

TBS strengthens verification of solar gadgets

By Neema Mtemvu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has urged importers of solar panels to make sure that they import solar panels that comply with the requirements of the respective standard.

Speaking at a recent opening of the Lighting Global Quality Assurance Training Workshop at the TBS Headquarters, TBS Director of Standards Development Mrs. Edna Ndumbaro said “the workshops initiated by the IFC will help participants to understand and apply the knowledge to continue supporting the initiatives of fighting against substandard products in the market”. She was speaking on behalf of the TBS Director General Prof. Egid Mubofu.

She added that ‘the Lighting Tanzania’ program came at the right time where TBS is now able to verify the quality of solar products manufactured or imported into Tanzania market.

“This training will add value in the Quality Framework for the same. We will use the results of this project to address similar challenges in other products especially in the Electro Technical sub-sector,” She explained.

TBS hosted the lighting global quality assurance workshop as well as being a key stakeholder of the

workshop. Currently TBS is supporting all initiatives of the IFC-World Bank to increase access to affordable, off-grid renewable energy to households and businesses in Tanzania by strengthening Quality Assurance of Solar Lighting Products imported in Tanzania. IFC-World Bank support and collaboration with TBS is highly appreciated as part of this effort to increase access to energy across the country.

TBS acknowledged and appreciated the cooperation and collaboration shown by IFC on the adoption of Pico PV lighting Global Standards/IEC Standards as National Standards, and the establishment of a Pico Solar Laboratory for market surveillance testing of solar lighting products in Tanzania Market. Mrs. Ndumbaro said “We appreciate and acknowledge the cooperation and collaboration shown by IFC”.

The workshop comprised of members from the Bank, IFC, CLASP, GOGLA, TAREA and GIZ/EnDev. The knowledge gained will help in market surveillance and the enforcement of the Standards for Solar lighting Products since it intended to prepare participants to engage with stakeholders of all kinds about Lighting Global Quality Assurance (QA), intervene early, and explain to those stakeholders how and why they should use the QA framework. The 2nd session of the training was mainly focusing on the enforcement strategies of the National Standards for Solar Lighting Standards.



Facilitators of training on Lighting Global Quality Assurance during a workshop held at TBS head office in Dar es Salaam.

TBS yakomalia bidhaa za umeme

□ NA REHEMA MAIGALA

MKURUGENZI wa Uandaaji wa Viwango wa Shirika la Viwango Tanzania (TBS), Edna Ndumbaro, amewataka waagizaji, wauzaji na wasambazi wa bidhaa za umemenuru (PICO PV) kuzingatia viwango vya ubora wa bidhaa hiyo.

Hayo aliyasema juzi, wakati akizungumza na wadau wa bidhaa hiyo kuhusu umuhimi, wa kuzingatia viwango vya bidhaa za umemenuru.

Edna alisema wadau hao ndio wamiliki na watumiaji wakubwa wa viwango hivyo katika shughuli zao za kila siku.

"Kuna changamoto nyingi zinazojitokeza katika masoko, hivyo TBS

imeamua kutoa elimu fupi kwa wadau ili kuona umuhimu wa kuuza bidhaa zilizo bora kwa ajili ya kudumisha soko la ndani.

Alisema TBS imelazimika kuwasilisha kiwango cha lazima cha bidhaa za umemenuru ili kuwezesha utekelezaji mzuri miongoni mwa wadau wakuu wa sekta ya umeme huo.

Alisema viwango vya Tanzania (TZS 1951-9-5 na TZS 1952) vilitangazwa rasmi Septemba 15, mwaka jana kama viwango vya lazima na kutaka bidhaa zinazozalishwa na kuagizwa kuhakikisha zinakidhi viwango hivyo.

"Viwango vinataja maeneo makuu ya ubora kwa bidhaa ya umemenuru, ukweli katika kuzitangaza, uimara wake, mfumo wa ubora na matengenezo," alisema.

Alisema kuanzia sasa TBS itaendelea kufanya ukaguzi wa mara kwa mara wa kushtukiza sehemu zote za masoko ili kuona viwango vya ubora wa bidhaa zinazouzwa katika masoko hayo.

Kwa upande wake, mdau wa bidhaa za umemenuru kutoka Kampuni ya Moud Brothers Investment, Issa Amir alisema wanakabiliwa na changamoto ya bei kwa wazalishaji bidhaa zenye ubora na zisizo na ubora.

Alisema bidhaa zisizo na ubora zimekuwa zikichangia kudidimiza soko la walaji bora kwa sababu ya gharama nafuu wanazouza.

Amir aliwaomba TBS kuendelea kutoa elimu kila kukicha kuhusu umuhimu wa bidhaa zenye viwango ili kutokomeza visivyo na ubora.

TBS issues solar products standards

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

THE Tanzanian Bureau of Standards (TBS) has unveiled to importers, suppliers and traders of solar power products the basic standards required for products in effort to have durable and quality products and easy maintenance system.

The basic standards set by TBS were announced in the government Gazette on September 15, last year and were presented to the stakeholders yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a one-day seminar organised by the agency in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The Director of Standards Development with Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Ms Edna Ndumbaro, disclosed the basic standards set for the solar power product as TZS

1951-9-5 and TZS 1952 when opening the seminar attended by importers, distributors and suppliers of solar powers and its equipment.

According to the TBS the unveiled standards involve all solar power and related products manufactured inside the country or imported.

"This means that all solar power products and related products produced in the country or imported from abroad should meet the requirements of the standards," said Ndumbaro who urged the workshop participants to realise that the national level standard of solar power products is one thing and its implementation is something else.

Ms. Ndumbaro also emphasized on the problem of the presence of weak solar power products in the country markets which threaten the

growth of the market for those products, since the majority of customers who will be dissatisfied with their quality may lack faith on the technology.

On that matter, TBS will continue with its closer supervision of the solar power and related products in the market through surprising inspections on markets and in various stores.

She further explained that in global business the priority is provided to institutions or companies that supply products and services certified and satisfy the requirements of quality; the standards as well includes solar power products.

And Ms Ndumbaro urged the final consumers of various products to have the tendency of utilising products and services which their qualities have been verified by TBS.

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'Hakikisheni manunuzi yanathibitishwa TBS'

Na Mwandishi Wetu

IDARA za manunuzi nchini zimetakiwa kuhakikisha manunuzi yote yanafanyika kwa bidhaa na huduma zilizothibitishwa ubora na Shirika la Viwango Tanzania (TBS) kwa maslahi ya jamii na taifa kwa ujumla.

Ushauri huo ulitolewa Dar es Salaam jana na Mkurugenzi wa Uandaaji Viwango wa TBS, Edna Ndumbaro, wakati akifungua warsha ya utekelezaji viwango vya bidhaa za umeme nuru (solar) iliyoandaliwa na shirika hilo kwa kushirikiana na Shirika Linaloshughulikia Masuala ya Fedha (IFC).

Alisema waagizaji wasambazaji na wauzaji wa

vifaa na idara za manunuzi nchini wanatakiwa kuhakikisha bidhaa wanazohusika nazo zimehibitishwa ubora kwa ajili ya maslahi ya wateja wao na jamii kwa ujumla.

"Nahamasisha idara za manunuzi kurejea viwango ili kuhakikisha kuwa manunuzi yanafanyika katika bidhaa na huduma zilizothibitishwa ubora wake na shirika letu," alisema Ndumbaro.

Alifafanua kwamba viwango vinagusa moja kwa moja maisha ya mwanadamu ya kila siku, ndiyo maana shirika hilo linashauri na kusisitiza wadau kujitolea na kushiriki katika shughuli za uandaaji viwango na kutoa maoni na mapendekezo yao pale

inapohitajika.

"Hii itahakikisha ushirikishaji wa wadau na umma kwa ujumla katika shughuli za uandaaji viwango na kuleta maana halisi ya maendeleo ya viwango ambayo ni kuwezesha biashara," alisema.

Hata hivyo, Ndumbaro alisema changamoto kubwa kwa sasa ni wadau na jamii kwa ujumla kutofuatilia shughuli za maendeleo ya viwango.

Akizungumzia viwango wa umeme nuru, Ndumbaro alisema bidhaa hafifu za umeme huo katika masoko nchini zinatishia ukuaji wa soko la bidhaa hizo, hali ambayo inaweza kusababisha idadi kubwa ya wateja ambao hawaridhishwi na ubora wake kukosa imani na

teknolojia hiyo.

Kwa kutambua changamoto hiyo, shirika limepitisha viwango vya lazima vya bidhaa za umeme nuru nchi yaani TZS 1951-9-5 na TZS 1952 vilivyotangazwa rasmi katika gazeti la Serikali Septemba 15, mwaka jana, ikiwa na maana kwamba bidhaa zote za umeme nuru na zinazohusiana na hizo ziwe zinazalishwa nchini au kuagizwa kutoka nje ya nchi zinatakiwa kukidhi matakwa ya viwango hivyo.

"Viwango hivi vinataja maeneo makuu ya ubora kwa bidhaa za umeme nuru katika uimara wake, mifumo ya ubora na matengenezo," alisema Ndumbaro.

Akizungumza na waandishi wa habari kuhusu uamuzi ya TBS kuwapatia

semina waagizaji, wasambazaji na wauzaji wa vifaa vya umeme nuru, Mshauri wa masuala ya nishati katika kampuni ya SNV Tanzania, Felchsini Swai, alisema hatua hiyo itasaidia kuwaongezea uelewa kuhusu vifaa vyenye ubora unaotakiwa.

Kwa upande wake mwakilishi kutoka kampuni ya Solar Planet, Hamza Lema, alisema; "Tutatumia fursa hii kuwajulisha watumiaji wa vifaa hivyo waliopo vijijini kwamba tunawapelekea bidhaa zenye viwango vya kimataifa," alisema.

Alisema pamoja na kuwepo kwa bidhaa zenye viwango, tatizo lipo kwa wanaohitaji bidhaa hizo kwani bidhaa nzuri lazima ziwe na bei.

AN IPSOS RESEARCH UNVEILS MASSIVE COUNTERFEIT SOLAR PRODUCTS IN MARKET

By Francis Kajubi

SOME 72 percent of solar products selling cheaply in the domestic market are counterfeits which have not been endorsed by Lighting Africa, an Ipsos research has revealed.

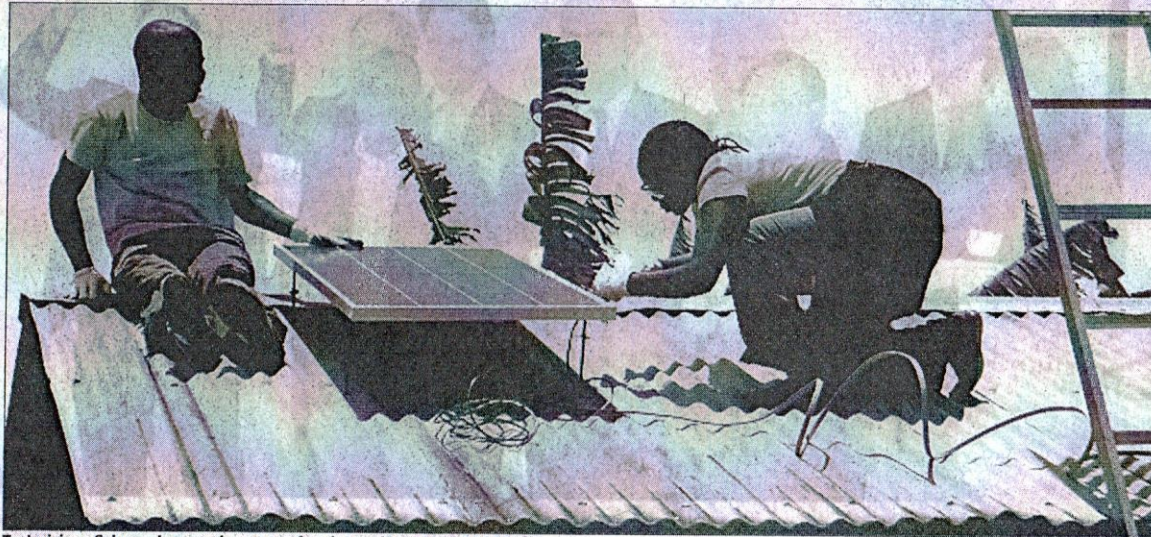
The Ipsos report dubbed, 'Solar off grid Market Research in Tanzania 2018,' also found out that there is massive increase of informal agents and retail traders dealing in solar products hence facilitating the supplying of counterfeits and sub-standards products in the market.

Presenting the research finding to stakeholders in Dar es Salaam at a meeting organized by Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Ipsos Country President, Samuel Muthoka said the newly introduced TBS solar quality standards will help to reverse the situation.

"All these brands have not been endorsed by Lighting Africa. This portrays that only 28 percent of the market share goes to associates (genuine brands) Muthoka said.

Going through the report, Muthoka said that there are 148 different brands of solar products in the local market out of which only 29 are genuine as they have been endorsed by Lighting Africa, a continental standard mark for the products.

The Ipsos Country President however noted that there are challenges facing both formal and informal solar retailers while shortage of qualified technicians is also wanting hence



Technicians fixing solar panels on a rooftop in rural Tanzania. File photo.

repairing of faulty solar products becomes difficult especially in rural areas.

Researchers found out that 46 percent of retailers interviewed, said that the biggest challenge they face is that consumers consider them as suppliers of low quality, counterfeit solar products which has undermined consumers

trust. The report also shows that 72 percent of the retailers can't differentiate between a genuine and a counterfeit product because only 18 percent of them had a minimum of secondary school education while the bulk of them are primary school dropouts.

"But English language is also a barrier for the majority to understand the products which usually bear labels written in the language," Muthoka noted.

The Ipsos report shows that 39 percent of the people interviewed said they get their solar products through street hawkers as

they go from house to house compared to formal agents.

"The majority of them do sell solar home kits and have informal offices where they go to pick the products which they supply consumers. Consumers however don't care much about quality because what they look for is the product's ability to generate electricity," he noted.

TBS Standard Officer and Secretary of the Renewable Energy Technology Committee, Henry Massawe said the new solar quality standards introduced last year are TZS 1951-9-5 and TZS 1952-9-5. He called upon suppliers to make sure that they check the standard marks before purchasing the products.

"We invited almost all stakeholders today so as to inform them about these solar quality standards that we have set hence the need to adhere with them from now onwards," Massawe advised.

Issa Amir, a Sales Officer from Mudi Brothers Investment which deals in solar products supplying, commended TBS for organizing the meeting solar is important as most of the rural areas are not connected to the national grid hence rely on solar energy.

"With this research, it is evident that there is a big number of solar products in the market that don't meet the required quality and standards, we need action now to get rid of these products," Amir noted.