

MAIZE QUALITY BILL, 2016

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DRAFT OF A BILL
 FOR AN ORDINANCE
 ENTITLED
MAIZE QUALITY ORDINANCE, 2016

(Made under section 38 of the Local Government Act, Cap 243)

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the District of Mubende as follows:

PART I – PRELIMINARY	
<i>Short title</i>	1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Maize Quality Ordinance, 2016.
<i>Commencement</i>	2. This Ordinance shall come into force on the date of publication in the official Gazette.
<i>Interpretation</i>	<p>3. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires,</p> <p>“agro-chemicals” includes fertilizers, crop protection products and herbicides;</p> <p>“Council” means Mubende District Local Government Council;</p> <p>“court” means a court presided over by a Magistrate;</p> <p>“currency point” is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings;</p> <p>“district” means Mubende District;</p> <p>“extension worker” includes an agricultural officer;</p>

<i>Application</i>	<p>“Ministry” means the Ministry responsible for agriculture;</p> <p>“offence” means an act, attempt or omission punishable by law.</p> <p>4. This Ordinance applies to the whole of Mubende District.</p>
<i>Objectives</i>	<p>5. The objectives of this Ordinance are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to improve proper agronomics for maize farming; (b) to regulate harvest and post-harvest handling by farmers; (c) to regulate maize and other related maize-value addition practices; (d) to provide for licensing of maize dealers in the district; (e) to improve food security in the district and the country as a whole; (f) to protect the health of consumers; (g) to regulate the use of agro-chemicals in maize farming; (h) to improve the marketability of maize as a food and cash crop; and (i) to improve the income of the people in the district.
<i>Planting maize</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">PART II – PROPER AGRONOMIC PRACTICES FOR MAIZE FARMING</p> <p>6. (1) A person shall plant maize preferably at the start of a rainy season.</p> <p>(2) A person shall plant maize by hand, animal plough or machine.</p> <p>(3) Where an animal plough is used to plant the maize, the person shall plant maize seeds after the plough.</p> <p>(4) Where the planting of maize seeds is done by hand or machine, a</p>

	farmer shall follow the recommended spacing for the variety of maize he or she is planting.
<i>Thinning maize plants</i>	7. A farmer shall, when the maize plants are ten centimetres in height, thin the maize by leaving one to two plants per hole.
<i>Weeding maize plants</i>	8. (1) A farmer shall, after four weeks of planting maize, weed the maize plants to control weeds and may repeat the weeding when the weeds re-occur. (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a farmer may, with the direction of an agricultural specialist, use a herbicide to control weeds in a maize garden. (3) Where herbicides are used under subsection (2) of this section, the person using the herbicide shall ensure that only recommended herbicides are used. (4) In this section, “recommended herbicide” means a herbicide recommended by the Ministry from time to time.
<i>Fertilizers</i>	9. (1) A person who grows maize may use the recommended fertilizers or manure. (2) Where a farmer uses manure, the farmer shall use farm yard manure as it gives highest yields and does not destroy the soil structure or pollute the environment. (3) The Council shall, periodically and in conformity with national directives, issue guidelines on the use of fertilizers in the district.
<i>Pests and diseases</i>	10. (1) A farmer may, with the guidance of an agricultural officer, use recommended agro-chemicals to control any pests affecting his or her maize crop. (2) A farmer may use proper measures such as manuring, crop rotation,

closed season and early planting to control diseases affecting his or her maize crop.

(3) The Council shall periodically, issue guidelines setting out the recommended agro-chemicals for the control of pests and diseases affecting maize.

(4) A person who contravenes subsection (1) of this section commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine of two currency points or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two months or both.

(5) Where an outbreak of pests or diseases occurs in a person's maize crop, the person shall report the outbreak to the local government council of the place where the outbreak has occurred.

(6) A person who contravenes subsection (6) of this section commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine of two currency points or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two months or both.

(7) Where an outbreak of pests or diseases is reported under subsection (6), the Council and the relevant local government council shall ensure that farmers are informed of the outbreak immediately.

(8) In addition to informing farmers under subsection (7), the Council and the relevant local government shall ensure that the appropriate control measures are taken to control the outbreak.

<p><i>Harvesting and post-harvest handling of maize</i></p>	<p>11. (1) A farmer shall leave maize for grain purposes to dry on the cob or stalks in the garden until such a time when the cob turns downwards or until the cob is dry.</p> <p>(2) A person shall not slash wet maize strands and leave them to dry on the ground in the maize field or garden.</p> <p>(3) When maize is dry, the farmer shall remove the cobs and store them in a crib, granary or appropriate store.</p> <p>(4) A farmer may harvest maize by</p> <p>(a) hand by removing the dried cobs from the stalks,</p> <p>(b) combine harvesters or</p> <p>(c) any other method.</p> <p>(5) A farmer shall dry maize on a tarpaulin, crib, carpet or concrete floor before storing the maize in silos, cribs, granaries or any other appropriate storage facility.</p>
<p><i>Drying maize on the ground</i></p>	<p>12. (1) A person shall not dry maize directly on the ground.</p> <p>(2) A person who contravenes the provision of subsection (1) of this section commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine of two currency points or community service for three months or both.</p>
<p><i>Use of herbicides on maize</i></p>	<p>13. (1) A person shall not use herbicides to dry or speed up the drying of maize.</p> <p>(2) A person who contravenes the provision of subsection (1) of this section commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine of two currency points or imprisonment for five months or both.</p>

<p><i>Trading licence</i></p>	<p>17. The Council shall not issue a trading license to a person who mills maize but has not registered with the Council.</p>
<p><i>Licence for maize dealers</i></p>	<p>18. (1) A person shall not carry out maize business on a large scale in the district unless the person has obtained a licence from the Council.</p> <p>(2) A maize dealer shall apply for and obtain the maize business licence after payment of the fee prescribed by the Council.</p> <p>(3) Every maize dealer in the district shall display his or her license in a prominent and conspicuous place in his or her place of business or premises.</p> <p>(4) Every maize dealer in the district shall abide by the guidelines on moisture content in maize and hygiene standards to be maintained which are periodically issued by the Council.</p> <p>(5) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires, “maize dealer” includes a person who buys or sells maize on a commercial scale either as a retailer or wholesaler.</p>
<p><i>Agro-inputs dealer’s licence</i></p>	<p>19. (1) A person shall not operate an agro-inputs business in the district unless he or she has registered with the Council and obtained an agro-inputs license after payment of the fee prescribed by the Council.</p> <p>(2) Every agro-inputs dealer shall abide by the guidelines issued by the Council or the Ministry.</p>
<p><i>Role of the extension worker</i></p>	<p>20. (1) A district extension worker shall</p>

	<p>(a) sensitize farmers and maize dealers on the provisions of this Ordinance; and</p> <p>(b) sensitize farmers, agro-input dealers and maize dealers on the guidelines issued under this Ordinance.</p> <p>(2) The District Production Committee shall monitor the work of the extension workers in the district.</p>
<i>Transportation of maize grains and products</i>	21. A person shall transport maize and maize products in a leak-proof and dust-free condition and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Council or the Ministry.
<i>General penalty</i>	<p>22. (1) A person who contravenes any provision of this Ordinance for which a specific penalty is not provided commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine of two currency points or imprisonment for two months or both.</p> <p>(2) A court which convicts a person under subsection (1) shall in addition to the penalty imposed, revoke the license of the person convicted.</p>
<i>District Maize Marketing Committee</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">PART IV – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS</p> <p>23. The Council shall establish a Maize Quality Committee comprising the District Commercial Officer and representatives of maize millers, traders, farmers, consumers and one representative from each sub-country.</p>
<i>Obstruction of a person implementing this Ordinance</i>	24. A person who hinders or obstructs a person discharging functions under this Ordinance commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine of two currency points or imprisonment not exceeding three months or

<p><i>Contamination of maize produce</i></p>	<p>both.</p> <p>25. (1) A person who grows or deals in maize in the district shall not contaminate the maize produce with stones, dust, animal or poultry waste, rubbish or any other kind of contaminant.</p> <p>(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) of this section commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine of two currency points or community service for one month.</p> <p>(3) The court may, in addition to the penalty imposed under this section, order for the destruction of the contaminated maize at the expense of the convict.</p>
<p><i>Appeal</i></p> <p><i>Implementation of the Ordinance</i></p> <p><i>Financing the implementation of the Ordinance</i></p> <p><i>Regulations</i></p> <p><i>Amendment</i></p>	<p>26. Any person aggrieved by a decision made under this Ordinance may, within fourteen days of the decision, appeal to the Chief Magistrate’s Court or the High Court.</p> <p>27. The Council shall, in collaboration with the other lower local governments and administrations, ensure that the provisions of this Ordinance are implemented.</p> <p>28. The Council shall make budgetary provisions for the implementation of this Ordinance.</p> <p>29. The Council may, by statutory instrument, make regulations or guidelines for the implementation of this Ordinance.</p> <p>30. The Council may, through the appropriate rules of procedure, amend any provision of this Ordinance.</p>

Passed by Mubende District Council on the day of20.....

I HEREBY signify my hand this.....day of 20.....

Chairperson, Mubende District.