

Economy

Uganda to improve logistics standards

In a bid to further professionalize the freight logistics industry in the country, the Uganda Freight Forwarders Association (UFFA) has started the process to implement the FIATA Diploma course, writes

JOHN VIANNEY NSIMBE.



Thomas Sim, the chairman, FIATA Advisory Body Vocational Training

The process commenced on Saturday, April 27 with a 10-day program dubbed the Training of Trainers, which will seek to create a pool of internationally certified and accredited trainers in freight logistics. This group will be tasked to train industry members in Uganda and the East African region.

The training of trainers programme was undertaken by the National Curriculum Implementation Committee (NCIC) of the East Africa Customs Freight Forwarding Practicing Certificate (EACFFPC) program.

"This training is an international discipline that will help both Uganda and East Africa in general achieve professionalism and acceptability on the international scene. This is why it is being conducted by FIATA, the global umbrella body of freight forwarders," Hussein Kiddedde, the Chairman of the Uganda Freight Forwarders Association (UFFA), who is also one of the trainees, said.

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EACFFPC graduates, out of the over 6,600 in the East African region. Another 438 Ugandan logisticians are currently undergoing the EACFFPC training. It is these EACFFPC alumni that will be upgraded to the FIATA Diploma certificate that will be conducted by the TOT program graduates.

FIATA is the International Federation of Freight Forwarders, and by far the largest non-governmental organization in the industry of transportation, that protects and promotes the interests of its members that include 10 million employees and 40,000 companies in over 150 countries.

Once the FIATA diploma curriculum commences, Uganda will become the first to offer the diploma in East Africa, and only the third country in Africa to offer it.

The FIATA diploma is an internationally-recognised certificate that students seek in order to, among other things, understand how the logistics industry survives in an increasingly evolving global trade environment.

The training of trainers is being

facilitated by internationally certified instructors coming from Germany, Switzerland, Singapore and other parts of Asia.

"Logistics is the lubricant of the economic development engine. Hence it is important that we always get it right to ensure the economy runs smoothly. Such training helps Uganda stay in touch with the ever-evolving freight logistics industry," said Thomas Sim, the chairman, FIATA Advisory Body Vocational Training (ABVT), and the lead trainer.

The FIATA diploma comes at a critical time when the industry is seeking self-regulation, throughout the region.

Blenda Nakkazi, the chairperson, NCIC, added that for freight logistics to be recognized as a professional industry, like the legal or architect fraternities, it is high time that masqueraders are separated from the legit practitioners who will now be equipped with the right skill set and can follow set standards.

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WB WANTS MORE EFFORT ON YOUTH

JOHN VIANNEY NSIMBE

During their recent visit to Uganda, an 11-member delegation of World Bank executive directors highlighted the need to address social risks such as child abuse and gender-based violence if the projects they support are to have a long-term impact in the areas where they are located.

While meeting different stakeholders, the World Bank team said the group would focus more on investing in human capital, through the creation of more opportunities for empowering women and girls, according to a statement from the World Bank.

During their visit, the team met officials from the government, the civil society, and toured some of the projects they support such as the Bujagali hydropower dam. During their talks, the World Bank Group offered solutions on how Uganda can achieve sustainable development and opportunities to boost economic growth, jobs, and incomes for its young population.

"Uganda has historically enjoyed strong economic growth and made great progress in reducing poverty. But more is needed, especially due to the youthful and rapidly growing population, to ensure quality health care, education, food, and jobs for the next generations," said Fernando Jimenez Latorre, alternate executive director representing Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Spain and Venezuela.

The team held discussions with President Yoweri Museveni, the ministry of finance officials and the Uganda National Roads Authority top management, just to mention a few.

The World Bank Group has a strong partnership with Uganda, with a total investment of more than \$10 billion since 1963. The current investment portfolio cuts across all key sectors, and includes \$2.8 billion from the International Development Association (IDA), an International Finance Corporation portfolio of \$175.2 million including funds mobilized from its partners, and a Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency portfolio of \$236 million.

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President Museveni interacts with a delegation from the World Bank

UK firms, govt partner on agriculture projects

JUSTUS LYATUU

The government of Uganda, through the ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, has partnered two UK companies - M/S Alvan Blanch Development Company and Colas Limited - and formed a joint venture to manufacture, supply, install and commission multiple post-harvest processing systems.

According to a statement issued after the signing ceremony, "the joint ventures shall seek to secure 85 per cent total financing of the project from the UK Export Finance utilizing funding via an export credit facility

being offered by the UK government" while the remaining 15 per cent will come from the Uganda government.

The partnership will also include delivery of related trainings and construction of associated infrastructure, according to the statement. Colas is one of the companies involved in the construction of the airport at Kabaale in Hoima district.

The partnership with the UK companies comes at a time when the ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is implementing the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP 2015/16- 2019/20) - a five-year strategy for the development of the agriculture sector,

which is in line with the second National Development Plan.

The ASSP provides the overall strategic and implementation framework for the agriculture sector priorities and is aimed at contributing towards the overall development goal of the country in regard to attaining middle-income status by 2020.

In the next financial year, which starts in July, the ministry has, through NAADS, committed Shs 55 billion to set up grain, fruit and feeds processing plants in the districts of Yumbe, Nakaseke, Nwoya and Kayunga.

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