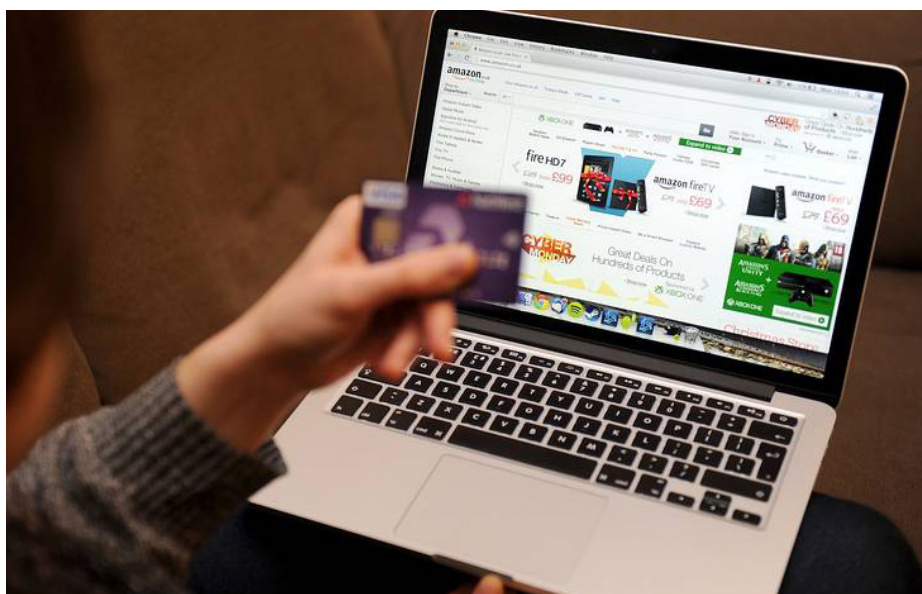


## COMESA Agency Strikes-off 12 Anti-Competition Trade Agreements



affecting alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and the fast-moving consumer goods.

In another case regarding consumer protection, the Commission intervened and had the Ethiopian Airlines compensate passengers who had been inconvenienced as a result of overbooking.

Meanwhile, the Commission has cautioned consumers in the region to be alert lest they fall victim to fraud during this time when most business are operating online due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

More than twelve trade agreements which have been operational in the Common Market for several years have been assessed and others banned for being anti-competition. The action was taken by the COMESA Competition Commission (CCC) after assessing the agreements in place up to 2019.

The banned Agreements were found to have the potential to bar potential competition in the Common Market (COMESA) by safeguarding dominance by monopoly undertakings. According to the Commission, anti-competitive agreements have the highest potential for partitioning the Common Market hence the renewed vigilance on such agreements.

Among those assessed and whose investigation is not yet concluded, is the agreement between Confederation Africaine de Football (CAF) and Lagardere Sports S.A.S (LS). In the agreement, CAF had granted

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"We are aware that consumers may be subject to online fraud and similar such vices during this time,"

-COMESA Competition Commission  
.....

the exclusive right to commercialize its broadcasting and marketing rights to LS in the Common Market for an extended period of over twenty years.

Other sectors in which the Commission reviewed were distribution agreements

In a statement issued in Lilongwe, Malawi, the Commission noted that most consumers have resorted to online purchases to avoid close physical contact in the conventional markets and also in compliance with directives from their respective governments.

"We are aware that consumers may be subject to online fraud and similar such vices during this time," said the Commission in a statement issued by the Chief Executive Officer Mr. George Lipimile.

Since 1st April 2020, the Commission has embarked on an awareness campaign aimed at encouraging consumers in the Common Market to be aware of scams from businesses that make false claims. Online shoppers are advised to report complaints of such fraud to the Commission.

# COMESA Staff Support Zambia's Effort on COVID-19

COMESA Secretariat Staff presented assorted sanitation and protective materials worth \$20,000 last week towards supporting efforts of the government of Zambia in its response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Funds to procure the items were raised by the COMESA Secretariat staff as a Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative. They included 15,000 facial masks, 15,000 pairs of gloves, 500 bottles of hand sanitizers, 500 washing soaps and 100 handwash basins and stands.

Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe presented the items to the Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya, in a brief ceremony conducted in Lusaka, Thursday, 7 May 2020 during a media briefing on COVID-19.

The production of the masks was contracted to the textile and garment cluster of the Zambia Federation of Association of Women in Business (ZFAWIB) in a deliberate move to promote local manufacturing. The association is the national chapter of the COMESA Federation of National Association of Women in Business (FEMCOM).

Early this year, FEMCOM handed over textile equipment worth over Euros 100,000 to the ZFAWIB cluster based in Lusaka. The equipment was provided by the Zambia Association of Manufacturers. These are now being used to manufacture garments including the masks donated by COMESA staff.

Secretary General Kapwepwe urged regional countries to support local productive capacities especially in the manufacture of personal protective equipment given the



Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe (L) hands over to the Minister Chitalu Chilufya some of the items donated by staff

current disruption of the supply chains from external sources.

"It is time to go local and COMESA is ready to support such endeavors," she said.

At this time of the COVID-19 crisis, COMESA

is focusing on trade facilitation that will enable free flow of essential commodities, including medical supplies, across the region to build the resilience of the regional economies to contain the pandemic.



A section of COMESA Secretariat staff at the handing over ceremony of sanitation items.





# Implementation of Joint COMESA/AU Youth Project Delayed

## Youth expected to suffer the brunt of unemployment owing to COVID-19



File photo: Youth Meeting in Lusaka

The implementation of the Joint COMESA-African Union Project, which was meant to contribute to youth empowerment and participation in promoting accountable governance in the region and the African continent has been delayed.

This is due to the spread of the Coronavirus and will mainly affect activities that involve international travel and physical meetings such as the second bootcamp meeting scheduled for the second quarter of 2020.

The Director of Gender in COMESA, Mrs. Beatrice Hamusonde said that youth leaders and policy makers from ten COMESA countries were expected to participate in the bootcamp.

"With the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, the project implementation will have some delay depending on how long the crisis will last," she said.

Before the outbreak of the COVID-19, the youth project was progressing well and had implemented key activities including the hosting

the continental youth forum. This was a regional capacity strengthening residential bootcamp for youth leaders. In addition, a national workshop on youth participation and engagement in political processes, youth councils and civic spaces had been conducted in Zambia.

The project on youth engagement in democratic governance and socio-economic processes in Africa is a joint programme between COMESA and the Africa Union supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Meanwhile, a recent study by the African Union Commission found that the youth will be hardest hit by the effects of the Coronavirus as around 20

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**"With the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, the project implementation will have some delay depending on how long the crisis will last"**

-Mrs Beatrice Hamusonde  
.....

million jobs, in both formal and informal sectors could be lost in Africa and the COMESA region.

This is because the continent's economies are projected to shrink due to the impact of COVID-19.

"As most of the African population is comprised of youth at 65%, it goes without saying that the majority of people to lose jobs in Africa in general and in COMESA region in particular will be young people," the report says.

The report further notes that the youth are consistently facing unemployment and this pandemic will worsen the situation. The expected collapse of most small businesses that were focused on import and export, tourism, and other businesses that employ youth will have the biggest negative impact on the jobs for youths.

These include shopping malls, communication related companies, construction industry, public service transport, hotels, bars, restaurants, hair salons among others.

# Virtual Training for Climate Change Experts



File photo: Climate Change

Climate Change experts from seven COMESA countries will this week participate in a three-day virtual training on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This initiative is part of capacity building support to Parties and a joint effort between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the COMESA Secretariat.

The training will focus on the preparation and submission process of new/updated National Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Katowice Guidance, the decision on Information to facilitate Clarity, Transparency and Understanding (ICTU) and its application to the NDC preparation process. The training will be held on 11-13 May 2020.

"This training will help countries as they prepare to present progress recorded towards achieving the NDCs in their biennial transparency reports and the first Global Stocktake of global efforts set for 2023," COMESA Climate Change Advisor Dr MacClay Kanyangarara said in a statement

issued in Lusaka.

The training is structured in three stages which include the preparatory stage where participants define their expectations, prepare questions and familiarize themselves with the training materials. This will be followed by two-days training stage on the NDC process and one day of individual work to apply the guidance to their country's NDC.

The third is the follow-up stage, during which participants will provide feedback on the training and indicate whether its objectives and their expectations have been achieved. An online help desk, live chat option to provide information related to the training

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**"This training will help countries as they prepare to present progress recorded towards achieving the NDCs in their biennial transparency reports and the first Global Stocktake of global efforts set for 2023,"**

-Dr MacClay Kanyangarara  
 .....

and its objectives will be offered.

Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement (PA) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve. These individual contributions make up the global response to climate change. The goal of the PA is to limit global temperature rise to well below 20°C and usher in a low emission future.

Countries are to submit their new or updated NDCs in 2020 and then every five years thereafter. In doing so, countries are encouraged to reflect their highest possible ambition.

The virtual training will be facilitated by Bernd Hackmann the Programme Officer, in the Transparency Division at the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat in Bonn Germany.

Participants are expected to be drawn from Comoros, Eswatini, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.





# COMESA Institutions Join National Efforts in Combating COVID-19

COMESA institutions have joined the efforts towards supporting the governments in their host countries in the fight against the Coronavirus. Among those that have so far contributed to this cause are the Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Eastern and Southern Africa (FEMCOM), the COMESA Competition Commission (CCC) and the Trade and Development Bank.

FEMCOM donated USD 7000 worth of personal protective equipment, hygiene kit comprising soaps, sanitizers, masks and gowns in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The donation was made through the DRC FEMCOM chapter, to the Presidents of Associations of Women Traders and Small Market Farmers Agribusinesses for further distribution to their members who deal in vegetables and fruits.

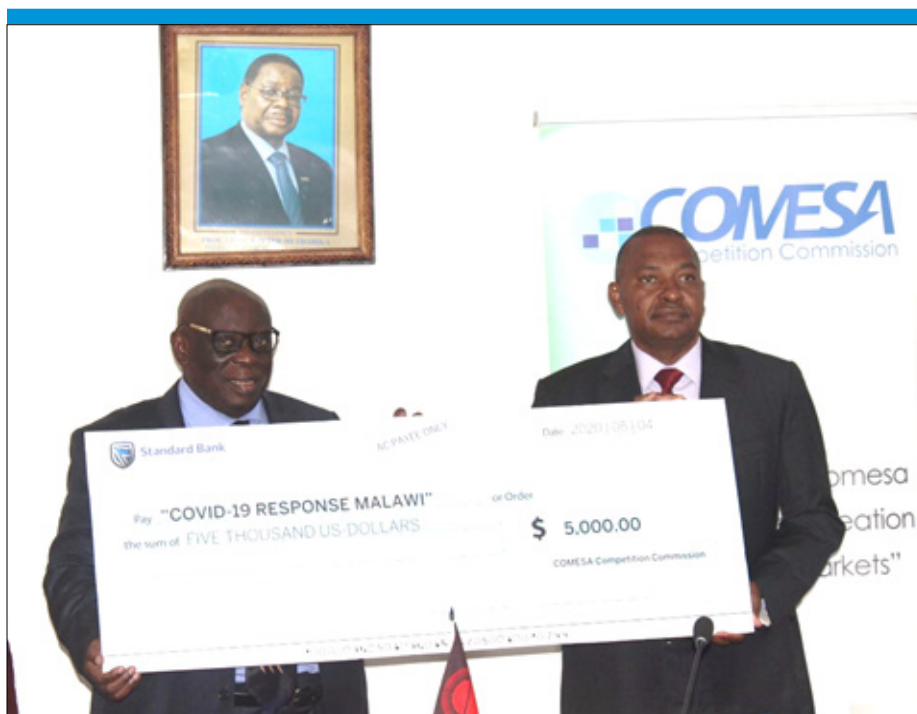
In Malawi, the Director of the CCC Mr George Lipimile made a \$5000 donation which was received by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon Salim Ibrahim Bagus.

In Kenya, the Trade Development Bank donated 140,000 locally made face masks worth over \$100,000 to Kenyan health workers. To support the private sector, the masks were procured from the Kitui County Textile Centre. (KICOTEC)

In DRC, the FEMCOM donation was made by the Chairperson of the DRC Chapter Eliane Munkeni Kiekie who is the FEMCOM Board Vice Chair. The items will support women traders, small farmers and market gardeners and other micro businesses that operate at a pavilion rented for them by FEMCOM, to sell their products.

FEMCOM Executive Director Ruth Negash said the support would enable members of the associations to protect themselves, other co-workers and their families while continuing their activities.

"It's our Duty as FEMCOM chapter to serve and lead the way to protect African women entrepreneurs, promote their health and raise their awareness about the pandemic", she said. "Our national economies will be



CCC Director Mr George Lipimile (L) Present a \$5000 cheque to Malawi Minister of Trade.

negatively affected if our women MSMEs become sick as they are caregivers besides them running businesses."

As a way of enhancing the fight against COVID-19, FEMCOM has since created an online communication platform with all presidents of the associations that represent provinces, for exchange of activities, share experiences and gather information about the impact of the pandemic.

FEMCOM Chapter in DR Congo has since engaged the government on the issues affecting women in business relating to COVID-19. Subsequently, the government has promised funding for the Association through two commercial banks and a microfinance institution which shall give loans with low repayment rates to SME businesses who supply food and essential products



TDB Chief Operations Officer Mr. Michael Awori receives a box of masks from the Governor of Kitui County in Kenya, Mrs Charity Ngilu

## The COMESA Diary

**11-13**  
May 2020

Virtual Training on the Implementation of The Paris Agreement  
**Organised by:** COMESA Climate Change Unit **Venue:** Online

**12**  
May 2020

Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Committee  
**Organised by:** COMESA **Venue:** Teleconference

**14**  
May 2020

Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers  
**Organised by:** COMESA **Venue:** Teleconference

