



PRESS STATEMENT

BY

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**MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
ALSO HOLDING THE PORTFOLIO OF
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR EMPLOYMENT AND
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

ON THE OCCASSION TO LAUNCH

**THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT
INFORMATION SYSTEM (OSHMIS)**

THURSDAY 15TH JULY, 2022

AT THE UGANDA MEDIA CENTER

The Permanent Secretary, MGLSD

Technical Staff of the Ministry

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you to this press briefing on the Launch of the Occupational Safety and Health Management Information System (OSHMIS).

My Ministry, through the Department of Occupational Safety and Health, is mandated to ensure that work does not cause injuries or ill health to the worker. This is done through evaluation and control of the physical, chemical, physiological, psychosocial and technical factors that affect a person at work and the working environment.

2. As a result of efforts put by Government to industrialise and modernise the national economy, the demand for occupational safety and health services has correspondingly increased.
3. The continual improvement of working conditions and promotion of occupational safety and health forms the foundation of the safety and health of workers while at work. Safe and healthy working environment contributes positively to productivity, work motivation, job satisfaction, and the overall

quality of life of the individual and the society at large. In a landmark decision, the International Labour Conference, held in Geneva in June this year, has added health and safety to the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

4. Over the past years, the country has experienced key challenges arising out of non-compliance with occupational and safety standards in workplaces. Examples of this non-compliance that has led to avoidable injuries, loss of lives and destruction of property include fires due to explosions in petroleum storage depots, fires due to fuel systems in the cement industry, explosion of steam sauna in the hospitality industry, chemical fires in the foam industry and many others.
5. The Occupational Safety and Health Act No.9 of 2006 requires Government to ensure that all public and private workplaces adhere to workplace safety and health standards, among other requirements.
6. The Act requires the Commissioner Occupational Safety and Health to keep a Register of all workplaces in the country. In addition, the law requires all plans for construction works in workplaces to be submitted for approval by the Commissioner before final approval by local authorities. The law also provides for inspection and certification of lifting equipment and gears, steam boilers, steam receivers and air receivers and that, for hazardous chemicals, the employer of such a workplace forwards a safety data sheet, to the Commissioner.

7. Pursuant to the above provisions of the Act, the Ministry has designed and developed the Occupational Safety and Health Management Information Systems to facilitate information sharing, storing and processing in Workplace Registration, Workplace inspection, Statutory Plant Examination and Certification, Occupational Accident and Disease Investigation, and Architectural Plan and Engineering Drawing Approvals.
8. **Ladies and gentlemen**, you may wish to note that Management Information Systems (MIS) are powerful tools in the world of modern management, and the area of Safety and Health is no exception.
9. Due to the substantial expansion of the economy in recent years, the Ministry is now dealing with huge amount of information. This has, therefore, created the need for a robust system that is capable of collecting and organising all the data from various business processes, store the data and analyse it to aid policy formulation, hence the birth of OSHMIS.
10. The OSHMIS is an automated web-based online system designed to facilitate workplace registration, workplace inspection, statutory plant examination and certification, approval of plans and architectural drawings and investigation of occupational accidents and diseases.
11. The system will facilitate development of a data bank for reliable, comprehensive, and intelligible information on Occupational Safety and Health

in Uganda, which is conveniently accessible, up-to-date, and directly applicable to the specific circumstances of the user.

12. The system is going to allow clients, stakeholders and the public in the entire country to access and request services offered by the Department. It is hoped that this will greatly reduce time wastage as well as facilitate generation of real-time statistics on Occupational Safety and Health in the country.

13. Let me elaborate the key parts of the OSHMIS as follows:

14. Workplace Registration Module: This module enables the public to register their workplaces and request for OSH workplace registration certificates online without physical movements to the Ministry to fill a manual form and receive registration certificates. The module helps to track all registered workplaces in the country across all districts and also enhance Non-Tax Revenue collection through workplace registration. The following information will be captured under this module:

- i. Workplace details including name, location, number of workers and contact details
- ii. Machines used in the workplace
- iii. Hazardous works and materials used in the workplace and their effects
- iv. Sanitary and welfare facilities in the workplace
- v. The date that operation is due to start

The module will automatically assess the fees required for registration, generate a Payment Registration Number (PRN) based on the URA system and issue a Digital Workplace Registration Certificate which is accessible to the workplace once proof of payment is submitted by the workplace to the Ministry through the System.

15. Statutory Plant Examinations Module: This module enables all workplaces that use statutory plants and equipment including pressure vessels, air receivers, steam boilers, lifting machines to request for inspection and examination by the Ministry inspectors. The module helps in tracking the location of the equipment and aid in enhancing the Non-Tax Revenue collection. The module will capture the following information:

- i. Workplace details including name, location and contact details
- ii. Application form for certification of equipment
- iii. Equipment details
- iv. Improvement actions undertaken for compliance

The module will automatically assess the fees required for examination of equipment, generate a Payment Registration Number (PRN) based on the URA system and issue a Digital Equipment Certificate which is accessible to the workplace once proof of payment is submitted by the workplace to the Ministry through the System.

16. Workplace Inspection Module: This module helps the Occupational Safety and Health inspectors to generate quick inspection reports and recommendations following onsite inspection and receive feedback from the workplaces. The module will also facilitate policy formulation using evidence-based data and statistics on the status of workplace compliance to the OSH Act and regulations under it. The module will capture the following information:

- i. Workplace details including name, location, number of workers and contact details
- ii. Findings and recommendations of inspection
- iii. Improvement actions undertaken for compliance

17. Building Plan Approval Module: The module enables the public to request for reviews of architectural plans for occupational safety and health compliance before approval by the relevant local authorities, and also receive the approvals and recommendations online. This module will capture the following information:

- i. Workplace details including name, location, number of workers and contact details
- ii. Plan to be approved
- iii. Findings and recommendations of the review

- iv. Improvement actions undertaken for compliance

18. Chemical Management Module: This module provides an inventory of all toxic and hazardous chemicals throughout the country and provides information and standards on the safe transportation, usage, storage and disposal of these chemicals in line with the Prohibition and Control of Toxic Chemicals Act and its regulations in collaboration with URA for imports and exports. This module will capture the following information:

- i. Workplace details including name, location, number of workers, physical conditions and contact details
- ii. Name of chemical(s) under consideration
- iii. Quantity of chemical(s)
- iv. Activity conducted by workplace such as transportation, storage, etc
- v. Safety Data Sheet indicating the hazards of the chemical and mitigation measures in case of exposure
- vi. Origin, purpose and destination of chemicals

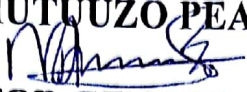
19. Finally, I would like to appeal to all our clients in the world of work to utilise the system while seeking OSH services from the Ministry.

20. It is now my singular pleasure and honour to launch the Occupational Safety and Health Management Information System.

I thank you all for the attention.

For God and My Country

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