

## **2020 STANDARDIZATION MONTH CLOSING CEREMONY**

In Kinshasa, as of October 31, 2020, the Association for the Promotion of Metrology and Standardization, APROMEN has chosen the hall of the Flat JAAL CENTER to celebrate the closing month of Standardization.

The Ceremony had the following four highlights:

- Speech of the President of the APROMEN
- Posthumous awarding of the Diploma of Merit to Former Senator David MUTAMBA DIBWE, initiator of the proposed Law on Metrology and Standardization in DR Congo.
- Official Introduction of Women and Standardization Dynamic " DYFNOR-DRC".
- Intervention of the Advisor in charge of Metrology and Standardization in the office of the Minister of Industry

### **1. The speech from the President of APROMEN**



*A view of JAAL CENTER Hall and the President of APROMEN during his speech.*

In his speech, Mr. Bertin NTUMBA BULULU, President of APROMEN, began by thanking the guests and welcoming them.

He recalled that:

- APROMEN has been working for more than 15 years to raise awareness and advocate for the appropriation by Congolese people of the virtues that make Standardization and Metrology tools for economic integration, development and sustainability of any kind of business.
- APROMEN is an active Member of:
  - the National Council of NGDOs,
  - the network of French speakers and Standardization (Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie "RNF" ) and
  - the International Federation of Standards Users "IFAN".

Among the latest strategies adopted by APROMEN Members, it is worth noting the following:

- Intensification of training on the fundamentals of standardization and metrology,
- Creation of the Women's Dynamics and Standardization, which is one of the positive effects of the training on the fundamentals received by the Women Members of APROMEN ;
- Intensification of the participation in the activities of Metrology and Standardization at the national, regional and international levels.

The President of APROMEN took this opportunity to inform the audience that henceforth, APROMEN will devote the month of October to standardization awareness and advocacy activities, which is commemorated internationally on October 14 each year, and the last Saturday of October will now be reserved for the closure of the standardization awareness and advocacy special activities organized throughout the month.

## **2. The posthumous awarding of the Diploma of Merit to the former Senator David MUTAMBA DIBWE, initiator of the proposed Law on Metrology and Standardization.**

The Honorary Deputy Crispin NGOIE who was chosen to award the Diploma of Merit to the family of the late David MUTAMBA DIBWE began by praising the merits of the former Senator whose initiative to provide the DR Congo with a Law on Metrology and Standardization must be considered as one of the most significant since independence given the strategic importance of the subjects.

Indeed, throughout the time of colonization, the Belgian normative documents were the only reference documents for all activities in the DR Congo.

It is clear to realize that the social and environmental conditions as well as the aspirations of the Congolese are so different from those of the Belgians to realize the originality of this Dignified Son of the Country whose initiative came to give a boost to the actions of APROMEN which help the Congolese to understand the strategic importance of Standardization and Metrology.

Today, the existence of the Proposed Law on Metrology and Standardization in the DR Congo is an important step in the affirmation of national sovereignty and the acquisition of credible benchmarks promoting the improvement of living conditions and the competitiveness of local products and services.

To honor the memory of the illustrious departed, it was suggested that a plea be made for the law he initiated to be called the MUTAMBA DIBWE Law.

The Diploma of Merit was presented to the son of the late Honourable Senator David MUTAMBA DIBWE who was accompanied by two Members of his Family.



*Presentation by the Honorable Honorary Deputy Crispin NGOY of the Diploma of Merit posthumously to Christian MUTAMBA, son of the late Honorable Senator David MUTAMBA DIBWE, Initiator of the Proposal of Law on Metrology and Standardization in DR Congo*



*Christian MUTAMBA (holding the Diploma of Merit of his late father) surrounded (on his right) by Members of his family and (on his left) the Honorable Deputy Crispin NGOY and the President of APROMEN Bertin NTUMBA.*

### 3. Official introduction of the Women and Standardization Dynamic " DYFNOR-DRC "

The creation of the Women and Standardization Dynamic " DYFNOR-DRC " is one of the positive spin-offs of the training on the fundamentals of Metrology and Standardization.

Indeed, the Women who participated in the training felt that Women are the greatest victims of the bad practice of standardization in DR Congo and hopes to benefit from the experience of Women from other countries that have started to carry out activities in this field earlier.



*Members of the DYFNOR-DRC Women and Standardization Dynamic and the Aspiring Members surrounding Mrs Josephine MBOMBO Advisor in charge of Standardization and Metrology at the office of the Minister of Industry*

The creation of DYFNOR-DRC is motivated by the observation that the lack of a consistent practice of Standardization and Metrology is more detrimental to Women, as :

#### **A. Most exposed Consumers in particular:**

- To the poor quality of basic services such as the distribution of electricity, water, food and other products for mass consumption.
- To lack of credible reference tools in the production and trade of basic commodities.

*This situation encourages fraud, counterfeiting and corruption.*

#### **B. Main Actors of Informal Trade and Initiators of SMEs:**

Suffering mainly from:

- Lack of a coherent national normative framework;
- Ignorance of the basic references for entrepreneurship;
- Unpreparedness to the requirements of international trade, the integration of the country in Regional Economic Groupings and the development of Free Trade Zones, hence the enormous risk of bankruptcy in a context of competition at the national and international level and regional economic groupings.

**The main goal of DYFNOR - DRC is to make women aware of the importance of Metrology and Standardization as tools to improve living conditions, support economic integration, promote development and sustainability of their businesses.**

This includes training on the fundamentals of Standardization and Metrology, specialized training according to the different economic sectors and support in the implementation of specific standards according to the fields of activity.

The advisor in charge of Metrology and Standardization at the office of the Minister of Industry present at this ceremony encouraged the Members of DYFNOR-DRC and promised to join DYFNOR-DRC as Full Member.

#### **4. Intervention of the Advisor in charge of Metrology and Standardization in the office of the Minister of Industry**

As last Speaker, the Advisor to the Minister of Industry began by welcoming the initiative of APROMEN whose contribution in promoting Standardization and Metrology in DR Congo is highly appreciated by the Ministry of Industry which is the Regalian Authority.

She recalled the theme of the World Standards Day for 2020 -2021: "**Protecting the planet through standards**".



*Mrs. Joséphine MBOMBO, Advisor in charge of Standardization and Metrology at the office of the Minister of Industry, speaking at the closing day of the 2020 Standardization Month organized by APROMEN*

Through this theme, the three largest International Standardization Bodies: ISO, ITU and IEC, present the Earth as a modest reservoir of life in the vastness of our solar system, since life on our planet depends on the energy of the sun.

In the space of a century, the large-scale human and industrial activities of our modern civilization have added to the planet's natural greenhouse gas emissions. These have a negative impact not only on our climate but also on all forms of life.

In the face of rapid population growth and rapid urbanization, we must use limited resources responsibly.

We need to count on a real political will to limit humanity's impact on our planet by taking concrete action through the use of the right tools, and international standards are part of these tools.

Indeed, the international standards developed by the IEC, ISO and ITU in this area are based on proven solutions to technical problems.

They make it possible to widely disseminate the expertise and know-how of experts in both developed and developing countries.

These standards cover every aspect of energy savings, air and water quality. They define standardized measurement protocols and methods. Their broad application helps to reduce the environmental impact of production and industrial processes, facilitate the reuse of limited resources and improve energy efficiency.

Regarding the situation of standardization activities in DR Congo, the speaker revealed that at the initiative of the Minister of Industry, several standards in various fields had just been adopted to increase the number of national standards to more than one thousand (1000), which is still not enough to meet the needs of our country.

According to the Advisor, one of the biggest challenges for the Ministry of Industry is the popularization and implementation of national standards.

The Advisor in the office of the Minister of Industry having been the last speaker in the program, at the request of the President of APROMEN, declared the end of the ceremony relating to the closing of the month of standardization, edition 2020.

A cocktail for the participants marked the end of the ceremony.