



## PRESS STATEMENT

### KEBS supports locally manufactured PPEs

**Nairobi, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 ...** Since the first case of coronavirus (COVID-19) was reported in the country on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) embarked on several initiatives to support local manufacturing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). The main support given to local manufactures has been in development of standards, testing of the PPEs and fast tracked certification of the PPEs. Among the local companies supported by KEBS in the manufacture of PPEs are: Bedi investment, Eco holding ltd., Omega apparels Ltd., Ritz Ltd., Bosky Industries Ltd., Rivatex Ltd., Machakos Technical Institute for the Blind, and KICOTEC amongst others.

KEBS has been in the forefront in supporting the local manufactures producing PPEs and instant hand sanitizers by offering the below services:

1. Providing guidelines to local manufacturers on the requirements for Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).
2. KEBS has regularly met with manufacturers in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME's) to discuss the certification process and standards for the production of quality PPEs that assure the safety and protection of Kenyans in the fight against COVID-19.
3. KEBS has certified a total of 105 companies to manufacture face masks and 61 local companies to manufacture other PPEs including protective clothing used by health workers. All the certified manufactures have been issued with a product standardization mark which bears a unique number that enables consumers to verify the product status.
4. KEBS has offered the local manufacturers free online access to over sixteen (16) technical standards to support manufacturing of PPEs including instant hand sanitizers, surgical face masks, reusable cloth masks, single-use medical examination gloves, single-use sterile rubber surgical gloves, protective clothing used by health workers, health care aprons and overall clothing, anaesthetic and respiratory equipment (nebulizing systems and components), sanitization booths, and face shields among others.
5. KEBS has facilitated entrepreneurs, technical and vocational education and training institutes, colleges as well as county governments to embark on mass production of PPEs across the country.
6. KEBS has offered testing services of PPEs for local manufactures. All locally manufactured PPEs have been tested by KEBS before being certified and offered for sale to the public.
7. In line with its mandate of consumer protection, KEBS conducts import inspection and market surveillance activities to monitor and enforce compliance to standards for the products sold at various points of sale. Permits of manufacturers whose product are found to be substandard are suspended and they are instructed to discontinue the manufacturing and or offering for

sale of the product until such a time when they have instituted corrective measures which has to be verified by KEBS. Such manufacturers are also required to recall all the substandard products. Likewise imported products intercepted that do not meet the standard are prevented from entry into the country.

We encourage the general public to “**Wajibika Na KEBS**” and be on the lookout for products suspected to be substandard. **Wajibika Na KEBS** is a program that allows the public to report cases about substandard products. To **Wajibika**, verify whether the S-Mark permit on your product is valid by sending the code underneath the **S-Mark to 20023 (SM#Code)** to get product validity status details for local products or **ISM#UCR Code** for imported products. If the details are different, report to **KEBS Toll Free 1545** during official working hours of **8.00 AM to 1.00 PM and 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Friday.**

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#### **About KEBS**

Editor's Notes: Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) is a statutory body established under the Standards Act (CAP 496) of the laws of Kenya and is a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). KEBS' mandate is to provide standardization and conformity assessment services. Beyond that, KEBS seeks to provide standardization solutions for sustainable development.

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