

15th- 19th September 2025

## Nshuti Financial Consumer Advisory Center Launched

Uganda has taken a bold step toward reshaping the relationship between financial institutions and borrowers with the launch of the Nshuti Financial Consumer Advisory Center. This pioneering initiative is designed to become a one-stop hub for complaint resolution, financial literacy, policy research, and advocacy services, addressing long-standing challenges faced by Ugandans in their interactions with lenders.

In his keynote remarks, Dr. Ntale Sekitole, the National Director, emphasized that the ultimate goal is empowering Ugandans to make informed financial decisions. He noted that financial services have often been shrouded in technical language that alienates ordinary borrowers, leading to costly mistakes and mistrust. “Through this center, we are giving Ugandans the tools, knowledge, and advocacy they need to navigate financial systems with confidence,” he said.



USSIA’s involvement is particularly crucial. As the backbone of Uganda’s small-scale industrial sector, its members are often at the frontlines of financial challenges—juggling limited capital, high interest rates, and the need for sustainable growth. By aligning with Nshuti, USSIA is helping entrepreneurs move from a position of vulnerability to one of empowerment.

This initiative marks more than just a launch; it is the beginning of a new culture of accountability and empowerment in Uganda’s financial sector. Borrowers will no longer be passive recipients of services—they will be informed, protected, and positioned as equal partners in the nation’s financial growth story.





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## URSB Symposium Puts Spotlight on Intellectual Property

In a fast-paced business world where innovation fuels growth, protecting intellectual property has become a non-negotiable for entrepreneurs and enterprises alike. This was the central message at the Brand Protection Symposium organized by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), where 20 members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) actively participated.

The event brought together business leaders, innovators, and policymakers to unpack the importance of safeguarding creative works and industrial designs. A powerful reminder came from Mr. James Wasula, Chairman of Grooming A Successful Woman with an Intellectual Mind (GSWIM), who warned: “Brand unprotected is meat left around unprotected.” His words echoed the risks entrepreneurs face when they fail to secure their brands and innovations against imitation or misuse.

For USSIA members in attendance, the symposium was both an eye-opener and a call to action. Many small-scale entrepreneurs invest time and resources in developing unique products, yet risk losing them to copycats due to limited awareness about intellectual property rights. The discussions offered practical guidance on how to register trademarks, patents, and designs, empowering entrepreneurs to take proactive steps toward safeguarding their businesses.

The symposium reaffirmed that brand protection is not just a legal formality—it is a strategic tool for sustainability and growth. By participating, USSIA reinforced its commitment to ensuring that its members are not only innovators but also rightful owners of their creations.





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## Bridging Academia and Industry

In a strategic move to strengthen ties between academia and the business community, Muni University and the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) have opened discussions on a potential partnership to be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The engagement was spearheaded by Mrs. Perry Ajio, USSIA's North Regional Representative, who led the team to meet with Dr. Yasin, Dean of the Faculty of Science, officially delegated by the Vice Chancellor to oversee the MOU process.

During the meeting, Dr. Yasin presented a report by the Vice Chancellor following his participation in a street market event, where he underscored Muni University's capability to issue certificates for skilling programs. Mrs. Ajio elaborated on USSIA's mandate, after which Dr. Yasin highlighted several areas of mutual interest, including industrial placement opportunities, joint project development, and support systems tailored to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

This engagement represents a new chapter of collaboration between academia and industry, aimed at nurturing innovation, enhancing entrepreneurial skills, and boosting SME competitiveness. Once signed, the MOU is expected to unlock opportunities for joint skilling programs, innovation projects, and certification pathways, bridging the gap between classroom knowledge and practical enterprise growth.



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## Regional Leaders Chart Path for Growth in Kampala Metropolitan and Mbale

Leaders from the Kampala Metropolitan region convened to review activities implemented during the past quarter and to strategize on the way forward for the region. The meeting, held under the guidance of Mr. Kyeyune Suleiman, the Regional Representative, provided a platform to assess achievements, identify gaps, and realign priorities to strengthen member support.

Key discussions centered on the progress of ongoing programs, challenges encountered, and the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure that the region continues to deliver value to entrepreneurs and small-scale industries. Participants emphasized the need for stronger collaboration among members, increased training opportunities, and proactive engagement with partners to boost the visibility and competitiveness of businesses within the metropolitan.



A similar meeting was also held in Mbale, reaffirming the importance of regional dialogues in ensuring that USSIA's national objectives are effectively translated into action on the ground. By creating spaces for reflection and planning, these meetings serve as vital checkpoints to ensure accountability, encourage innovation, and foster regional cohesion.



With renewed focus and collective commitment, the Kampala Metropolitan and Mbale regions are positioning themselves to not only meet their targets for the year but also set a stronger foundation for long-term growth.



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## Mityana Zone Hosts Central Region Leaders in Strategic MSME Dialogue

A wave of hospitality and collaboration marked a recent courtesy visit to Mityana Zone, one of the vibrant zones that make up USSIA's Central Region. The visit provided an opportunity for the USSIA team to engage directly with members and address pressing issues affecting the growth and sustainability of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the area.

The team reached out to several enterprises, including Katakala Food Technologies, Njuna Herbal Research, Ebenezer Perfect Designers, and Nkonko Njeru Area Co-operative Enterprises Limited, as well as the zonal executive leaders, to better understand the realities on the ground. These interactions highlighted both the resilience of entrepreneurs in Mityana and the urgent need for systemic support to unlock their full potential.

The visit underscored USSIA's commitment to strengthening its grassroots structures by listening, learning, and collaborating with members at zonal level. By engaging with enterprises directly, USSIA ensures that its interventions remain responsive, inclusive, and impactful—helping to position MSMEs as engines of regional and national development.



Discussions during the engagement centered on key challenges such as delays and high costs of UNBS certification, which have slowed product development and market access. Members also pointed out frequent power supply irregularities that disrupt production, as well as limited access to affordable financing that hinders expansion and innovation.





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A similar celebration was witnessed in Nyenje Raising Star Saving Group in Ntawo, where members also received their certificates with excitement and gratitude. Both groups expressed appreciation for the support extended to them, acknowledging how the Get Skilled Project has begun to transform not only their financial practices but also their vision for growth.

The certificate handover symbolized more than just recognition—it represented a renewed commitment to saving with a purpose, building sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening community-driven financial systems.

With continued support, both Winner Saving Group and Nyenje Raising Star are on a path to becoming models of grassroots empowerment under the Get Skilled Project.

## Saving for a Brighter Future

Moments of joy and celebration filled the air as the Winner Saving Group under the Get Skilled Project proudly received their membership certificate. The achievement marked a significant step in their journey of financial empowerment, following a series of trainings in financial literacy, purposeful saving, and the benefits of belonging to a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA).

Through the project, the groups have benefited from trainings in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, good leadership, and the importance of safe money management with USSIA SACCO. These interventions are already fostering a culture of discipline, resilience, and goal-oriented saving among members.





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## Renewed Energy in Nebbi:



The Nebbi Zone witnessed a fresh wave of enthusiasm as the USSIA team visited the area to sensitize members and potential members about the association's services, membership processes, and the importance of active participation. The engagement also marked the election of an interim zonal committee, a milestone that promises to reinvigorate USSIA's presence in the region

Acknowledging these concerns, the USSIA team offered an apology and reassured members that measures have been put in place to prevent such issues from recurring. This transparency, coupled with open dialogue, helped rebuild confidence among members—many of whom pledged to renew their subscriptions or join as new members.

In the presence of the North Regional Representative and the West Nile Regional Coordinator, the team guided members through a discussion on the benefits of USSIA membership, while clarifying the registration and subscription renewal process. Members expressed long-standing concerns over poor coordination by former leaders, which had previously led to frustration and a near-abandonment of USSIA activities

The event concluded on a positive note, with refreshments served and members leaving with smiles that reflected a renewed sense of hope, ownership, and commitment to USSIA's mission.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WINE Making Training

Unlock the secret to turning fruits into fine wine and join us for an exciting wine-making training that blends skill, flavor, and opportunity!



**25th-27th  
September 2025**



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**FEE: SHS 150,000**





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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BAR AND BATHING SOAP MAKING TRAINING



**NB:** This will come with a  
free training on the  
certification process of  
Soap



27th September, 2025



USSIA Offices, UMA  
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**FEE: 100,000/=**



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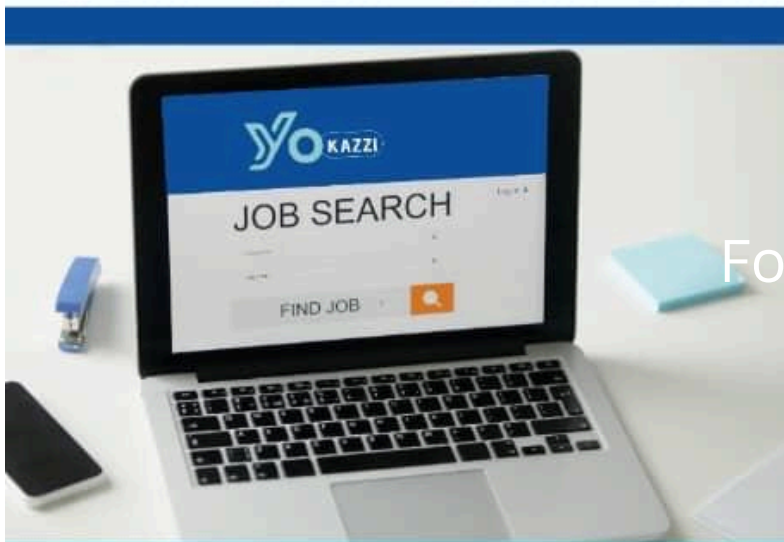
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## THE E-STARTER'S PLATFORM

USSIA  
**e-STARTER'S**  
Platform



'We walk the journey with you from Idea  
inception to actualization of your dreams'

### About the Platform

The USSIA e-starters platform is an online tool designed to support and nurture early-stage businesses, entrepreneurs and startups



#### Business Ideas

Get basics on the different start up ideas or build on your idea



#### Business plan development

Simplified step by step process on the formation & development of your business plan



#### Formalization

Be guided on how to formalize your enterprise



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