What is business licensing?

It is the process by which business entities/ individuals are authorised to commence business/professional activities by a relevant regulatory authority. This authorisation can be in form of a permit, certificate, levy, license or a fee.

Obtaining a business /professional license usually involves paying a fee along with submitting an application to the appropriate regulatory authority.

What is electronic business licensing?

Electronic business licensing also referred to as e-licensing is the process by which business entities/individuals obtain information about licenses and apply for them online.

This is done through the e-licensing portal which is an online database of business licenses issued by government agencies and local authorities.

The online "Business License Package (BLP) tells you exactly which licenses, permits, fees, and registration requirements suit your business.
To get the right Package, please log on to our website www.businesslicenses.go.ug /www.businesslisenses.go.ug there is a drop down showing jurisdiction if business , business type and the sector choose from the drop down depending on the nature of business and the area of jurisdiction automatically the information regarding a particular license will be displayed .

What is the aim of introducing the e-licensing portal?

The aim of introducing the e-licensing portal is to provide a central information repository that is easily accessible by prospective investors/business community and the general public for information on business licenses.

What are the functionalities of the e-licensing portal?

Users can do the following:-

- Access information related to particular licenses for businesses they intend to apply for.

- Contact the licensing agency for any specific inquiries.

- Obtain directions to the offices of the licensing agency.

- Subscribe to receive News letters.

- View News items about licenses

What information is available on the e-licensing portal?

1. Name of the license

2. Fees required for a particular license

3. Law applicable

4. Licensing Authority (Issuing Authority)

5. Purpose of a license

6. Duration of the license/renewal

7. Basic requirements for acquiring a particular license

8. Business location

9. Downloadable content (application forms and other licensing information)

What are the advantages of the e-licensing portal?

1. Provides easy access to business license information

2. Simplifies the process of starting up a business

3. Widens the scope of investment

4. Creates efficiency in business formalisation processes.

5. Cost saving (elimination of middle men who escalate the cost of obtaining business licenses)

6. Eliminates legal and regulatory barriers to investment

What role is played by Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) in the operation of the e-licensing portal?

- Manages the e-licensing portal content and license database

- Provision a Help Desk for e-licensing portal users with more specific business licensing and startup questions.

- Markets the e-licensing portal and develop partnerships with relevant Business Intermediary Organizations (e.g., chambers, SME support organizations).

- Oversees e-licensing portal Technology Platform.

What role is played by other Agencies in the e-licensing portal operation?

- Regulatory agencies to work with URSB in implementing the e-licensing portal.

- Providing needed information on existing licenses

- Updating information when necessary, including information on new licenses

- Respond to inquiries from users concerning their licenses

What is the future of the e-licensing portal?

Currently the e-licensing portal is informational and will later be upgraded to a transactional portal with the following functionalities;

For Businesses

- Ability to apply and pay online for licenses

- Ability to upload required supporting documents.

- Ability to view the status of license applications online .

- Ability to issue licenses as well as receive relevant notifications (e.g., approval, renewal required) via e-mail or SMS.

For Regulators

- Workflow management capability, which will permit each regulator to route each type of license application to the appropriate staff for processing, inspection activities, approval, and/or notification.

- Customizable forms to allow each regulator to construct online application and reporting forms

- Management reporting capabilities, including statistics on license application throughput, backlogs at specific processing steps and processing efficiency of individuals and/or workgroups.

- Integrated database of businesses and licenses issued (eventually linked to company register)

- All services and functionality delivered online

What services will be offered by the e-licensing portal platform?

1. Submission services

2. Message services

3. Online inquiry services

4. Collaboration services

5. Link services

6. Intermediary services

7. Free-standing messages

Contact details

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