

NEWSFLASH



18th-22nd May 2026

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Mbale SMEs Geared for Growth in Regional Business Rescue Program



Small and medium-sized enterprises in Eastern Uganda received a major operational boost following the launch of the Business Rescue and Aftercare Program. The regional training session officially commenced at the Mbale Courts View Hotel, drawing a diverse group of entrepreneurs and business operators eager to revitalize their ventures.

The intensive capacity-building initiative focused on equipping local businesses with practical recovery strategies, resilience mechanisms, and long-term sustainability tools. By bringing these crucial resources closer to regional hubs like Mbale, the program aimed to address localized economic bottlenecks and ensure that grassroots industrialists could successfully navigate competitive market dynamics.

Participants actively shared the structural challenges affecting their daily production scales, ranging from high operational overheads to limited market linkages. Instructors provided tailored guidance on managing cash flows during economic shifts and building robust business models.

The training concluded with an interactive feedback session where attendees mapped out immediate implementation strategies for their enterprises. Organizers pledged continuous aftercare support to ensure the skills acquired translate into tangible growth for the region's economy.

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URSB Stepped Up Non-Individual Registration Sensitization for regions across the country

In a strategic move to ease the formalization landscape, the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) hosted a high-level stakeholders' engagement on Tuesday, 19th May 2026, at the Dream Land Hotel. The dynamic session focused heavily on unpacking the Non-Individual Registration (NIR) framework, detailing its core objectives and highlighting how separate legal identities protected local investments. Organizers strongly encouraged unregistered companies, NGOs, SACCOs, and organized partnerships to formalize their activities to unlock essential fiscal benefits and enhance overall corporate trust.

The targeted outreach program was intentionally designed to reinforce sector-specific systems while promoting clear lines of transparency and accountability across Uganda's business ecosystem. By opening floor discussions on critical post-incorporation procedures, document handling, and business name registrations, URSB aimed to significantly lower regulatory barriers. This collaborative approach provided a vital platform for entrepreneurs to understand how compliance served as a direct driver for sustainable institutional growth.

Technical teams from the bureau thoroughly explained the step-by-step requirements for registering diverse business structures, clarifying common misconceptions regarding tax obligations. They emphasized that formalization remains the definitive gateway for small businesses to access structured credit lines, government procurement opportunities, and broader regional markets.



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Masaka Entrepreneurs Eye Global Markets via Intensive TikTok Training

A wave of digital transformation swept through Masaka as local business owners gathered for an immersive TikTok training workshop. Held at the USSIA offices in Masaka, the practical session was designed to break down modern content creation, profile optimization, and viral marketing strategies into accessible steps for small-scale industrialists. Participants gained firsthand insights into audience engagement techniques, converting short-form video views into consistent business orders.

The initiative addressed the growing need for affordable, high-impact digital marketing tools among regional entrepreneurs who wanted to bypass traditional advertising costs. By mastering the algorithm and telling their unique production stories online, Masaka's manufacturers positioned themselves to capture nationwide attention. This grassroots capacity-building effort ensured that rural enterprises could actively compete in the modern e-commerce landscape

Attendees spent the afternoon practicing recording techniques, editing transitions, and drafting engaging captions tailored to their specific product lines. Industry experts walked them through mobile video tools, demonstrating how simple lighting adjustments can drastically improve product presentation.

The workshop generated high enthusiasm as entrepreneurs successfully uploaded their first marketing clips directly from the training floor.



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Leather Sector Stakeholders Convened to Navigate New UVTAB Certification regulations

Leather sector players from across the country gathered at the USSIA offices on Thursday, 21st May 2026, for a high-stakes stakeholders' meeting centered on the newly enacted Uganda Vocational Training Assessment Board (UVTAB) law. The primary objective of the urgent gathering was to break down the specific eligibility requirements and step-by-step procedures for trainers seeking formal certification. With vocational standards shifting nationwide, understanding the new regulatory framework was crucial for maintaining operational compliance.

The interactive engagement provided a necessary space for local leather artisans and business owners to voice preparation challenges and seek expert clarity on the upcoming assessment timelines. Industry leaders emphasized that formal certification would not only elevate the professional credibility of local trainers but also guarantee high-quality craftsmanship throughout the local supply chain. By aligning with the UVTAB standards, the sector actively laid the groundwork for a more competitive and recognized workforce.



Technical experts detailed the exact competencies required during the assessment phase, illustrating how master artisans can transition into certified vocational instructors. This structural shift is designed to standardize leatherwork training, ensuring that apprentices graduate with globally competitive skills.

The meeting closed with the formation of a sector working committee tasked with guiding members through the registration process before the compliance deadlines. Stakeholders expressed optimism that the new law would ultimately protect the local market from substandard imports by validating authentic local skills.

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USSIA Joined National Committee on food and cosmetics to Smoothen Cross-Border Trade



The Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) was front and center at the Sheraton Kampala Hotel during the inaugural National Coordinating Committee (NCC) convention. Convened to deliberate on the Framework to Facilitate Cross-Border Trade of Pre-packaged Food Products and Cosmetics, the high-profile meeting brought together apex regulatory bodies and key private sector allies. The primary agenda centered on mitigating complex border bottlenecks that frequently stifled small-scale regional trade.



The newly introduced framework sought to aggressively drive regional trade volumes by implementing risk-based preventive safety protocols for both cosmetic and food lines. By prioritizing international equivalence, mutual recognition pacts, and strict adherence to ISO/IEC and CODEX standards, the initiative established a secure trade highway. This dual-purpose strategy successfully safeguarded regional consumers while opening up structured, highly efficient export corridors for local manufacturers.

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SMEs Embrace Growth Strategies in West Nile



Entrepreneurs and small business owners in West Nile gained practical financial and business management skills during an engaging SMEs Workshop themed “Smart Money, Smart Business as Strategies for Growth.” The session focused on strengthening enterprises through improved record keeping, personal finance management, saving culture, and investment practices — areas considered essential for sustainable business growth in today’s competitive environment.

Beyond skills development, the engagement also served as an opportunity to extend services closer to entrepreneurs while creating awareness about the value and opportunities available through membership. New participants were introduced to various support initiatives aimed at empowering SMEs, strengthening local enterprises, and promoting business sustainability within the region.

The workshop created a valuable platform for participants to reflect on how financial discipline directly influences the success and stability of their enterprises. Through interactive discussions and practical guidance, SMEs were encouraged to separate personal finances from business income, maintain accurate business records, and adopt saving and investment habits that support expansion and resilience.

The workshop marked the final SME engagement for the month of May under the regional training series, which is conducted twice every month to continuously equip entrepreneurs with relevant and practical business knowledge. SMEs in the region are expected to benefit from another round of impactful trainings scheduled for June 2026, as efforts to build financially smart and growth-oriented enterprises continue to gain momentum.



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USSIA participates at the Construction Expo 2026

The curtains officially closed on the Construction Expo at the UMA Show Grounds after three engaging days that brought together innovators, manufacturers, entrepreneurs, and key players in Uganda's construction and industrial sector. The expo created a vibrant platform for showcasing products, exchanging ideas, and strengthening networks that continue to shape the country's growing industrial landscape.



Among the organisations recognized during the closing ceremony was the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association, whose active participation throughout the expo highlighted the importance of supporting local enterprises and promoting Ugandan-made products within the construction value chain. From interactive engagements to enterprise visibility, the exhibition provided an opportunity to demonstrate the contribution of small-scale industries toward national development.



In recognition of the organisation's participation and commitment to industrial growth, the Executive Secretary of Uganda Small Scale Industries Association received a Certificate of Appreciation during the official closing ceremony. The recognition reflected the organisation's continued efforts in creating opportunities for local enterprises to connect with wider markets, industry stakeholders, and development partners.

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Get Skilled Project Inspires Hope in Kampala, Mukono and Wakiso



Transformation, resilience, and determination were at the center of the recent monitoring visit by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) to the Get Skilled Project activities in Mukono, Wakiso and Kampala districts. The visit provided an opportunity for participants to showcase the life-changing impact the project continues to create among youth and women through practical skills training, entrepreneurship support, and financial empowerment initiatives.

The visit also showcased ongoing vocational trainings where participants openly shared the motivation behind choosing their respective trades. Youth enrolled in phone repair, tailoring, leather works, mechanics, and beauty services explained how the trainings are equipping them with practical skills aimed at self-employment and improved livelihoods. Several participants highlighted how access to machinery, entrepreneurship guidance, and continuous mentorship has boosted their confidence and prepared them to establish their own businesses. Inspiring testimonies from young entrepreneurs and women in business further reflected how the project is steadily transforming lives and creating opportunities for sustainable income generation.

One of the major highlights of the visit was the remarkable progress of the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), where young people demonstrated a strong saving culture and collective financial discipline. Through these groups, participants are learning the importance of saving consistently, supporting one another financially, and building small but sustainable economic foundations within their communities. The visiting team commended the unity, accountability, and commitment displayed by the VSLA members, noting that such structures are essential in strengthening community resilience and promoting long-term economic independence.



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USSIA Spotlight: Tasted the Premium Goodness of Masaka's MBK Pineapple Jam



This week, the local manufacturing spotlight shone brightly on Mulaal Investments Ltd, an exceptional enterprise operating out of Masaka. The visionary local brand made significant waves in the agro-processing sector with its delicious, premium-tier MBK Pineapple Jam (400g). Expertly crafted directly from fresh, juicy Masaka pineapples, this breakfast favorite brought natural sweetness and superior quality straight to the dining table.

Beyond delivering an exceptional product, Mulaal Investments Ltd stood as a pillar of community empowerment by sourcing directly from local Ugandan farmers, keeping the domestic value chain strong. The product proudly carried the official UNBS Q-Mark certification, giving consumers absolute confidence in its safety and production standards.



The enterprise steadily expanded its distribution footprint, ensuring that breakfast tables across the country can access healthy, fruit-rich spreads free from harmful additives. Their commitment to maintaining rigorous hygienic standards made them a model success story for upcoming small-scale processors nationwide.

For direct distribution networks, bulk wholesale inquiries, or fast doorstep orders, the production team was contacted directly on 0782733634 / 0772525349 or via email at mulaalinvestmentsl@gmail.com. Support this local brand today and experience premium Ugandan quality.

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Eulogy for Mr. Segguja Henry



It is with profound sorrow that the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) mourns the passing of Mr. Segguja Henry, the USSIA ZEC Chairperson of Luweero, who passed away on 22nd May 2026 and was laid to rest on Saturday, 23rd May 2026. Mr. Segguja was a dedicated leader and passionate advocate for the growth of small-scale industries, whose service and commitment greatly contributed to the empowerment of entrepreneurs and business communities within Luweero and beyond.

Throughout his leadership, Mr. Segguja Henry remained committed to promoting unity, resilience, and business development among USSIA members. He inspired many through his humility, guidance, and tireless efforts to support youth, women, and small business owners striving for economic growth and self-reliance. His contribution to the association and the wider entrepreneurial community will always be remembered and appreciated.

As the USSIA family grieves this painful loss, we extend our sincere condolences to his family, relatives, friends, and the entire Luweero business community. His legacy of service, leadership, and dedication will continue to inspire many. May the Almighty grant comfort to all those affected by this loss, and may the soul of Mr. Segguja Henry rest in eternal peace

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UPCOMING EVENTS



BEEF PROCESSING TRAINING

Learn how to start and profit from beef processing

What You Will Learn:

- ✓ How to make sausages (step-by-step)
- ✓ Minced meat production techniques
- ✓ Burger & meatball preparation
- ✓ Packaging and value addition

UGX 150,000 only

*Includes training materials

📅 22nd-25th June 2026

🕒 9:00 AM daily

📍 USSIA Offices, UMA Showgrounds - Lugogo

Register now – Limited slots available!

Call / WhatsApp:

📞 0787 091022 | 0706 733792

🌐 Visit: www.ussia.or.ug

Who Should Attend:

- ✓ Butchers & meat vendors
- ✓ Entrepreneurs
- ✓ Youth & startups
- ✓ Anyone interested in agribusiness



Shower Gel & Shampoo Making Training

Learn how to produce and sell your own products

Why Attend?

- ✓ Start your own cosmetics business
- ✓ Learn practical production skills
- ✓ Low-cost, high-demand products

What You Will Learn:

- ✓ How to make shower gel (step-by-step)
- ✓ Shampoo formulation techniques
- ✓ Liquid hand wash production

UGX 100,000 only

*Includes training materials

📅 30th May 2026

📍 USSIA Offices, UMA Showgrounds - Lugogo

Register now – Limited slots available!

📞 0787 091022 / 0706 733792

Who Should Attend:

- ✓ Youth & entrepreneurs
- ✓ Salon owners
- ✓ Small business starters
- ✓ Anyone interested in cosmetics production



🌐 Visit: www.ussia.or.ug