

UGANDA EXPORT PROMOTION BOARD

Uganda Export Promotion Board (**UEPB**) is a Public Trade Promotion Organization which operates under the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry. It was established by Parliamentary Statute No. 2 of 1996, which repealed the Uganda Export Promotion Council (UEPC) Act No.7 of 1983. The 1983 Act had previously repealed Parliamentary Act 17 of 1969, which established the original Uganda Export Promotion Council.

The restructuring, rationalization and rebirth of UEPB was in response to the dynamic changes and needs of the business environment, occasioned by the Government's commitment to the establishment of a free market export-led economy.

VISION

To brand Uganda on the world market as a supplier of reliable and quality export products with a view to earning substantial foreign exchange to enable the country achieve and sustain its growth and development goals.

MISSION

To facilitate the development, diversification, promotion and co-ordination of all export related activities that lead to export growth on a sustainable basis

ITS ACTIVITIES

1. POLICY INITIATION AND ADVOCACY

Formulate and recommend to Government export policies, plans and strategies designed to provide efficient, adequate and co-ordinated measures for the development and promotion of Uganda's exports.

2. MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE EXPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Interface and serve as a feed-back mechanism between sector operatives, policy makers, and implementation agencies.

3. MARKET RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Undertake target market research and analysis of selected products and determine market trends for Uganda's export products
- Disseminate target market intelligence and entry information
- Design market entry strategies
- Undertake test markets of new products
- Provide advisory services on design, packaging and labeling for exports
- Provide technical advice on export agreements

- Advise on sources and types of, and procedures for, accessing export finance schemes in Uganda

4. TRADE INFORMATION GENERATION AND DISSEMINATION SYSTEM

Produce and disseminate through the computer-based MIS, market information on:-

- Tariffs for target markets by product/sector
- List of importers by target markets and by product/sector
- Periodic price information and trend analysis by product/sector
- Import procedures and documentation requirements by target markets
- Standards and quality requirement by countries and by product
- Details of duty preferences and exemptions given to Ugandan exports by target countries
- Details of Uganda's exports to target countries by product, volume, value and percentage contributions

5. EXPORT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Through UEPB training programmes - (A Uganda Export Training School (UGETS) is in the pipeline):-

- Provide hands-on technical advise in production and product adaptation
- Provide post harvest handling techniques for agricultural export products
- Train operatives and would be export personnel in export marketing skills
- Train the staff of trade support institutions in export marketing skills
- Provide training in basic elements of foreign trade practices
- Provide training in standards and quality requirements, costing and pricing etc.

6. TRADE PROMOTION SERVICES

- Organise buyer-seller meets
- Organize in-bound and out-bound trade missions
- Organise contact promotion programmes
- Organise participation of Ugandan exporters in relevant local, regional and international trade fairs and exhibitions
- Provide counseling and support to local exporters and foreign buyers interested in exploring or transacting business
- Undertake country image-building campaigns
- Organise and deliver presentations at local and international export promotion workshops, seminars and conferences.

EXPORT INCENTIVES

The objective of export incentives in Uganda, is to compensate exporters for the infrastructural inadequacies and the cost of bureaucratic inertia. The incentives are also intended to level the playing field as much as possible to render Uganda's exports competitive.

Currently the following incentives are operational;

1 Foreign Exchange Liberalization

The foreign exchange regime is fully liberalized and exporters are entitled to retain 100% of their foreign exchange earnings accruing from their export transactions. - Contact Bank of Uganda or any commercial bank for details

2 Duty and VAT exemptions

There are no taxes charged on exports (zero rated). This is meant to reduce costs for the exporters and to make exports from Uganda more competitive -

3 Market Access

The Government of Uganda strongly supports global economic integration as it increases volume of trade as well as offers other economic opportunities. Because of our membership, Uganda's exports qualify for preferential tariff rates in COMESA, EAC. In addition Ugandan products enter the European Union and USA markets duty and quota free under the Cotonou Agreement (ACP – EU) and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) initiatives respectively.

4 Value Added Tax (VAT) on Exports

All exports of goods and services are zero rated for VAT. However, exporters are required to be VAT registered. This enables them to re-claim VAT expended on all inputs used in the process of producing and processing exports. - Contact Uganda Revenue Authority

5 Duty Drawback

The rationale for duty drawback is to enable manufacturers and other exporters to compete in foreign markets without the handicap of including costs of imported inputs in the final export price, the duty paid on imported inputs. This allows exports to draw back up to 100% duties paid on materials inputs imported to produce for export. - Contact Uganda Revenue Authority

6 Manufacturing under Bond

This scheme allows manufacturers to seek custom license to hold and use imported raw materials intended for manufacture for export in secured places without payment of taxes. It makes available working capital, which would have

been tied up through paying duties immediately after importation. - Contact Uganda Revenue Authority

7 Others

Other incentives are available under the Investment Code as administered under the Income Tax Act 1997, by Uganda Revenue Authority for export oriented investment projects. - Contact Uganda Revenue Authority

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