



***Diaa Ali***  
**Director**  
**Novelty Tannery Investments (U) Ltd**

Novelty Tannery Investments (U) Ltd is a manufacturing concern established in 2006 and located 138kms from Kampala. It is one of the largest establishments in the leather industry in the East African region, providing gainful employment to an average 130 Ugandans in various activities and at various levels.

This 2.5million dollar investment employs the latest technology in the processing of leather from raw hides and skins to wet blue leather and caters for the export demand from the European Union Countries and Far East Asia. Much of the hides and skins are acquired locally from areas of South Western Uganda and North Western. **Quality assurance and value for money are the key components of Novelty Tannery Investments' corporate objective.**

Skills transfer and appropriate technology provide a basis for sustainable employment. However the company seeks to grow beyond simply providing value addition to wet blue but to the final product by having a finished leather producing factory that will meet the demands of the local and regional markets. NTI seeks to establish this in Namanve Industrial Park in Kampala once it secures land for setting up this factory.

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Plot 65, Bukoto Street-P.o Box 36733-Kampala-Uganda,Tel: +256 312 283 776, +256 712 936 206  
Email:publicopinions@yahoo.com-Website: www.pubopinions.org

However, the greatest challenge in this sector is the availability of quality raw hides and skins because of the crude methods of skinning the animals in the region rendering much of the hides and skins as waste. There is need for breeders to adopt modern methods of skinning animals therefore, government intervention to sensitize the people on skillful methods of skinning is very necessary. NTI has already embarked on the project of assisting and providing tools and training equipments to communities to ensure quality skins after slaughter. Government imposed duty on export of raw hides and skins in order to allow for the value addition sector to grow but the trend has not diminished. Countries such as Rwanda have totally banned the exports of raw hides and skins to stimulate value addition on raw hides and skins. We see no reason why this policy cannot be harmonized in the entire region

Businesses must be socially responsible by supporting communities in which they operate. NTI values corporate responsibility and response to community needs in fostering and enhancing consumer confidence. This act of reciprocity commonly termed **Corporate Social Responsibility** is the cornerstone for attainment of Government prosperity for all and the UN millennium development goals.

## **NOVELTY TANNERY INVESTMENTS (U) LTD**

**Head Office:** Plot 1 Colville Street

**Mobile:** +256-782-300000/+256-701-000000

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Communications House

**Email:** nti\_uganda@yahoo.com

P.O Box 29685, Kampala-Uganda

**Website:** [www.noveltytannery.com](http://www.noveltytannery.com)

**Tel/Fax:** +256-312-256455

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