor, Studio House | Plot 5 Bandali Rise, Bugolobi

T: +256 (0) 392 000 052

+256 (0) 754 988 197

wtwco.com

Pan African Insurance Broker, Acquires Ballpack



Mr. Vincent de Charnace, CEO-East and Southern Africa and Mr. Paul Muhame, Managing Director, Olea Uganda Insurance Brokers Ltd.

In a strategic move to strengthen its presence in East Africa, Olea, a prominent pan-African insurance broker, has acquired a majority stake in Ballpack Insurance Group

Uganda.

The acquisition marks Olea's 25th investment on the continent and emphasizes its commitment to fostering growth in the African

insurance industry.

Paul Muhame, the Executive Director of Olea Uganda, expressed enthusiasm about the acquisition, stating that it brings valuable expertise and capacity

to the Ugandan market.

"We are happy and excited because the acquisition brings in quite a bit of expertise and capacity in the Ugandan Market. Olea is a regional and Continental broker well versed in various disciplines and through those synergies we look at harnessing that expertise locally," Muhame said.

He highlighted the synergy between Olea's regional and continental experience and their focus on providing tailored solutions locally.

Vincent de Charnace, CEO-East and Southern Africa, explained that Olea's entry into the Ugandan market had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with the right partner found in Muhame, Olea transitioned from a partnership with Ballpack to a full acquisition.

De Charnace said that Olea's journey, has been characterized by a focus on advanced technologies, such as the development of their brokerage system, "Fields," which facilitates real-time access to insurance information for clients.

He said this web-based system extends globally, allowing multinational clients to view consolidated data specific to

each country.

"Right now, our multinational clients can get access to Consolidated data related to their insurance and on the country per country basis, so they have global vision and local Vision," he said.

Notably, Olea has been keen on innovation, offering IT and digital solutions for medical, motor, and general insurance needs. This emphasis on technology aligns with their goal of providing quality service and customized solutions to clients.

According to De Charnace, the acquisition of Ballpack Insurance Group solidifies Olea's position as a leading pan-African broker.

He said the new subsidiary, located in Kololo, Uganda, serves as a pivotal point for Olea's expansion into Africa.

With a network covering nearly all of sub-Saharan Africa, Olea aims to implement fully digitalized insurance solutions, meeting the diverse needs of the Ugandan community.

De Charnace affirmed Olea's commitment to maintaining high standards, professionalism, and proximity to clients in various sectors, including energy, telecom, industry, and hospitality.

"Paul Muhame, with his extensive experience in the local market, will spearhead Olea's operations in Uganda," he revealed.

He added that the acquisition signals a significant development for Olea, reinforcing its dedication to supporting clients and fostering growth in the dynamic African insurance landscape.

GA Insurance Unveils "Secure Your Ride" Campaign with Standard Motor Comprehensive Upgrade

In a stride towards bolstering road safety and ensuring protection for vehicle owners, GA Insurance Uganda has launched its latest insurance innovation – the Standard Motor Comprehensive Upgrade.

The unveiling ceremony, held at the GA Insurance Uganda office in Kampala, signals a significant leap forward in the insurance industry.

According to the Chief Executive Operations, Shakira Shamim Mujuni, GA Insurance Uganda aims to reshape the motor insurance landscape with this comprehensive upgrade, under the theme "Secure Your Ride."

She said beyond heightened coverage, the product introduces a complimentary tracker installation, adding that this strategic move aligns with GA Insurance Uganda's commitment to innovation, customer satisfaction, and overall road safety.

Mujuni expressed excitement, stating, "We are thrilled to



Ms. Shakira Shamim Mujuni - Chief Executive Operations GA Insurance Uganda Limited.

introduce the Standard Motor Comprehensive Upgrade as part of our commitment to providing innovative solutions that prioritize the safety and satisfaction of our clients."

A standout feature of this upgrade is the inclusion of a

free tracker installation, allowing clients to enjoy a 15% discount as sanctioned by regulatory authorities.

This not only results in significant cost savings for policyholders but also underscores GA Insurance Uganda's dedication to delivering

value-added services.

Mujuni revealed that the free tracker installation provides clients with the invaluable benefit of real-time vehicle tracking, enhancing both the security of insured vehicles and fostering collaboration between GA Insurance Uganda and its clients in ensuring the safety of their assets.

"Knowing the whereabouts of their vehicle at any given time adds an extra layer of reassurance for policyholders," she said.

Moreover, she added that the Standard Motor Comprehensive Upgrade offers elevated policy limits compared to standard motor comprehensive coverage.

"In the unfortunate event of an incident, clients benefit from increased financial protection, providing peace of mind and security beyond conventional insurance coverage," Mujuni said.

Tailored for private vehicles exceeding sh30million and commercial vehicles exceeding sh40 million, the Standard Motor

Comprehensive Upgrade caters to the unique needs of high-value vehicles.

This tailored approach ensures that owners of premium vehicles receive specialized coverage commensurate with the worth and significance of their assets.

Mujuni said as GA Insurance Uganda continues to lead in delivering cutting-edge insurance solutions, the launch of the Standard Motor Comprehensive Upgrade marks a significant step towards creating safer roads, securing assets, and fostering a culture of responsible driving.

It should be noted that Motor Comprehensive Insurance emerges as the ideal and lasting gift, especially as individuals plan long-distance trips for the Christmas holidays.

Despite its intangible nature, this well-thought-out gift proves practical and comprehensive, offering solutions during challenging times of loss or damage when pockets may not be as full.



URBRA

UGANDA RETIREMENT BENEFITS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Protecting your retirement benefits

AFRICA PENSION SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 27-28 NOVEMBER 2023



(Left to right) Worker's MP Hon. Rwakajara K. Arinaitwe, Parul Seth Khanna, Hon. Amos Lugolobi, Hon. Grace Mary Mugasa, Gautam Bhardwaj during a book launch at the Conference.

CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE

WE, distinguished delegates from Africa and around the world, attending the 4th Annual APSA Conference, resolved as follows:

We are alive to the fact that 600 million of the 778 million working age population in Africa are excluded from formal pension and social protection arrangements and face the grim prospect of living in extreme poverty for over 20 years after they are too old to work.

We recognize that over 85 percent of Africa's huge and young workforce is employed in the informal sector, works without a contract, and is excluded from social security, health insurance and retirement benefits.

We appreciate the work already done in some African countries that have pioneered in micro-pensions including Rwanda, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, and Benin

We are equally cognizant of the need to align pension funds investment strategies with climate-conscious principles and other Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations.

We take note of the huge accrual rate for public sector pension schemes in Africa of 2.2 percent that is almost double the global average of 1.2 percent, which compounds the fiscal burden as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Consequently, arising from the insightful presentations, discussions and

thought-provoking contributions and questions throughout the conference, the following key recommendations are put forward for consideration by pension policy makers, regulators, and industry players:

- 1) There is urgent need to incorporate Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations into pensions investments.
- 2) Establish independent verification modalities for ESG reporting to ensure benchmarkable standards applicable across various jurisdictions.
- 3) Put in place appropriate measures for ESG risk reporting and development of appropriate guidelines.
- 4) Consider the following imperatives for Africa's pension inclusion including:

- Review existing legal frameworks to make them inclusive of the informal sector workers.
- Adopt a digital identification system to allow for KYC
- Encourage bundling of financial products that incorporate both short term and long terms needs for citizens.
- Leverage the increasing financial inclusion occasioned by the expansive mobile telephony penetration in Africa to bolster pension coverage in the informal labour market.
- Enhance financial literacy through targeted



Martin Anthony Nsubuga
Secretary, Africa Pensions
Supervisors Association (APSA)
&
Chief Executive Officer, Uganda
Retirement Benefits Regulator
Authority (URBRA)

awareness programs to ensure increased enrolment into pension saving.

- Champion governments to address foundational issues, such as, affordable housing, healthcare, and education, that erode disposable income and hamper pension savings.

- Put in place measures to collect real time data to enable behavioural analytics and build trust among those participating in savings for retirement.

- Establish a coordination office to assist

with pushing through the agenda for micro pensions.

- Advocate government support through fiscal initiatives like tax exemptions and matching contributions to mobilize savings for retirement.

- Encourage simple, easy, and flexible products that allow easy entry into and exit from saving for retirement arrangement by leveraging on Technology.

- 5) Adopt an innovative model that encourages working together with communities to create value into their livelihoods by identifying and addressing their challenges, earning their trust and uplifting them out of poverty.

- 6) Consider policy reforms on the pay-as-you-go defined benefits public sector schemes to address fiscal sustainability, affordability, adequacy of benefits, prudent management and investment, and good governance. This will ease the fiscal burden on government caused by burgeoning pension liability.

Martin Anthony Nsubuga

Chief Executive Officer
Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulator
Authority

Highlights from the Conference



Hon. Amos Lugolobi, Minister of State for Planning, signing a copy of the book that was launched



Delegates from Rwanda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, Morocco and South Africa at the conference.



Dr Shem Ouma, Head APSA Secretariat speaking at Conference



Hajjat Ssebyala (Mama Green), an environmentalist presents a seedling to the URBRA Board Chairman Hon. Julius Junjura Bigirwa



Rwandan representative Dr. Regis Hitimana, speaking at the conference



Fuaad Daboh Mohamed, Director General-National Social Security and Insurance Trust, Sierra Leone speaking at the conference

Insurance companies encouraged on agriculture insurance

At the recently concluded 4th Annual International Training College, international conference held in Mbarara at the Las Vegas Hotel, Insurance companies were encouraged to focus on agriculture insurance.

The players in the sector who included brokers, chief executive officers, players, consumers were told that since Uganda's economy largely depends on agriculture it is paramount that they promote agriculture insurance.

Addressing over 100 participants from the east region and international, Uganda insurance companies, the State Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, Bright Rwamirama has encouraged insurance companies to promote agriculture insurances.

Rwamirama, said with the current disasters like flooding and drought, the farmers should have an agriculture insurance policy to protect their produce.

He told the company owner that this will minimize costs for the farmers if their businesses are insured under the agriculture insurance.

Rwamirama said, "Environment impacts has affected farmers in the recent past agriculture insurance is the only way to go for people engaged in farming".

Place insurance for sustainability of environment, looking at the smart agriculture it will minimize costs for farmers," Rwamirama said.

Rwamirama also encouraged the insurance companies to come up with a policy to cater for the retired soldiers, urging that this is an area where insurance companies have ignored.

The two-day conference attracted over 27 insurance companies from across Africa and was organized by the Insurance Training College under the theme: Environment Social Governance and sustainability trend for today's organizations.

The companies that cover agriculture under the consortium are UAP Old Mutual Uganda Insurance, Sanlam, CIC Insurance Uganda and MUA Insurance (Uganda) and others.

Insurance companies never look at Armed Forces.

This is an area where they need venture into, "As a serving senior officer in the army and long serving politician, I have told insurance companies that it can be good engage in the post retirement insurance for the army.

Other policies that Rwamirama asked that companies that they should consider persons with disabilities.

The Chief Executive Officer, Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA), Ibrahim Kaddunabbi said insurance companies are in the process of coming up with products which address the agriculture sector saying that risk factors of climate change.

"Am aware that the country depends on agriculture, I am also aware that the insurance companies



The State Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, Lt. Col. (Rtd) Bright Rwamirama, guest of Honor



Saul Sseremba, CEO / Principa, Insurance Training College



have come up with products which were approved by IRA in the agriculture sector, this policy will be embraced since government provided subsidies intended to supplement and pay for out puts on premier for people who buy agriculture insurance," Kaddunabbi

said.

He noted that it is important as government rolls out the Parish Development Model, to uphold the subsidies so that uptake of agriculture insurances is more enhanced.

Kaddunabbi said that insurance

companies will consider the concern raised on armed forces saying that since they become of disabled while in service.

"Insurance companies are going to look at what policy can they come up with for such disabled person" he said.



Alhaj Kaddunabbi Ibrahim Lubega, Chief Executive Officer, Insurance Regulatory Authority of Uganda

The chief executive officer Insurance Training College, (ITC) Saul Sseremba said that the insurance companies should create impact and increase awareness in insurance.

We need to incorporate ESG in our operation as insurance company. He said they are here to enter into action.

"Insurance companies should adopt an approach that embraces environment, social and governance," he noted.

Sseremba said Uganda insurance penetration is still low emphasizing that the ICT has taken steps to engage with schools to teach insurance in secondary schools.

Commenting on the theme: Environment Social Governance and sustainability trend for today's organizations, the actuarial consultant with Kenbright Africa Ernest Magazi explained that ESG is a frame used to assess an organization business practice and performance on various sustainability and ethical issues.

It also provides a way to measure business risks and opportunities in those areas.

Some examples of ESG friendly services include renewable energy providers organic waste management, automobile, paperless claims and notification.



Ernest Magazi Barusya, Team Leader, Kenbright Advisory, Uganda

UAP Old Mutual Scoops two awards at the 13th FiRe Awards

Recently, UAP Old Mutual Insurance Uganda Limited was immersed in a wave of excitement and jubilation at the 13th annual Financial Reporting (FiRe) Awards. Organized by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants Uganda (ICPAU), in partnership with the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), the Uganda Securities Exchange (USE), and the New Vision, this event marked a pivotal moment.

This year's FiRe Awards theme was 'ESG: Reporting as Brand Storytelling.' The underlying message was crystal clear - the world is increasingly looking towards organizations to address Environmental, Social, and Governance issues. The focus is not only to build a better reputation but also enhancing performance and embracing transparency in operations.

Commenting further on this, Stephen Ineget, Chairperson of the FiRe awards stated in his remarks, "ESG is an external investment framework with three pillars, Environmental, Social and Governance which assists companies in identifying and addressing potential risks and enhancing long term value creation." The CEO of Capital Markets Authority, Keith Kalyegira further illuminated, "This year's theme holds profound importance. Reporting on ESG matters not only aligns companies with sustainable and ethical principles but also shapes their brand narrative. In today's interconnected world, investors, stakeholders, and the public are increasingly interested in how organizations contribute to a sustainable future, treat their employees, and uphold ethical governance. By reporting on ESG, companies are not just disclosing data; they are narrating their commitment to making a positive impact on society and the environment."

The night was nothing short of spectacular for UAP Old Mutual as two



UAP Old Mutual Insurance Uganda Limited officials receiving an award during the 2023 Fire awards at Serena Hotel in Kampala recently

prestigious awards were attained. The awards included 'Insurance Company with the Best Report and 'Most Improved Report.' These accolades not only celebrate the company's outstanding performance but also stand as a testament to the unwavering commitment to ESG values.

The FiRe Awards are a pivotal annual event on Uganda's corporate

calendar. They were introduced in 2011 to enhance the quality of financial and business reporting in Uganda by encouraging the implementation of financial reporting standards. They are a recognition and reward system that spans across private, public, and non-profit sectors, based on their adherence to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the adoption of emerging best practices

in corporate reporting.

"The overarching aim of the 2023 FiRe awards is effective communication of financial and business information, showing best practices in financial reporting and promoting and institutionalizing transparency in the corporate reporting process," Josephine Okui Ossiya emphasized, President ICPAU, in her remarks at the event. Furthermore, the FiRe Awards

have a broader mission to create a more robust economic landscape.

Participating in the FiRe Awards is also a chance for organizations to receive invaluable feedback on their compliance with relevant financial and corporate reporting frameworks. This feedback is a crucial step in fostering better reporting practices within organizations and, ultimately, throughout the nation.

How Savings and Insurance Can Redefine Financial Wellness

In the world of financial well-being, saving money is not merely a habit, it is a lifestyle that can redefine your future. Saving is fundamental for investment, wards off life's uncertainties and paves a secure path through obstacles. Yet in Uganda, the savings status quo is concerning. The 2020 Financial Capability Survey revealed Uganda's savings-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio is at 13.48%, trailing behind Kenya's 23% and Rwanda's 18%, a wakeup call, urging us to rethink our financial strategies.

Furthermore, according to the 2018 Finscope survey by Financial Sector Deepening Uganda (FSDU), even after saving most people access their emergency funds for



Jolly Kabahuma Olweny,
Country Agency Services
Manager, Uap Old Mutual
Insurance Uganda

common expenses such as funeral costs, medical expenses and school fees. The report further shows how

people manage financial risks when faced with unexpected expenses stating that 22% and 30% of adults use their own savings or borrow money respectively.

While generally known to be a measure to cushion oneself against unforeseen future misfortunes, the insurance sector has over time shade its skin revealing its multifaceted offerings including mitigating financial risks.

It is important to recognize that if you do not plan your finances and fail to protect your loved ones from the troubles of life, life's journey can be hard to walk. It is therefore of utmost importance for one to invest their monies in the right avenues to provide a security net. In Uganda, life assurance and medical insurance are

witnessing steady growth as more people recognize the necessity of insurance.

Life assurance cover savings core purpose is to help people to plan and meet their life aspirations. One is encouraged to save for long periods ranging between 5-10 years. There are several life assurance products that provide a protective shield for your loved ones and are also savings tools. With life assurance's ability to provide financial security in times of need and accumulate a cash value over time, it can play a crucial role in a long-term savings strategy. The products include endowment plans that can cater for child education or attaining a savings goal for any dream such as purchasing land, starting a business, or

preparing for marriage.

Additionally, medical insurance is also another way to support the population to reduce the burden of catastrophic expenditures on health. According to the World Bank's Uganda Human Capital Index for 2020, 15% of Uganda's population incurs catastrophic health expenditure measured as out-of-pocket spending, which exceeds 10% of household consumption or income.

Majority of the population relies on cash payments from savings, the sale of property or crowdfunding to cover unexpected health emergencies, medical insurance mitigates this by giving access to medical care and ensuring saving are protected.

31st October is marked as World Savings Day, a day to celebrate financial wellness and the necessity of saving for the future. In view of these statistics, perhaps the message to Ugandans as we recognize this day, should shift from urging them to save but rather expose them to better options with the inbuilt combination of savings and insurance that has the potential to better their financial wellness.

Coupled with the supervisory role of the Insurance Regulatory Authority over the insurance sector players, formal insurance not only guarantees high returns but also offers better ways to mitigate risks.

You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.

Uganda launches second 5-year National Financial Inclusion Strategy



Stakeholders at the launch of the strategy

Bank of Uganda together with its partners has launched Uganda's National Financial Inclusion Strategy II (NFISII) 2023-2028.

This follows the expiry of 1st strategy (NFIS I) 2017-2022. The vision of the second strategy is; "universal access and usage of a broad range of quality and affordable formal financial products and services delivered in a responsible and sustainable manner."

During the launch, Finance Minister Matia Kasaija said financial inclusion is vital for the national development agenda. He said financial inclusion helps in growing

the economy, reducing poverty, creating jobs by supporting entrepreneurship and business expansion as well as promoting gender equality and promoting rural development.

"We need to reduce access barriers to formal financial sectors. We need to deepen usage of affordable and quality financial products. We must work to strengthen financial consumer protection and capabilities," he said.

The Deputy Governor, Dr Michael Atingi-Ego said the National Financial Inclusion Strategy II (NFIS II) aligns with the BoU's strategic plan (2022-2027), with initiatives to foster financial inclusion through digital financial

services, effective regulatory frameworks, appropriate infrastructure, partnerships, innovation, and consumer protection.

It also emphasises the soundness and resilience of the financial system, he said.

"At the heart of NFIS II lies a deep-rooted commitment to empowering underserved segments, including women, smallholder farmers, forcibly displaced persons, youth, MSMEs, rural dwellers, and people with disabilities. We recognise their unique challenges and are committed to tailoring financial solutions that address their specific needs," he added.

Acting Director Economic Affairs, Moses Kaggwa said compared to 2017, more

Ugandans now have a financial account, more have access to credit when they need it and more are able to save.

"A big success has been the rapid increase in financial access points from 548 per 100,000 adults in 2017 to 2,386 per 100,000 in 2022. Active banking agents have increased from 133 in 2017 to 25,635 in June 2023," Kaggwa, who represented Secretary to the Treasury Ramathan Ggoobi said.

Regarding Parish Development Model (PDM), Kaggwa said UGX 1.13 trillion had been disbursed by mid-November, 2023 to 10,585 SACCOs. UGX 974.8 billion has so far been loaned to 965,243 beneficiaries.

However, in this second

phase, the spotlight shifts to deepening formal access from regulated financial institutions. Ochan highlighted key objectives, stating,

"We should also improve usage as well as the quality for which these financial services are provided." This underscores a commitment to not only expanding access but ensuring meaningful engagement with financial services.

In the initial NFIS, women were given priority, and this emphasis will continue in the second strategy.

Ochan emphasized that while women, youth, and rural dwellers were prioritized in the first strategy, there will still be a focus on these demographics in the new strategy.

Additionally, refugees, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will be prioritized to promote inclusive economic development.

Ochan highlighted the inclusive nature of the new strategy, stating, "Although women, youth, and rural dwellers were prioritized in the first strategy, there should still be sufficient targeting in the new strategy. In addition, refugees and PWDs, as well as micro, small, and medium enterprises, should be prioritized."

The implementation of the new strategy will involve ensuring clear budgetary allocations for initiatives designed to benefit the economically disadvantaged.

Exports to Uganda grow 45 percent in 10 months

Export earnings from Uganda increased 45 percent in the 10 months to October this year, propelled by sale of farm produce and fuel products to the land-locked country.

Data published by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics show that Kenya exported goods worth Sh96 billion to Uganda up from Sh66 billion over similar period to account for 11.5 percent of total export earnings.

The increase in Uganda's share in Kenya's earnings to more than 10 percent poses a concentration risk on Kenya's export earnings should there be a fallout or a major shift in policy that sidelines Kenya.

The jump comes at a time the country is planning an alternative fuel import deal that takes Kenya and Tanzania out of the picture.

Kenya's main exports to Uganda include iron and steel products valued at Sh7.39 billion and petroleum products valued at Sh5 billion last year.

Over the 10-month period total export earnings grew by 14 percent to a record Sh831.4 billion while import expenditure grew by one percent to Sh2.12 trillion.

The faster growth in exports compared to imports narrowed the trade deficit by six percent, defying expectations of a worsening trade balance given the massive depreciation on the shilling that has shed a fifth of its value against the dollar since last January.

Other markets that recorded significant growth in receipts include France (51 percent) and United Arab Emirates (47.4 percent).

The United States of America, which is the second biggest market of Kenyan goods, was toppled by Pakistan and the Netherlands as receipts dropped by 22 percent to Sh50.2 billion.

China, the single largest source of Kenya's import, recorded a slight fall in imports to Kenya down two percent to Sh368.5 billion as UAE recorded a seven and 20 percent rise in imports.

Four countries, namely China, India, Saudi Arabia and UAE shipped out goods worth Sh 1.1 trillion into the country accounting for 51 percent of Kenya's total import bill in the 10-month period.

Why yaka system is being phased out

The Standard Transfer Specification Association (STS), the manufacturers of prepaid meters issued a critical notice affecting all STS prepayment meter users including electricity utility suppliers.

Minister for Energy and Mineral Development Ruth Nankabirwa revealed that by November 2024, the prepaid yaka meters will be phased out.

The Minister noted that the prepaid meters will be migrated onto the New Token Identification System to be able to continue purchasing Units for their Electricity

Supply seamlessly.

"This change is happening on a global scale and will affect all consumers on the Prepayment Metering system," she said.

Now explaining the reasons for phasing out the yaka system, Nankabirwa revealed that on May 22, 2022, the Standard Transfer Specification Association (STS), the manufacturers of prepaid meters issued a critical notice affecting all STS prepayment meter users including electricity utility suppliers.

"The notice indicated that on 24 November 2024, all

prepayment meters based on STS technology will stop dispensing electricity, because each credit token issued to a prepayment meter has a unique Token Identifier (TID) encoded into 20 digits that needs to be updated," she posted via her X account.

She further highlighted that the current TID in all prepaid meters in the electricity, water, and gas utilities business is referenced to a base date of 1993 and will run out of range in November 2024, thus causing the prepayment meter to stop accepting new tokens.

Therefore, in order to overcome the TID rollover occurrence, all meters will require key change tokens with the roll over bit set. In addition to this, the base date of January 1, 1993 will be required to be changed to a base date of January 1, 2014. This process will force the meters to reset the TID stack memory to 0. To avoid previously used tokens from being accepted by the meter due to the TID stack reset, the key change process changes the meter key at the same time.

A process is therefore required to allow for the management

of this TID Rollover key change with the least impact to the utilities and equipment suppliers.



Embracing the Future of Clean Beauty in Uganda

Uganda's manufacturing industry is synonymous with poor waste disposal. The beauty industry isn't any different. And yet, in the recent years consumers are becoming increasingly conscious of the products they use and the impact these have on their health and the environment. There is therefore a need for the worldwide revolution of "clean beauty" to be adopted in Uganda. The Clean Beauty Concept is, put simply; a movement that prioritizes products formulated with safe, non-toxic ingredients. The effects of manufacturing however have a negative impact on the environment which calls for more responsible production.

According to 2022 reports; the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that around 9 out of 10 people worldwide breathe polluted air, and outdoor air pollution contributes to over 4 million premature deaths each year. According to the World Bank, approximately 70% of untreated industrial waste in developing countries is discharged into waters, polluting rivers, lakes, and oceans (2022 report.) The United Nations' Global Environment Outlook reports that habitat degradation and loss are major drivers of biodiversity decline, affecting ecosystems around the world. The WHO also estimates that environmental risks, including those associated with inadequate waste management, contribute to more than 25% of the global burden of disease. This therefore means there needs to be a shift in many manufacturing practices; but pertinently, in the direction of clean manufacturing.

In Uganda, the environmental and health effects born of irresponsible manufacturing, while undocumented, contribute to the aforementioned statistics in an alarming way.

WHY CLEAN BEAUTY

Clean beauty is more than just a trend; it's a holistic approach to beauty that goes beyond aesthetics. It encompasses a commitment to transparency, sustainability, and the use of ingredients that are safe for both the consumer and the planet. The Ugandan market is undoubtedly flooded with counterfeit products whose production, in bid to imitate the original products; end up producing products that affect unsuspecting users. These beauty products often contain harmful chemicals that can have adverse effects on the skin and overall well-being. In contrast, clean beauty products prioritize natural, and

organic ingredients, ensuring a healthier and more ethical choice for consumers.

The Call for Ugandan Manufacturers to Embrace Clean Beauty

There is need for Ugandan manufacturers to recognize the growing demand for clean beauty products. Embracing this shift is not only a commitment to the well-being of consumers but also a strategic move to stay relevant and competitive in the global market.

Ugandan manufacturers have the opportunity to lead the clean beauty movement in Africa by adopting technologies and practices that prioritize sustainability and health. By making this shift, we not only contribute to the overall well-being of our consumers but also position ourselves as leaders in ethical and responsible manufacturing. A good example is how Bellazuri is blazing the trail of clean beauty.

We use German Technology to ensure the best possible standard of production with no harm to the environment or human beings whatsoever. Our machine manufacturer, IKAA has been in the business for over 100 years; implying therefore, that the machines Bellazuri uses to manufacture have been tested over the years and advanced to ensure environmental and human friendly production. The machines have a technology that prevents corrosion while ensuring they don't wear off easily; therefore eliminating the chance of contaminating the production process. The machines also work under a closed and automated system; which breeds many safety measures, but pertinently that all the processes of production including mixing, heating (among others) happen in the confines of the machine, thus eliminating exposure to the process and/or residue and fume inhalations by the operators. This also means that the machines have a self-cleaning process and there is no point of contact with any moving part of the machine.

The raw materials are chosen meticulously and therefore have no harm on people, health, skin or otherwise, as well as the environment. We use ingredients that have been proven safe for use, tasted over years by internationally regulated laboratories Their safety profile has already been determined through years of tasting. We also run in-house tests to make sure the raw materials that are tested according to internationally approved regulatory standards, to make it easy to enter European markets. We use pharmaceutical grade manufacturing standards

and practices to totally eliminate contamination. We also are take great accountability for our waste, and therefore used NEMA approved and regulator-certified and approved companies to manage and dispose off our waste responsibly. These are virtues that could be adopted by many other manufacturers in the cosmetics industry.

Clean Beauty Practices

Here are other clean beauty practices that other companies can adopt.

1. Green Chemistry:

Green chemistry focuses on designing products and processes that minimize the use and generation of hazardous substances. In cosmetics manufacturing, this involves using safer and more environmentally friendly ingredients, reducing waste, and improving the overall sustainability of formulations.

2. Natural and Organic Ingredients:

Clean beauty often emphasizes the use of natural and organic ingredients sourced responsibly. Technologies that enable the extraction and processing of these ingredients without harmful chemicals contribute to cleaner formulations.

3. Biotechnology:

Biotechnology allows for the sustainable production of cosmetic ingredients through processes such as fermentation or bioengineering. This can reduce the environmental impact associated with traditional agriculture and extraction methods.

4. Clean Energy Sources:

Utilizing clean energy sources, such as solar or wind power, in manufacturing facilities helps reduce the carbon footprint of cosmetic production. Energy-efficient technologies also play a crucial role in fostering sustainability.

5. Water Conservation Technologies:

Implementing water-efficient technologies and practices in manufacturing processes helps minimize water usage and reduces the environmental impact on local ecosystems. Closed-loop water systems and water recycling can be part of sustainable water management.

6. Eco-friendly Packaging:

Sustainable packaging technologies involve the use of recyclable, biodegradable, or compostable materials. Additionally, minimizing packaging and using innovative,



Jacqueline Muhwerezza

lightweight designs can further reduce the environmental footprint.

7. Certifications and Standards:

Adhering to Waste Management and Clean beauty certifications and standards, such as those provided by organizations like NEMA in Uanda, Ecocert or the Environmental Working Group (EWG), ensures that products meet specific criteria for safety, environmental impact, and ethical sourcing.

8. Sustainable Sourcing Practices:

Adopting sustainable sourcing practices involves ensuring that raw materials, such as palm oil, are obtained from sources that adhere to environmental and social responsibility standards, thereby minimizing deforestation and promoting fair trade.

The Benefits of Clean Beauty for the End User

The benefits of clean beauty extend far beyond the confines of personal care. Consumers who choose clean beauty products enjoy a multitude of advantages, including:

1. Skin Health:

Clean beauty products are formulated with natural ingredients that nourish and rejuvenate the skin, promoting long-term health and radiance.

2. Environmental Impact:

By choosing clean beauty, consumers contribute to a reduction in environmental pollution and support sustainable practices in the beauty industry.

3. Cruelty-Free:

Clean beauty products are often cruelty-free, meaning they are not tested on animals. This ethical stance resonates with consumers who prioritize compassion and empathy.

4. Transparency:

Clean beauty brands, including Bellazuri, prioritize transparency in ingredient sourcing and production processes, building trust with consumers.

This article was written by Jacqueline Muhwerezza, Head of Marketing, Bellazuri

Urbra Explores Telecoms Partnership to Boost Informal Sector Savings

The Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (Urbra) is contemplating collaboration with telecoms to boost retirement savings, especially from the informal sector. According to Urbra, leveraging mobile technology can encourage the informal sector to save for retirement effectively.

During a media training workshop last month, Hajji Hassan Nakabale, Head of Communications at Urbra, emphasized the importance of saving across all age groups.

He urged individuals to reconsider spending their savings during festive seasons, particularly if the funds were earmarked for retirement.

"If the money was saved for retirement, it truly shouldn't be spent on festive celebrations. Money for festivities should be saved just for that, otherwise the purpose of saving for retirement will be defeated," he said. Nakabale also noted that Urbra aims to simplify savings through innovative schemes utilizing mobile money technology.

Daisy Nabakooza, Director, Supervision and Market Conduct at Urbra, shared insights from a study conducted in partnership with fsd Uganda. The study proposed

initiatives to enable rural savings cooperatives (saccos) to accumulate retirement funds.

Nabakooza highlighted the potential of partnering with telecoms, suggesting that substantial savings could be generated if a percentage of daily transactions were allocated to retirement savings.

"If for instance you had 1million Ugandans saving 2000 of each of their transactions for 12 months, you would have about sh1.2 trillion saved at the end of the year," she noted.

She said while the initiative is in development, Urbra faces challenges in gaining access to telecom platforms for mobilizing retirement savings.

She also revealed that government support and funding are essential components yet to be secured.

Urbra has proposed long-term incentives to promote regular savings, aiming to address the disparity between the global standard of 80% replacement income in retirement and Uganda's current 40%.

Nabakooza reiterated the urgency of the initiative, especially considering Uganda's retirement age of 60 and an average post-retirement life expectancy of 18 years. The need for public awareness and understanding the benefits of consistent savings is



crucial to the success of the program. She said the regulator also plans to introduce quarterly reports detailing government borrowing from retirement schemes.

The breakdown will shed light on investments, maturities, and the impact on the economy. "This strategic approach aims to foster professionalism in the sector and garner support from the informal sector, where only 2 million out of 18 million working individuals are currently

saving," she said.

She added that as Urbra continues its efforts to engage the informal sector, the focus is on designing products tailored to their income levels, with mobile platforms identified as a key tool for facilitating easy savings.

"As Urbra, we urge the government to collaborate in establishing the necessary systems and structures to support this initiative," she said. She said the regulator has also simplified the ways of saving by giving

the saving and investment schemes the right technology to use in saving.

"The mobile phone is now a toll for saving through mobile money as long as you are registered with a scheme," she said.

It should be noted that the future of retirement savings in Uganda may well be shaped by these ambitious endeavors, awaiting the green light from both telecoms and the government.

Uganda's insurance companies are revolutionizing their approach to enhance market penetration among the largest segment of the population lacking insurance services.

Insurance penetration in Uganda has remained at below 1% for years partly because of the perception within the public domain that insurance players do not easily pay or compensate policyholders when losses occur.

The fresh transformation involves forging strategic partnerships and engaging in sports and community initiatives.

Adapting to the global shift towards digitalization, the insurance sector in Uganda is embracing insur-tech solutions. This technological evolution is making insurance products more accessible, efficient, and tailored to individual needs. The rise of mobile insurance platforms and online policy purchasing is expanding the reach of insurers to a broader customer base. Mobile insurance platforms and online policy purchasing have opened up new avenues for insurers to reach a wider customer base.

During the recent Kinyara Golf Tournament of 2023 in Masindi, Sarah Siryowe, the General Manager of Liaison Uganda (Insurance Brokers) Ltd, emphasized the evolving nature of the insurance sector. She highlighted the importance

Insurance Companies Move to Facilitate Increased Market Reach



Sarah Siryowe, the General Manager of Liaison Uganda (Insurance Brokers) Ltd handing over the cheque to winner of sh10m to the overall winner of the Kinyara Golf Tournament of 2023

of spreading awareness about insurance products through various channels. The company, known for its excellence in risk management consultancy, offers a comprehensive suite of services addressing diverse needs.

"We have tailored insurance solutions to expert risk management

consultancy; the company has consistently delivered excellence through its well-established product portfolio. Liaison Group takes pride in its comprehensive suite of services that cater to a diverse range of needs," she said

Siryowe emphasized Liaison Group's commitment to empowering clients

with robust risk management and internal control structures. The company's dedication and personalized approach have significantly impacted the financial security of individuals and businesses. As part of its engagement, the company contributed sh10m to the overall winner of the Kinyara Golf Tournament of 2023.

"The company's dedication and personalized approach have created a significant positive impact on the financial security of individuals and businesses alike. The company has wholly and exclusively engaged in supporting its clients in building and maintaining robust risk management and internal control structures," he added.

The company unleashed sh10m to the overall winner of the Kinyara Golf Tournament of 2023 tournament. Highlighting the integral role of insurance in Uganda's financial landscape, Siryowe explained that the expanding economy has led to an increased demand for insurance services. However, a notable challenge remains low insurance penetration, with a significant

portion of the population still without adequate coverage.

"From life and health insurance to property and casualty coverage, insurance offerings have diversified to cater to the diverse needs of Uganda," she explained.

One significant hurdle is low insurance penetration, with a large segment of the population still not adequately insured. Raising awareness about the benefits of insurance and making policies more accessible to the masses should be a priority.

Addressing this accessibility challenge, Alhaj Kaddunabbi Ibrahim Lubega, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA), stressed the importance of innovation in reconstructing societal mechanisms. He noted that transformative initiatives have the potential to overcome barriers to accessibility and positively impact the insurance sector in Uganda.

He was speaking at the Insurance Tower in Kampala on November 23.

Current statistics from IRA indicates that the industry remained on a positive growth trajectory in the third quarter of 2022, with the total gross written premium growing from Shs912billion in quarter three of 2021 to Shs1.08 trillion in quarter three of 2022, posting 18.57% growth over the same reporting period.

Weerinde Partners with Liberty Life Assurance on New Micro Product

In a move aimed at addressing Uganda's low insurance penetration, Liberty Life Assurance has joined forces with Weerinde Insurance Brokerage Services to introduce the Munno Mukabi insurance product.

Muhammad Danish, Liberty Life Assurance CEO, emphasized the affordability of the comprehensive life and death plan at only sh36,000 and sh60,000 per year, aiming to overcome financial challenges.

He noted with concern the low level of insurance penetration in Uganda, indicating that the partnership with Weerinde is a pivotal move in changing the landscape.

"Today, we are pleased to partner with Weerinde insurance brokerage services, in launching the Munno Mukabi insurance product, which is a life and death comprehensive plan. The product is too affordable at only sh36,000 and sh60,000 per year. This kind of premium will help people surmount the challenge of affordability," he said.

He said in life, there are primarily four categories of uncertainties, including critical illness, hospitalization for incidental illness, death and partial or permanent disability.

According to Danish Munno Mukabi was launched for exactly that and is available for everyone.

Chris Mugisha, from the Insurance Brokers Association, commended the initiative, highlighting the importance of innovative products that cater to the diverse needs of clients.

He said the launch signifies Weerinde's commitment to innovation and collaboration within the insurance industry.

Mugisha highlighted the need for meeting the diverse needs of insurance clients, indicating that it has become important to have innovative products which are the bedrock upon which progress is held.

"As insurance brokers association, we value the initiative that not only offers financial protection, but also contributes to the general wellbeing and resilience of



Muhammad Danish, Liberty Life Assurance CEO and The 1st deputy Katikkiro, Prof. Twaha Kigongo Kawaase



The 2nd deputy Katikkiro of Buganda; Oweek. Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa and Jennifer Mirembe, Ssenkulu (CEO), Weerinde Insurance Brokerage Services Ltd during the launch at Muganzirwazza Commercial Plaza - Katwe

our society.

The launch of this product is a demonstration of your dedication to innovation and resolving the needs of the market," he said.

He said the launch of Munno Mukabi product was not only a momentous occasion for Weerinde, but also a celebration of collaboration within the vibrant insurance industry.

Mugisha added that the success of such initiatives depends upon the synergies between insurance providers, brokers, the wider community and the public.

Kevin Kateete, Manager Compliance, representing IRA CEO Ibrahim Kaddunabbi Lubega, lauded the partnership for contributing to financial inclusion, mitigating risks, and empowering the working population.

He said in Uganda, millions face a constant threat of

losing what they possess, with many living on the edge of vulnerability due to minimal resources, exposing them to heightened financial burdens when unexpected events strike.

He said when confronted with unseen financial challenges, individuals and households are often forced into difficult choices that impact the quality of life and particularly leading to a decline in living standards and hindering financial progress.

"Insurance is an important player in mitigating these risks. It becomes a driving force for inclusion in Uganda and a powerful mechanism in empowering our working population to effectively manage risks," he said.

Kaddunabbi said the authority firmly believes that promoting insurance is a wise investment in the future.

He noted that although

they are working to ensure essential social protection and extend health benefits to the undeserved and informal economy, there is still some ground to cover.

"Two critical things require attention.

First is prioritizing access: a well-designed insurance program aimed at providing access to the undeserved must be a continuous effort and persistent striving for financial inclusion is essential. Secondly, partnerships are paramount. Overcoming barriers to appropriate product design requires collaborative efforts to address challenges such as limited data availability, insufficient capacity and lack of awareness," he said.

The 2nd deputy Katikkiro of Buganda; Oweek. Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa, stressed the need for innovation to boost insurance uptake, citing the Munno Mukabi



Jennifer Mirembe, Ssenkulu (CEO), Weerinde Insurance Brokerage Services Ltd

product's affordability.

He noted that increasing insurance uptake requires a lot of innovation because majority of the population think that insurance is too expensive and a preserve of the rich.

The 1st deputy Katikkiro, Prof. Twaha Kigongo Kawaase who officially launched this product, outlined Buganda's aspirations, emphasizing financial inclusion as a key pillar and applauding their Child Company; Weerinde Insurance for this initiative with Liberty Insurance.

He said the concept of insurance is not new in Uganda, because in enceinte times, a large extended family was also a form of insurance and this is the basis upon which the concept of Munno Mukabi was based.

"But as the world evolves, we must also evolve to match with the modern times and trends of insurance," he said.

Jennifer Mirembe Ssensuwa, the CEO of Weerinde Insurance Brokerage Services Ltd, highlighted the Company's origin and expressed the Kabaka's vision of creating an opportunity to his Subjects to access affordable and sustainable insurance services throughout the Country.

The Munno Mukabi product offers comprehensive coverage at affordable premiums, aligning with the Buganda kingdom's goal of increasing insurance awareness and uptake.

It should be noted that the collaboration between the Kingdom through Weerinde Insurance Brokerage Services Ltd and Liberty Life Assurance marks a significant step towards addressing Uganda's insurance challenges on promoting financial inclusion, and ensuring affordable insurance coverage for all.

Financial transparency needed in government contracts, says Tayebwa

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Thomas Tayebwa, has called for businesses with inadequate financial reporting to be excluded from government contracts. He emphasised the role of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA) in addressing this concern.

These remarks were made during the 2023 Financial Reporting (FiRe) Awards held in Kampala on Wednesday.

The FiRe Awards, organised by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU), recognises and rewards excellence in financial reporting on an annual basis. The primary objective of the awards is to enhance the quality of financial and corporate reporting in Uganda by promoting the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards and other reporting best practices.

During the event, Tayebwa underscored the importance of the government providing incentives to companies that adhere to financial reporting principles.

He highlighted that proper financial reporting and adherence to business ethics are key to Uganda's sustainable economy.

"In government beyond financial reporting, we can never ignore the organised (companies). The moment you are organised we listen to you. The moment you are scattered you go alone, we may not listen to you," he



Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa (5th, left) with some winners of the FiRe Awards at the Kampala Serena Hotel

said.

Tayebwa further explained that improved compliance would result in an expanded tax base, leading to a higher GDP ratio.

Currently, the GDP ratio stands at approximately 13%.

He proposed increasing the tax GDP ratio to around 19%, which would generate an additional income of around 10 trillion and allow the country to reduce borrowing while allocating more funds to critical areas in the budget.

In addition, Tayebwa emphasised the significance of businesses engaging in

ethical financial reporting practices.

"As a businessman, what I have learnt is that the moment you build business on wrong ethics, on ethics of dodging taxes, influence padding then that business is not sustainable because the time will come when you will no longer influence," he noted.

He noted that building a business on unethical practices such as tax evasion and financial engineering is unsustainable in the long run.

"The businesses that are reporting are being cheated by those who are not reporting. That is unfair competition," he said.

He stressed that financial reporting is crucial for business survival, expansion, and attracting potential partners, adding that unfair competition arises when some businesses fail to report accurately.

Stephen Ineget, Chairperson of the FiRe Awards Committee, mentioned that they received 100 entries for the 2023 Financial Reporting Awards.

This year's theme focused on Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG), highlighting the significance of reporting as brand storytelling.

ESG serves as an external investment

framework that allows organizations to communicate their initiatives and enables investors to assess performance and risk.

It encompasses environmental impact, social responsibility, and governance best practices.

Ineget explained that organizations are now expected to demonstrate not only their financial performance but also their commitment to sustainable and ethical practices.

Companies that incorporate ESG into their operations have the advantage of attracting investors and financing. ESG reporting enables investors to align their investments with organizations that prioritize environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and transparency in governance.

The FiRe Awards recognised various organisations for their outstanding financial reporting and corporate governance.

The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) won the Silver Integrated Report of the Year Award, Post Bank received the Bronze Integrated Report of the Year Award, and Stanbic Uganda Holdings Limited was awarded the Corporate Governance Award, among others.

Josephine Okui Okwakol Ossiya, President of ICPAU, expressed excitement about the awards and pledged a continued commitment to promoting excellence in financial reporting.

Banks extend loans worth shs5trn to customers in three months



Regulated financial institutions approved loans to the private sector to a tune of 5.1Trn in three months to October 2023, the Bank of Uganda has revealed.

In its quarterly State of Economy report for December 2023, the Central

Bank says that the approval rate for credit in value terms decreased in the three months to October 2023 to 58.6% from 64.1% in the three months to July 2023, although the volume of loans recorded a growth within the same period under review.

"However, the value of loan requests rose to Shs8.7 trillion from 6.0 trillion Shillings while the value of loans approved rose to Shs5.1 trillion from Shs3.9 trillion over the same period. The increase in demand was attributed to the building up of

inventory to meet the anticipated festive season demand, coupled with the demand from education institutions to meet their working capital and operational needs," read in part the report.

This comes at the time Parliament recently okayed a proposal by Ministry of Finance to borrow Shs3.1Trn from local commercial banks to fund the Shs3.5Trn supplementary budget that was approved by MPs, with the biggest chunk of this loan going towards paying the Shs2Trn that Government borrowed from Bank of Uganda to finance Government activities at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bank of Uganda also revealed that the pronouncement by World Bank to halt funding projects in Uganda following the passing of the Anti-Homosexuality Act, saw the Uganda Shilling depreciate in value against the dollar up to date.

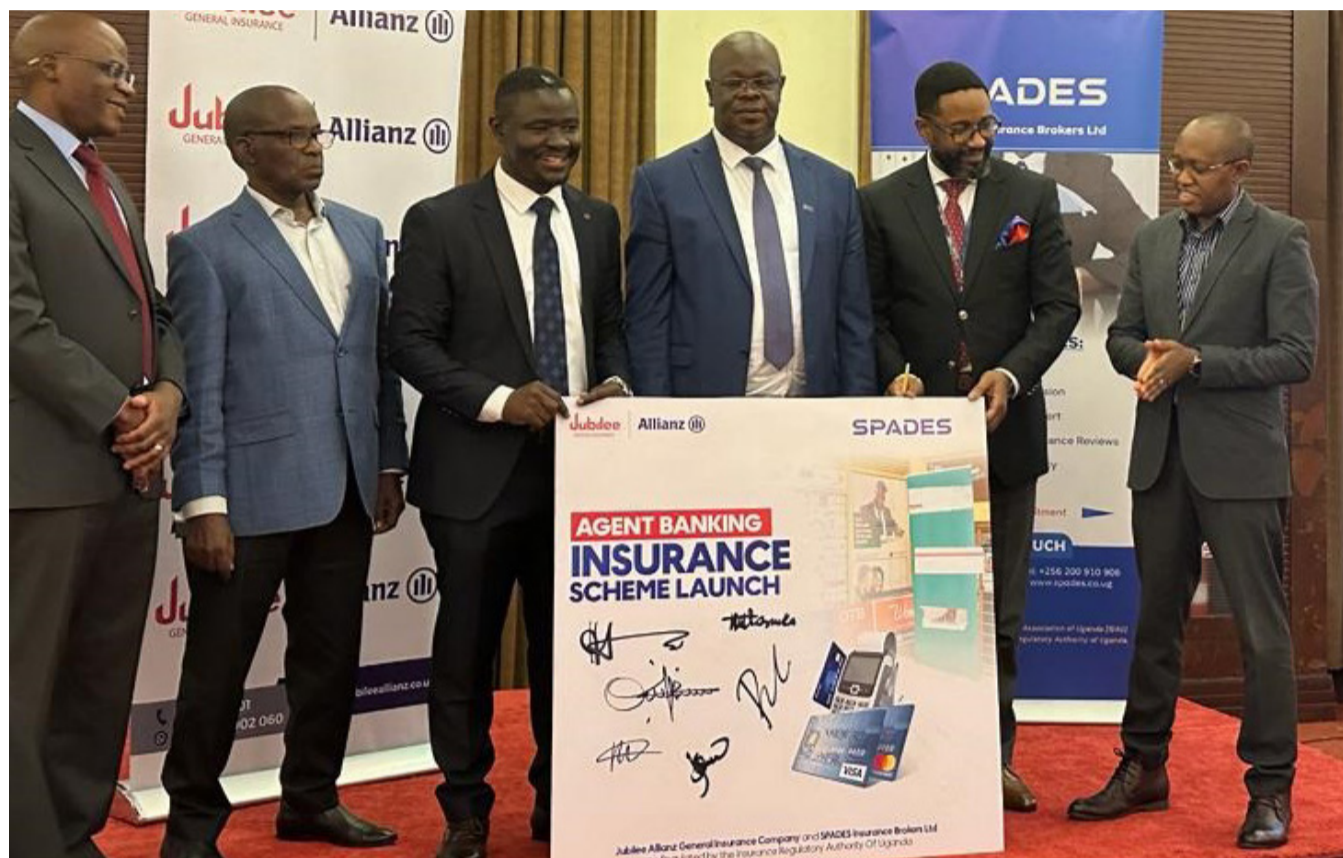
According to the report, the shilling depreciated by 8% to 3,825.33 per US dollar in September 2022 from Shs3,541.46 in April 2022. BOU had to

increase the cash reserve requirement (CRR) by 2 percentage points to 10% in June 2022 to drain excess liquidity and support the shilling. Inflation has since fallen sharply, and portfolio outflows reduced significantly.

"The exchange rate has been broadly stable, except in recent months, when it depreciated, driven by sentiments around the World Bank's pronouncement on the suspension of new financing, Airtel IPO, and strong demand for foreign exchange for imports. With the inflation outlook being favourable, BOU lowered the CBR by 0.5 percentage points to 9.5% in August 2023," as noted in the Central Bank report.

Bank of Uganda also decried the increasing public debt, saying that this is exerting pressure on revenue collections with the report stating, "Interest payments and external debt principal repayments exert elevated pressure on tax revenues to the extent that for every 100 shillings collected in tax revenues, 32 goes to debt service, diminishing resources available for service delivery."

Jubilee introduces a new product aimed at entering the agency banking sector



Jubilee Allianz General Insurance Company has embraced agency banking through an innovative strategy designed to provide comprehensive coverage for all security-related risks within the agency banking sector.

Addressing the audience at the launch of the Agent Banking Insurance Scheme (ABIS) recently held at Serena Hotel, Bernard Obel, the Director of Supervision at the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA), emphasized that existing traditional insurance policies fall short in adequately meeting the specific needs of agency banking, including coverage for employees and stock.

"We recognise the traditional insurance products existing in the market today but do not address the unique issues we have, this product has been designed on as a sort of an own risk approach," he said.

The guest of honor, Blair De Canon, Head of International Bank Institutions, highlighted that the innovation is addressing a crucial gap in the market by offering a solution

that may not currently be available. The product specifically targets concerns and insecurities faced by the common person.

"The banks have got a baseline of some of the safest institutions in Uganda, people need to know that their money is very secure. Cybercrime is globally happening and it will continue to happen but going forward, banks have found a comprehensive solution," he observed.

He mentions that the frequency, scale, speed, and complexity of cybercrime incidents in the past 3 to 5 years have resulted in substantial payouts from insurance. Addressing the hurdles on the insurance front, there is a need for increased infrastructure and advanced digital capabilities to persistently raise awareness about the product to effectively tackle the challenges posed by cybercrime.

Paul Kavuma the Chief Executive Officer, Jubilee Allianz, observed the gap whereby agency banking has to be used as a distribution channel for the sale of insurance products,

realized they also have their challenges,

"We have identified the risks that they face and we have tailored a product that literary fits their risks. We have made it flexible as much as possible in terms of onboarding agents and also the premium cover to make sure that the entire process is entirely automated, the agent does have to leave their points of sale," he explained

Kavuma pointed out that the product's commitment to the agents is that they can settle their claims, and they have rendered support in terms of giving capacity.

"We are going to have a phase of piloting the product, on cybersecurity, we have a few Insurance companies working with the Uganda Bankers Association we can then leverage on the numbers to make sure that at least cybersecurity and financial crime are recognized," he added.

As reported by the Uganda Communication Commission (UCC), the total count of registered mobile money accounts increased from 36.8 million to 37.3 million over the three months from January

to March 2023, indicating a growth of more than 500,000 new accounts.

In the past three years, following the initiation of the National Payment Act, the Bank of Uganda has licensed 26 financial technology companies (Fintechs), asserting control over digital transactions like mobile money.

However, despite these advancements, the mobile money sector faces significant security challenges attributed to cybercrime. In the latest incident, an estimated \$3.2 million has been reported stolen, with some sources suggesting an even higher figure in 2020.

The security breach involved the use of approximately 2,000 mobile SIM cards by hackers to exploit vulnerabilities in the mobile money payment system. Subsequently, the hackers instructed banks to transfer millions of dollars to telecommunication companies, which then disbursed mobile money to various SIM cards across the country.

Insurance Regulatory Authority Launches 2023 Innovation Awards



Jonan Kisakye chief executive officer, Uganda Insurers Association

The Insurance Regulatory Authority of Uganda has unveiled the 2023 insurance innovation awards for all players licensed by the Authority, including insurers, Health Membership Organisations, Brokers, Bancassurance Agents, Individual Agents and loss assessors.

The IRA Chief Executive Officer, Alhaj Kaddunabbi Ibrahim Lubega said late month, that this year, they have moved to recognise the role of the media and Insurtech in the value chain – by opening up the awards to the media fraternity and technologists who have a bearing towards insurance.

"These awards, seek to recognise and promote excellent innovations in 2023 that seek to respond to challenges that are faced by the industry.

"The innovation awards have gained traction over the last three years from 2020 when we had the inaugural edition to the most recent (2022).

The number of applicants and the quality of solutions submitted have been improving year-on-year," he said.

He added: "We expect that this will only get better this year as we continue to motivate industry players to innovate solutions that help solve challenges affecting the industry." The 2023 award ceremony will be held on March 15, 2024, under the theme: "InsureVate: Igniting Excellence in the Insurance Sector".

The categories of this year's innovation awards will include; Most Innovative Insurance Solution (Life); Most Innovative Insurance Solution (Non-life); Most Innovative Insurance Solution – Broker; Most Innovative Insurance Solution – Bancassurance Agent; Most Innovative Insurance Solution – Individual Agent; Most Innovative Insurance Solution – Loss Assessors; Judges Special Award; Insurtech Solution of the year; Insurance Media Personality of the year; People's Choice Award.

To ensure maximum transparency, we have engaged a consultant – Adroit Consult International, to undertake this exercise.

The firm reiterated its commitment to ensuring an independent, clear, and transparent process.

The awards, now in their third year, seek to encourage creativity and originality among insurance players.

Kaddunabi expressed passion for the awards, emphasizing commitment to being a platform that supports innovation across the insurance value chain.

He said the introduction of a new category for loss assessors and adjusters aims to provide more opportunities for diverse players in the industry.

Jonan Kisakye, the chief executive officer for the Uganda Insurers Association said, that innovations in the insurance sector are critical for driving penetration that is only at 0.88%.

"We are happy that the regulator has consistently organized these awards and we hope that we shall gain a lot as players," he added.

He pointed out that it's great to see the Insurance Regulatory Authority of Uganda recognizing and promoting innovation within the insurance industry, adding that the inclusion of media and Insurtech in the awards reflects a broader perspective on the ecosystem.

Kisakye said the emphasis on addressing industry challenges through innovation is a positive approach.

"These initiatives contribute to the growth and improvement of the sector, especially in a country with a low insurance penetration rate like Uganda," he said.

Kisakye stressed the significance of innovation in a sector that contributes over sh500b in taxes yet faces a penetration rate of only 0.88%.

He urged government support to spur growth in penetration, emphasizing the role of innovation in reaching more people.

IRA's director for research, Protazio Sande, commended the role played by the regulatory body in fostering understanding and accessibility of insurance products for the general public.

Emphasizing the need for innovation in these interesting times, Sande highlighted the importance of thinking outside the box to provide solutions that resonate with the public.

Great minds discuss ideas.
Average minds discuss events.
Small minds discuss people.

Eleanor Roosevelt

IRA Extends Corporate Social Responsibility to Nkozi Hospital

The Insurance Regulatory Authority of Uganda (IRA) has contributed more than 15 mattresses to Nkozi Hospital, emphasizing the insurance sector's responsibility to aid both the community and the healthcare system.

Recently, Sande Protazio, the Director of Planning, Research & Market Development at IRA, highlighted that one of their primary responsibilities is to ensure that individuals who invest in insurance receive the expected benefits. Additionally, the IRA plays a pivotal role in market development, recognizing the current lack of widespread popularity for insurance in the country.

"During our background assessments, Nkozi became notably prominent. Recognizing that our resources were limited, we decided to begin with what we could offer. This strategic approach led us to identify Nkozi Hospital as a potential focal point for support, aiming to make a meaningful impact, especially in regions facing numerous accidents and limited resources," he said.

After their annual planning session, he mentioned that the entire sector is being mobilized to provide support to Nkozi Hospital.

"We mobilized resources in our way and acquired 15 mattresses, our focus is not to continue moving alone we want to see if we can have the whole sector on board and have annual signature projects, that's only possible if we have information about the hospital," he said.

He added that the sector



Sande Protazio, the Director of Planning, Research & Market Development at IRA and Dr. Crescent Tumuhaise, the Managing Director of Nkozi Hospital



has less than 5 million Ugandans buying insurance a number he says is very small, yet many people need the business is the people.

"When we are looking at our marketing development

strategy, we cannot develop in isolation of the people, one way of supporting the people is to touch on what matters most which is life," he added.

He said that they are going to sit down and design a

project to sell to other sector players and pledged the beginning of a friendship.

Dr. Crescent Tumuhaise, the Managing Director of Nkozi Hospital, stated that the hospital, with a history

of 80 years in service, faces significant infrastructure challenges. These challenges encompass essential items such as mattresses, beds, and others.

He said the hospital is facing several challenges, particularly poor infrastructure.

"We are unable to impose high charges on patients to address this issue. Upon learning about the support from IRA, particularly the provision of mattresses, we were delighted. We plan to address different aspects gradually, with next year focusing on bedding and potentially the floor in the subsequent year. We appreciate the opportunity this support has opened for us, and we anticipate more assistance in the future," he added.

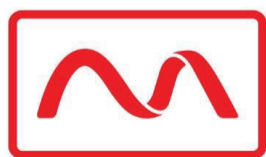
Last year, UIA contributed by providing lighting.

Although we don't have a fully established hospital in the traditional sense, we operate service spots, catering to numerous patients with insurance coverage.

"As a hospital, we don't make a profit the patient pays for the medical needs, and we find ourselves in need of hospital materials which we find hard to access. We receive over 200,000 patients every year serving different catchments like Mpigi, Kalungu, Gomba, and Kalangala among others," he explained.

IRA says, as an insurance company, they decided to visit places with big number of people and so far they have been to Kawempe, Kiruddu and they are planning to visit Iganga very soon.

Tumuhaise commended IRA for considering Nkozi Hospital and promised that the hospital would continue serving.



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