CCPC

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Remove Competition Barriers for More MSMEs Participation – Govt

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Join Corruption Fight for Good Cause - President HH Urges Public, Private Institutions



His Excellency -President Hakainde Hichilema

His Excellency, President Hakainde Hichilema has urged public and private institutions to utilize the established Integrity Committees (ICs) in the fight against corruption in order to promote a culture of accountability, transparency and good governance in service delivery.

President Hichilema said that ICs were part of the broader initiative that was put in place by Government with an objective of preventing corruption and mal-administration in public and private institutions.

"The UPND Administration is resolved to entrench a culture of honesty, integrity, transparency and accountability in the delivery of services to the people. Therefore, the same should be the case with each one of us either in public or the private sector," President Hichilema said.

President Hichilema added that more needed to be done in the fight against corruption despite Government stepping up its efforts by working with corporate bodies through the establishment of ICs.

"We understand that efforts put in place by Government have helped to keep the law - breakers in check, but again, there is still a lot more to be done to ensure that those that still want to continue with their misdeeds do not get the chance to do so without being cornered and caged." President Hichilema said.

President Hichilema assured the nation that the UPND Administration remained committed to the fight against corruption for the growth of Zambia's economy and benefit of its people. He further said that Government would therefore ensure to build institutional capacity of law enforcement agencies by equipping them with skills to eliminate corruption at all levels of governance.

The President said this at the Lusaka's Show Grounds in a speech read on his behalf by Honourable Minister of Justice, Mulambo Haimbe (MP), during the commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) held on 9th December,2022, under the theme, "Uniting the World Against Corruption."

And speaking when he welcomed the Minister during the stand touring of twenty (20) institutions at the event, CCPC Public Relations Officer, Rainford Mutabi said that in its quest to respond to Government's call in the fight against corruption, the Commission through its IC had put in place deliberate measures aimed at eliminating corruption among members of staff.

"The Commission has developed the Whistle Blower, Gift and Conflict of Interest polices as well as the Code of Conduct and Ethics, Disciplinary Code and Grievance Procedures Manual.All these documents have been put in place not only to enhance the governance systems of the Commission but also to promote integrity among the members of staff and to eliminate any possible practices of corruption," Mr. Mutabi said.

Mr. Mutabi said the Commission had also included an IC component in all its presentations to external stakeholders with the aim at raising awareness against corruption and mal-administration in public service delivery. He added that the Commission had also uploaded on its website the necessary information that was key to assisting the public report all corruption related complaints to the Commission.

In conclusion, Mr. Mutabi thanked the Honourable Minister for finding time to find out on what the Commission was doing in the fight against corruption; adding that the Commission remained committed to fighting corruption for better public service delivery and growth of the country's economy.



Mr.Mutabi (right) talking with Hon. Haimbe (red top) as he toured the stands for Exhibitors

Competition Key to Value Addition – MCTI Minister



Honourable Chipoka Mulenga, MP.

Government has disclosed that the enforcement of the Competition and Consumer Protection Act (CCPA) No. 24 of 2010 is critical and key to promoting value addition in the production of goods and services in Zambia.

Speaking at Ndola's Jacaranda Mall on the Copperbelt Province when he flagged off Zambia's 56th International Trade Fair (ZITF) that took place from 29th June to 5th July, 2022, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI), Honorable Chipoka Mulenga (MP) said the interventions made by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) to make markets competitive, gave small businesses room to be innovative and add value to their goods and services.

"The creation of a fair playing field on the Zambian market has seen the growth and participation of small businesses in the exploitation of resources for growth of Zambia's economy. As can be witnessed, the ZITF Committee has confirmed participation of 92 foreign companies from 13 countries and 600 local exhibitors for this year's show. This in itself indicates the willingness and confidence that foreign and local exhibitors have in the competition process in Zambia." Honourable Mulenga said.

Honourable Mulenga added that the Trade Fair played a significant role in strengthening Zambia's bilateral relations with other African countries.

"The Trade Fair acts as a stimulus in deepening both regional and multilateral trade, given the various exhibitors coming from different continents. This year's Trade Fair will be a landmark and a continuation of enhancing mutual relations with the international community through trade and business networking. I am optimistic that such relationships will contribute to private sector participation and thereby help to achieve Government's agenda of fostering decentralization, industrialization and Job Creation," Honorable Mulenga said.

Meanwhile the then CCPC Executive Director, Mr. Chilufya Sampa said in actualizing the realization of the 2022 Trade Fair Theme dubbed, "Promoting Value Addition for Sustainable Growth" CCPC had put in place various interventions to promote fair competition, sustainable growth and consumer welfare.

"From the competition perspective, the Commission has been and continues to remain steadfast in the enforcement of the law by prohibiting anti-competitive behaviour/ conduct by market players and promoting competitive mergers. Such mergers have facilitated the need by market players to employ various technological skills and strategies in order to innovate and produce products/services that are of high quality. The enforcement of competition law has also led to dominant firms not foreclosing markets, not restricting access to technology used for or in value addition as well as the granting of exemptions for certain agreements meant to improve product/service quality. This has contributed to inclusive growth among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) resulting in an equal opportunity to innovate, engage in research and development meant to improve and add value to products and services provided in the economy." Mr. Sampa said.

Mr. Sampa added that in ensuring consumer protection in Zambia, CCPC had continued to educate enterprises on best practices and compliance to the various provisions of the law in cognizance of their interactions with Consumers. He said the result of such interventions kept businesses in-check against engaging in unfair trading practices such as supply of defective products, lack of product labelling/information disclosure, sale of unsafe products as well as unfair contracts.

"We have observed that as a result of our interventions, market players are striving to add value in order to produce quality products and services that are capable of remaining competitive and sustainable on the market. By so doing, market players become more innovative and produce a variety of goods and services leading to increased consumer choice and satisfaction as well as enabling consumers get value for their money."Mr.Sampa said.

Remove Competition Barriers for More MSMEs Participation – Govt



Mr.Mulongoti (third-left) with his team at the CCPC stand during the expo.

Government is optimistic that the removal of competition barriers such as exclusive agreements, cartels, abuse of dominance of market power and anti-competitive mergers will promote full participation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the economy.

Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MCTI) Permanent Secretary, Mr. John Mulongoti said Government relied on the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) as a regulator of markets for elimination of such barriers to open up markets for the participation of more MSMEs.

"CCPC needs to tackle all inefficiencies associated with market power which would result in lack of innovation, reduced incentives as well as undermining potential entrants," Mr. Mulongoti said.

Mr. Mulongoti said it was for the same reason Government embarked on an economic and social transformation agenda by allowing MSMEs to effectively participate in the economy for growth and benefit of the Zambian people.

"We note that in order to attain the aspirations of the private sector, MSMEs need to take centre stage in the transformation agenda as a catalyst for economic growth," Mr. Mulongoti said.

Mr. Mulongoti was speaking when he toured the Commission's Stand during the Western Province, Trade and Investment Exposition held in Mongu from 10th to 15th October, 2022.The event was held under the theme: "Rapid Economic Transformation Through Increased Home Grown Entrepreneurship, Value Addition and Trade".

At the same event, CCPC Provincial Investigator for Western Province, Mr. Kevin Mainza said CCPC remained focused to ensure that market participants in the Zambian economy were trading on a level playing field.

Mr. Mainza added that in a quest to promote a competitive business environment for the growth of MSMEs in Zambia, CCPC had continued to conduct training aimed at educating MSMEs on various competition issues through workshops and Annual General Meetings (AGM) among others.

Further, Mr. Mainza disclosed that CCPC through its Research and Education (R&E) Unit was conducting a market study on MSMEs in Zambia. He said the objective of the study was to develop and make the MSMEs resilient for high incomes and job creation through identifying and eliminating all forms of anti-competitive business practices along the value chain.

Revised CCPC - CCC MoU Gets Government's Kudos



CCPC Acting Executive Director, Mr. Brian Lingela (left) & CCC Director & Chief Executive Officer, Dr.Willard Mwemba after signing the MoU at Lusaka's Mulungushi International Conference Centre

Government says it is confident that the revised cooperation framework agreement signed between the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) and the COMESA Competition Commission (CCC) will enhance and strengthen coordination in curbing anti-competitive business practices and consumer exploitation in Zambia and the region at large.

Speaking during the signing ceremony held at Lusaka's Mulungushi International Conference Centre on 4th November 2022, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI) Permanent Secretary, Mr. John Mulongoti said in a speech read for him by Director Domestic Trade, Mrs. Margret Chikuba that Government had already recognized the positive strides made by the agreement in promoting competition and safeguarding consumers at local and regional levels.

Mr. Mulongoti added that Government remained committed to ensuring that the tenets of competition and consumer protection law were promoted and safeguarded in the context of globalization and cross border trade.

"We have witnessed today a proliferation of cross border transactions affecting Zambia and it is necessary that they do not negatively affect our businesses and neither should it for other countries" Mr. Mulongoti said.

Mr. Mulongoti said Government recognized the importance of supporting the framework, for it was an effective tool; key in creating a conducive market environment for all players. He urged CCPC and CCC to be in constant and seamless communication for them to realize the benefits of the agreement.

At the same event, CCPC Acting Executive Director, Mr. Brian Lingela disclosed that in 2018, CCPC and CCC embarked on an ambiguous journey to cooperate in the enforcement of competition and consumer protection in Zambia and the common market through a formal agreement.

Mr. Lingela said the revised framework was among measures expected to formalize closer cooperation between CCPC and CCC in the form of merger notification, consultation and coordination of actions.

"The signing of the cooperation framework in 2018 between the two institutions resulted into the successful assessment of a total of 98 mergers with a regional dimension," Mr. Lingela said.

Mr. Lingela disclosed that the two institutions had in the last four years proactively collaborated to enhance predictability and efficiency in merger regulation, which had led to a reduction in the cost of doing business.

"You may wish to know that through these 98 cross border mergers affecting Zambia over the last four years, Zambia through our national treasury has received up to K14,240,334 in merger notification fees. Further, through these cross-border mergers, the Commission will continue contributing to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country" Mr. Lingela said.

Mr. Lingela added that the framework would provide an enhanced platform for CCPC and CCC to address some of the procedural and substantive challenges that were likely to arise in cross border investigations relating to competition and consumer protection matters.

And when responding to a question on how the revised MoU was going to compliment the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), CCC Director and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Willard Mwemba said the implementation of AfCFTA was going to allow other foreign businesses to easily establish themselves in Zambia and the region.

Dr. Mwemba said it was this, among other reasons, that the CCPC and CCC had to revise the MoU in order to have a robust competition and consumer policy in Zambia and the COMESA region.

"Without the presence of a robust competition and consumer protection policy, a lot of businesses would go into extinction considering the competition that would be exhibited by other countries once the AfCFTA is implemented," Dr. Mwemba said.

Dr. Mweemba disclosed that the Agreement governing the AfCFTA which came into effect on 1 January, 2021 was going to create the largest free trading area in the world connecting 1.3 billion people across 55 countries, with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) valued at US$3.4 trillion.

"Experts say the agreement has the potential to lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty but achieving its full potential will depend on putting in place significant policy reforms and trade facilitation measures," Dr. Mwemba said.

COMESA Member States Guaranteed Fair Competition and Consumer Protection amid Climate Crisis



Pictures showing the devastating effects of climate change in some COMESA Member states.
(Note: Picture used for illustration purposes)

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) and the COMESA Competition Commission (CCC) have pledged their vigilance in ensuring competitiveness of markets and consumer protection in COMESA Member states amid climate crisis.

The two competition authorities resolved this through a Joint Press Statement issued on 5th December,2022 as they commemorated the World Competition Day (WCD) that was held under the theme, "Competition Policy and Climate Change."

CCPC and CCC disclosed that they were adequately equipped to address competition and consumer protection matters on climate change as their mandates provided them with provisions to consider such global challenges; particularly in assessing anti-competitive business practices and mergers.

In their quest to eliminate anti-competitive business practices, the CCPC and CCC said that they would use appropriate provisions under their respective mandates to review agreements (vertical or horizontal) and grant exemptions for parties in agreements that were necessary in tackling climate change like those involving joint research and development on green technologies for competitors including those that promote economic progress, environmental protection and green products.

In merger analysis, CCPC and CCC indicated that they would take into account such factors as public interest considerations, efficiencies that outweigh the substantial lessening of competition, the ability of the merged entities to conduct research and development more effectively, as well as efficiencies that may spur innovation that would generate significant benefits for consumers.

"As the CCPC and CCC, we are also cognisant that such efficiencies may not lead to immediate reduction in prices of products as is the case for green products which may cost more to produce due to the need to invest in new technologies and obtain raw materials from more environmentally sustainable sources. However, we will ensure that consumers still benefit from improved products which lower greenhouse gases and a better environment. All these considerations are in line with the need to address climate challenges" CCPC and CCC stated.

CCPC and CCC urged traders in the Common Market not to take advantage of the consequences of climate change by either engaging in any anti-competitive business practices or exploiting consumers as such would be punished in accordance with the Law.

CCPC and CCC pledged to continue working closely with other stakeholders in addressing the challenges resulting from climate change in order to enhance the welfare of consumers in the Common Market.

Further, CCPC and CCC stated that they would continue playing their active roles in ensuring that their efforts and policies recognized the important roles competition enforcement may play to not only create climate resilient economies but also to contribute to the achievement of a climate neutral planet.

2022 Consumer Cases Drop By 12.8%



CCPC Acting Executive Director - Mr.Brian Lingela.

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has recorded a 12.8% decrease in the number of consumer cases from 2,366 in 2021 to 2,064 in 2022.

The decrease has been attributed to the referral of insurance related complaints to the Pensions and Insurance Authority (PIA), an institution which regulates the Insurance Sector and has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CCPC.

CCPC Acting Executive Director, Mr. Brian Lingela said insurance complaints have been of concern ranging from unsolicited deductions, failure to pay out on maturity and double deductions with civil servants particularly affected.

Mr. Lingela disclosed that the CCPC has been working with the PIA to resolve the increasing complaints which undoubtedly require a lasting solution.

Mr. Lingela added that other sectors of concern where the CCPC saw a significant number of complaints include the Retail, Microfinance, Banking and Finance; and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sectors. He expressed great concern at the high levels of consumer rights violations in these sectors.

"In the Retail sector, most of the cases related to failure to supply goods bought on hire purchase on time; supply of defective products such as mobile phones, television sets and batteries, and the failure to supply repair services within a reasonable time. In the service sector like Microfinance; and Banking and Finance; most cases had to do with provision of unsuitable services and misrepresentation. In the ICT sector most of the cases had to do with mobile money services such as delayed reversals of erroneous transactions, particularly on cross network transactions" Mr. Lingela said.

Mr. Lingela added that the most prevalent violated provisions of the two thousand four hundred twelve (2,412) recorded in 2022 had to do with unsuitable services, defective goods and misrepresentation which accounted for 64.47%, 13.14% and 12.52% respectively. He however indicated that the rest of the complaints represented 9.8% of cases handled and included issues of unfair trading, display of disclaimers, product labelling, price display, product safety and unfair contract terms.

In a quest to resolve the identified unfair trading practices in the sectors, Mr. Lingela said the CCPC had continued to collaborate with various relevant stakeholders such as the Pensions and Insurance Authority (PIA), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Bank of Zambia (BoZ) and the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) among others.

Mr. Lingela further disclosed that in order to supplement on collaboration with its partners, the CCPC embarked on raising awareness on competition and unfair trading practices and consumer rights among the business community and consumers respectively.

Mr. Lingela said he was hopeful that the use of such communication interventions were going to promote compliance with the Law among the business community as well as empower consumers with more knowledge on consumer protection.

CCPC Confers with ZNFU on Tenets of Free Competition



Farmer packing tomatoes for sale at Lusaka's Soweto market.

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) recently advised the Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) on the need to uphold free flow of competition in the sale of fresh vegetables in the country. This followed a call by ZNFU made to their members to refrain from dumping several fresh vegetables on the local market.

The guidance was given on 8th August, 2022 after ZNFU issued a press statement in which they alleged that the oversupplying of fresh commodities like cabbages, onions and tomatoes among others being done by a few farmers was causing a significant drop in commodity prices, resulting in many farmers producing at a loss.

ZNFU also alleged that the over-supply of fresh vegetables was leading to losses which were hurting the farmers, especially the small scale and emergent farmers, with some contemplating to stop production altogether.

CCPC, Acting Executive Director, Mr. Brian Lingela advised that the call by ZNFU may lead to limiting access to markets for farmers that were producing to scale and was against the spirit of competition.

> "Encouraging competition by limiting production will only serve to disadvantage the local economy and will subject consumers to higher prices. Instead, stakeholders should be seen to encourage scaling up production, value addition and including linkages with export markets" Mr. Lingela said.

Mr. Lingela said that while Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) were instrumental and required nurturing, the solution was not to discourage the established farmers to scale down but building capacity and scale to match up.

"We therefore would like to guide Associations such as the ZNFU and other institutions that interference with markets that results in anti-competitive outcomes only disadvantage Zambian enterprises in the long run. Any form of output quotas, production cuts, fixing of prices or any other anti-competitive conduct should not be encouraged." Mr. Lingela said.

Further, Mr. Lingela urged ZNFU to take the guidance of the Republican President His Excellency, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema to open up to new opportunities that the surplus vegetables bring such as promoting export markets and setting up cold storage facilities.

Mr. Lingela reiterated the need to encourage farmers to continue supplying the markets unhindered to expand production through value addition and market linkages generally amongst SMEs.

Photo focus



Western province Minister (left), Hon. Kapelwa Mbangweta, MP interacting with CCPC Western Provincial Investigator, Mr. Kevin Mainza during the Western Province Trade and Investment Expo in Mongu District.



CCPC Public Relations Officer, Mr. Rainford Mutabi explaing the Commission's mandate to an exhibitor during the EU-Zambia Economic Forum held at Lusaka's Mulungushi International Conference Centre.



Democratic Republic of Congo Commissioner General of Lualaba Province - Ministry of Economy,Foreign Trade and Industry , Mrs.Lydia Kalasa welcomed by CCPC-Chief Investigator - Northern Region, Mr Masauso Phiri .



One of the winners of the CCPC Mini-Facebook competition ,Mr.Roberto Bajo shows off his branded cap,mag cup and t-shirt presented to him by the Commission in Lusaka.



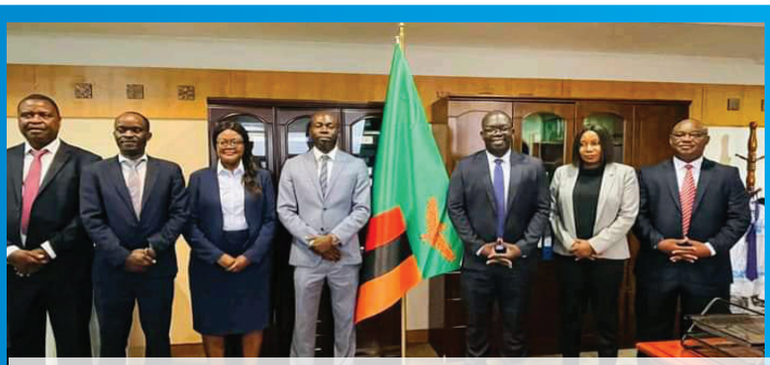
Chief Ndake (in cap) poses for a picture with CCPC Officers (in blue t-shirts) after a sesnitiztion programme at his Chiefdom in Eastern Province .



Expired food stuffs being packed for disposal and further distruction after an inspection in Zimba CBD in Soutern Province.



MCTI Minister, Honourable Chipoka Mulenga flagging off the Zambia International Trade Fair at Jacaranda Mall on the Copperbelt Province in Ndola District



MCTI-Minister Hon.Chipoka Mulenga poses for a picture with newly appointed Board Members of the CCPC at Lusaka's New Government Complex.



His Excellence President Hakainde Hichilema (middle squatting) takes picture with MCTI-Minister,Hon.Chipoka Mulenga (immediate right) after officially opening the ZITF.



CCPC Acting Executive Director (in jacket) and Director Human Resource and Administration,Mrs.Beene Siyumbwa take picture with Officers after IACD at Lusaka's show grounds.



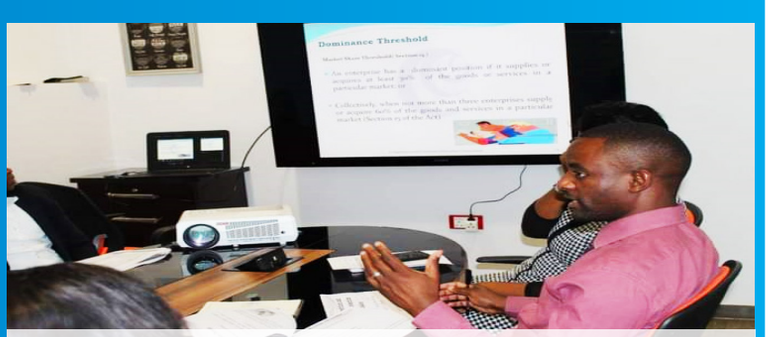
CCPC Acting Executive Director, Mr.Brian Lingela and COMESA Competition Commssion Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer,Dr.Willard Mweemba showcase documents after signing an MoU at Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka.



CCPC Officers marching during the comemoration of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in Lusaka.



Naambe Sec. School pupils of Kabwe Province showcase books given to them by CCPC after scooping a 3rd Prize in the 2022 WCRD essay writting competion on Fair Digital Finace.



CCPC Mergers and Monopolies Investigator, Mr. Anthony Chanda giving an explanation to members of Staff of Lusaka's Cheers Hypermarket during a free training on competition in Lusaka.

Fines Not Our Goal - CCPC



Mr. Muteto.

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has clarified to the business community that the fining of erring persons or enterprises that contravene the Competition and Consumer Protection Act (CCPA) No. 24 of 2010 was not its primary purpose. CCPC through advocacy and education has strived to create an environment of self-regulation with fines meted as a lawful measure put in instances where self-regulation become ineffective. Fines on erring persons or enterprises were used as a deterrent measure to prohibit unfair trading or anti-competitive trading practices.

In an interview, CCPC Chief Analyst, Mr. Parret Muteto said business engagement in unfair trading practices such as allocating markets, rigging bids, setting production quotas and collectively refusing to deal posed economic risks such as increasing the cost of doing business and eroding consumer welfare.

Mr. Muteto added that such practices acted as a discouragement for entry and expansion or access to markets. He said the resultant effect of such conduct also limits consumers choices and expose them to suffer high prices for low quality goods.

Mr. Muteto said that to avoid fines, businesses including dominant ones needed not to engage themselves in anti-competitive or unfair trade practices by ways such as limiting or restricting access to markets, denying access to markets, imposing directly or indirectly market conditions as well as underpricing and charging prices excessively.

This was in reference to the meeting on the adjudication of cases held on 11th October,2022 where the CCPC Board of Commissioners imposed a 0.5% annual turnover fine on MEPS Zambia Limited, a company that deals in commercial activities of installing electric fences. The company was fined for inability to install a top wall electric fence with an earth rod which caused damage to the fence's energizer after being struck by lightening. As such, the Board found MEPS not to have executed their duties with reasonable care and skill, hence contravened Section 49(5) of the the Competition and Consumer Protection Act (CCPA) No.24 of 2010.

During the same meeting, the Board also fined Gamezone Enterprise 0.5% of its annual turnover for displaying disclaimer which purported to deny liability for any injury or harm sustained by consumers whilst using the game facilities. The company breached Section 48(1) of the Act in the supply of recreational actives.

Be Ambassadors of Consumer Education, Dambo Pupils Prodded



Mr.Phiri explaining the CCPC's mandate to a Teacher from Ndambo Combined school while pupils look on.

Pupils of Dambo Combined School of Kabushi Township in Ndola town on the Copperbelt Province have been urged to take an active role in spreading messages on unfair trading practices for enhanced consumer protection in their communities.

CCPC Chief Investigator-Northern Region, Mr. Masauso Phiri said pupils were an important stakeholder to the Commission as they were not only a better conduit for information dissemination but also played a key role in reaching out to the masses especially those in far flung areas.

Mr. Phiri encouraged pupils who were not part of the School Club to join and enjoy education activities such as quizzes that the CCPC had put in place to create consumer awareness and add to their education experience.

He was speaking in Ndola when the pupils visited the CCPC Stand during the Trade Fair event held from 29th June to 5th July,2022.

"We are hopeful that the use of activities like debates and the quizzes will supplement the traditional means of reaching out to the public and also improve pupil engagement and participation" Mr. Phiri said.

Mr. Phiri called on the pupils to raise the flags of such activities so as to expose the unfair trading practices prohibited under the Act such as the displaying of disclaimers and selling of defective and expired products.

Mr. Phiri added that such levels of awareness were good as they helped pupils to get value for their money and also protect them from exploitation by traders.

"This knowledge should not only be kept to yourselves but rather shared with your loved ones and families. Through such empowerment, consumer protection is enhanced and that reduces the number of potential victims that would be taken advantage of by unscrupulous enterprises." Mr. Phiri said.

He noted that there was need to continue supporting youths so that they cannot only demand better products, services and level playing field in business, but also to be ambassadors for a good cause.

Mr. Phiri further thanked the pupils for passing through the Commission's Stand to acquire knowledge on its mandate. He implored them to continue spreading the message in a quest to promote a culture of competition and consumer protection in the country.

Stop Selling Defective Goods - Motor Vehicle Dealers Warned



Mrs. Eunice Hamavhwa

Government has warned Motor Vehicle Dealers to desist from selling defective vehicles and motor spare parts in a bid to contribute to the reduction and prevention of Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) in Zambia.

Minister of Transport and Logistics, Honorable Frank Tayali (MP) said the use of defective vehicles and spare parts needed to be stopped with immediate effect as it was among others, the cause in the increased numbers of RTAs.

"The country recorded 1,680 road traffic deaths in 2022 between January and September, representing a 10.4% increase from the 1,522 deaths recorded in 2021" Honorable Tayali said.

Honourable Tayali added that it was important for car dealers to realize that the fight against RTAs was not only Government's but also required their concerted efforts of ensuring that the vehicles and spare parts used were free from defects and worth for road use.

In furtherance to ensuring sanity on the road, Honourable Tayali said that Government in collaboration with the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) and the Zambia Policy will intensify its inspections to punish perpetrators of misconduct not only to prevent reoccurrence of offence but also loss of lives.

Honorable Tayali made this warning in a speech read on his behalf by the Ministry's Acting Permanent Secretary, Mr. Stephen Mbewe during a memorial service held in honor of RTA victims at Lusaka's Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross. The funeral service was conducted on 27th November as an additional activity to commemorate the 2022 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Accident Victims held under the theme "Justice Must Be Served."

Meanwhile, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) Acting Director Consumer Protection, Mrs. Eunice Hamavhwa echoed in an exclusive interview that the sale of defective goods like motor vehicles and spare parts was prohibited under the Competition and Consumer Protection Act (CCPA) No. 24 of 2010, due to the harm that they caused on consumers like motorists.

"The Act prohibits any person or enterprise from engaging in the supply of defective goods and services not fit for the purpose which they are normally used or for the purpose that the consumer indicates. Any person or enterprise that commits such an offence is liable upon conviction to pay a fine not exceeding five thousand penalty units" Mrs. Hamavhwa said.

Mrs. Hamavhwa added that the offender in addition to the penalty could pay the CCPC up to 10% of its annual turnover or if practicable and if the consumer so chooses, replace the goods with those that were free from defect and were fit for the purpose which they were normally used for as indicated by the Consumer.

Further, Mrs. Hamavhwa said reducing RTAs required combined efforts, among them compliance by vehicle and motor spare part sellers, with the Law in selling goods that were fit for use and thereby save lives.

CCPC Widens Inspection Scope for Consumer Well-being



Mrs. Faith Tembo

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has widened its scope of inspections against the sale of unsuitable products from 24 districts in 2021 to 51 in 2022.This was done in an effort to protect majority of consumers from consumption of unfit products for the good of their safety and health.

The CCPC conducted the inspections jointly with other relevant stakeholders whose mandates are critical to ensuring consumer protection in Zambia such as the Local Authorities, the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA), Zambia Metrology Agency (ZMA) and the Ministry of Health as well as the Zambia Police Service.

CCPC Lusaka Provincial Investigator, Mrs. Faith Tembo disclosed that the Commission and its stakeholders purposefully intensified inspections with a goal to sensitize and safeguard the well-being of consumers especially those in rural areas.

"We intensified our inspections to protect consumers in far flung areas while ensuring traders comply with the Law. As can be noted, in 2021, the value of unsuitable goods seized from the 676 inspections conducted in 24 districts was K154,819, compared to K989, 068 in 2022 where 1,401 inspections were conducted in 51 districts. All this was done for the wellbeing of consumers and in the spirit of promoting fair trade" Mrs. Tembo said.

Mrs. Tembo also disclosed that most of the seized goods were found to have either expired, improperly labelled, dented, contaminated, or had damaged packaging, contrary to the Competition and Consumer Protection Act. (CCPA) No. 24 of 2010 as well as the Food Safety Act No. 7 of 2019.

However, Mrs. Tembo noted that information gap was a challenge faced by most traders living in remote rural areas as they seemed to be less informed about unfair trading practices compared to those in urban areas.

Mrs. Tembo stated that, CCPC embarked on a number of different strategies aimed at inculcating a culture of competition and consumer protection awareness amongst consumers across the country.

In order to have an informed and self-protected consumer base, Mrs. Tembo said, the CCPC and it's partners will continue to engage traders and consumers so as to create a critical mass of well-informed businesses and consumers. Mrs. Tembo said such engagements will encourage self-policing, reduce incidences of unfair trade practices and enhance consumer and business welfare in the country.

CCPC Dates Ndake Chiefdom in Nyimba District



Chief Ndake's residents listen keenly during a presentation on unsuitable goods.

Over 100 people from Ndake's Chiefdom in Nyimba District of Eastern Province have been sensitized by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) on unfair market practices that are prohibited under the Competition and Consumer Protection Act (CCPA) No. 24 of 2010.

CCPC Eastern Provincial Investigator, Mrs. Josephine Katoma said that the sensitisation activity was conducted in an effort to complement other awareness programmes such as debates and quizzes as well as drama, in schools.

Mrs. Katoma seized the opportunity and delved into highlighting some of the unfair trading practices that were prohibited under the Act, such as selling of expired goods, defective products and displaying of disclaimers.

"The information being shared here is very important to both consumers and traders. For consumers, it enables you to know what constitutes an unfair trading practice and your rights which in turn enables you to report when you are exploited by a trader. Equally on the traders side, you are taught on what practices are prohibited so that you are not found wanting by the Law." Mrs. Katoma said.

Mrs. Katoma also took time to distribute a variety of brochures on such topics as how people can seek redress, report complaints and get in touch with the CCPC.

She described the sensitisation tour as successful, adding that the discussion with the audience on their experiences regarding unfair trading practices made the talk more realistic for people's understanding on CCPC's role in protecting consumers.

Mrs. Katoma however observed that most consumers did not know their consumer rights and that traders were not aware of the best practices that they were supposed to uphold as they engaged in business.

"Considering the low levels of knowledge on consumer protection here in Ndake Chiefdom, we shall ensure to conduct more of these community sensitisation activities to protect people from exploitation. Additionally, going forward, it is recommended that we continue enhancing awareness programmes on radio in order to reach a wider audience." Mr.Katoma said.

And commenting on the sensitization, His Royal Highness, Chief Ndake of the Nsenga speaking people, expressed gratitude to the CCPC Officers for taking time to educate the consumers in his chiefdom.

Chief Ndake encouraged the CCPC to continue touring the chiefdoms and raising awareness as the information shared was pertinent and needed to be heard by everyone.

> "I did not know that paying a price more than what is displayed is against the law including other issues mentioned in this meeting. This in itself tells you how much we as the people of Ndake Chiefdom need to be knowledgeable about such matters for our protection. That is why we need more of such sensitizations from the CCPC." Chief Ndake said.

Chief Ndake concluded by calling on the CCPC to continue educating his people for their benefit and the generations to come. He further assured the CCPC that the information shared was going to be relayed and be put to good use.

High Traders Compliance Rate in Mwandi, Sesheke Districts Elates CCPC



Mr.Kevin Mainza (sky blue shirt) sharing IEC materials with marketeers after an inspection in at Mwandi's Central Business District (CBD) in western Province.

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is elated by the high number of business enterprises in Mwandi and Sesheke Central Business Districts (CBDs) of Western Province that were complying with the Competition and Consumer Protection Act (CCPA) No.24 of 2010.

According to the report on the Joint Inspections conducted in the two districts on 28th and 29th September 2022, 30 out of 38 enterprises were found to be in compliance with the Act; representing 79% of Traders' Compliance Rate.

Commenting on the inspections, CCPC Western Provincial Investigator, Mr. Kevin Mainza said it was good to note that numerous businesses in the two districts were compliant with the Act.

"This positive development is a sign that the business community yield to the various messages that CCPC has been sharing with them and the general public using advocacy and raising of awareness among other activities" Mr. Mainza said.

Mr. Mainza disclosed that through the same inspections which were conducted by a combined team of inspectors from CCPC, Zambia Police, Mwandi and Sesheke District Councils, K17,894 worth of assorted expired goods were seized from selected shops in the province.

"The seized goods include soft drinks, cleaning materials, pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food products. These were found to be either expired or not properly labelled as required by law." Mr. Mainza said.

Mr. Mainza warned the traders that were engaging in such unfair trading practices to desist from doing so and added that offering or selling products that were not fit for purpose or expired was against the Act as well as the Food Safety Act No. 7 of 2019.

> "Mr. Mainza said that after the inspection, the team of inspectors took time to raise awareness and educate the masses on the need for consumers to buy well labelled products, especially food, drugs and cosmetics among other items for their health and safety.

Mr. Mainza further reiterated that CCPC and its partners would continue conducting such sensitizations in districts of other provinces not only to ensure traders' adherence to the Act but to also enhance consumer welfare in the economy for the benefits of Zambians.

CCPC Speaks at 2022 International Competition Network Annual Conference



Mr. James Chalungumana

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission took part in the 2022 International Competition Network (ICN) Annual Conference which was held in Auckland, New Zealand from 6th to 8th December 2022. The ICN Annual Conference drew both physical and virtual participants from competition authorities, law enforcement agencies and other competition law practitioners from all over the world to commemorate the conference under the theme, "Responding to a Changing World".

The Commission was represented by Chief Investigator - Cartels and Restrictive Business Practices, Mr. James Chalungumana. Mr. Chalungumana virtually participated as a panel speaker in a break-out session on the topic, "The Modern Cartel Investigations Team Make-Up." The panel included speakers from the Kenyan and Israeli Competition Authorities as well as the Canadian Competition Bureau.

> "The breakout session discussed the importance of matching cartel sophistication; composition of cartel investigation teams; resources required to conduct surveillance and unannounced searches, technological tools used in digital evidence extraction; challenges faced by Investigators; and, modern methods of intelligence gathering and analysis.

The Commission continues to leverage on the expertise of regional and international Competition Authorities through such cost-effective capacity building initiatives for application of international best practices in the application of competition law.



CCPC

Competition & Consumer Protection Commission

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