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PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY IN
TANZANIA^{1/}

by

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^{1/} The views and opinions expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the secretariat of UNIDO.

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Since 1971, the plastic industry in Tanzania is growing in a rapid way and is playing a leading role in the development and economy of the country. The industry is created by a combination of several plastic companies, employing about 1000 people on direct processing and having different kinds of production lines. To mention a few of these companies, here are some:

Tanganyika Tegry Plastics Ltd., Dar-es-Salaam

Extrusion of PVC and PE pipes, blown films, sheets and blow moulded articles.

Simba Plastics, Dar-es-Salaam

Extrusion of PVC and PE pipes, blown film, sheets, injection moulding and blow moulded articles.

Amboni Plastics, Tanga

Injection moulding of bottle crates, chair shells and other articles.

Tanzania Shoe Company, Dar-es-Salaam

Injection moulding: mainly foot wear

Tanzania Plastics, Dar-es-Salaam

Usage of flexible polyurethane for making mattresses and cushions.

Banco Products, Dar-es-Salaam

Usage of flexible polyurethane for mattresses and cushions.

Apart from the need for improving the country's economy, agriculture by irrigation system, the aim of supplying fresh water to the villages throughout the country, brings about the significance of expanding the plastic industry in Tanzania.

The present consumption of raw materials is not in large quantities as the plastic companies are not very big.

A few kinds of plastic materials used by the industry and their line of production are as follows:

PVC

More than 80% of this kind of material is used for making pipes of all classes: pressure pipes for the distribution of fresh water; low pressure pipes for buildings' drainages and conduits for electrical installations. Low density PVC is used for making hose pipes.

H.D.PE and L.D.PE

About 70% of high density polyethylene is used for making water pipes as they can withstand high pressures and the remaining percentage with the low density polyethylene is used for the production of blown films and other blow moulded articles for packaging of various products.

Polyurethane

Flexible polyurethane is used for making foam for mattresses and the rigid polyurethane is used for making chair shells.

Polystyrene


This kind of plastics material is mainly used in the manufacturing of packagings for pharmaceuticals and food products.

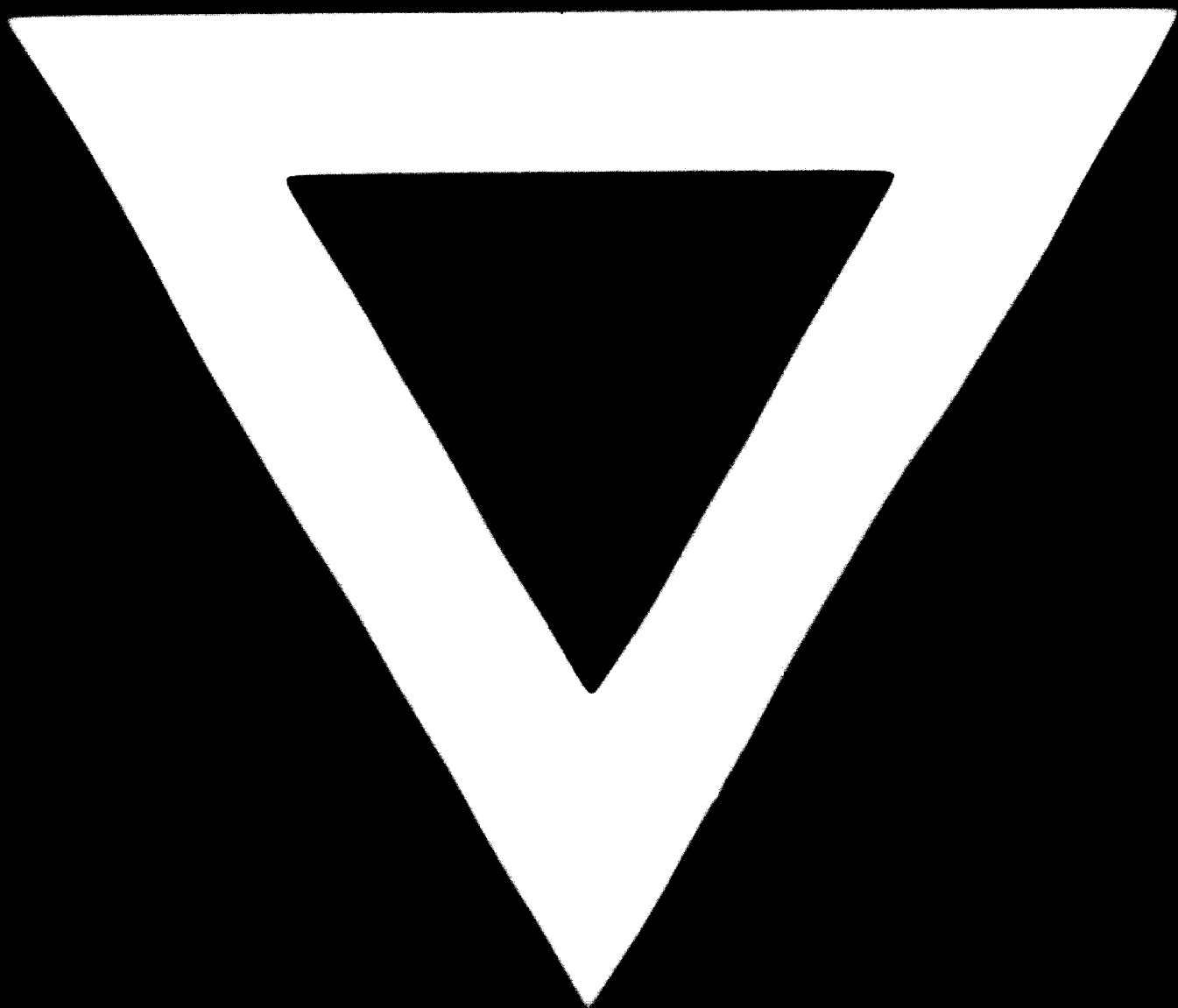
It should be noted that PVC is used more than any other type of plastics material. This is followed by polyethylene and other types.

The installation of new machinery and the modifications made to the old machinery and tools, had led to the achievement of increment in sizes and production of various articles. The maximum size of pipes produced has increased up to 400mm from a size limit of 225 mm in the previous year.

As the plastics industry in Tanzania is not yet satisfied by its products in quality and quantity, it is planning to replace the old machinery by new ones and increase the technical know-how to the machine operators.

It will be greatly appreciated if UNIDO can assist in at least establishing a plastics institute whereby these operators can obtain the knowledge required and research work on plastics materials and articles can be done. This is for the benefit of the plastics industry and the country as a whole.





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