

## Zambia Toasts SG Kapwepwe for Being Named Among 100 Influential African Women



SG Kapwepwe

President Edgar Lungu has congratulated Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe on being named among 100 most Influential African women by Avance Media, a leading Public Relations and Rating firm on the continent. The first list was published in 2019.

"I wish to congratulate you for being named among 100 most influential African women on the continent for the year 2020. Your country is proud of you! Keep up the good work," the President's congratulatory message reads in part.

On Monday 17 August, Avance Media released its second annual list of winners which recognizes women who are leading various initiatives across the continent and seeks to present them as role models

for the younger generation.

"They were selected because of their incredible achievements as women and they deserve high recommendations among other female trailblazers in Africa" said Prince Akpah, Managing Director of Avance Media.

Criteria for selection included excellence

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in leadership and performance, personal accomplishment, commitments to sharing knowledge, breaking the status quo and being an accomplished African woman.

Permanent Secretary in Zambia's Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Mr Mushuma Mulenga echoed President Lungu's sentiments and described Ms Kapwepwe as a true example of a good leader that has immensely contributed to fostering trade facilitation and development in the region.

Madam Kapwepwe is a Zambian accountant and corporate executive who took over COMESA's top job in July 2018 making her the first female to be appointed as Secretary General of the Regional Economic Community (REC) in its 26 years of existence.

During her career, she has served as Chief Financial Officer, Managing Director of the National Airports Corporation in Zambia, Deputy Minister of Finance, Member of Parliament and as an Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) representing 23 African countries. She has a proven track record in leadership, business and operations management with a strong financial and commercial background, and experience in economic development, policy formulation and implementation.

# COMESA-EAC-SADC Develop Electronic Corridor Trip Monitoring System



File Picture of Cross Border Transport

A regional electronic Corridor Trip Monitoring System (CTMS) which will allow cross border road transport operators, drivers, regulators and law enforcement agencies to record and monitor driver wellness data such as COVID-19 test results has been approved by the Tripartite group. The CTMS will also enable operators to track the driver, crew and truck movements against pre-approved route plans.

The CTMS is supported by the current legal and regulatory framework existing

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**The CTMS is an immediate remedial response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its use will in future be further enhanced through the Tripartite Transport Registers and Information Platform System (TRIPS) which is now under development, as a corridor performance management tool for smart corridors," Mr Mutabazi noted.**

both at regional and national level, which include inter-alia: REC Treaties, Protocols and Agreements, Corridor Agreements, Bilateral Road Transport Agreements as well as National COVID19 regulations being implemented by Tripartite Member/ Partner States.

The system will eventually be reinforced by the legal provisions in the Tripartite Multilateral Cross Border Road Transport Agreement adopted by the Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Infrastructure held in Lusaka in October 2019.

Director of Infrastructure at COMESA Secretariat Mr Baptiste Mutabazi revealed in Lusaka that the CTMS will enable operator, vehicle and driver information to be readily available along regional transport corridors at the roadside and at border posts to all regulatory and law enforcement agencies.

"The CTMS is an immediate remedial response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its use will in future be further enhanced through the Tripartite Transport Registers and Information Platform System (TRIPS) which is now under development, as a corridor performance management tool

for smart corridors," Mr Mutabazi noted.

He added that the CTMS is being developed and deployed in a phased manner and was first released in June this year. It will be piloted on a section of the Trans Kalahari Corridor that is Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, a sections of the Walvis Bay Namibia-Ndola Zambia-Kasumbalesa DRC Corridor and a section of the North-South Corridor that is South Africa, Botswana, Zambia up to Kasumbalesa Border post.

Thereafter, the CTMS will be rolled out to other corridors in the Tripartite region based on Member States preparedness. According to transport experts at COMESA Secretariat, a number of activities have been undertaken in preparation for piloting and roll out of the CTMS which include presenting it to COMESA Member States in June, to EAC Partner States in July and to SADC Member States also in June this year.

The CTMS will in future be integrated with the EAC Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) which has been enhanced to include Driver Tracking too and is currently being piloted in the East African region.



# Lack of Proper Measurement Equipment in MS Affecting Trade

Several Member States (MS) in the COMESA region are at a disadvantage with their trading partners because of the lack of reliable, accurate and comparable measurement equipment and test results in industrial production, trade and in food safety.

In view of this, the region is working together to address these challenges as soon as possible and install appropriate equipment facilities.

On Wednesday 19 August, the Secretariat convened a virtual validation workshop on the status of the Measuring (Meteorology) Infrastructure in the region which was attended by representatives of National Meteorology Organisations.

Speaking during the opening session of the workshop, Assistant Secretary General for Programmes Ambassador Kipyego Cheluget lamented that the region has continued to face considerable challenges in the area of proper measuring infrastructure, and this is affecting trade.

"...there is an increasing number of refusals of food products by importing countries due to the non-acceptance of measurement and test results carried by the exporting countries, or by a lack of any measurement and test result at all. One of the reasons to this, is the lack of proper quality infrastructure without which, it is difficult to manufacture to international specifications and tolerance," said Amb. Cheluget who was represented by the Director of Agriculture and Industry Mrs Providence Mavubi.

He called for the region to install quality infrastructure which ensures integrity of export commodities, quality control for the acceptance of fresh produce at the port of arrival and it locks out unsafe imports. The meeting heard that one fundamental concern on Quality Infrastructure is the lack of traceability in areas such as mass,



Ambassador Kipyego Cheluget

volume, flow, temperature and chemical measurements. These measurements are of direct importance for many products traded by countries in the COMESA Region, without which, it is hindering the development of these economies.

In response to this, the 11th EDF TBT Trade Facilitation Programme, is funding the metrology project, which aims at strengthening and upgrading the Regional Metrology Infrastructure through addressing the key measurement gaps as well as enhancing the capacity, capability, competence and international recognition of National Metrology Organizations in the region.

According to transport experts at COMESA Secretariat, a detailed technical assessment and evaluation of the measurement status in the COMESA Region was undertaken to provide data and identify information

gaps in the area. The report, incorporates some recommendations in line with the AFRIMETS categorization system and proposes recommendations to ensure that countries falling under the recommended key measurement status required for trade metrology and traceability needs, upgrade within the required ranges. Further, the assessment report also proposes interventions for a regional scheme/framework, in order to build technical competency in metrology through recognition of test report/calibration certificates issued in laboratories operated by various organizations in COMESA Member States.

The validated report will form the basis for the implementation of interventions to upgrade and strengthen National Metrology Institutions and Legal Metrology Organisations in the COMESA Member States.

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## Diary for Virtual Meetings

50MAWSP Seychelles National Launch	25 August 2020	Virtual	Division of Gender and Social Affairs
Sixth Meeting of the Programme Technical Steering Committee (PTSC) ESREM	3 Sept 2020	Virtual	RAERESA
Technical inception Meeting of the consultancy services to implement harmonized regulatory/ technical frameworks on renewable energy efficiency strategies in the EA-SA-IO region	3 & 4 Sept 2020	Virtual	RAERESA
Local Sourcing Programme Training in Lusaka	9 & 10 Sept	Virtual	CBC

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**She added.**

## COMESA continues to support Eswatini Women Incubators during COVID-19

COMESA through the Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Eastern and Southern Africa (FEMCOM), has continued to support women entrepreneurs in the region in various sectors through the BIAWE Project Business Incubation Model.

Eswatini is one of the Member States that has benefited from the funding through its FEMCOM chapter and has supported business incubation in the kingdom in agro-processing, handicrafts and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT).

FEMCOM Chapter Chairperson for the Kingdom Hon Thandi Zintombi Nxumalo has indicated that despite the Corona virus pandemic, the women have continued to make progress in the production of various products by adopting a mixed model in their business operation. This includes a residential and non-residential approach to business incubation.

The residential approach is used during pre-incubation and incubation phases. This involves bringing women incubatees within the incubator's industrial estates, allocating them

space and equipment for incubation services while the non-residential approach is used during post-incubation phase and for outreach. This involves providing incubation services to women entrepreneurs through telephones, internet or mass media communication within and outside the incubator's country. This also include visits by the incubators to the location of the incubatees to deliver tailor-made in-house incubation services, mentoring and coaching.

The project run by one of the women business associations known as Asiphileni Women Business association at Hlathikhulu in the southern part of the country, about 150 km from Mbabane, the capital city started in 2019 and is dealing with production of indigenous chickens.

The objectives of the project is to improve the skills of the women in planning and operating a business through planning, marketing and management. It is expected that the level of business sustainability for businesses owned by women is expected to improve which will result in the growth of MSMEs business hence

contributing to the economic growth of the country.

The Business Incubator under the African Women Entrepreneurs (BIAWE) Project has a budget of over 103,000 Euros to support 30 women incubatees (20% from other COMESA Member States) over a period of 12 months.

Hon. Nxumalo indicated that the project which is supported by the African Union, COMESA and NEPAD with funding from the Spanish International cooperation, has helped the country to construct an abattoir and storage facilities.

"We have also managed to train the women on the operation of the abattoir so that they can produce high quality meat and meat products that are acceptable on the local and international market," She added.

The association is now working on improving the production of chickens to supply the abattoir.

# HOW TO WEAR A MEDICAL MASK SAFELY

[who.int/epi-win](http://who.int/epi-win)

## Do's →



Wash your hands before touching the mask



Inspect the mask for tears or holes



Find the top side, where the metal piece or stiff edge is



Ensure the colored-side faces outwards



Place the metal piece or stiff edge over your nose



Cover your mouth, nose, and chin



Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides



Avoid touching the mask



Remove the mask from behind the ears or head



Keep the mask away from you and surfaces while removing it



Discard the mask immediately after use preferably into a closed bin



Wash your hands after discarding the mask

## Don'ts →



Do not Use a ripped or damp mask



Do not wear the mask only over mouth or nose



Do not wear a loose mask



Do not touch the front of the mask



Do not remove the mask to talk to someone or do other things that would require touching the mask



Do not leave your used mask within the reach of others



Do not re-use the mask

**Remember that masks alone cannot protect you from COVID-19. Maintain at least 1 metre distance from others and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, even while wearing a mask.**

EPI·win



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