

COMESA Competition Commission Sensitization Workshop for the Zambian Business Community

MRS. WK Mutale Nalumango guest of honor, Her Honor Vice President of the Republic of Zambia

DR. Willard Mwemba (Director & Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe (COMESA Secretariat, Secretary General)

Mr. Chilufya Sampa Executive Director (Competition & Consumer Protection Commission)

Hon. Chipoka Mulenga (Minister of Commerce Trade & Industry)

Heads of foreign Missions

Senior Govt Officials

CEO's from various organisations

Captains of Industry

Members from the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a profound honour to speak at this well timed event. on behalf of the private sector, I want to laud and congratulate the COMESA Competition Commission, CCPC as well as ZACCI for this job well done.

There is no better time to have this workshop than this period when we as a Nation is part of the promotion of regional & continental integration which plays a vital role in diversifying economies away from dependence on the export of just a few products, in delivering food and energy security, in generating jobs for the growing populations and in alleviating poverty and delivering shared prosperity.

GOOD PRACTICES

In driving the integration agenda, there is need to abide by the provisions of treaties and agreements governing trade relations.

Economies have to refrain from anti-competitive practices such as:

- Non-tariff barriers (SPS, TBTs, import and export bans)
- Dumping

The competition law and policy of Zambia is strategically put together and took roughly about 15 years for the commission to become an act of parliament for the enforcement of the law. The law is therefore a necessary weapon to better the economy & grow local businesses which may not have as much strength as the foreign direct investors.

However, so many interrelated factors hinder private sector participation in the regional integration agenda.

With the elimination of tariffs, Non-tariff barriers are increasingly affecting market access in regional communities especially customs and border procedures resulting in delayed clearing.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I urge you to take this 2 day workshop as a **Public Private Dialogue** – with interactive panel discussions involving key stakeholders and providing an overview of stakeholder viewpoints on the state of local and regional regulation.

Kindly use the 2 days workshop to examine the institutional and policy frameworks of the region and key regional priorities including on trade, industrialization and infrastructure development and the role and space accorded to the private sector.

With all experts present this forum provide a platform for policy debate and dialogue and exchange of ideas between the private sector and other stakeholders in the regional integration agenda in Southern Africa including SADC, COMESA and EAC, amongst others, on how the private sector can be effectively mainstreamed into the regional trade competitiveness.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to reassure you all that Zambia still remains one of the best investment destinations in Africa due to its conducive and predictable business environment and its peaceful political environment. As representatives of business in Zambia, I can attest to the fact that Zambia is an attractive investment destination offering various lucrative investment opportunities in tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, energy, mining, construction, ICT, education and other sectors.

Ladies and gentlemen

Zambia is characterised by a growing economy with generally stable macroeconomic environment, stable political system, investment guarantees and security, duty free access to regional markets, conducive laws and policies. Thus far the Government has demonstrated political will and commitment to encourage both domestic and direct foreign investment with equal treatment of Local and foreign investors.

Ladies and gentlemen

ZACCI is keen to assist in actualising increased business linkages and joint ventures as well as ensure a very favourably regulated business environment with policies that will not harm but protect the businesses.

With these few remarks, I urge all business and participants to take advantage of this meeting and familiarize ourselves with the business regulatory landscape to build sustainable investment and trade.

Let me once again thank COMESA Competition Commission and CCPC for putting up this platform that will be used for cross pollinating of business ideas and strategies.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

I thank you and God Bless you all.

Phil Daka
Chief Executive Officer