

Three States ready to pilot the COMESA electronic Certificate of Origin



The Focal Point Persons from Eswatini, Malawi and Zambia with COMESA officials

Three COMESA Member States, Eswatini, Malawi, and Zambia, have successfully integrated and interfaced their national systems with the COMESA Electronic Certificate of Origin (e-CO) system. They are now poised to commence the first phase of piloting its implementation.

The COMESA e-CO is a vital component of the COMESA digital Free Trade Area (FTA) Action Plan, which includes e-Trade, e-Logistics, and e-Legislation. The development and implementation of the COMESA e-CO fall under e-Logistics, aimed at facilitating intra-regional trade.

This initiative will eventually replace the manual Certificate of Origin procedures currently in use by Member States. It comes with a web-based e-CO system accessible via web browsers, aligning with the COMESA Protocol on Rules of Origin and its implementation Guidelines. The COMESA Secretariat is overseeing the e-CO implementation through the

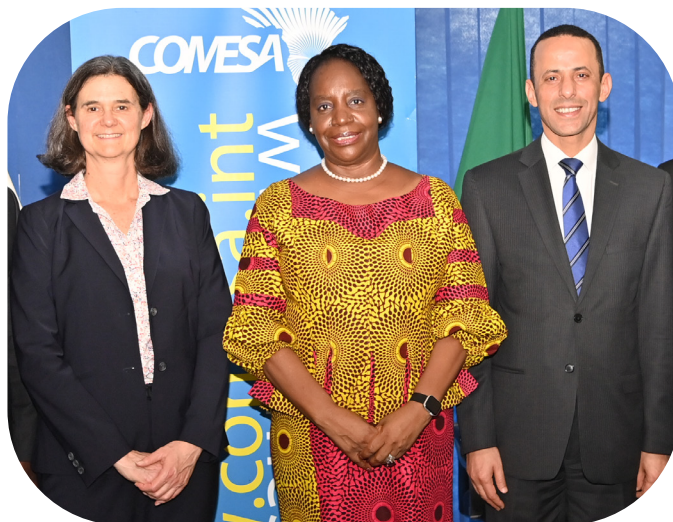
Divisions of Trade and Customs, and Information and Networking.

From 19 – 21 February 2024, e-CO national focal persons were in Lusaka, Zambia, to meet with the COMESA Project Implementation Team for joint testing of the system integration and exchange of e-CO through the Platform. This was a crucial step in preparing for the pilot phase of the e-CO.

During the meeting's opening, Dr. Christopher Onyango, Director of Trade and Customs at the COMESA Secretariat, highlighted key achievements in implementing the COMESA e-CO. These include the development and adoption by the Council of Ministers of the software life cycle, regulations for e-CO implementation, and amendments to the Protocol on Rules of Origin and its Appendixes. Additionally, the implementation Procedures Manual and e-CO User Guides have been prepared.

National situational assessments were conducted to review the readiness and needs of Member States. Further engagements are ongoing with Member States that have responded to the questionnaire and indicated their readiness. The Secretariat has also aided selected Member States, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Seychelles, in preparing their country-specific action plans to interface and pilot the COMESA e-CO system, as well as providing necessary training and support.

During the joint technical meeting, the three Member States provided national status reports on their preparations for piloting the e-CO and shared their experiences with other counterparts. The meeting also agreed on a joint piloting action plan and outlined constructive recommendations and specific actions to guide all in commencing the piloting of the COMESA e-CO before May 2024.



World Bank's Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Dr. Wendy Hughes (L) pays a courtesy call on Secretary General, Chileshe Kapwepwe on 27 February 2024. They discussed modalities of implementing the new ASCENT programme. On the right is Dr Mohamed Kadah, Assistant Secretary General in charge of programmes, COMESA.

COMESA, World Bank launch \$50 million regional platform to accelerate energy access

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the World Bank are set to implement a \$50 million regional platform to support COMESA Member States and other participating countries to promote sustainable energy access investments.

This is part of a new World Bank \$5 billion program designed to accelerate sustainable and clean energy access and provide life-transforming opportunities for 100 million people across countries in Eastern and Southern Africa over the next seven years.

The Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation (ASCENT) program will be a game-changer in a region where only 48% of the overall population, and just 26% in rural areas, has access to electricity.

The new regional platform, under the supervision and implementation of COMESA, will support participating countries through various initiatives designed to fill the technical gaps identified in the energy sector, particularly with regards to project preparation, investment readiness, technical know-how and energy access.

The platform will engage specialized firms and individuals to provide demand-led technical support in an agile manner to public and private sector entities from participating countries.

It will also have a Digital Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (DMRV) platform which will act as central repository for information on new energy

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connections resulting from the ASCENT Program in the participating countries. The consolidation of data on the DMRV platform is expected to pave the way for the countries and their energy service providers to gain access to carbon finance through the amalgamation of the carbon credits resulting from clean energy connections.

“This is an African-owned and led platform to enhance project implementation and accelerate access to clean energy through the facilitation of knowledge exchange, project preparation, provision of advisory services and support for policy development in a timely manner,” said Chileshe Kapwepwe, Secretary General of COMESA.

“This is essential for the region as availability of clean, reliable and affordable energy is needed to drive the social and economic development of the region, which is crucial for the trade development agenda of COMESA”. She urged member states to engage the Secretariat on how they can be part of

the initiative.

The objectives of the new platform and the wider ASCENT program are to provide reliable energy to increase productivity and job opportunities, expand access to information and technologies, improve health and reduce time spent on cooking chores, and boost resilience and services provided by electrified schools and health clinics. Women, who are often disproportionately burdened by the lack of energy access, will benefit the most.

“The World Bank is very pleased to partner with COMESA on the energy access agenda as a regional approach is required to meaningfully scale up energy access in a way that can transform economies in Eastern and Southern Africa. We look forward to supporting countries across the region with cutting edge knowledge, research, data, and technology to unleash a rapid expansion of energy access,” said Boutheina Guermazi, World Bank Director for Regional Integration in Africa and the Middle East.

Lack of energy access hinders the region's economic recovery, resilience, and faster progress toward poverty reduction. It is also results in significant food spoilage owing to lack of refrigeration, particularly in countries already plagued with food insecurity, and plays a role in poor health outcomes given that less than half of all hospitals in the region have reliable electricity access.



Training manuals on border management during health emergencies

Senior government officials representing fourteen Member States have validated the training manuals on border management during health emergencies. The manuals are designed to address challenges in border management and cross-border movement during a health crisis within the COMESA region. The manuals now await final approval by the ministers responsible for immigration and labour before they can be officially launched for use by Member States.

This is an initiative by COMESA, in collaboration with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) under the Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX+) program, and a direct response to the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The manuals focus on addressing policy inconsistencies, cross-border policy variations, and resource inadequacies. The materials were designed to be customized to the specific needs of Member States and are to be implemented on a voluntary basis.

In a virtual workshop held on 15 February 2024, COMESA Assistant Secretary-General for Administration and Finance Dr. Dev Haman expressed gratitude to ICMPD for its support. He acknowledged the adverse effects the pandemic had on border officials and small-scale cross-border traders in COMESA Member States.

The project's initial stages involved fact-finding meetings and surveys conducted in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo in June and July 2021. These activities revealed challenges faced by border agencies, including policy inconsistencies and insufficient resources to implement COMESA's 2020 Covid-19 guidelines.

In response to these findings, training modules were developed and piloted in a workshop held in Lusaka,

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Baggage scanners ready for transportation to Chirundu and Mwami Borders

Zambia borders get cutting-edge baggage scanners

The project is funded by the EU through COMESA

In a significant milestone aimed at bolstering both border security and trade facilitation, a flag-off ceremony marked the commencement of the deployment of cutting-edge baggage scanners as part of the Zambia Borders Post Upgrade project. The state-of-the-art equipment, valued at Euros 210,000, is poised to address gaps in detecting illegal items at the borders and ensure transparent cross-border movements.

The advanced baggage scanners, officially handed over to the Zambia Revenue Authority, are equipped with state-of-the-art detection capabilities. This initiative, funded by the European Development Fund (EDF) Trade Facilitation Programme, has allocated Euros six million to Zambia for the upgrading of three pivotal border posts – Nakonde, Mwami, and Chirundu.

Supported under the Euros 48 million 11 EDF Trade Facilitation Programme, the targeted borders, are poised to experience streamlined customs clearance processes, ultimately facilitating the seamless flow of legitimate trade and travel.

Present at the flag-off ceremony included the COMESA Assistant Secretary-General Dr. Dev Haman, Ministry of Commerce, Trade, and Industry Director for Foreign Trade Dr. Simon

N'gona, the European Union representative Mr. Matthias Reusing, and COMESA staff. Others were Zambia Revenue Authority Commissioner Dingani Banda and other senior government officials.

"The introduction of these scanners is a milestone for both Zambia and the COMESA region," said Dr Haman. "The borders, acting as the first line of defence against illegal activities such as trading, harassment, bribery, and illicit trafficking, will now be fortified with increased security measures."

Dr. N'gona stated that the equipment has been procured to support the connectivity of Border Agencies to the Zambia Electronic Single Window, an electronic platform that facilitates online clearance of goods.

"Our aim is to increase the use of Information Communication and Technology at border posts and thereby increase efficiency with the use of ICT," he said.

Mr. Reusing stated: "In today's interconnected world, the smooth transit of commodities and individuals is vital for economic growth, regional cooperation, and prosperity. The equipment we deploy today will play a pivotal role in achieving this goal."



Delegates at the 2nd Model Basa Consultative Meeting in Kampala

Aviation Experts Push for a Model Bilateral Air Services Agreement

Aviation officials from the Eastern Africa-Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region are making steady progress in reviewing and having a model Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) that conforms with the provisions of the Yamoussoukro Decision of 1999. Once fully adopted and implemented, the model BASA will clear the way for a single African Air Transport Market which will boost the sector.

Experts have long called for a Single African Air Transport Market contending that it would strengthen intra-regional connectivity between the capital cities of African countries. A single unified air transport market would be an impetus to the continent's economic integration and growth agenda.

As part of the process to activate this, representatives from ten countries in eastern and southern Africa and the Indian Ocean met in Kampala, Uganda 26 – 28 February 2024 for the 2nd Consultative workshop on the model BASA.

Uganda's Minister of Works and Transport Hon. General Edward Katumba Wamala who opened the meeting said one of the immediate measures required by Member States is to review their BASAs by removing all restrictions on traffic rights under the 3rd, 4th and 5th freedoms, frequencies, fares and capacity.

"BASA is one of the fundamental means of ensuring air transport interconnectivity between States and the current exercise is geared towards streamlining the instrument to conform with the provisions of the YD," said the Minister who was represented by the Minister of State for Transport Hon. Fred Byamukama

Adopting a model BASA, he said will hasten the process of reviewing BASAs among Member States of COMESA, the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Team Leader of the Support to Air Transport Sector Development Programme (SATSD), Mr Adikiny Olwenge stated that while many air transport markets outside of Africa have been liberalised to a significant extent, most intra-African air transport markets remain largely closed due to restrictive BASA.

"This has affected air connectivity within Africa and has limited the potential economic growth and development," he added. "I urge all not to lose sight of the benefits this would bring in terms of tourism both local and international in the region, if all challenges associated with air transport infrastructure and costs are addressed."

With financial support from the 11th European Development Fund, COMESA and partner regional

Economic Communities, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the African Civil Aviation Commission are collaborating to assist countries to change the narrative.

The SATSD was established in 2020 to operationalize the Single African Air Transport Market, strengthen the regulatory and institutional capacity of civil aviation institutions in the East African-Southern African and Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region. It is also expected to improve air navigation efficiency in the region.

BASA is one of the fundamental means of ensuring air transport interconnectivity between States and the current exercise is geared towards streamlining the instrument to conform with the provisions of the YD," Hon. Fred Byamukama



Ambassador Evelyn Butoyi (L) presents her Letter of Credence to Secretary General, Chileshe Kapwepwe

Burundi's Ambassador Accredited as Permanent Representative to COMESA

Her Excellency Evelyn Butoyi, the Ambassador of Burundi to Zambia, has officially been accredited to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) as the new Permanent Representative.

During a ceremony at the COMESA Secretariat on 12 February 2024, Ambassador Butoyi presented her letter of credence to Secretary-General Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, formalizing her role as Burundi's representative within the regional organization. She succeeds Ambassador Pascal Ruhomyumworo, who concluded his tenure in the country.

In her letter of appointment, emphasis was placed

on the crucial collaboration between the COMESA Secretariat and Member States through their embassies, highlighting the significant support provided to Burundi in areas such as trade, social initiatives, and regional integration.

Secretary-General Kapwepwe acknowledged the pivotal role that Burundi is set to play as host of the upcoming COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit later this year.

"During this summit, the transition of the COMESA Chairmanship from Zambia to Burundi will take place, signifying a pivotal moment for the region," she stated.

She also highlighted COMESA's support to Burundi across various sectors, including active participation in trade programs such as the Great Lakes Trade Facilitation Programme, aimed at improving livelihoods in border areas and fostering cross-border trade.

Furthermore, COMESA has played a crucial role in formalizing informal cross-border trade through the Simplified Trade Regime, offering technical support to Burundi in alignment with the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement. The collaboration extends to the domain of international merchandise trade statistics, where COMESA has provided technical assistance to ensure Burundi aligns with Online EUROTRACE standards.

In the energy sector, COMESA has contributed technical assistance and capacity building on solar energy standards to the Burundi Energy Authority. Financial support exceeding €1.4 million has been provided through the COMESA Adjustment Facility and Regional Integration Support Mechanism.

Ms. Kapwepwe urged Ambassador Butoyi to expedite Burundi's signing of the COMESA Social Charter, a fundamental document promoting social rights in regional development, emphasizing the importance of Burundi's engagement for the overall well-being of its citizens.

Ambassador Butoyi outlined her role in contributing to the regional integration agenda, focusing on sectors such as peace promotion, security, stability, trade liberalization, free movement of goods and people, transport, agriculture, industry, energy, and the integration of women in development.

Training Manuals on Border Management...

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Zambia, from 7 to 10 March 2023. Border officials from Mwami/Mchinji One Stop Border Post and Chirundu One Stop Border Post actively participated in refining the modules through constructive feedback.

Ms. Christiane Haziyo, the Programme Manager for Regional Cooperation and Trade Facilitation at the EU delegation, stressed the importance of a collaborative approach, including enhanced dialogue and inter-agency cooperation at both national and cross-border levels. She said the approach is vital for addressing complex health-related challenges

that arise at borders.

The meeting was attended by 80 experts from Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Participating government agencies included trade, external trade, home affairs, customs, immigration, regional integration, health, internal security, citizenship affairs, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, and the European

Union.

The modules are slated for consideration at the next meeting of heads of immigration and commissioners for labour, with the aim of obtaining approval by the second meeting of the ministers responsible for immigration and labour.



Tunisia's New Law to Promote COMESA Activities in the Country

The Tunisian Assembly of People's Representatives (ARP) on Wednesday 21 February 2024, approved the draft organic law on the agreement relating to the activities of COMESA that will be hosted by Tunisia.

The agreement, which was signed on June 19, 2023, by the Tunisian authorities, received 111 votes in favour and 1 vote against in Parliament. It contains 12 articles related to the meetings, workshops and activities organised by COMESA and its associated bodies in the Member States.

It also focuses on the range of benefits granted to officials of the organisation, its experts as well as representatives of the participating Member States in these various events.

The adoption of this bill will enable both Tunisian officials to enhance their capacity building in various technical fields and economic operators to benefit from the advantages offered by this agreement.

The bill will also help increase the presence of

Tunisian professionals in COMESA and its various bodies.

Through this law, Tunisia will be able to provide COMESA with all the necessary benefits (VAT exemption, visa, etc.) to hold its events and meetings in Tunisia, said the Minister of Trade and Export Development, Kalthoum Ben Rejeb.

"This will help promote Tunisia's image in Africa and worldwide as a tourist destination, particularly in terms of conference tourism, as well as a promising country for investment," the Minister added. She pointed out that Tunisia has signed 47 export agreements with African countries within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). (Source: Tunis Afrique Presse.)

Editor's note:

Under the COMESA Treaty, Agreement on Privileges and Immunities as well as subsequent Decision of the Council of Ministers, Member States undertook to accord privileges and immunities to COMESA, COMESA Officials, COMESA Institutions and officials of Member States when on official business. Such privileges and immunities include: (a) exemption from payment of exercise duties; (b) exemption from payment of taxes when on mission which include sales tax (VAT) and service charges, and (c) exemption from visa fees. Many Member States are yet to fully implement the Decisions, hence the move by Tunisia to entrench them in law is significant.



COMESA and Zambia Govt Staff Trained on Visual Basic for Applications

In collaboration with Statistics Sweden, COMESA Secretariat is conducting a week-long training course on Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) programming in Excel for selected staff from COMESA Secretariat and the Zambia Statistical Agency (ZamStats). The training was facilitated by Mr Kjell Tambour, Senior Adviser at Statistics Sweden, and aims at enhancing the capacity of participants to handle complex tasks efficiently.

Scheduled on February 26 to March 1, 2024, at the COMESA Secretariat, Lusaka, this joint training initiative aims to foster knowledge harmonization between COMESA and its Member States. The workshop represents a crucial step towards realizing a regional capacity-building program designed to empower staff with the skills needed to handle complex tasks efficiently.



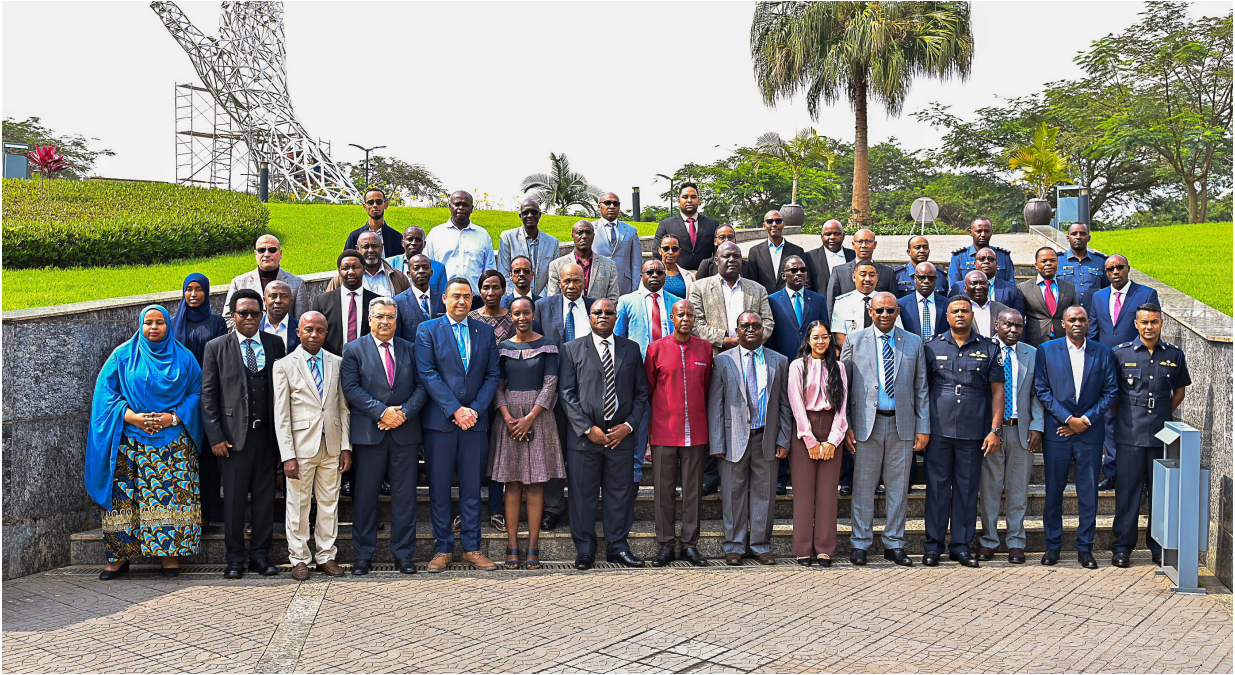
The Somali delegation with Dr Dev Haman at the COMESA Secretariat in Lusaka

Somalia, Zambia youth trained on prevention of violent extremism

Youths from local communities in Somalia and Zambia have recently received training in preventing and countering violent extremism. The training took place from February 19 to 24, 2024, in Chingola, Zambia.

Prior to that, delegates from Somalia, along with representatives from the Zambia National Anti-Terrorism Center, Save the Children, Horn of Africa Youth Network, and Agents of Peace, paid a courtesy call on COMESA Assistant Secretary-General for Administration and Finance, Dr. Dev Haman.

During the meeting, Dr. Haman reiterated the Secretariat's commitment to working with young people across all areas to foster enhanced regional integration. COMESA Head of the Governance, Peace and Security, Dr. Oita Etyang, emphasized the importance of collaborating with targeted communities to ensure grassroots transformation. This approach underscores the significance of engaging local stakeholders in efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism effectively.



Aviation Experts at the three-day training workshop on Civil and Military Airspace Cooperation in Kigali, Rwanda

Military and Civil Aviation Experts in Joint Initiative on Airspace Cooperation

In an initiative aimed at improving airspace management and cooperation between civil and military aviation sectors in Africa, COMESA has brought together experts from the two sectors to address the challenges experienced within individual States and regionally in sharing airspace for the benefit of the air transport industry.

A three-day training workshop on Civil and Military Airspace Cooperation was conducted in Kigali, Rwanda, from 20 to 22 February 2024. The workshop targeted five regional economic communities (RECs), with over 50 experts from the two sectors participating. The RECs included COMESA, the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Indian Ocean Commission, and the Southern African Development Community.

Organized by COMESA through the EU-funded Support to Air Transport Sector Development (SATSD) programme, the training focused on enhancing the already agreed optimal solutions to

strategic and pre-tactical issues and challenges in airspace management, which cuts across civil and military operations.

Military and civil experts from 16 Member States in the five RECs covered by the SATSD programme attended the forum, which was jointly hosted with the Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority. They represented Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. COMESA Director of Infrastructure and Logistics Dr. Bernard Dzawanda, along with Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority Director General Silas Udahemuka, who addressed the participants, called on states that have not liberalised their air transport market based on the Yamoussoukro Decision to do so.

The Yamoussoukro Decision is aimed at creating a single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and comes with a range of benefits, including enhancements in the quality of air transport services,

reduction in airfares, greater connectivity, and a positive impact on tourism and trade.

"To realize the full economic benefits of the Yamoussoukro Decision, there is a need to improve air navigation efficiency in the entire airspace within Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, the Indian Ocean region, and the entire continent of Africa," Dr. Dzawanda said. "This can be achieved through civil-military airspace cooperation among the key airspace stakeholders attending this workshop."

Mr. Udahemuka reminded the participants that it is exactly forty years ago when the Yamoussoukro Decision was initiated, hence it is particularly important to keep pushing its agenda.

"We all know that airspace is a natural resource with a finite capacity for which demand from all users is constantly expanding," he said.



HON. JUSTICE (RTD.) AKILANO MOLADE AKIWUMI

COMESA Court Mourns Former Judge

The COMESA Court of Justice (CCJ) has expressed its condolences to the family of Justice Akilano Molade Akiwumi following his passing. Justice Akiwumi served as the Second Judge President of the CCJ from 2001 to 2003. The late judge, who hails from Kenya, played a pivotal role in the establishment of the CCJ and in the formulation of the Court's initial legal instruments, including the Staff Rules and Rules of Procedure, which continue to be invaluable for the Court and legal practitioners.

"On behalf of the COMESA Court of Justice and on my own behalf, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the late Honourable Justice Akiwumi. We wish his family comfort during this difficult time. May the almighty God rest Justice Akiwumi's soul in everlasting peace," stated Lady Justice Lombe Chibesakunda, the current Judge President of the CCJ.



Representatives from twenty Chapters at the COMESA Federation of Women in Business extraordinary general assembly in Kigali, Rwanda

Women in Business Strengthen Legal Instruments

Representatives from twenty Chapters of the COMESA Federation of Women in Business (COMFWB) held a two-day extraordinary general assembly in Kigali, Rwanda, from 19 to 20 February 2024. The objective was to strengthen the organization's legal instruments and decision-making processes.

Rwanda's Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Prof. Jean Chrysostom NGABITSINZE, opened the meeting and emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability in Women in Business. Recognizing the seriousness and the capacity of women in business, he urged all

governments in COMESA Member States to give full support to Women in Business.

He cited limited access to finance coupled with the effects of climate change, droughts, and the escalation of exchange rates as key challenges that most women are facing in the region, and these have a significant impact on business.

"It is for such reasons that we commend COMFWB for setting up a committee to ensure that COMESA has a regional functional committee to address such needs," he said.

Director of Gender and Social Affairs at COMESA, Mrs. Beatrice Hamusonde, applauded COMFWB chapters for the commitment and support they have given to their country chapters and women in business. She encouraged the chapters to tap into COMESA Member States' established policies that enable a conducive environment for Women in Business and hence improve on capacity building.

"Chapters need to take advantage of opportunities such as the Simplified Trade Regime, digital platforms like 50Million Africa Women Speak and ensure that all African women in business are not left behind in digital trade and information access," Mrs. Hamusonde said.

Climate Change Statistics and Monetary Policy Application

Regional apex banks' staff trained

In a concerted effort to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change, the COMESA Monetary Institute (CMI) recently organized a virtual training on "Climate Change Statistics and its Application to Monetary Policy."

This collaborative effort signifies a proactive approach by COMESA Member Central Banks to address the challenges posed by climate change and integrate sustainable practices into monetary policy considerations.

The training was conducted on 19 – 23 February 2024, attracting over 50 professionals from the apex banks of nine COMESA Member States; Burundi, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, and Somalia.

Participants learned about the fundamental concepts and frameworks related to climate change, identified key statistics using national and international data sources and basic data requirements for macroeconomic research on climate change. Moreover, the training facilitated knowledge sharing on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Also featured were carbon reduction commitments, targeting priority sectors, adaptation measures, and financing commitments toward transitioning to a green economy.

Director of the CMI, Dr. Lucas Njoroge, speaking during the opening of the training highlighted the adverse effects of rising temperatures and extreme

weather events on agriculture productivity and energy production in the COMESA region.

"These impacts, have direct implications for output and inflation," he said.

According to the Director, financial regulators are increasingly focusing on the implications of climate change on monetary policy and financial stability. Thus, he underscored the urgency for Central Banks to deepen their understanding of climate change dynamics, leverage existing statistics on climate change indicators, and enhance their analytical toolkits and macroeconomic models to incorporate climate change risks.

COMESA DIARY

Date	Activity/Event	Venue
26 – 28 February	Consultative Workshop on the Draft Model Bilateral Air Services Agreement that conforms with the provisions of the YAMOUSSOUKRO Decision	Kampala, Uganda
29 Feb - 1 March	Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) awareness Workshop under the Support to Air Transport Sector Development (SATSD) Programme	Kampala, Uganda
4-6 March	Validation workshop for the final draft Policy advocacy for competition and operationalisation of joint competition rules and regulations	Lusaka, Zambia
04 – 06 March	Validation workshop for policy and regulatory frameworks for Regional Roaming under the Enhancement of Governance and Enabling Environment in the ICT sector (EGEE-ICT)	Kigali, Rwanda
06 – 07 March	National Media Capacity Building Workshop on Regional Integration	Lilongwe, Malawi
12 – 15 March	Meetings of the Project on Regional Harmonization of Regulatory Frameworks and Tools for Improved Electricity Regulation in COMESA	Nairobi, Kenya
15 March	Ground-breaking for the Construction of the Mwami Traders Market in Chipata.	Chipata, Zambia
25-27 March	Validation workshop for policy and regulatory frameworks for fibre infrastructures	Kampala, Uganda



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