

24th - 28th March 2025



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Trade Review Conference Discusses Organic Growth of SMEs at Speak Resort Munyonyo

The recent trade review conference held at Speak Resort Munyonyo gathered key stakeholders from across Uganda's private and public sectors. Under the theme "Towards Trade Competitiveness for Achieving the - Fold Growth Strategy," the event focused on strengthening Uganda's trade landscape, with a particular emphasis on improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The discussions explored various ways to support organic growth, overcome challenges, and maximize the potential of SMEs in the country.

A key submission by Samuel, a representative of USSIA, revolved around exploring how SMEs can leverage local government development programs for growth.

He discussed the potential benefits and challenges of such initiatives while also calling for institutional reforms to better support the organic growth of SMEs in Uganda.

USSIA's call for an independent ministry for SMEs, the creation of supportive facilities in industrial parks, and the enforcement of regulations to ensure SMEs receive their fair share of resources were seen as crucial steps in fostering a thriving SME sector.



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USSIA's Role in Shaping Uganda's Labour Market Reintegration Strategy

A significant engagement recently took place in Kampala, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, including government officials, private sector players, and international partners, to discuss the economic reintegration of returnees into Uganda's labour market. Organized by the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development with support from the International Labour Organization (ILO), the event focused on the findings of a Labour Market Assessment for returnee reintegration, aiming to foster skills development and employment opportunities for those returning to the country.

During the event, USSIA, delivered a crucial submission that highlighted the important role small-scale industries play in absorbing returnees into Uganda's workforce.

Samuel emphasized that small businesses are pivotal in providing employment opportunities for returnees, many of whom may not have formal qualifications but possess valuable skills acquired from their experiences abroad.

In summary, the Labour Market Assessment event highlighted the importance of small-scale industries in the reintegration process. Fostering collaboration between industry players, policymakers, and development partners will be key to improving the economic opportunities available to returnees and ensuring that they are successfully reintegrated into Uganda's dynamic labor market. With the right strategies in place, small-scale industries can play a transformative role in providing sustainable jobs and building a stronger, more inclusive economy for Uganda.



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The Inception of The Lead Uganda Project in Kyegegwa District

In a bid to tackle youth unemployment and foster social cohesion, an important initiative was launched in Kyegegwa District aimed at empowering young people through skills development. The project, which targets both refugee and host communities, is set to provide vocational training and entrepreneurship opportunities, helping youth secure sustainable livelihoods and become active contributors to their communities.

The lead project seeks to address some of the pressing challenges faced by the district's youth population. Kyegegwa, located in western Uganda, is home to many refugees who have fled conflicts in neighboring countries, and the local host community faces its own challenges, with high levels of unemployment, particularly among young people.

As the project moves forward, its potential to empower the youth of Kyegegwa is immense. With a focus on skill development, entrepreneurship, and social integration, it is poised to have a lasting impact on the district. By working together with key stakeholders and leveraging the support of the international community, this initiative will help ensure that both refugee and host community youth are equipped with the skills they need to build a better future for themselves and contribute to the growth of their community.

Through this project, young people in Kyegegwa will have the opportunity to overcome the barriers of unemployment, gain independence, and help create a stronger, more cohesive community.



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USSIA Votes

The recent elections in Masaka and Mbarara saw the successful appointment of new leaders to the Zonal Executive Committees, aimed at driving the growth and sustainability of small-scale industries in these regions. The election process, marked by active participation from local entrepreneurs and industry stakeholders, resulted in the selection of key leaders who will represent the interests of small-scale industries at the grassroots level.

The elected committee members include the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Sector Leader, Youth Representative, and Committee Members, all of whom will work to enhance the business environment for small-scale enterprises in the respective regions. The newly elected leadership in both Masaka and Mbarara will be instrumental in addressing the specific needs of small-scale industries in these areas.

As the local business environment continues to evolve, the role of these leaders will be critical in shaping and implementing initiatives that foster entrepreneurship, economic growth, and job creation.

As the new Zonal Executive Committees take office, their focus will be on providing strong leadership, fostering collaboration, and empowering small-scale industries in Masaka and Mbarara. These regions have great potential to contribute to Uganda's broader economic growth, and with the right support, small businesses will continue to thrive and expand.



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USSIA SACCOS takes root in Mbarara and Masaka

As a way of promoting financial inclusion and empower its members, USSIA conducted a comprehensive sensitization meetings in Mbarara and Masaka. This was aimed at educating USSIA members about the financial services, benefits, and opportunities offered by the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCO).

This initiative was specifically designed to help members of USSIA better understand how they can leverage the SACCO's offerings to improve their financial literacy, increase access to affordable financial services, and ultimately enhance their well-being. The program provided members with valuable insights into how the SACCO can support them in both their personal and business financial goals.

The USSIA SACCOS sensitization program in Mbarara and Masaka marks a significant step toward empowering small-scale entrepreneurs and individuals through financial inclusion. By promoting financial literacy, access to affordable credit, and savings, the program is helping to create a more informed and resilient membership base.

As more members of USSIA become financially empowered, the potential for growth within their businesses and communities is immense. The SACCO's commitment to supporting members' financial needs ensures that they can continue to thrive and contribute to Uganda's broader economic development.

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USSIA National Executive Committee Visits Meat Processing Incubation Center

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) recently visited the USSIA Meat Processing Incubation Center in Lubowa, an initiative aimed at supporting small-scale businesses in the meat processing sector. The visit allowed committee members to assess the progress of the facility and explore its impact on local entrepreneurs, particularly those involved in meat processing and related industries.

During the visit, the NEC members were given a guided tour of the facility, which is equipped with modern machinery for meat processing, packaging, and storage. The center serves as a hub for small businesses in the meat industry, helping entrepreneurs enhance the quality and efficiency of their products while adhering to food safety standards.

As USSIA looks to the future, the association remains dedicated to supporting small-scale meat processors and other entrepreneurs in the food industry. The Meat Processing Incubation Center in Lubowa will continue to serve as a vital resource in this effort, helping to position Uganda's small-scale industries as competitive players in both local and international markets.

Through such initiatives, USSIA is not only contributing to the growth of small-scale industries but also playing a key role in promoting economic development and creating sustainable livelihoods for Ugandans.



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A Successful Bakery Training for Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Aspiring bakers in Uganda recently had the opportunity to enhance their skills in the art of baking during a specialized bakery training program. The training, focused on teaching participants how to make cookies, cupcakes, and birthday cakes, was designed to equip budding entrepreneurs with the skills they need to succeed in the baking industry.

The comprehensive training sessions were organized to provide hands-on experience in various aspects of bakery production, from the basics of baking to the more intricate skills of cake decoration. The training was delivered by an expert in the field – the National Chairperson of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), who brought both professional knowledge and a passion for empowering small-scale business owners.

Over the course of the training, 14 participants were guided through the processes of making delicious cookies, cupcakes, and creating and decorating elaborate birthday cakes. The training emphasized not only the technical aspects of baking but also the artistry involved in creating visually appealing and mouthwatering products.

As these newly trained entrepreneurs begin to apply their skills in the real world, the potential for growth in the small-scale bakery sector is immense. With the support of organizations like USSIA and the guidance of experienced mentors, Uganda's future bakers are ready to make their mark on the industry, one cupcake and birthday cake at a time.



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Empowering Small-Scale Entrepreneurs through Food Processing

Aspiring food entrepreneurs recently gathered in Kampala to participate in a hands-on training focused on producing high-demand food products: tomato sauce, chilli sauce, and jam. The training provided practical skills to 16 local entrepreneurs, enabling them to create delicious, preservable products that can be sold locally and regionally.

The sessions aimed at teaching participants the entire process of production—from selecting the best ingredients to packaging and preserving the final products. This training was a vital step toward empowering small-scale business owners to enter the growing food processing sector, and it provided them with the tools needed to succeed in a competitive marketplace.

The tomato sauce, chilli sauce, and jam-making training provided invaluable skills to entrepreneurs, giving them the expertise needed to produce high-quality, marketable products. By empowering participants with practical knowledge and business strategies, the program is helping to foster the growth of small-scale food processing businesses in Uganda.

As these newly trained entrepreneurs enter the market, they will be able to create unique and locally-produced products that resonate with consumers, thereby contributing to the country's economic development. With the right training, resources, and support, Uganda's food processing sector holds immense potential for growth,



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Empowering Women Entrepreneurs Through Creative Networking

A recent networking event in Kampala provided a unique platform for women entrepreneurs to connect, share experiences, and engage in a creative activity that fostered both personal and professional growth. The event, focused on painting, allowed participants to explore their artistic sides while also building stronger ties with other women in business.

The networking session was designed to create a relaxed yet engaging environment where women could come together to network and enhance their creativity. The painting activity not only offered an opportunity for self-expression but also allowed the attendees to step away from the demands of their businesses and enjoy a therapeutic and social experience.

During the workshop, women were guided through the process of painting, exploring various techniques and styles. The session was tailored to accommodate all skill levels, from beginners to more experienced artists, allowing every participant to enjoy the experience and express themselves through their artwork.

As women entrepreneurs continue to build and expand their businesses, events like this are essential in creating an environment where they can thrive, learn, and support each other. The lessons learned through this networking activity, both personal and professional, will undoubtedly inspire and empower participants as they continue their entrepreneurial journeys.

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Celebrating the Muslim Community by sharing Futaali

On Friday, 28th March 2025, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) held a special event at the UMA Show Grounds in Kampala to celebrate the Muslim community. This gathering was marked by the sharing of Fuutali, a traditional Ugandan dish, as a gesture of appreciation and unity. The event provided an opportunity for the Muslim community to come together and share a meal, fostering a spirit of inclusion and camaraderie.

By sharing this traditional meal, the event also served as a reminder of the importance of unity and collaboration in building stronger, more resilient communities. Participants took time to connect,

exchange ideas, and celebrate their shared values, both within the business sector and in society at large.

USSIA's Fuutali celebration on 28th March 2025 was a memorable and successful event, offering an opportunity for the Muslim community and USSIA members to come together, share a meal, and celebrate the power of unity and inclusivity. The event highlighted the importance of diversity in building strong, vibrant communities and emphasized that collaboration is key to the success of Uganda's small-scale industries.



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UMA show grounds Lugogo



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Did you know?

"Small-scale industries are the backbone of Uganda's economy, providing employment, fostering innovation, and stimulating local economic development."

"The future of Uganda's industrialization depends on the growth and development of small and medium-sized enterprises. These businesses create jobs, improve living standards, and contribute to the national economy."

"By empowering small-scale industries, we create sustainable growth and reduce poverty at the grassroots level. They are the lifeblood of Uganda's economic transformation."

"Small-scale industries are key players in the transformation of Uganda's rural economy. When given the right support, these businesses can thrive and expand, impacting the lives of many Ugandans."

"Investing in small-scale industries is one of the most effective ways to reduce unemployment in Uganda. They are the first step toward economic independence for many Ugandans."

