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The session focused on equipping participants with knowledge on how warehouse receipt systems work, the role of warehouse financing in improving access to affordable credit, and how farmers can leverage stored produce as collateral to secure funding for expansion. Experts from Stanbic and DFCU guided the attendees through step-by-step procedures of accessing warehouse financing facilities, compliance requirements, and best practices for maximizing value from agricultural produce.

USSIA members expressed appreciation for the training, noting that it opened their eyes to innovative financing options beyond traditional bank loans. Many pledged to explore warehouse receipt systems as a strategy to boost productivity and market access for their businesses..

Farmer Groups and Cooperatives Trained on Warehouse Financing

In a bid to empower farmer groups and cooperatives with practical financial solutions, a capacity-building workshop on warehouse financing was recently held in Mbale City. The training, organized in partnership with Stanbic Bank, DFCU Bank, and Mbale City Local Government, brought together over 30 members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) alongside other farmer representatives from the region.

By fostering such collaborations between financial institutions, local government, and industry associations, stakeholders hope to strengthen the agricultural value chain, empower rural entrepreneurs, and drive inclusive economic growth in Eastern Uganda.









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Business Confidence on the Rise as Stakeholders Address Power and Tax Concerns

IThe Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) on Thursday, July 31, 2025, convened a high-level dissemination workshop at Sheraton Hotel, Kampala, to release the latest Uganda Business Climate Index (UBCI) findings for the April–June 2025 quarter. The event brought together leaders from government ministries, the private sector, business associations, academia, and development partners to review the country's business outlook.

According to the report, Uganda's business confidence recorded a modest improvement, with the UBCI rising from 88.8 to 92.5 points. While still below the neutral mark of 100, projections for July–September 2025 suggest an increase to 100.3 points—boosted by anticipated political and election-related spending.

TRepresenting the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), Mr. Wasswa Samuel engaged with UEDCL officials and pledged to work together on sensitizing USSIA members about smart electricity use, tariff management, and choosing optimal operational sites.

The workshop concluded with a call for stronger collaboration between public institutions and the private sector to translate research into action. "Let us move from diagnosis to dialogue and from dialogue to delivery," urged Dr. Joshua Mutambi, Commissioner at the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives.

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The orientation aimed to equip ZEC members with the knowledge, skills, and tools required to drive positive change and effectively represent the interests of members at the zonal level. Participants engaged in interactive discussions on leadership roles, governance practices, member mobilization, and strategies to address the unique challenges faced by small-scale industries in their respective areas.

ZEC members from both Mbarara and Masaka expressed their commitment to work hand in hand with the association's leadership to ensure continued growth, sustainability, and relevance of the association in their regions. They pledged to champion unity, promote member engagement, and deliver impactful initiatives that reflect the association's vision.

Empowering Zonal Leaders for Stronger Association Growth

Zonal Executive Committee (ZEC) members from Mbarara and Masaka had a successful orientation program designed to strengthen grassroots leadership within the association's structures. The sessions placed emphasis on enhancing leadership skills, deepening understanding of the association's policies, and fostering collaboration to improve service delivery in the zones.

By investing in the capacity of zonal leaders, the association is reinforcing its foundation for effective representation and service delivery across Uganda. These orientations mark a significant step toward building cohesive, well-informed leadership teams that can drive meaningful development for small-scale industries at the local level.





Harnessing the Power of TikTok for Business Growth

Members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) recently participated in a specialized training session focused on leveraging TikTok as a powerful marketing tool. The interactive session equipped participants with practical skills to effectively showcase their products and services to a wider audience through short, engaging videos.

During the training, the facilitator highlighted the growing influence of TikTok in shaping consumer trends and purchasing decisions. Participants learned how to create captivating content, the importance of posting high-quality and attractive photos, and strategies for using trending sounds and hashtags to boost visibility.





TThe trainer also emphasized consistency in posting, storytelling techniques to connect with potential customers, and ways to integrate TikTok marketing with other social media platforms for maximum reach. Real-life examples were shared, demonstrating how small businesses can grow brand awareness, drive sales, and build loyal online communities through TikTok.

USSIA members expressed enthusiasm for the new insights, with many committing to apply the skills learned to enhance their digital marketing efforts. The training reaffirmed the importance of embracing social media as a cost-effective and impactful way to market products in today's fast-paced, digital-first economy.

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Enterprise Visits Spotlight Opportunitiesand Challenges

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen small-scale industries, enterprise visits were recently conducted to three USSIA member businesses—Hands of Ma Salon, Chalitex Uganda, and Oruhu Shoe Store Dealers. The visits aimed to assess operations, identify challenges, and recommend targeted support to enhance growth, competitiveness, and sustainability.



Hands of Ma Salon - Beauty and Hair Care Excellence

Owned by Namulondo Jackie, Hands of Ma Salon has been in operation for eight years and employs over 30 staff, including hairstylists, makeup artists, nail technicians, and a manager/content creator. The salon has ambitious plans to start producing its own hair care products such as shampoo and hair food.



Chalitex Uganda – Leather Shoe Production

Specializing in gentlemen's and school shoes, Chalitex Uganda is battling inconsistent leather quality, heavy shoe soles that deter customers, and difficulty in sourcing quality adhesives due to import restrictions. Key recommendations include linking the business with certified leather suppliers, facilitating access to affordable high-quality adhesives, training on lightweight sole alternatives, and advocating for policy adjustments to ease importation of essential materials.



Oruhu Shoe Store Dealers – Leather Sandal Production

Operating on a small scale, Oruhu Shoe Store produces around 25 pairs of sandals per day, mostly on order due to limited capacity. The business struggles with inadequate workspace and lack of a display store, limiting market visibility and sales growth. Suggested interventions include supporting access to financing or grants for expansion, guiding the business on formalization and market linkages, and assisting in identifying a strategic retail location.

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UPCOMING EVENTS







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