

### Debt Management Seminar Date:17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Venue Acacia Premier –Kisumu
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#### Theme



"Reaping the benefits of debt finance – A Cost Benefit Analysis Approach

### Topic



The place of effective credit policies for maximum benefits

### **Credit Policy Definition**



A credit policy is a written and approved document containing a set of principles that gives guidelines on terms and conditions for giving goods/services on credit. It is a tool to help guide the credit department in handling its daily operations within an organization set up.

## Main functions of a credit policy



A credit policy can be used both as a

- 1. training tool
- 2. reference guide applicable to the majority of issues that the credit department will face.

### Types of a Credit Policy



There are basically two types of a credit policy.

- 1. Liberal
- 2.Conservative

## Determinants of the right kind of a credit policy



- Any organization that trades in credit need to have a credit policy which is tailor-made with careful consideration of both;
- 1. company ability
- 2. prevailing economic conditions

### Liberal credit policy



It is referred to as generous credit policy that allows favourable credit terms to customers.

Companies that use this kind of a policy must have the capacity to acquire the goods and services that they give on credit to be paid at a later date.

# Business conditions that may influence a company to embrace a liberal credit policy



- High stock levels
- Low demand
- New market penetration
- Risk of expiry
- Stiff competition
- High profit margins
- Seasonal business that leaves surplus

### **Conservative credit policy**



It is a restrictive policy that is not generous to borrowers.

# Conditions that influence the use of a conservative credit notice



- 1. High demand and low stock
- 2. Tailor-made products that cannot be re-sold elsewhere
- 3. Lengthy production process
- 4. Customers nature of business

# Questions that a credit policy should address



- 1. Who is responsible for deciding who gets credit and factors to be used to make the decision.
- 2. Who is responsible for establishing credit limits and factors that determine credit limits.
- 3. What are normal payment terms.
- 4. What are normal interest terms.
- 5. What discounts terms are available.

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6. How delinquent customers will be dealt with.

### Structure of a credit policy



- Vision
- Mission statement
- Purpose
- Objective
- Standard terms and conditions
- Credit assessment procedure and tools.
- Sales ledger maintenance
- Collection procedures

### Credit policy structure contd



- Other conditions
- Accountability levels, approval rejection of credit application (sales agents/other managers)
- Bad debts provisions
- Debtor measurements
- Management review procedures

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Appedix (Application forms, standard credit agreement)

### **Updating Your Credit Policy**



Business conditions change and from time to time it becomes necessary to modify one or more of your existing credit policies

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### Benefits of a credit policy in an organization



- All customers are treated equally without favour
- Makes work easier for the credit staff
- Portrays a positive business attitude towards customers
- It eliminates 'special' credit deals by unauthorized staff
- •Sets out guidelines to all staff on matters related to credit sales
- role of credit is recognized by the top management



### Illustration of a credit policy

### Thank you for listening

# TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS