

Business

Briefly Kenya central bank raises interest rate

The Central Bank of Kenya on Tuesday raised its policy lending rate by a quarter percentage point to stem rising inflation and stabilise the Shilling. The increase in the Central Bank Rate to 6 per cent matched expectations of most analysts who said on Tuesday they expect the policy rate to rise further in the coming months as the country fights off inflationary pressure brought home by rising oil prices and drought that has hit food supplies.

Airtel launches advanced air time

Airtel Uganda has yet again introduced a new airtime credit facility called *Malako*, which gives its customers an opportunity to borrow Shs200, Shs500 and Shs1,000 and pay later. On loading airtime at a later stage, the amount borrowed will be automatically deducted from the customer's account. The move comes at a time after a similar service was recently launched by Warid Telecom.

Beer firm to support journalism Awards

Beginning this year, the SABMiller Group will commit funds to the sponsorship of the David Astor Journalism Awards Trust, which aims to strengthen independent journalism in Africa. In a statement to *Daily Monitor* on Monday, Mr Onapito Ekomoloit the NBL corporate affairs director said: "The Award aim to recognise and modestly reward unique journalism works."

Norway to help groom Uganda's female bosses

Walter Wafula
Kampala

It's common knowledge that the number of women in top leadership positions in many corporations in Uganda is quite small compared to that of men.

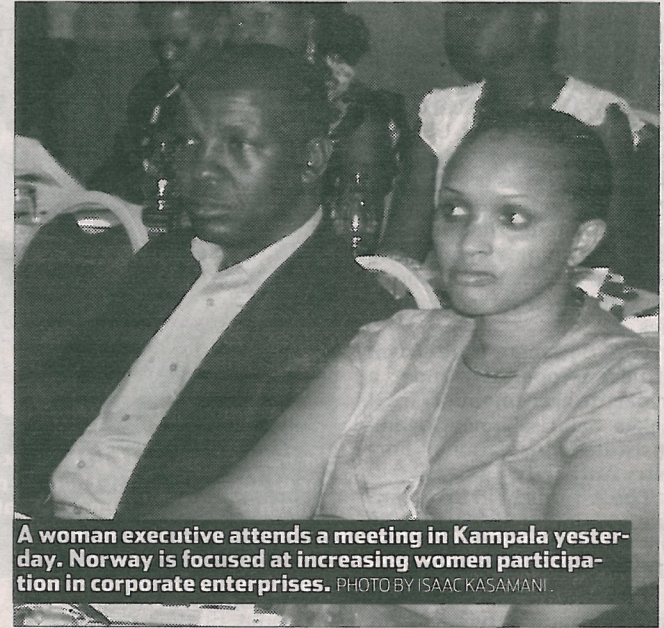
Even their representation on boards of governors is quite insignificant due to a number of reasons including; the general perception of their leadership abilities.

To improve the status quo, the Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO) and the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE) have teamed under the Female Future Uganda programme to train women executives in Uganda.

The training programme which is scheduled to start in May will focus on improving and equipping female executives with negotiation, leadership and board competence skills.

Ms Rosemary Senabulya the executive director FUE said the programme aims at increasing the percentage of women in decision making processes, management and representation on corporation boards.

"If we improve the number of women at the top, we will improve the performance of the organizations," she said at the launch of the programme



A woman executive attends a meeting in Kampala yesterday. Norway is focused at increasing women participation in corporate enterprises. PHOTO BY ISAAC KASAMANI.

in Kampala.

"We believe that if we get this diversity in harnessing skills, it will help organisations perform much better."

Ms Senabulya's argument was based on the fact that in Norway where a similar programme has been conducted among 1,100 women since 2004, the performance of firms they have worked for has risen.

The initiative aims at sharpening management skills of females in chief executive

positions, top management, and middle management and those in leadership positions.

Statistics at NHO indicate that half the number of people who have attained leadership skills thorough the programme have advanced in their careers or been offered board positions within two years of completing the training.

In Uganda, the Female Future programme is expected to churn out 20 women executives per annum.

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