

Zimbabwe, Egypt Envoys Accredited to COMESA



Amb. Charity Angelina Charamba (R) Presenting Her letter of Credence to SG Chileshe Kapwepwe

Newly appointed ambassadors of Egypt and Zimbabwe to Zambia have been accredited as Permanent Representatives of their respective countries to COMESA. H.E Charity Angelina Charamba (Zimbabwe) and H.E. Moataz Anwar (Egypt) presented their letters of credence to the Secretary General of COMESA, Chileshe Kapwepwe on Friday, 30 April 2021.

border infrastructure and equipment at Chirundu border between Zimbabwe and Zambia and will enhance trade between the two States.

Ambassador Anwar commended COMESA for deepening economic integration and promoting regional cooperation among the Member States.

Ms Kapwepwe appreciated the good working relations with both countries which has enabled implementation of country specific programmes. Through the COMESA Adjustment Facility, the Secretariat has helped revive the textile sector by providing financial support/grant to Zimbabwe. A Joint Industrialization Cooperation programme, between Zimbabwe and Zambia has also been supported to develop priority sectors including agriculture and agro-industries, mining and mineral processing, petrochemicals, fertilizers and pharmaceuticals, capital goods industries, textiles, and forest-based industries, among others.

On Egypt, the SG said the country accounts for the largest share of intra-COMESA trade at 28% of the total trade.

This year, Egypt will host COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit.

The two underlined their governments' commitment to the regional economic bloc given the large market it provides for trade.

"Zimbabwe has continued to benefit from the different trade and integration programmes that are being implemented by COMESA with support from cooperating partners such as the European Union," she said.

In February, COMESA and Zimbabwe signed an agreement that sub-delegated the implementation of coordinated border management activities including the trade and transport facilitation activities at the Chirundu border post.

The sub-delegated activities are worth Euro 4.1 million and will support upgrading of priority cross-



Amb. Moataz Anwar Presenting His letter of Credence to SG Kapwepwe

Construction of Border Export Zones in Uganda at 85%

Construction of Border Export Zones in four sites in Uganda has reached 85%. The border markets under construction in the zones include Busia, Lwakhakha, Oraba and Katuna.

According to a report from a technical mission conducted by the COMAid Unit (COMESA Aid for Trade) at the border markets from 8th to 19th April 2021, the works done at the Busia and Lwakhakha are at 85%, Oraba at 77% and Katuna at 45%. The lag at Katuna is because of adverse weather pattern in the area, which prompted the change of construction site.

So far structural works have been completed while the floors and external works are the only ones remaining.

Construction of the border markets is being done under the Regional Integration Implementation Project, Phase II with funding amounting to Euro 2,766,945. The project was formulated and signed in October 2017 with an end date of 30th June 2021. Uganda commenced construction of the four border markets in September 2020 with a total budget of Euro 1.5 million. To date, the country has received a total of Euro 1,343,846 under its workplans.

According to the report prepared by the COMAid Finance Expert Mr. Xavier Bakunzi the construction of the markets is the biggest activity undertaken by the project.

Uganda has been benefitting under the COMESA Adjustment Facility (CAF) since 2014 and has secured a total approved allocation of Euro 5,592,824. The funds have been disbursed through project support. The first project was the Regional Integration Implementation Project, which attracted funding of Euro 2,825,879 under the 9th European Development Fund (EDF 9) component and ended on 30th June 2018.

Tripartite Agreement Discussed as Ethiopia Ambassador Visits COMESA



Amb. Addisu Abera (L) and Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe

The ratification of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and signing of the COMESA Social Charter were among issues discussed during a courtesy call by the Ethiopia's Ambassador to Zambia and Zimbabwe H.E Addisu Abera and the Secretary General of COMESA Chileshe Kapwepwe Friday, 30th April 2021.

During the meeting which focused mainly on the developments in Ethiopia and its participation in COMESA's regional integration programmes, the Ambassador also sought COMESA's support to Dr Arkebe Oqubay, as Africa's sole Director-General candidate for the United Nations Development Organisation (UNIDO).

On TFTA, the Secretary General urged the Ambassador to lobby his government to sign and ratify the Agreement to enable it to enter into force. So far, 10 countries in the COMESA, EAC and SADC regional blocs have ratified the TFTA with four more needed to attain the ratification threshold of 14 States.

In February this year, the Tripartite Council of

Ministers set a new deadline for countries that have not yet ratified the agreement to do so by June which will be the sixth anniversary since the launch of the TFTA Agreement on 10 June 2015 in Egypt.

Amb. Abera who is resident in Harare, Zimbabwe reiterated his government's commitment to COMESA whose programmes have continued to benefit the people of Ethiopia and the region. Ethiopia has been the Rapporteur of the COMESA Policy Organs since 2016 after serving as Chair of the Authority and Vice Chair respectively.

Earlier this year, COMESA and Ethiopian government signed a 5.6 million Euro sub-delegation agreement to improve coordinated border management, trade, and transport facilitation at the Moyale and Galafi border posts. Moyale and Galafi borders link Ethiopia on one hand to Kenya and Djibouti on the other.

Ethiopia also hosts the African Leather and Leather Products Institutes which is a specialized COMESA institution.

COMESA Diary

Dates	NAME OF MEETING	VENUE	ORGANIZER
24-26 May	The 4 th Committee Meeting on Industry	Virtual	Secretariat
27 May	Meeting of COMESA Ministers of Industry	Virtual	Secretariat



COMESA SECRETARIAT
COMESA Center
Ben Bella Road
P.O. Box 30051



+260 211 229 725



www.comesa.int



info@comesa.int



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