

Livestock Trade Mapping Kicks-off in Ethiopia



COMESA has begun mapping enterprises involved in live animal trade in the region to establish basic data on regional and international markets. This project is intended to enhance the livestock value chain by linking animal fatteners, feedlot operators, abattoirs and slaughter house operators to the regional and international markets.

It is also one of the strategic objectives of the COMESA Livestock Policy Framework to facilitate access to markets, services and value addition among different stakeholders who produce, and market livestock .

A report prepared by the COMESA Senior Livestock Officer, Dr Yoseph Mamo, after conducting the exercise in Ethiopia, states that access to markets and distribution of risks and gains along different steps of live animal and meat value chains, vary according to the gender of producers, processors, market agents, grades and the economies of scale.

"Thus, this program will work to improve the

traditional marketing channels of ad hoc sales to well-coordinated links among different enterprises to reduce risks and improve gains," he said.

The mapping of enterprises is being conducted by COMESA livestock expert in collaboration with the national departments of livestock development, veterinary services and national level association of private sectors.

"Once the enterprises involved in the value chain of live animal marketing in the major exporting country is mapped, the market channel in the major importing countries will also be mapped," Dr Mamo said.

Similarly, the meat value chain in the exporting and importing countries will be mapped. The outputs from the exercise will be used to formalize the current ad-hoc market system to well-structured marketing system to establish sustainable well linked marketing channels.

Ethiopia is the first country to be mapped with the

activity taking place from 10 -15 February 2019. The project is supported by COMESA and USAID through Regional Development Objectives Grant Agreement with COMESA.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian State Minister of Agriculture Hon. Mrs. Aynalem Nigusie Ali said the number of live animals traded informally through Somaliland, Djibouti, Sudan and Kenya is higher than those traded formally.

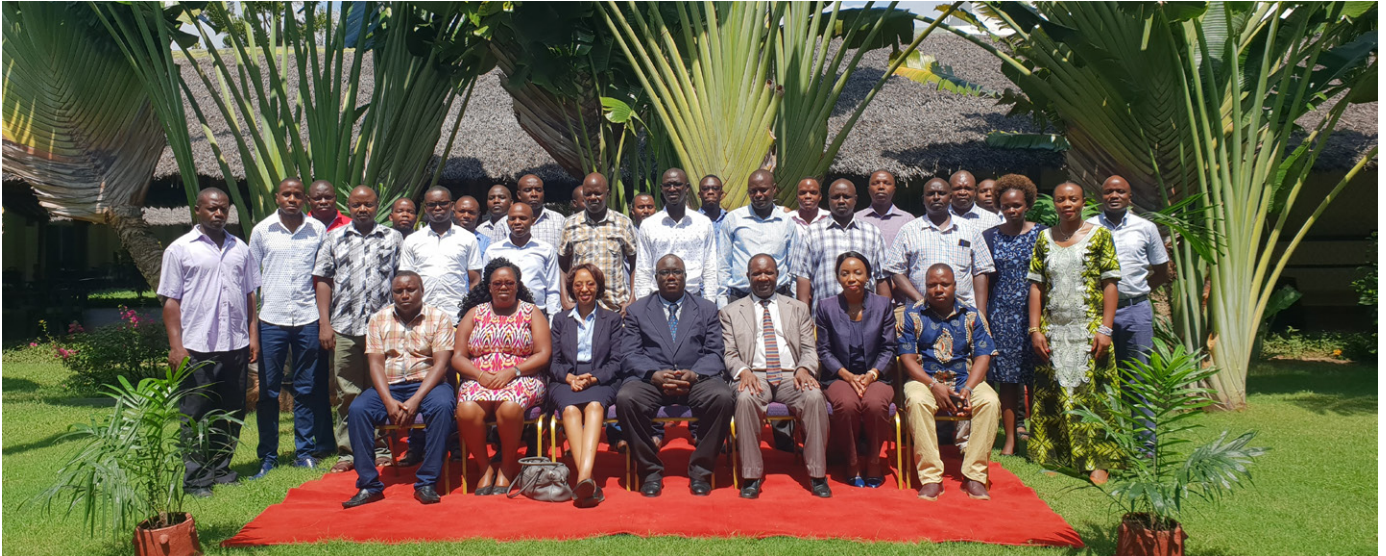
Speaking when she met the mapping team, the Minister said stringent animal health standards required in livestock trade has often led to evasion of formal import /export channels thus encouraging and maintaining the informal trade.

"It is well known that from the informal trade, the producers especially the pastoralists and the smallholder farmers do not benefit appropriately," she said noting that most of the profits end up with middlemen and informal traders.

To address this challenge, the Ethiopian Government has taken several measures including strengthening veterinary services and diagnostic laboratories, surveillance, diagnosis and control of Transboundary Animal Diseases. It has also developed different guidelines including pre-purchase, construction of abattoirs and processing plans guidelines and standard operating procedures.

Currently the major outlet for Ethiopian livestock is the Middle East market. The government is however keen for alternative markets which the COMESA project of linking enterprises to the regional market is promising.

Greater Inter-Agency Collaboration Needed to Combat Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing



Anti money laundering workshop in Kenya

Rising sophistication of financial crimes especially money laundering and terrorism financing necessitates greater inter-agency collaboration and regional partnerships.

Countries that faces higher incidences of terror attacks have particularly been responsive to regional initiatives, such as the COMESA Maritime Security (MASE) programme, which deal with Anti Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT).

As an occasional target of terror, Kenya has been working actively with COMESA under the Regional Maritime Security Programme (MASE) in implementing customized capacity building interventions to respond to the gaps as identified by the authorities. The aim is to deepen understanding of AML/CFT laws by all relevant stakeholders, their respective obligations and various techniques used in money laundering and financing of terrorism.

The latest capacity building workshop took place at Kenya's South Coast town of Diani on 26 - 28 February 2019. It brought together a wide cross section of border management agencies and Financial Reporting Center and enforcement agencies that work at various land and sea border posts. Participants were drawn from internal security, immigration, police, airports and ports authorities, asset

recovery units, anti-counterfeit, and revenue authorities among others,

The Director General of the Financial Reporting Center (FRC) in Kenya Mr. Maika Saitoti, who opened the workshop stressed the need for collaboration among the various agencies that support the strengthening of anti-money laundering and combating terrorism regime initiatives.

"The strength of the Kenyan Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism regime is determined by the weakest stakeholder in the link," Mr. Saitoti said in statement presented by the Head of Legal Compliance and External Relations, Mr. James Manyonge.

The Head of Governance, Peace and Security of COMESA Ms. Elizabeth Mutunga informed the delegates that financial institutions in

most of the countries implementing the MASE programme have put in place reasonable measures for identification and making it difficult for unscrupulous dealers to easily use the financial systems, thus shifting illicit proceeds through porous borders.

"Criminals take advantage of unaware/ unsuspecting border officials to perpetrate crime including moving their dirty money from one country to another," Ms. Mutunga said and lauded the Kenyan authorities for identifying the need and priority to strengthen capacity of border officials.

Ms. Mutunga emphasized the importance of ensuring that different countries have adequately developed their AML/CFT regimes. If this does not happen, she said, the crime will move from the stronger to the weaker regimes hence the importance of a regional programme.

Through the training, the border officials are expected to have a better understanding of the manifestation of illicit flows and money laundering at their respective work stations and thus increase the identification of suspicious transactions. Such information will then be shared with the FRC for analysis and further dissemination of intelligence to the law enforcement agencies for investigation and prosecution.

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Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe (seated 4th left) with co-sponsors and a section of the delegates attending the anti-corruption compliance training in Zambia.

Digitization of Trade Facilitation Tools to Reduce Corruption Risks

Secretary General of COMESA Chileshe Kapwepwe says implementing the trade facilitation tools such as the digital free trade area, simplification and automation of documents and processes will address some of risks that provide space for corrupt practices in the COMESA region.

Addressing over 60 enterprises in Zambia that participated in an Anti-Corruption Compliance Training organized by the COMESA Business Council, on 27 – 28 February 2019 in Lusaka, the SG observed that the vice was not just a national problem but a regional challenge as well.

“Whilst, the overarching goal is to improve trade and regional integration in COMESA; If corruption isn’t dealt with, it can affect the cost of goods, deter local and foreign direct investment and cause a huge dent into the growth of businesses and the economy,” she said.

She cited trade facilitation as one area where corruption is often reported specifically at the border points thus posing significant impediment to trade and investment.

To promote regional integration, she said: “We must deal with political and economic effects of corruption, individually as sovereign States and collectively at COMESA level and the rest of the Africa continent.”

The SG underlined the need to incorporate the private sector in the fight against corruption noting that the sector is often forgotten when measures to combat the vice are put in place.

“The private sector is the catalyst for the growth of regional economies and therefore at the forefront when dealing with issues of economic transformation,” she added. The COMESA Business Integrity project, which COMESA CBC was rolling out to Member States, was private sector-focused thus presenting the best approach towards combating the vice.

“There is a positive relationship between business integrity and increased capital flows, investment and integration into regional and global chains,” she said. “Tackling corruption is not just as a private sector agenda but as a public-private

agenda; demanding concerted efforts from all stakeholders.”

The anti-corruption compliance training was mainly targeted at Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which constitute 70% of the private sector in the COMESA region hence the theme: “Towards strengthening business integrity for (SMEs) in COMESA”.

Speaking at the same event, CBC Chief Executive Officer, Sandra Uwera said SMEs generally do not have the resources to implement processes to detect and mitigate corruption.

“In fact, the likelihood is that such resources would be directed to other operational costs and less on corporate governance and compliance of the businesses,” she noted.

The anti-corruption training for Zambia was organized by the CBC in collaboration with the US Center for International private Enterprise, the Bankers Association of Zambia, the Zambia Bureau of Standards and Zambia Association of Manufacturers for the support to the event.



Second retreat of the Committee of Elders in Uganda

COMESA Peace Elders Retreat; Elects New Chair

The COMESA Committee of Elders (CoE) is one of the critical pillars that seek to promote peace and security in the region as enshrined in Article 3 (d) of the COMESA Treaty. It was established in 2009 to augment the office of the Secretary General with peacemaking assignments through the Peace and Security programme.

Over the years, the Committee has been leading peace building activities with the most pronounced being the COMESA Election Observer missions where one of the elders takes charge. But on 19 - 22 February 2019, the entire team of nine converged in Kampala, Uganda for a different mission: a retreat to review their activities and elect their leaders for the next one year.

“The retreat was the second since 2011 and provided an opportunity for the elders to identify the good and best practices as well as the challenges encountered, with the view of maximizing the impact of their activities,” Richard Atwaru, Governance, Peace and Security Officer at the COMESA Secretariat who attended the retreat said.

Ambassador Mohamed Ashraf Rashed from Egypt was elected Chairperson and Madam Hope Kivengere of Uganda as Vice Chairperson.

The Head of Regional Peace and Security Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda, Ambassador Paul Mukumbya addressed the meeting and expressed confidence with the work of the Committee, which he described as a positive contribution to regional peace building.

“It is very important to resolve conflicts through mediation and preventive diplomacy instead of allowing it to blow out and thus involve more expensive and costly resolution efforts,” Ambassador Mukumbya said.

During the retreat, the COMESA Programme on Peace and Security disseminated a draft handbook for the Mediation Strategy for COMESA for validation by the CoE. This will be mainly used by the CoE in their activities. Six of the Committee members appointed in July 2018 during the 20th Summit of the

COMESA Authority in Lusaka were inducted at the retreat. This involved introduction to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, the Standard Operating Procedures and the Mediation Guidelines.

At the end of the retreat, the Elders resolved to champion the COMESA agenda in their respective Member States and especially the COMESA Programme on Peace and Security.

The retreat was also attended by a representative from the Africa Union Panel of the Wise, independent experts on peace and security and representatives from the Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other members of the CoE include: Dr Sabine Nkarutimana (Burundi), Ambassador, Professor Judith Bahemuka (Kenya), Bishop Mary Catherine Nkosi (Malawi) Ambassador Patrice Eugene Cure (Mauritius) Ambassador Marie-Pierre Lloyd (Seychelles) Dr Mohammed Ahmed Abdelghaffar (Sudan) and Dr Simbi Mubako (Zimbabwe)



Mourning Albert Rene, Former President of Seychelles

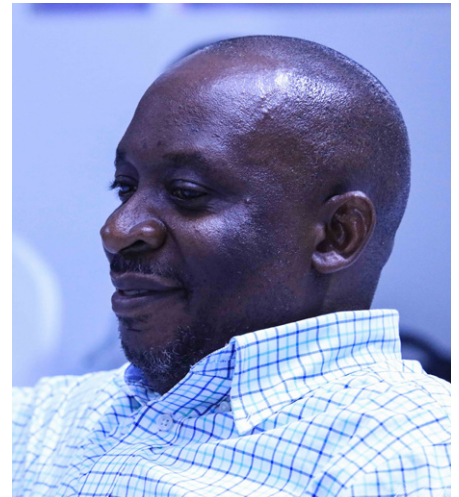
COMESA has paid tribute to the former President of Seychelles, Albert Rene who passed away on Wednesday 27 February 2019 at the age of 83.

In a message of condolences to the President of Seychelles, His Excellency Mr. Danny Faure, the Secretary General of COMESA Chileshe Kapwepwe extolled the former President for his contribution to the political, economic and social development and the transformation of Seychelles, the COMESA Region and the African continent.

"We have learnt of the death of the former President with profound sadness and we pray to the Almighty God to give you, the bereaved family, the government and people of the Republic of Seychelles, strength and comfort as you enter into a period of mourning and subsequently lay him to rest," she said.

The late Rene is Seychelles longest serving president who led the island nation from 1977 to 2004. He is remembered as a powerful leader with a strong vision for Seychelles that included free education and health care. (Seychelles News Agency)

Fare thee well, Patrick Banda



COMESA Secretariat woke to the shocking news on Saturday 2nd March of the sudden demise of one of their own; Mr Patrick Banda. Until his demise, following a short illness, he was a chauffeur to the Assistant Secretary General.

Colleagues, friends, and those that he has worked with over the years are short of adjectives to describe him.

Friendly, humble, articulate, professional, pleasant, soft-spoken, always ready to lend a hand. A very diligent and committed employee with an excellent aptitude.

Patrick joined COMESA Secretariat in November 2002 and he will be put to rest tomorrow March 5th at the Leopards Hill Memorial park in Lusaka, Zambia.

May God rest his soul in eternal peace.