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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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UNMA VISITS S.A WEATHER SERVICE

A Delegation led by Executive Director UNMA, Dr. Festus Lubovera recently held an exchange visit to South African Weather Service (SAWS) from 22nd to 28th October 2017. The Objective was mainly to benchmark the best practices in the South African Weather Services, and identify options for replication in the hydro-met services, as well as the integrated Early Warning Systems in Uganda.

This was learnt through critical observation of the early warning production systems, value addition to the products and services, the dissemination systems in place as well as the utilization of weather and hydrological products/services in the country. It was also designed as a good opportunity for appreciating the challenges that the SAWS have had to face in growing to its present status.

The team visited different directorates under SAWS, WMO-Regional Training Centre, National Disaster Management Centre, Department of Water and Irrigation and Department of Agriculture among others.

Pilot Balloon launch at Irene main weather observatory.



tory.

The Delegation at the Union

Building at Pretoria (left)

Some of the key lessons learnt include;

- Meteorological Services are considered as one of the top priorities in South Africa
- Establish the training needs/gaps of UNMA if we are to achieve our goals for example SAWS emphasizes training of personnel for skills transfer, and knowledge enhancement
- When purchasing equipment, consider the costs of ownership (running costs, maintenance costs, personnel costs, costs of spare parts, etc)
- High level of staff retention and therefore have institutional memory.
- Collaboration with partners eg working with sister institutions and PPP among others

Other members of the team included; Eng. Nebert Wobusobozi (MWE); Hakuza Annunciata (MAAIF), Gerald Menhya (OPM, Disaster Preparedness), Godfrey Mujuni (UNMA) and Pascal Okello (UNDP-SCIEWS Project).

The Secretary of the National Association of

NAB COMMENDS UNMA

Broadcasters of Uganda (NAB) has commended UNMA on the accuracy and consistency of the six hourly forecasts to the media.

In an email to the PPRO, Mr. Bill Tibingana who also manages about 8 media houses under Vision Group said that he had got feedback, especially from the up country Radio stations saying that the forecasts from UNMA are very accurate and come in time and that they had started issuing them out to the public.

"I commend you and your team towards this good work where the media is now gaining confidence in UNMA"

When Lillian Nkwenge talked to some of the Forecasters, Doreen and Derrick, they were happy that their hard work is being appreciated.

The Ag. Director Forecasting, Solomon Mangeni said that it is good when feedback is given and promised that although there were hiccups at the beginning of the project, the team will continue improving till standards are realized.

Last week, DTR held a knowledge sharing session that was attended by over 30 staff from

KNOWLEDGE SHARING DONE

Headquarters and NMC, Entebbe.

Several people made presentations on different works and activities either in pipe line or on going.

Doreen Nanziri, a Weather Analyst at NMC presented on the proposed Weather Information Display at HQs that will be done on big screens so that visitors and interested parties can view the daily and three hourly forecasts at Zero cost.

Joseph Balikuddembe of DTR gave a talk on Popularisation of Meteorology in schools and explained the process and methodology embedded in the project.

The session also heard about the current status of the SWAP in terms of challenges and progress.

Asalu Moses presented on the Village Weather Clinics whose outcome will be the farmers handbook, whose concept is being development.

Ag. ED, Paul Isabirye addresses the session and emphasized the importance of sharing works as a tool for concept actualization.



Julius Kiprop, NMTS Ag Principal contributes to the session.

