



**REMARKS**

**BY**

**THE COMESA SECRETARY GENERAL**

**HER EXCELLENCY CHILESHE MPUNDU KAPWEPWE**

**AT THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE  
COMESA COMPETITION COMMISSION**

**4 – 5 MAY 2023**

**BINGU INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER,  
LILONGWE, MALAWI**

- 1. Hon Simplex Chithyola, Minister of Trade and Industry, representing HE The President of the Republic of Malawi and Guest of Honour at this Function.**
- 2. His Lordship, Justice Rizine R. Mzikamanda, SC, Chief Justice of Malawi,**
- 3. His Lordship, Honourable Justice Luke Malaba, Chief Justice of Zimbabwe**
- 4. Ms. Adefunke Adeyemi, Secretary General of African Civil Aviation Commission**
- 5. Your Excellency Ambassadors representing various Missions Accredited to Malawi**
- 6. His Excellency, Mr Yahya Elwathik Bellah Abdelmoneim, First Under Secretary of the Ministry Trade and Industry, Head of Egyptian Commercial Service.**
- 7. Honourable Mr. Teshale Belihu Kafene, State Minister, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, Ethiopia**
- 8. Ms. Ellen Ruparanganda, Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of the COMESA Competition Commission**
- 9. The Director and Chief Executive Officer of the COMESA Competition Commission**
- 10. Heads of Competition Authorities**
- 11. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen**
- 12. All protocols observed.**

On behalf of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), I am greatly honoured to join you today as we celebrate the 10-Year Anniversary of the COMESA Competition Commission, one of the COMESA Institutions, which started its operations on 14 January 2013 in Lilongwe, Malawi. From the onset, I wish to convey to the Government of Malawi, my appreciation of the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful country, the warm heart of Africa.

Before I address the substantive matters for this event, allow me to express my sincere condolences and commiserations to the Government and the People of Malawi over the

regrettable loss of lives following Tropical Cyclone Freddy which recently affected most districts in the southern part of the Country and led to the destruction of infrastructure; people's homes; crops; livestock; and displaced thousands of people. The COMESA Secretariat stands with Malawi during these difficult times. My CEO for the COMESA Competition Commission briefed me that COMESA was represented in standing in solidarity with the people of Malawi during these difficult times.

On the other hand, I would like to sincerely thank you, Hon Minister, for taking time to grace this occasion despite other urgent and pressing matters that your office demands. The COMESA Secretariat truly appreciates your presence at this important event.

**Hon Minister, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Regarding the commemoration of the 10-Year Anniversary, I would like to start by expressing my gratitude and appreciation to the Malawi Government for hosting the COMESA Competition Commission in this beautiful city of Lilongwe, the Capital City of Malawi. Indeed, the COMESA Competition Commission has been hosted by Malawi since its inception. Hosting of an organisation such as the COMESA Competition Commission or any institution of the Common Market for that matter, requires significant investment by the host Member State. It is therefore very gratifying that Malawi is not only hosting the COMESA Competition Commission but also hosts the COMESA Federation for Women in Business.

**Hon Minister, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

The COMESA Competition Commission and the COMESA Secretariat is grateful for the privileges and immunities recognized and conferred on the institution by the Malawi government in their capacity as a COMESA Member State. The Host Agreement between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Government of the Republic of Malawi on the hosting of the COMESA Competition Commission signed on 4 August 2011,

has facilitated the Commission's smooth operations which include providing free office accommodation to the Commission, tax exemptions on the purchase of goods and services for use by the Commission and other diplomatic privileges offered on the Commission.

**Hon Minister**, I am also aware of the cordial working relationship between your Government and the Commission; the unwavering hospitality and support accorded to the Commission which facilitated its setting up and continues to ensure its continued smooth operations. I am confident that the COMESA Competition Commission has found a home in Malawi. Zikomo Kwambiri!!!

As you may be aware, COMESA is established under Article 1 of the COMESA Treaty to foster regional integration amongst its Member States. The aims and objectives of the Common Market include:

- Attaining sustainable growth and development of the Member States by promoting a more balanced and harmonious development of the production and marketing structures.
- Promoting joint development in all fields of economic activity and the joint adoption of macro-economic policies and programmes to raise the standard of living of its people and to foster closer relations among its Member States.
- Co-operation in the creation of an enabling environment for foreign, cross border and domestic investment including the joint promotion of research and adaptation of science and technology for development.

In order to achieve these aims and objectives, the COMESA Treaty has provided for several programmes for Member States to cooperate in, which include Co-operation in Trade Liberalization and Development whose ultimate objective is to achieve a single market in COMESA where goods, services including persons move freely within the Common Market.

Hon Minister, preferential trade amongst COMESA Member States is essential for reducing the cost of doing business in the Common Market and translates into better prices of COMESA originating products and services; and a wider choice of these goods and services for the Common Market citizens. Your Excellency, the benefits of trade liberalization notwithstanding, there are also risks of unfair business conduct and exploitation of consumers by unscrupulous businesses which engage in strategies to drive out competitors from the market to maximise their profits and to divide the Common Market, which is inimical to the single market imperative of the COMESA Treaty.

**Hon Minister, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

The COMESA Member States foresaw this risk and therefore pursuant to Article 55 of the COMESA Treaty agreed to prohibit any practice that negates the objective of free and liberalised trade and to this end prohibited any agreements between undertakings or concerted practices, which have as their objective or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the Common Market. It is out of this COMESA Treaty provision that the COMESA Competition Commission was established with the mandate to regulate competition and protect consumers within the Common Market on matters that have a cross-border dimension.

Hon Minister, COMESA is one of the regional economic communities with the most advanced trade facilitation and regional integration instruments. Therefore, as we seek even deeper levels of integration at continental level through the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, COMESA is glad to share the experiences it has gained in the over 40 years of existence. At regional level, COMESA will continue to work tirelessly to deepen economic integration of our Member States, a precursor to continental integration as espoused in the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community.

**Hon Minister, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me to close my remarks by once again expressing my appreciation for your attendance and continued support to the operations of the COMESA Competition Commission. We are truly grateful and do not take this for granted. I also say thank you to all the friends of the Commission who are with us today from different parts of the world. We treasure this commitment and support and indeed this shows that you, the competition community, are united when it comes to the elimination of anti-competitive practices regardless of their place of origin. May I also implore the Commission to continue with its commendable job and do even more for the benefit the citizens of the Common Market. We are proud of you and wish more many years of success!

I thank you!!!