MKEMIA Newsletter

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
MAMLAKA YA MAABARA
YA MKEMIA MKUU WA SERIKALI

Mkutano wa Waziri wa Afya, Maendeleo ya Jamii, Jinsia, Wazee na Watoto na Wadawu wa Kemikali kujadili namna ya kuboresha mazingira ya kufanya biashara Tanzania
Mada: Uchumi wa Vipanda na Matumizi Salama ya Kemikali

- BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE
- CHIEF GOVERNMENT CHEMIST'S REMARKS
- GCLA TRANSFORMATION FROM A DEPARTMENT TO AN AUTHORITY
- GCLA PROFILE
- GCLA'S ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FIFTH GOVERNMENT TERM
- THE WORLD DNA DAY
- INTERVIEW WITH THE CHIEF GOVERNMENT CHEMIST
- MINISTER: GOVERMENT CONTINUES TO CONTROL USES OF CHEMICALS
- LETTER FROM NPCC
- AWARDING BEST CHEMISTRY & BIOLOGY STUDENTS, A CATALYST TO STUDY SCIENCE
- PRESIDENT MAGUFULI VISITS GCLA
- COURT FINES UNREGISTERED CHEMICAL IMPORTER
- THE AUTHORITY WINS IN GOLD MINING EXHIBITION
- SAFE USE OF CHEMICALS IN MINING ACTIVITIES, GCLA TELLS MINERS
Government Chemist Laboratory Authority wishes to inform its esteemed Stakeholders and the General Public that, H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, has appointed Dr. Fidelice Mbaruku Simbagungile Mafumiko as Chief Government Chemist (CGC).

His appointment became effective on 4th April, 2018.

GCLA Staff congratulates Dr. Mafumiko for this appointment and promises to accord him all cooperation in order to propagate GCLA forward.

Issued by
Management
Government Chemist Laboratory Authority
June, 2020
FROM THE CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is our great pleasure to introduce to you the first issue of GCLA Newsletter, which provides another platform and strategy of sharing knowledge and news with our esteemed customers and stakeholders.

From this yearly issued Newsletter, you will get enlightening articles about GCLA’s functions and operations as well as exciting updates on achievements, ongoing programs, implementation of National Policies, Legislation, and staff related matters.

GCLA’s vision of becoming a reputable world class analytical laboratory for executing health, social wellbeing and environmental interventions has the Board of Directors, Management and all of GCLA staff working hard to provide quality, cost effective laboratory and regulatory services to the Government, Institutions, private sector and the general public.

As the National Referral Laboratory, we have invested and are well equipped with both modern and state of the art equipment, technology and multi-disciplinary skilled technical personnel who are committed in offering quality services.

Therefore, this Newsletter is an ideal tool for providing our esteemed customers, colleagues and community members with informative procedures of accessing our analytical and regulatory services.

Every Newsletter will also be available on our website (www.gcla.go.tz) and social media accounts like Twitter (gcla1895). We look forward to receiving your feedback as we strive to improve and be your integrated team of choice. We are even more excited to have you share your articles in our Newsletters.

Prof. Esther Hellen Jason
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Welcome to the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), your number one center for scientific laboratory analysis of samples and exhibits related to: Forensic Sciences in mediating forensic investigations, assurance of justice and rule of law; agricultural and industrial produce in ascertaining their safety and quality; verification of paternity, maternity, kinship and sex chromosome determination of predominant sex in ambiguous genitalia cases in order to address social concerns, environmental and occupational health in safeguarding human health and the environment. Concomitantly, GCLA services observe quality requirements under ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 17025:2017 ensuring that results generated are nationally and internationally recognized.

GCLA was founded in 1895 during the German colonization with H. Von Wissman as the German to Tanganyika. It has come a long way since then, as a laboratory conducting research on tropical diseases under the Chief Secretary’s Office that eventually shifted to the Ministry of Health immediately after the First World War (WWI). Following independence of Tanganyika, GCLA continued to operate as a department of the Ministry of Health till 1999 when it changed its status to Government Chemist Laboratory Agency. In the year 2016, GCLA became an Authority following the enactment of the law to establish the Authority under the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority Act No. 8 of 2016. Sequel to this is that laboratory analytical results related to forensic sciences and DNA services, product quality and chemical management issued by GCLA are legally final and conclusive.

In addition and unique to GCLA, GCLA has the sole mandate to regulate all uses of Industrial and Consumer Chemicals as well as Human DNA in the country. Hence, GCLA is committed to safeguard the appropriate usage of chemicals to minimize their adverse effects to human health and the environment and Human DNA technology and its associated results, ensuring adherence to ethical and humane uses that safeguard human dignity.

GCLA’s longevity in analytical services, equipped with modern and state of the art instruments coupled with highly skilled and experienced staff make GCLA a leading and competent Authority in the industry. Hence, our scientific laboratory analysis and capabilities have and continue to provide the Government and beyond with assistance in providing checks and balances of decision-making for the most complex and conflicting issues.

Currently, the Authority serves customers all over the United Republic of Tanzania who are thrilled with our excellent and professional services. Similarly, GCLA is committed to continuous improvement of its services, which aim at meeting customer’s demand and satisfaction.

I hope you enjoy our services as much as we enjoy serving you. If you have any question or comment, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Dr. Fidelice M.S. Mafumiko
CHIEF GOVERNMENT CHEMIST
GCLA TRANSFORMATION FROM A DEPARTMENT TO AN AUTHORITY

By: Cletus Mnzava, GCLA.

Government Chemist Laboratory Authority’s history can be traced back to the year 1895 during German colonization of Tanganyika under the governance of H. Von Wissman. It began as a Government Chemist Laboratory (GCL) under the Chief Secretary’s Office. Its initial task was to conduct research on tropical diseases, particularly Malaria and Tuberculosis (TB). Mr. Gustav Giemsa was the first Chief Government Chemist to run the department. It is to be remembered that it was Gustav Giemsa who founded the Giemsa stain used in Malaria diagnosis. This brilliant and revolutionary discovery took place at the current Government Chemist Laboratory Authority’s Head Office in Dar Es Salaam. Unfortunately, this is a constantly missed out piece of history.

As decades went by GCL operated under several ministries that fostered its transformation and growth to becoming the exceptional Authority it is today. 1947 to 1957, GCL operated under the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources as its core laboratory analyses were mainly samples from agricultural and natural resources sectors.

In 1986, the GCL became one of the departments under the Ministry of Health where it was responsible for the analysis of quality and safety of food, drugs, cosmetics and raw materials manufactured locally and those imported into the country. Furthermore, GCL’s experience and expertise matched the growing demand from the Government for expert opinion in the court of law in cultivating justice related to aforementioned matters including forensic science issues.

Government Chemist Laboratory Agency

The introduction of Public Service Reform Programme in 1993 necessitated the laboratory to undergo yet another transformation so as to improve its service delivery. In this regard on 26th March 1999 the Government Chemist Laboratory was transformed into a semi-autonomous entity as Government Executive Agency in accordance with the Executive Agencies Act No. 30 of 1997 through the Executive Agencies (Government Chemist Laboratory Agency, (GCLA)) (Establishment) Order GN 106 of 2000.

The aim of GCLA being the provision of high quality, cost effective testing/ analytical, advisory, research and consultancy services to the Government, private institutions and the general public on food, drugs, industrial and consumer chemicals and forensic sciences services (that include but not limited to DNA and toxicology).

In addition to meeting its statutory responsibilities, GCLA, shall continue offering services to the general public and the private sector in areas governing safety and quality of food, pharmaceuticals, consumer and industrial chemicals, traditional medicine and their raw materials.

Government Chemist Laboratory Authority

Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) was established by the Government Chemist Laboratory Act, Act No.8 of 2016. This transformation was necessitated by the need for having its own Act that mandates its functions and legal power to execute its duties. According to its establishment, GCLA is now the supreme and referral laboratory of Tanzania mainland. This means that all laboratory analysis results related to forensic sciences and DNA services, product quality and chemical management issued by GCLA are legally final and conclusive.

The remarkable transformation GCLA has had over the years has diversified and developed it to the current forceful institution that it has become comprised of four departments, five independent units and six zonal offices.
GCLA PROFILE

Introduction

The Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) is a Government entity under Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Eidency and Children established by the Government Chemist Laboratory Act, Act No.8 of 2016. It is the Referral Scientific Laboratory in Tanzania.

Board of Directors

GCLA is run by a Board of Directors assisted by the Chief Government Chemist who manages the day to day functions of the Authority. The Chairperson of the Board of Directors and the Chief Government Chemist are appointed by the President of United Republic of Tanzania. On the other hand, Members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the Minister for Health. The Board of Directors is the decision maker for Policy, Legal, Regulations and operation procedures on functioning of the Authority.

Organization Structure of GCLA

GCLA’s functions are executed by its four (4) Directorates, Eight (8) Units and six (6) Zone Offices. The Directorates are lead by Directors and they are: Forensic Science Services, Regulatory Services, Product and Environmental Analysis and Corporate Services. The Independent Units are: Internal Audit, Quality Assurance and Risk Management, Information, Communication Technology and Statistics, Legal Services, Technical Services, Procurement Management, Communication and Public Relations and National Poison Control Centre. The Directorates and Independent Units report directly to the Chief Government Chemist. The Zone Offices are lead by Managers and they are: Lake Zone in Mwanza, Northern Zone in Arusha, Southern Highlands Zone in Mbeya, Eastern Zone in Dar es Salaam, Southern Zone in Mtwara and Central Zone in Dodoma. The Zonal Offices administratively report to the Chief Government Chemist and functionally report to Departments, Units and the Centre.

GCLA Strategic Objectives

Strategically, the Authority aims at strengthening laboratory services so as to:

- Promote quality analysis, justice and social well-being.
- Improve the effectiveness of the implementation of monitoring and evaluation.
- Reduce morbidity and mortality from poison incidences.
- Improve social well-being and safeguard human health and the environment.
- Improve GCLA capacity to implement its core functions and resources.
- Enhance and sustain effective implementation of good governance and risk management.
- Improve supportive services and reduce HIV/AIDS infections.

Vision

To become a reputable world-class analytical laboratory for executing health, social well-being and environmental interventions.

Mission

To provide quality and cost effective laboratory and regulatory services to the Government, Institutions, Private Sector and the General Public for safeguarding human health, environment and for execution of justice.

Quality Management System


Quality Policy

The GCLA Policy is to provide Quality Laboratory and Regulatory (Industrial and Consumer Chemicals and Human DNA) services to the Government, Institutions and the General Public for safeguarding human health, environment and social well-being. This is achieved by:

- Ensuring the highest standard of laboratory analysis related to forensic sciences, human DNA, toxicology, illicit drugs, food, pharmaceuticals, environmental and industrial products.
- Ensuring credibility and impartiality of test results and maximum fulfillment of customer’s expectations for quality of services.
- Commitment to comply with regulatory requirements and continual improvement of the Quality Management Systems.
- Providing employees with knowledge, training, and tools necessary to allow for the completion of accurate and timely work and promote excellence in the workplace.
- Establishing and reviewing quality objectives at various levels within the organization.
- Communicating the policy to stakeholders and employees.
- Effective implementation of management systems compliant with ISO 9001:2015 Certified and ISO 17025:2017 Accredited, including complying with Accreditation Body (Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services - SADCAS) requirements.
GCLA’S ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FIFTH GOVERNMENT TERM

By: GCLA Correspondence

Introduction
GCLA embodies the phrase of ‘standing the test of time’ in every aspect. It has withstood the change of leadership with remarkable transformation exemplified from its onset in 1895 under the German colonial rule to becoming the current industrial giant as an Authority and the National Referral Laboratory.

The becoming of GCLA is attributed to the transformative years of 1999 when the Laboratory progressed to becoming an Agency and 2015, the birthing of an Authority. Since then, major milestones strategically set towards strengthening implementation of the roles and functions of GCLA have been achieved. It is without a doubt, as an Authority tremendously more will be delivered by GCLA as it traverses the incumbent industrial economy era.

GCLA becoming an Authority during the Fifth Government Term under the leadership of HE. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, has been in alignment with the course of its new responsibilities. As an Authority, GCLA is the Supreme and Referral Laboratory in the country responsible for carrying out regulatory and laboratory services. Such responsibilities call for preparedness at catering for social and economic challenges. Highlighted below represent some of the key achievements by GCLA that have contributed towards supporting the National’s industrial economy movement:

(i) GCLA’s Acts & Regulations

a. The development and enactment of the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority Act No. 8 of 2016 by the Parliament and signed by HE. President Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania. This Act reinforces the functions of the Authority which had been in operation under the implementation of other laws. Furthermore, the Act provides the Authority with additional functions, expanding the database and coordination of the National Poison Control Centre. The former will serve as the central depository for all generated Human genetic information while as the latter will serve as the center assisting in all poison matters in the country.

b. Reviewed the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act Cap. 182 and its Regulation of 2015 in order to meet customers satisfaction. The review provides guidance and directs proper handling of chemicals for the protection of human health and the environment against adverse effects of chemicals. Also, the review has enabled repackaging of bulk chemicals such as sulphur, which leads to increased consignments through the ports and hence increased revenue to the country.

(ii) Laboratory Infrastructure & Equipment

a. Procured specialized and state of the art equipment namely: LCMS/MS, GC-MSMS, ED- XRF, FTIR, FTNIR, 3500XL Genetic Analyzer and Gas Analyzer for a total of 5.3 billion TZS. The procured equipment provide improved efficiency, precision, increased capacity and speed of analysis, in laboratory analysis of various samples related to forensic biology, Human DNA, forensic chemistry, forensic toxicology, Microbiology, Food environment, occupational health, chemicals, chemical raw materials and industrial products.

b. Completed rehabilitation of GCLA’s Northern Zone Office (Arusha), Southern Highlands Zone Office (Mbeya) and the Human
GCLA’S ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FIFTH GOVERNMENT TERM

DNA Laboratory located at its Headquarter in Dar Es Salaam at a total cost of 1.25 billion TZS. The rehabilitation of these facilities has not only enabled the Authority to increase working space and improve working environment, but it has provided appropriate housing for the procured equipment. Likewise, the improved facilities have meant: decentralizing GCLA’s activities, which have in turn delivered GCLA’s quality services closer to its stakeholders.

c. Procured a plot of land in Dodoma of about 4600 square meters at a total cost of 187 million TZS. It is in this capital city and the administrative hub of the country where the Authority’s Head Quarter Office will be constructed and serve as the Central Zone Laboratory. This is so as to meet the growing social and economic needs that need to be met in an efficient and timely manner.

(iii) Improved Service Delivery

a. Strengthened customer outreach and awareness programmes. This can be observed through increase in number of stakeholders trained and sensitized on the Authority’s functions, especially safe use of chemicals and dangers associated with hazardous chemicals, from 2,644 in the year 2016 to 11,508 in year 2020. Such awareness programmes have enabled stakeholders gain more understanding and utilization of existing knowledge and expertise for safeguarding human health, the environment and execution of justice.

b. Developed and implements five (5) electronic management systems which are: Online Chemicals Registration Portal for Chemicals dealers, the Integrated Financial Management system ten (Epicor Version 10), Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), Government Payment System (GeP), for finance and accounts, and Management of Documents System (e-Office). These systems have facilitated and strengthened financial controls, documents control, laboratory analysis and chain of custody controls. The systems also facilitate for quick registration process and issuance of chemical permits and hence, timely delivery of services and increased efficiency and performance.

c. Increased the number of employees from 203 in the financial year 2015/2016 to 293 employees in the financial year 2019/2020, equivalent to forty four percent (44%) increase. The increased number of employees has enabled the Authority to strengthen performance of its functions and therefore meet its obligations. This increment has also allowed for the placement of staff to 38 ports of entry working 24/7 days a week, facilitating laboratory analysis and attending and providing expert opinion to the courts of law in the country.

d. The number of samples received and analyzed increased from 34,937 in the year 2015/2016 to 82,508 in 2019/2020 which is equivalent to 136.2% increase. The delivery of quality and timely laboratory analytical reports facilitated in safeguarding human health, the environment and aided in the execution of justice by the Government, institutions, private sectors and the general public.

e. Strengthened implementation of the Chemicals Act through inspection of premises, registration of chemicals dealers and issuing of chemicals permits. The number of premises inspected increased from 414 in the financial year 2015/2016 to 2,406 in the financial year 2019/2020, while chemical dealer registration increased from 2,129 to 3447 and chemical permit issuance increased from 20,294 to 32,363 in the same reporting period.
The increase in these activities continues to ensure protection of human health and the environment against adverse effect of chemicals.

**(iv) Human Identification in Mass Disasters**

a. Facilitated in the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) of eighty eight (88) Human dead bodies burnt beyond recognition in the Morogoro fuel tanker explosion accident and Tarime vehicle accident by employing Human DNA analysis technology.

Another DVI case involved the capsizing of the MV Nyerere Ship in Lake Victoria. The identification enabled proper identification of the victims and their reunification with their relatives for burial proceedings according to Tanzanian customs.

These efforts have been successful due to tremendous investment of the Government to the Authority through procuring of modern and specialized laboratory equipment and increased number of employees.

**Future Plans**

Sustainability and smooth implementation of the Authority’s obligations require continuous strengthening of its infrastructures and staff professional development in order to facilitate deliverance of quality services that meet its customers’ satisfaction. Therefore, the Authority strategically plans to:

a. Construct the Authority’s Head Quarter Laboratory and office buildings in Dodoma as a response to the Fifth Government Term’s commitment of relocating the Government and its institutions to Dodoma.

b. Expand GCLA Zone Offices through construction of laboratory buildings and their furnishing with laboratory equipment in order to take GCLA’s services closer to the communities.

c. Strengthen implementation of the three laws it governs by conducting their review when need arises to efficiently respond to customer’s needs. This will include strengthened implementation of the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act Cap. 182 to respond to economy of middle income lead by industrial economy with anticipated intensive use of chemicals.

d. Strengthen and integrate with other Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to meet the Authority’s obligations and improve customer satisfaction. This will include establishment of the National Human DNA Database, Laboratory Management Information System (LIMS), Customers Chemicals Management Information System (Portal), Financial Management Information System (EPICOR), Electronic File Management System (e-Office), GCLA Expert Witness Management Information System, GCLA Website, Government Mail System.

President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli (Centre) listening to a GCLA Staff (not in the picture) when he visited GCLA premises on 20th August, 2019. On the left is GCLA’s Board Chairperson, Prof. Esther Halton Jason and Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (Right).
THE WORLD DNA DAY

By: Fidelis Charles Bugoye, GCLA

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is a self-replicating hereditary material which is found to be present in nearly all living organisms as the key constituent of chromosomes. It is also a carrier of genetic information and provides the fundamental and distinctive characteristics or qualities of someone or something. Since the structure of DNA double helix was discovered and publicized on April 1953, the 25th April has been declared as the International DNA Day. Therefore, 25th April 2020 The World marked the 67th Anniversary of the DNA structure.

The International DNA Day that's honored annually worldwide was celebrated for the first time on 25th April 2003 in the USA after being acknowledged by the Senate and the house of representatives as a onetime celebration. Later on, the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) continued to organize annual celebrations. Since that time, various scientific groups from different countries have also declared 25th April every year The International DNA Day and World DNA Day.

The identification of DNA structure is one of the most important discoveries of the twentieth century. The proposed twisted ladder of the DNA double helix structure is regarded as a turning point and the beginning in the modern era in biology.

The international World DNA Day was initiated purposely to honor the day in 1953 when Francis Crick, James Watson, Maurice Wilkins, Rosalind Franklin and colleagues published papers in the science journal Nature, publicizing their findings of the structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). On that same day of 25th April 2003, the famous Human Genome Project dedicated in identifying the human DNA sequence was declared complete.

The discovery of Double helix DNA structure and the completion of Human Genome project mark the major milestones towards better understanding of DNA and its applications in Humans, Plants and other organisms. Knowledge of the DNA sequences with the aid of advanced molecular techniques has become indispensable in deciphering molecular mechanisms of diseases, disease diagnosis, Forensic DNA Typing in both Human and Wildlife and molecular identification of various living organisms.

As the world marks the 67th anniversary of the DNA structure discovery, Tanzania through the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) celebrating 15th anniversary since the introduction of DNA technology utilizing DNA microsatellites for Human identification and DNA typing analysis. Since then, DNA typing has aided in solving ambiguities in sex genitalia, paternity cases, human identification in mass disasters and DNA forensics for supporting criminal investigation.

In the coming World DNA Day anniversary, I would like to encourage scientists, researchers, teachers and students all over the country to celebrate it by organizing and participating in science conferences discussing and sharing various experiences in the utilization of DNA for the betterment of Human life.

To honor the contribution of women towards the discovery of DNA structure, I have chosen to acknowledge and give credits to two unsung female heroes towards the discovery and first publicized model of the DNA double helix structure.

As with so many other scientific discoveries, there are countless scientists who are left behind the curtains by the world despite their contributions towards the discoveries. Similar to the identification of DNA double helix structure celebrated annually, its discovery route encompasses the contribution of many great scientist including Rosalind Franklin and Odile Crick who have not been given their share of recognition for their contributions.

Although Rosalind Franklin studied DNA and her DNA diffraction image were significant to Crick and Watson's work but brazenly Franklin was never included in the Nobel prize even after her death from ovarian cancer at the age of 37 in 1958. four years prior to the 1962 Nobel prize award to Watson, Crick, and Wilkins.

Subsequent to the discovery of DNA structure, In supporting role to her husband's work, Odile Crick, a drawing artist and wife of Francis Crick made the first widely published sketch to demonstrate the double-helix structure of DNA with intertwined helical loops in April 1953. Mrs. Crick continuously takes credit for her drawing illustration of the DNA structure which has become a symbol of the great achievements in science and its aspirations to understand the secrets of life. Odile also died of cancer.

After the discovery of the DNA double helix structure and completion of the Human Genome Project, a plethora of scientific facts have come to light.

Did you know scientists can determine the complete DNA sequence of your genome and identify genes that may cause diseases or indicate your ancestry?

If you are curious to know how, please don’t miss the next Newsletter.
GCLA Services are not for The Government only

Q: Chief, it is my pleasure to have this face-to-face interview with you. Please introduce yourself and tell us how long have you led this institution?
A: The pleasure is all mine. To answer your questions, my name is Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko, the Chief Government Chemist (CGC) of Mainland Tanzania since the 4th April 2013.

Q: What was your first impression of the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority?
A: Before my appointment as CGC, I was the Director of another Government institution of which I thought its size and scope of functions would be more or less similar to GCLA and that I could easily transfer my knowledge and leadership experience.

However, the pleasant realisation was that GCLA’s core functions are significantly diverse and different to my previous experience for instance matters related to forensics.

Q: What has surprised you most about working with Government Chemist Laboratory Authority?
A: I realized that GCLA’s functions are technically diverse and serve a variety of sectors both Government and Non-Government with the sole purpose of safeguarding the human health and environment.

Q: Can you share with us a few of GCLA’s greatest achievement during your leadership so far?
A: I appreciate and admire the great strides that GCLA has made throughout its journey at offering laboratory analytical services to the public for instance bringing services closer to the people through zonal offices.

In the course of my leadership more efforts have been directed towards:

a) Clearing backlogs related to laboratory analysis,
b) Increasing service delivery and GCLA revenue,
Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (right), speaking to Officer Incharge of Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) at Namanga One Stop Border Post (CSBP), Paul Kamukulu (left) when Chief Government Chemist paid an official visit at Namanga border to see how chemicals inspection activities are conducted by GCLA inspectors at border.

raw materials and finished products to ensure quality and safety of industrial products.

Q: What would you say are some of your strongest facts about Government Chemist Laboratory Authority?

A: GCLA is unique in the industry and the nation due to the following key facts: First and foremost, GCLA is impartial and is the referral scientific laboratory in the country. This means GCLA is responsible for providing final and conclusive laboratory analyses results to the Government. Secondly, GCLA is equipped with expertise together with world-class modern instruments capable of providing efficient and cost-effective analytical services to academic institutions, researchers and other regulatory authorities in safe guarding human health and environmental protection. Finally, GCLA contributes its expertise in a number of important committees where they influence the development of new legislations, standards and policies to ensure that they have sound measurement science and are fit for purpose.

Q: What is your personal philosophy on what should be done about Government Chemist Laboratory Authority?

A: I would like for GCLA to continue improving its efficiency in providing quality of laboratory analysis, timely feedback of analysis results and be a model Government institution to other institutions inside and outside of Tanzania.

Q: The demand in Human DNA testing seems to be growing. Why do you think that is so?

A: Yes, that is correct there is an increasing demand for Human DNA testing. This has been so due to increased awareness and sensitization strategies employed by GCLA on Human DNA technology and its applications in solving various medical, social and forensic related matters.

Q: To what extent do you think you are utilizing the technology with available facilities?

A: GCLA is equipped with multidisciplinary expertise and modern analytical instruments utilizing the modern hyphenated technology in providing lab analytical services and consultations.

The availability of 3500xl and 3130xl Genetic Analyzers, LC-Orbitrap-MS/MS, XRF, GC-MS/MS, ICP-OES, AAS, DR 5000 are just a few of the latest instruments using latest technologies in forensic cases and other analytical services enabling GCLA to provide efficient and cost-effective services. For instance, DNA testing in human identification will be put into full potential within the country following the establishment of the National Human DNA Database that will centralize and safeguard genetic information of the Tanzanian human population

Similarly, having modern instruments like Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GCMS), High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-OES) and Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry - Mass Spectrometry (LCMS-MS) together with available expertise in the analysis of Toxicological, Forensic Chemistry, food, drugs and environmental samples which allows GCLA to provide timely and high quality services to Government and other stakeholders in supporting sustainable development of the country.

Q: GCLA is of recently making a lot of headlines and constantly on the news. Can you please enlighten us what GCLA does and its functions?

A: I am glad you have asked this question and GCLANews reaching the public is central to our current efforts in increasing public awareness and sensitization on what we do. GCLA is one of the Government institutions that does great scientific work most of which is yet to be maximally utilized by the public. Having said that, GCLA’s core functions are to offer laboratory and regulatory services as well as give expert opinion and advice to the Government and general public.

Structurally, GCLA is made up of four departments; The first one is the forensic science and DNA services department responsible for assisting criminal investigations in; human DNA identification of mass disaster incidents, perpetrators in rape related cases, murder, robbery as well as solving social challenges in paternity and kinship DNA testing as well as assisting in medical scenarios like those of ambiguous genitalia and renal transplantation; toxicological analyses in determining cause of death; forensic chemistry in the identification of unknown materials like drug of abuse and finally the
national poison control centre responsible for prevention, diagnosis and management of poisons.

The second department is that of chemicals management offering both laboratory and regulatory services. It’s responsible in regulating all industrial and consumer chemical usage as per the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals Act No 3 of 2003 so as to safeguard human health and the environment. Hence, we encourage all chemical dealers to familiarise themselves with the legal requirements involved in the registration, importation, exportation, transportation of chemicals in the county.

The third department deals with product and quality services through the provision of chemical and microbiological analysis of food, pharmaceuticals and their raw materials using modern technologies to ensure that these products are safe for human consumption and usage.

The fourth and final is the business development department responsible for public relations, human resources, financial and procurement issues as well as monitoring and evaluation of GCLA business to ensure that customer needs are constantly met.

Q: How many functioning Zone Offices does GCLA have so far?
A: Currently we have six zone offices strategically located in Arusha for the Northern Zone, Dar es Salaam for Eastern Zone, Mwanza for the Lake Zone area Mbeya for the Southern Highlands while Dodoma and Mtwara Offices serve for Central and Southern Zones respectively. The Lake Zone Office in Mwanza has a fully functioning laboratory offering various services. Ongoing efforts are to build capacity to other GCLA zone offices to offer laboratory analysis.

Q: How would GCLA zonal activities be described?
A: GCLA zonal activities were introduced in 2003 through the establishment of zonal offices in order to bring services closer to the public. Before this time, GCLA services could only be found at the headquarters in Dar es Salaam. However, their existence has been of tremendous aid to both our esteemed customers and the institution itself in two major ways. One is the fact that our customers no longer travel long distances to obtain our services, thus saving them time, expenses and preserves the integrity of their samples requiring appropriate conditions. Secondly, zone offices function as initial stages of sample processing in the sense that once these samples reach our laboratories they go straight into confirmatory stages of laboratory analysis.

Q: What else can you tell us about GCLA?
A: There are a lot of exciting things to share with the local and international audience regarding GCLA. For instance, GCLA has the legal mandate of establishing the National Human DNA Database that will store all genetic information related to the Tanzanian human population with the sole purpose of safeguarding the access and usage of the stored information.

This is novel to the country and the continent in the sense that most such databases are either criminal or medical but ours targets much more than just the afore mentioned. There is great work to be done that will involve other Government institutions in making this a success and set an example for other interested parties to emulate in the future.

So, I would like to request you to be among the ambassadors to spread these great news about GCLA and invite people to visit either physically or our website to read and understand more about GCLA’s functions and its future endeavors.

Q: What do you think will change Government Chemist Laboratory Authority over the next five years?
A: As a referral laboratory, GCLA understands the importance of readiness in overcoming rapid changes in expertise and technology that could technically affect the core objective of the organization in providing customer satisfied quality and reliable results at the competitive price.

Continuing investing in human resource, expertise and instruments utilizing modern innovations and technology will transform the Authority in the next five years.

GCLA is certified with ISO 9001:2015 and currently is underway accrediting the DNA Laboratory, also GCLA continues to participate internationally in performing Proficiency Testing (PT) for Forensic Human DNA samples from Collaborating Testing Services (CTS) Drugs of abuse from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Chemical Weapons from Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Environmental compounds from NamWater in Namibia, to make sure all laboratories are accredited as stipulated in our five year Strategic Plan up to 2022.

These achievements will continue to support the Government in establishment of industries in the country utilizing modern and hyphenated technologies including the implementation and control of Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act. Act No. 3 of 2003.

Q: As a Chief Government Chemist, what sorts of trends do you see in the Authority?
A: The authority is attaining an ascending trend in terms of number of staff, annual income, number and quality of laboratory analytical work, shortening turnaround time for provided services and motivation to workers.

Q: Are there any other institutions which depend on the GCLA for their functions and existence?
A: There are more than 8 Acts that are implemented through contributions by GCLA. Furthermore, GCLA’s National Poison Control Centre works in collaboration with other institutions such as Muhimbili National Hospital, Agha Khan Hospital, National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Bugando Medical Hospital, KCMC and others in the toxicological analysis and coordination of all poison incidents in the country with the aim of protecting human health.
The Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa (right), getting briefed from Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (Left) concerning urine specimen testing for drugs of abuse using dedicated kits when he visited the GCLA’s pavilion on the exhibition of Drugs of Abuse Week which took place at Kichangani grounds, Tanga.

The former Deputy Minister for The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Hon. Dr. Faustine Ndugulile (MP) (Left) entrust documents to GCLA Board of Directors Chairperson, Professor Esther Hellen Jason (Right) as a sign of an official inauguration of the Board on 2nd May, 2018 at Mkemia House Conference Hall, Dar es Salaam.

The former Deputy Minister for The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Hon. Dr. Faustine Ndugulile (MP) (Centre), together with the first GCLA members of the Board of Directors seated. Others are Acting Permanent Secretary (Health), Dr. Otila Gowaile (Second from left) and The Ministry Legal unit Head, Ms. Tunu Temu (Left seated).

Chairman of the 8th Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) Workers’ Council, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (Standing), speaking during the opening of the 6th meeting of the council which took place on 26th November, 2018 at Bunge Office, Dar es Salaam.

Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (middle, seated), together with GCLA Staff, training facilitators and participants of training on operating and use of “LCMS/MS na GCMS/MS” machines held on February, 2019 at MUHAS. They visited GCLA to witness the way those machines operate in laboratory analysis. Others from left (Seated), Prof. Mary Temu (MUHAS), Prof. Michael Spitteler (Dortmund Technical University), Mr. David Elias (GCLA) and Dr. Faith Mabiki (SUA).

The Board of Directors Chairperson, Prof. Esther Hellen Jason (Middle, Seated), Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (Left, Seated), Former Director of Business Development, Mr. George Kasinga (Right, Seated) in a souvenir photo with new employees after Board Chairperson closing of the Induction Course for new employees on 6th September, 2018 at Parliament Office Hall in Dar es Salaam.
PHOTOS

GCLA Female Staff in a souvenir photo during a Women’s Day commemorations on 8th March, 2020 in Dar es Salaam Region held at Leaders Club where the Guest of Honour was Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Hon. Paul Makonda.

Acting Manager for Central Zonal Laboratory, Mr. Musa Kuzumila (right), pay a last respect to late Ernest Isaka in the mass which took place in Saint Gemma Galgan Church at Nkuhungu, Dodoma on 23rd December, 2018. The late Ernest Isaka was a GCLA staff from Northern Zonal Laboratory stationed at Tanga office.

Chief Justice, Hon. Profesa, Ibrahim Juma (Seated), listening to the Manager Forensic Biology and DNA, Ms. Hadja Mwema (Left), describing the process of analyzing criminal related samples to Chief Justice when he visited GCLA pavilion during the Law Week Exhibition in February, 2019 at Nyerere Square, Dodoma.

GCLA’s Board Chairperson, Prof. Esther Hellen Jason (Right), Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (Left) and Lake Zone Laboratory Manager, Mr. Bonventure Masambu (Second right) listening to the supervisor of China Railway Company (second left) when they visited the company premise for special inspection.

Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (in a blue suit) in a souvenir photo together with GCLA Exhibitors when he visited the GCLA pavilion during the 49th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (Saba Saba) held from 29 June – 13 July, 2019.

Small Scale Miners from Namungo and Majari Gold Mining, listening to Acting Manager of Government Chemist Laboratory Authority – Southern Zone (not in the picture), during the training on Safe use of Chemicals in mining activities held on 29th March, 2019 at Namungo, Ruangwa District in Lindi.
Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Hon. Ummy Mwalimu said the Government of Tanzania continues to manage and control uses of Chemicals in order to ensure protection of the environment and health of the citizens. Honourable Ummy Mwalimu made this comment while officiating the opening meeting between Chemicals Stakeholders and the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority on 4th March 2019 at LAPF Kisenga Hall, Dar es Salaam.

The meeting was convened with the objective of facilitating consultation between the Government and Stakeholders to improve chemical business in the Country. The Hon. Minister, made it clear that "chemicals, if not controlled properly can cause adverse effects to health, the environment, and endanger the safety and security of the Country; hence the need to create a conducive environment for management and control of chemicals to minimize the undesired effects".

Hon. Ummy Mwalimu continued by emphasizing that "The World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics of 2014 show occurrences of 12.6 million human deaths due to unfriendly living environments, where one of the causes is undesired effects of chemicals". The Hon. Minister for Health cautioned on the detrimental effects chemical misuse has on human beings as being responsible for creating more than one hundred diseases including heart, cancer, and skin diseases, neurological disorders, cognitive disorders, breathing and food system disorders that have affected many people. The Hon. Minister reassured by recognizing the need for the Government to continue providing a safe and well-managed environment for the Businessmen to carry out successful chemicals business in the country.

On the other hand, Hon. Ummy Mwalimu ordered the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) and the formerly known as Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) to review fees they charged to the chemicals and pharmaceutical drugs dealers, with the aim of addressing the observed challenges in the registration, importation and transportation of pharmaceutical drugs and chemicals within the country.

"You should not be either an obstacle in investment and business or hindrance of growth of investments in the country; you should instead be agents in facilitating business and growth of economy by creating an attractive and friendly investment environment for investors in the country", emphasized the Minister.

Sequel to that, the Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Matumiko when addressing the audience, clarified that the Chemicals Management and Control Act No. 3 of 2003 has significantly contributed in the controlling and managing chemicals in the country.

"Before enactment of the said Act, Chemicals were imported and used without proper management or control. The Authority now manages and controls industrial and consumer chemicals in the entire Country," said Dr. Matumiko.

The meeting also allowed for a way forward to be reached regarding fees charged by several Public Institutions on chemical dealers. The Secretary General of the Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association (TAFFA) Engineer Anthony Swai said that charged fees have been a burden for the chemicals dealers.

He requested the Government to ensure clear demarcation of fees charged by Public Institutions noting the possibility of duplications in fees charged by GCLA, TMDA and TBS. Since this meeting, the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals Act together with its Regulations have been reviewed to accommodate the recommendations and allow for smooth implementation of the Act while fostering cooperation between the sectors.
THE NATIONAL POISON CONTROL CENTRE: NPCC-TZ

By: Josephine Kalima, GCLA.

The NPCC has been established at the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), as a specialized Unit to advise on, and assist with the prevention, diagnosis and management of poisoning. It was established in 2015 as a mere Centre but its legal mandate is established in the GCLA Act. of 2016.

It is an information service, working together with the GCLA toxicology laboratory services. The NPCC is an integral part of the chemical incident preparedness and response efforts at GCLA.

After a long experience of toxicological analyses for post mortem cases, the Government has established the Centre to act as a source of advice and information to minimize harm from poisoning.

What does the Centre do?
The NPCC answers enquiries about exposure to chemical agents, including chemical products, pharmaceuticals, natural toxins, pesticides and industrial chemicals, and the kind of treatment that should be given. The aim is to promote timely, adequate and cost-effective management of poisoning in the country.

Sources of Information
To facilitate these services, The NPCC maintains information and has access to various National and international databases, including the National Industrial Chemicals Database (CHEMIS).

The National poisons database (TOX-tz) is also being developed based on national data from various sources including toxicological and other laboratories at GCLA. This information can help reduce incidences of poisoning by identifying emerging toxicological hazards.

Efforts are also being made to coordinate availability of antidotes for common poisons, to conduct education and training, and to reduce poisoning due to environmental exposures and drugs of abuse.

The work of NPCC-tz is therefore focused on:

i) Scientific documentation/databases

ii) Antidote availability

iii) Toxic vigilance - detection of new risks and

iv) Development and maintenance of the National poisons database. NPCC services are offered to health professionals, emergency services, government bodies, regulatory agencies, education services and the general public.

NPCC Information Services
Currently, information services are provided through the NPCC at GCLA Headquarters, at the numbers 0736 613 333 and 022 2113 333. Calls will be answered by NPCC Poison Information Specialists.

The respondent at NPCC will listen to you, conduct an assessment of your situation (triage), and advise you on next steps, or provide information after conducting a search. In case of emergency or need to attend a hospital, the NPCC will directly support medical personnel involved, including Note:

The following are advised to prevent poisoning:

Store all Medicines, Household Chemicals and Pesticides securely and out of the reach of children.

In case of poisoning, call for help and take with you the container, a sample of the medicine or poison or other biological specimen to the hospital with the patient.

In case of Snake or other insect bites: if possible identify the cause and note the description, call for help and take the patient to a clinic or hospital immediately.
ONLINE CUSTOMER CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT PORTAL (CCMP)

The Government Laboratory Chemist Authority (GCLA) would like to inform the Public that it has launched an Online Customer Chemical Management Portal (CCMP) for receiving and processing chemicals’ certificates and permits. The system will enable applicants to access chemical registration and permits’ services wherever they are. The System can be accessed at: https://gcla.go.tz website OR https://portal.gcla.go.tz/app

This System is mandatory to be used for all applications for the following services:

1. Applications for chemical certificates
2. Applications for chemical permits
3. Application for registration of chemicals
4. Submission of precursor chemicals return
5. Amendments of chemicals permits
6. Amendments of certificates
7. Renewal of certificates
8. Renewal of chemicals certificate

Before lodging an application, the applicant must have certified and scanned copies of the following:

   a. Certificate of incorporation or registration; and
   b. Certificate of taxpayer identification number (TIN)

For lodging an application or for more information on this notice visit the link below https://portal.gcla.go.tz/app

Should you require any assistance on lodging an application, please contact the following GCLA offices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>ZONE</th>
<th>REGIONS</th>
<th>CONTACTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.  | Eastern Zone Laboratory  | Applicants from Dar es Salaam and Coast Region | E-mail: ezl@gcla.go.tz  
Tel: 0689 864 390 |
| 2.  | Northern Zone Laboratory | Applicants from Arusha, Tanga, Kilimanjaro and Manyara. | E-mail: gcla.north@gcla.go.tz  
Tel: 0877 023 421 |
| 3.  | Central Zone Laboratory  | Applicants from Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Morogoro and Ilala. | E-mail: gcla.central@gcla.go.tz  
Tel: 0754 834 032 |
| 4.  | Lake Zone Laboratory     | Applicants from Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Shinyanga, Kigoma, Kagera and Simiyu. | E-mail: gcla.lake@gcla.go.tz  
Tel: 0767 317 282 |
| 5.  | Southern Highland Zone Laboratory | Applicants from Mbeya, Katavi, Rukwa, Songwe and Njombe | E-mail: gcla.southern@gcla.go.tz  
Tel: 0704 391 165 |
| 6.  | Southern Zone Laboratory | Applicants from Mtwara, Lindi and Ruvuma. | E-mail: gcla.south@gcla.go.tz  
Tel: 0754 276 066 |

From Monday 1st, April 2019, applications for chemical registration and permits mentioned above started to be submitted online. Applications which will be submitted to GCLA without using the online application system, will not be processed.

Issued by:
Chief Government Chemist, Government Chemist Laboratory Authority,
5 Barack Obama, P.O. Box 164, DAR ES SALAAM.
CSR: AWARDING BEST CHEMISTRY & BIOLOGY STUDENTS, A CATALYST TO STUDY SCIENCE

By: Sylvester Omary, GCLA.

In 2007, the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (at that time known as an Agency) established a platform of annually awarding the best three boys and best three girls students in National Chemistry Secondary School Examinations for both Ordinary (O') and Advanced (A') levels.

This initiative was taken as a way of both motivating students to study science and increase the number of scientists who will later serve the Country in different science fields, including GCLA.

Initially, GCLA awarded students who had outstanding performance in the National Examinations for the subject of Chemistry to resonate with the name of the institution and its activities. By 2014, up to 96 such students had received the award. However, due to the fact that science encompasses three core subjects of biology, chemistry and physics it was only befitting to incorporate the biology subject in the award criteria. From 2015, GCLA officially extended its best student award to students with outstanding performance in Biology and teachers responsible for their success. Thus, 2015 awards were significantly different in that best performing students in both Chemistry and Biology subjects were recognized alongside their respective teachers from respective schools. GCLA is proud to acknowledge a total 192 students and 16 teachers have been the deserving recipients of such awards from 2007 up to 2018.

GCLA is enthusiastic about the positive trends it has noted over the years in some students and schools whereby some students and teachers who received prizes in previous years (e.g., O’level (form four) also became best performers and received prizes again at A’level (form six). To recognize just a few, Joshua Zumba from UWATA Secondary School, Mbeya, was the best student in Chemistry for the Ordinary level Secondary School Examinations in 2013, returned to GCLA in 2016 to receive his Best Student Award in Chemistry for Advanced level.

Likewise, Naomi Furanaeli Sarakikya was the best student in Chemistry for O’level in 2014 from Maria De Mathias Secondary School, Dodoma; and she took the prize again for best performance at A’level in 2017 in the same subject, this time from St. Mary’s Mazinde Juu Secondary School, Tanga.

Furthermore, the number of schools responsible for delivering best students annually has increased from 4 schools in 2007 to 30 in 2018. Schools whose students have repeatedly received best student awards are Feza Boys (18), St. Mary’s Mazinde Juu (16), Mzumbe Secondary and Marian Girls (14), Tabora Boys (10), Kilakala and Feza Girls (8) each.

This programme has facilitated awareness on science subjects and their importance, and has contributed to motivating students and teachers Tanzanian secondary schools to see the signifance and need to prioritize science subjects.

GCLA is excited about the future of these young brilliant professionals in the making. The augmented performance in science subjects motivates GCLA to continue with this programme not only as a part of its corporate social responsibility but to also encourage and ensure that Tanzania has a pool of scientists to support various sectors. The sciences are part and parcel of the science and technology era we live in today and undoubtedly the essential ingredient in propagating Tanzania’s industrial economy.
President Magufuli visits Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA)

President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H. E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli being welcomed by Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (Right) during his official visit to the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority Head Quarter Office, Dar es Salaam on 20th August, 2019.

President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H. E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli (Left) listening to the Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (Right) when the President visited GCLA - Head Quarter Office on 20th August, 2019.

President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H. E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli (Centre) listening to one of the GCLA Staff (Not in the picture) when he visited GCLA premises on 20th August, 2019. On the left is GCLA’s Board Chairperson, Prof. Esther Helen Jason and Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko (Right).

President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H. E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli (Left) listening to how DNA analysis is done from use Forensic Biology and DNA Laboratory Manager, Hadja Salia Mwema (right) when President Magufuli visited Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) at GCLA Head Quarter in Dar es Salaam on 20th August, 2019. In the middle is the Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko.
PRESIDENT MAGUFULI VISITS GOVERNMENT CHEMIST LABORATORY AUTHORITY (GCLA)

President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli speaking with GCLA Staff when he visited GCLA premises on 20th August, 2019.

Acting Head of Procurement Unit (PMU), Bahati Machaka responding to questions asked by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, during the meeting with GCLA Staff.

President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli (Right) listening to how the LCMS/MS Orbitrap Q-Exactive Series machine is used in the analysis of illicit drugs and toxicological samples from the Acting Manager of Toxicology Laboratory, Kagera Ng'weshemi (Left) when he visited GCLA premises on 20th August, 2019.

President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli (Right) listening to how DNA analysis is conducted from the Forensic Biology and DNA Laboratory Manager, Hadilja Saidi Mwema (Left) when he visited the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) at GCLA HQ in Dar es Salaam on 20th August, 2019.
COURT FINES UNREGISTERED CHEMICAL IMPORTER

By: Correspondent

The Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) recently won a case against Oakwood Holdings Ltd over unlicensed importation of Ethyl Alcohol (Ethanol) as well as engagement of chemicals business in the country.

 Speaking shortly at the Kisumu Resident Magistrate Court after Senior Resident Magistrate Wilbald Mashauri ruled in their favour, GCLA Legal Officer said the ruling is indication of how GCLA is concerning chemical business against unlicensed importation, distribution and sale of chemicals in the country.

"This is a clear indication that we are determined to handle the chemicals management issues in the country. Chief Government Chemist is the sole Registrar of all those involved in the business, thus they have to abide by the laid down rules and regulations.

Adding that "The law is very clear over importation, distribution and sale of chemicals, and GCLA has been mandated to oversee that task. Thus anyone contending this will face legal action. We are happy that, this is a good start."

According to the judgment, Oakwood Holdings Ltd has been ordered to pay a fine as well as confiscation of 40,000 litres of the chemical which will be handed over to GCLA.

On his part, Director of Oakwood Holdings Ltd Mr Simon Kariuki, agreed with the judgment saying they were not aware of the need to register before importation of such chemicals.

"We were not informed of the need to register any imported chemicals or company dealing with chemicals for that matter with the Chief Government Chemist" he said.

He further admitted that, "the need to do so came to our attention only when chemical bulk at the port was inspected and found not to have neither a licence nor certificate for importation and distribution of chemicals as per the law requirement."

Mr Kariuki guaranteed GCLA that they will register chemicals and obtain business license so that they can be legally dealing with chemicals according to set law and regulations of the nation.
THE AUTHORITY WINS IN GOLD MINING EXHIBITION

By: Cletus Mnzava, GCLA.

Authority (GCLA) was awarded three trophies after emerging first runner up in the category of Government Institutions facilitating gold mining, second runner up in the category of best technology for gold mining, and third runner up in the general category of exhibitors.

The Best Technological Gold Mining Exhibition was held in Geita Region and judgment was based on ten different criteria. The guest of honor, the Prime Minister of Tanzania Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa awarded the trophies.

Speaking after the awards, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of GCLA, Professor Esther Hellen Jason, congratulated the Management of the Authority, employees and the participants of the exhibition for the great achievement which was a result of unity, commitment and hard work.

“The participants of the exhibition were few representatives of the entire GCLA community and I believe the success achieved belongs to all employees as it resulted from their contribution represented by a few staff”, said Professor Esther.

“The success showed the spirit of the Authority to reach its Stakeholders and provide them with education and awareness on services the Authority provides for the Tanzanian public. Congratulations, this should be the spirit in all forthcoming exhibitions, where we meet with our stakeholders directly”, said Professor Esther.

Speaking after the Board Chairperson at the same occasion, the Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko congratulated the participants of the exhibition for their commitment to serve the stakeholders and citizens of Geita who turned up in large numbers to visit the Authority’s booth for education on the responsibilities and services offered.

Dr. Mafumiko said, “I congratulate you again for the commitment and hard work that was consistent from the beginning of the exhibition up to the end. To serve more than eight hundred people is not an easy task. I believe small, medium, large scale miners, citizens of Geita and Lake Zone Regions have a better understanding now of the Authority’s responsibilities and will be good ambassadors of the Authority in spreading the awareness they gained regarding chemical management, poison, Human DNA, environmental chemical contamination, drugs of abuse and microbiological effects in Food. We are proud of this success because it shows the Authority contribution to the Stakeholders of Gold Mining and the Public at large”.

The exhibition was initially planned to take seven days (24 – 30th September, 2018) however in an official closure, the Hon. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa added three more days to provide the citizens with the opportunity to continue receiving services from exhibitors.
GCLA ZONAL OFFICES

GOVERNMENT CHEMIST LABORATORY AUTHORITY
NORTHERN ZONE OFFICE
P.O. Box 2096, ARUSHA, TANZANIA.
Tel: +255 27 250 6394
Fax: +255 27 254 9026
E-mail: gcla.north@gcla.go.tz

GOVERNMENT CHEMIST LABORATORY AUTHORITY
EASTERN ZONE OFFICE
65 BARACK OBAMA DRIVE
P.O. Box 164, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.
Tel: +255 22 211 3383/4
Fax: +255 22 211 3320
E-mail: gcla.east@gcla.go.tz

GOVERNMENT CHEMIST LABORATORY AUTHORITY
SOUTHERN ZONE OFFICE
Mahakama Road, Opposite Al-Safa Secondary School
P.O. Box 1414, Mwara, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 23 2334760
Fax: +255 23 2334761
E-mail: gcla.south@gcla.go.tz

GOVERNMENT CHEMIST LABORATORY AUTHORITY
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ZONE OFFICE
Block F, Iwambi
P.O. Box 2875, Mbeya, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 25 2502311
Fax: +255 25 2502312
E-mail: gcla.southern@gcla.go.tz

GOVERNMENT CHEMIST LABORATORY AUTHORITY
CENTRAL ZONE OFFICE
Area "C"
P.O. Box 2925, Dodoma, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 26 235 1535
E-mail: gcla.central@gcla.go.tz

GOVERNMENT CHEMIST LABORATORY AUTHORITY
LAKE ZONE OFFICE
Sekou Toure Hospital/Ismilo area
P.O. Box 502, Mwanza, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 28 2500279
E-mail: gcla.lake@gcla.go.tz
SAFE USE OF CHEMICALS IN MINING ACTIVITIES, GCLA TELLS MINERS

By: Sylvester Oramy, GCLA

The Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) has reminded gold miners in Mbeya Region to safely use chemicals in their mining activities to protect their health and the environment.

Making observation in Chunya recently, GCLA’s Board of Director’s Chairperson, Prof. Esther Hellen Jason said the miners must be keen on how they use chemicals to avoid further environment abuse.

“You should consider safe use of chemicals when conducting your activities and protect the environment. Your health as well as that of your future generations is important,” pointed out Prof. Esther Jason, while addressing some Chunya miners in a meeting that was organized for them by the Authority on 12th June, 2019.

She said that the Board organised the meeting after realizing the mining sector contributes tremendous revenue to the Government, besides employing many locals and hence requires educating the workers on human health and environmental protection.

Prof. Jason further said that the meeting was organized to discuss with relevant stakeholders on how best to strengthen work relations with them and address challenges in the sector.

“I believe that meetings and discussions are the best ways to address challenges the miners face while conducting their activities,” she said.

“However, we know that you cannot extract gold without using some chemicals. But you must take precautions to protect your health,” added the Board’s Chairperson.

Equally, Prof. Esther Hellen Jason assured the miners that the board will keep on addressing their challenges in order to improve activities in the mining sector. She said that some of the challenges, though would need time, would require consultations to be made at the top level with responsible authorities to ensure that things improve not only for gold miners in Chunya, but also for other Tanzanians doing similar business.

Reiterating, the Chief Government Chemist, Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko, said the meeting was the beginning towards more cooperation between GCLA and its Stakeholders such as Miners, Industries, Government Institutions, Civilians etc.
www.gcla.go.tz
GCLA CONTACTS:

Chief Government Chemist,

**Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA)**
Barack Obama Drive
P.O.Box 164, **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**
Phone: +255 22 213383/4
Fax: +255 22 2113320
E-mail: cgc@gcla.go.tz / gcla@gcla.go.tz
Website: www.gcla.go.tz

---

The Manager
**Eastern Zone Office**
Barack Obama Drive
P.O.Box 164, **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**
Tel: +255 22 2113383/4
Fax: +255 22 2113320
E-mail: gcla.east@gcla.go.tz

The Manager
**Lake Zone Office**
Sokotoure Hospital/
Isamilo Area
P.O.Box 502, **Isamilo – Mwanza.**
Tel: +255 28 2800527
Fax: +255 28 2800279
E-mail: gcla.lake@gcla.go.tz

The Manager
**Northern Zone Office**
Mount Meru Hospital
P.O.Box 2095, **Arusha**
Tel: +255 27 2506394
Fax: +255 27 254026
E-mail: gcla.north@gcla.go.tz

---

The Manager
**Southern Highlands Zone Office**
Iwambi Industrial area
P.O.Box 2875, **Mbeya.**
Tel: +255 25 2502311
Fax: +255 25 2502312
E-mail: gcla.southern@gcla.go.tz

The Manager
**Southern Zone Office**
P.O.Box 1414, **Miwara**
Tel: +255 23 2334760
E-mail: gcla.south@gcla.go.tz

The Manager
**Central Zone Office**
Area C, Central Road
P.O.Box 2925 Dodoma
Tel: +255 26 2351535
E-mail: gcla.central@gcla.go.tz
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
GENDER, ELDERLY AND CHILDREN
GOVERNMENT CHEMIST
LABORATORY AUTHORITY

ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

“GCLA building where the Giemsa Stain for Malaria diagnosis was discovered by Gustav Giemsa (1897-98)”

[Image of building and laboratory equipment]