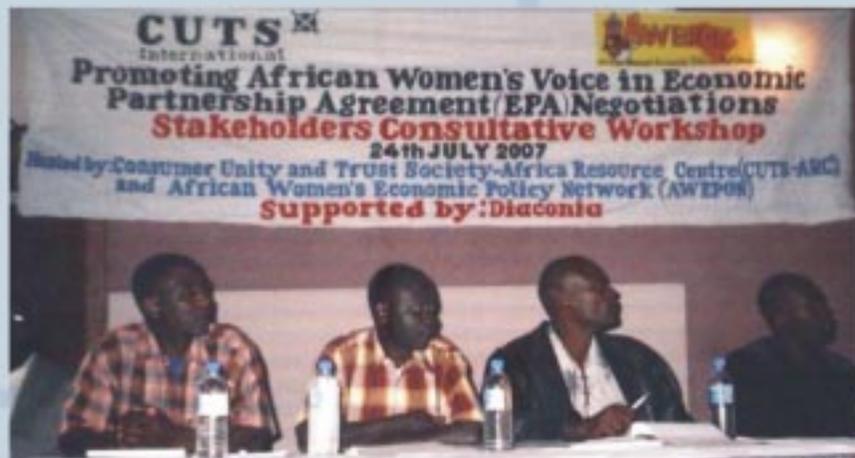


CUTS AFRICA RESOURCE CENTRE, LUSAKA

Annual Report 2007



CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Lusaka

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

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CUTS
International



Established in 1983, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is now at the cutting edge of the of the consumer movement in India as well as across the globe. Today, we operate out of five programme centres and an advocacy centre in India, two resource centres in Africa, and one resource centre in the UK, with a staff strength of over 100. Three programme centres are located in Jaipur and one each in Chittorgarh and Calcutta, India. The advocacy centre is located at New Delhi in India, and resource centres are at Lusaka, Zambia; Nairobi, Kenya; and London, UK.

The organisation elects its Board/Executive Committee every fourth year, while the Secretariat is headed by the Secretary General. Over 1200 individuals and 300 organisations are its members. The organisation is accredited to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Commissions for Sustainable Development (UNCSD).

CUTS also works with several regional, national and international organisations, such as Consumer International (CI); the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD); South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE); and the Consumer Coordination Council of India etc. It also serves on several policy-making bodies of the Government of India.

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From the Secretary General, CUTS International

In our endeavour to go global, the establishment of CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC) in the year 2000 in Lusaka was a significant step, as it was the first overseas centre of CUTS International. The sole objective of launching this Centre was to promote South-South civil society cooperation on trade and development and create long-term capacity of civil society representatives to address issues of equity and accountability.

In seven years, through various programmes and activities, this Centre has been able to focus on expanding and consolidating the horizon of South-South civil society cooperation. Since its inception, the Centre has been engaged in establishing itself through implementation of projects independently and also with partner organisations. The present work programme contains research, advocacy, training/capacity building and networking on international trade, consumer protection, competition policy and foreign direct investment (FDI).

In the year 2007, CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS C-CIER) implemented a project entitled, '*Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa*' codenamed 7Up3 with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Norway and the Department for International Development (DFID), UK. Through this project the Centre aimed to develop the capacity of national stakeholders including the policy makers, regulators, CSOs, academicians and the media in each of the project countries.

Another project on which the Centre worked on was '*Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)*', which is being implemented by CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) over a period of four years (from January 2005 to December 2008). Under this project, the Centre, in collaboration with Organisation Development and Community Management Trust (ODCMT), organised an advocacy meeting at Kitwe, Zambia on March 12, 2007.

The Centre, with the support of the Danish Association for International Co-operation in Zambia (MS Zambia) implemented a project entitled, '*Trade and Market Linkages Strategy for Small Scale Producers in Eastern Province, Zambia*'. Under the project, a two-day advocacy workshop was organised in Lusaka, in July 2007, which aimed at sensitising farmers on the different scenarios in different markets. Besides, it produced three advocacy documents: 1) Horticulture Trade and Poverty Reduction; 2) Access to secure market a scenario of Luapula Province; and 3) Access to secure market a scenario of Eastern province.

The Centre with the support of and OneWorld Africa (OWA) undertook a two-year project entitled, '*Capacity Building of Media Coverage on Trade and Development Reporting in Zambia*'. Under the project, the Centre hosted a media workshop on EPAs, at Lusaka, Zambia, on January 06, 2007 and an advocacy event entitled, '*Media Training Workshop on Trade for Journalists*' in Lusaka, on September 28, 2007. The events were aimed at building the capacity of journalists to understand trade-related issues.

Another project 'Helping African CSOs Influence the EPA Negotiations' was supported by Oxfam Novib and it involved undertaking lobby and advocacy on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Union (EU) and the countries of the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP). The Centre organised a National Conference entitled, '*EPA: Boom or Doom for Zambia*' in Lusaka, on May 23, 2007. Under the project, the Centre brought out a book, '*Beyond Rhetoric: Ensuring EPAs Deliver on Development*', which provides a discussion on benchmarks for EPAs.

During the period, the Centre undertook a study on behalf of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to prepare and present a background report for the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative roundtable held in Lusaka on November 27-28, 2007.

The Centre, with the support of African Women's Economic Policy Network (AWEPON)- Uganda/Diaconia has undertaken the project entitled, '*Promoting African Women's Voice in EPA negotiations*'. The project is being implemented in South Africa, Zambia, Kenya and Uganda. It aimed at conducting research on the likely impact of the EPAs on women. A workshop was organised on '*Promoting African Women's Voice in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations*' in Lusaka, on July 24, 2007, which deliberated upon the ways of making the EPA gender-responsive and ensuring economic rights to the women in Africa.

A draft study entitled, '*Threat of EPAs on Women in Zambia*' was prepared to examine the likely effect on the EPA on women in Zambia. The study is expected to be used for lobbying pro-gender-inclusive trade agreements and the inclusion of gender analysis in trade agreements.

In partnership with Civil Society Trade Network of Zambia (CSTNZ) and support from Oxfam Novib, the Centre launched a study, which aimed at understanding the role of agribusiness on small-scale farmers and workers' rights that highlighted that some of the challenges in the agri-business include the lack of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and poor workers conditions. CUTSARC continued to work on its focus areas during the period, including building capacity of the Centre through training workshops and participating in similar events at the national and international forums. The Centre acknowledges the support of the various donor agencies in fulfilling its objectives. Though a good initiative has been made, much work remains to be done.

Jaipur
July 2007

Pradeep S Mehta
Secretary General

Our Organisation

Consumer Unity & Trust Society Africa Resource Centre (CUTSARC), Lusaka, began its operation as a registered non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Zambia, in December 2000. This year marks the seventh year of CUTS ARC in Zambia. The Centre is affiliated to CUTS International and bears the historical transformation of the organisation to gain international recognition. Over the past years, the Centre has established itself and contributed effectively in the policy-making process in Zambia and the region, as a whole. This has been due to the Centre's strength in research, advocacy and networking.

Mission

The mission of the organisation is to function as a resource, co-ordination as well as networking centre, to promote South-South cooperation on trade and development, by involving state and non-state actors (NSAs).

Objectives

In this regard, the Centre has established links with NGOs, donor agencies, inter-governmental and governmental bodies, especially in the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA). The Centre has been working in the areas of competition policy, investment, consumer protection, regional and multilateral trade and regulation. The Centre aims to:

- establish civil society cooperation in the areas of trade, economic policies and the environment in Africa;
- form national, regional and international coordination system and alliance building among organisations working on similar social and economic issues;
- function as a resource centre to Africa-based NGOs, consumer organisations, the government and regulatory agencies; and
- focus on capacity building activities on international trade, consumer protection, foreign investment and competition policy issues at national, regional and international levels.

In the coming years, the Centre will continue to work in its traditional areas, such as the market linkages and capacity building for media institutions on

trade and economic reporting. The institution will also explore new challenges which are the key to the development of Zambia and Africa, in general.

Structure

The governing structure of the Centre comprises the Executive and the Advisory Committee. The functions of these committees are as follows:

- **Executive Committee works** to give policy direction and guidelines to the organisation; and ensure that the aims and objectives of the organisation are achieved.
- **Advisory Committee** gives advice on project work being undertaken by the Centre and attends meetings as resource persons, when requested for by the Centre.

Human Resources

The staff comprise a co-ordinator, two interns working as Programme Officers, an Administrative and an Office Assistant. Of the five staff members, one is a female, which is based on the policy of CUTS International to promote woman representation.

Strategic Plan

Planning of activities of the Centre has been done by the staff in consultation with the CUTS Head Office for the purpose of avoiding duplication of programmes. As part of the planning process, the Centre has identified a number of research, advocacy, networking with organisations and donor agencies for the collaborative work.

The target is to become a reputed regional resource Centre for policy research, advocacy and training on international trade, consumer protection, economic and regulatory policies having outreach to all Anglo phone countries in Africa by the year 2008. In order to achieve its short-term objectives, the Centre draws up workable plans, which would be suitable to the national and regional context.

Projects and Programmes

Trade and Development

Since its inception, the Centre has been engaged in establishing itself through implementation of projects independently and also with partner organisations. The present work programme contains research, advocacy, training/capacity building and networking on international trade, consumer protection, competition policy and foreign direct investment (FDI). As part of the work, the Centre has established links with consumer organisations/other civil society groups in Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. In Zambia, CUTSARC is a member of the Civil Society Trade Network of Zambia (CSTNZ) and works closely with the Zambia Competition Commission (ZCC), the Zambia Consumer Association (ZACA), the Zambian Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MCTI), the Zambia Investment Centre (ZIC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and other inter-governmental agencies.

The Centre is currently implementing the following projects:

- Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)
- Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa
- Trade and Market Linkages Strategy for Small Scale Producers in Eastern Province, Zambia
- Capacity Building for Media coverage on issues of Trade and Development reporting in Zambia.
- Helping African CSOs Influence the EPA Negotiations
- Promoting African Woman's Voice in EPA Negotiations
- NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative

Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) is implementing the project entitled, 'Linkages between Trade, Development

and Poverty Reduction (TDP) over a period of four years (from January 2005 to December 2008).

This project manifests the policy relevance of international trade on poverty reduction and thus, helps in articulating policy coherence, in particular between the international trading system and national development strategies. International trade has a major role to play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in reducing absolute poverty by half by the year 2015.

Project activities include analyses of stakeholders' perceptions on linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction, networking with partner organisations and other stakeholders, advocacy with policymakers and civil society organisations (CSOs), information dissemination amongst policymakers, CSOs and other stakeholders, outreach aimed at trade diplomats, parliamentarians, and developmental agencies including donor agencies. An overarching aim of the project is to bridge the link between Southern and Northern civil society and policymakers.

CUTS CITEE is implementing these activities in association with its different centres and partner organisations in 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Asia and Europe. All activities are analysed in view of the role that international trade can and should play in reducing poverty in poor countries. By associating with the implementation of this project, the Southern and the Northern civil society will gain experience, aiding their development, as well as the cross-fertilisation of ideas and experiences.

Advocacy and Networking

- CUTSARC, Lusaka, in collaboration with Organisation Development and Community Management Trust (ODCMT), organised an advocacy meeting under the TDP project in Kitwe, Zambia on March 12, 2007. The meeting recommended the inclusion of provincial structures in the initiatives such as TDP. As this would ensure good feedback and outreach, the meeting urged the organisers to establish coordinating structures at provincial level.
- The Centre, in co-ordination with ODCMT, organised a TDP workshop in Southern Province on July 09, 2007. The workshop aimed at introducing the participants to the debate on the TDP and gather stakeholders' views on the case studies for Zambia.

Research

A TDP Campaign Toolkit for Zambia was produced by advocacy partner, ODCMT. The document raises lessons from liberalisation, based on two sectors, the agro-processing and textiles. A first draft of the international Campaign Kit was reviewed by the TDP project partners and a range of other experts at a TDP international conference held in Nairobi, on March 15-16, 2007.



Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa'

CUTS International has been implementing a two-year project entitled, 'Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa' codenamed 7Up3 Project in seven countries, viz. Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Uganda, with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Norway and the Department for International Development (DFID), UK.

One of the main aims of the 7Up3 project is to develop the capacity of national stakeholders including the policy makers, regulators, CSOs, academicians and the media in each of the project countries through a participatory process to understand and appreciate prevailing competition concerns from the national, regional and international perspectives, and enable them to respond appropriately.

Advocacy and Networking

The training workshop on competition policy and law was organised by CUTSARC and Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD), and supported by DFID and NORAD in Pretoria, during February 15-17, 2007. The workshop aimed at building capacity among select African countries on competition law and administration.

A three-day national training workshop (NTW) was organised by CUTS ARC and Consumer Protection Association of Mozambique (DECOM) and coordinated by CUTS Institute for Regulation and Competition (CIRC) in Mozambique, on July 17-19, 2007. The need for the workshops was felt over the period of implementation of the 7Up3 project, which revealed a dire need for raising the level of understanding not only of the government representatives, but also other stakeholders to complement the efforts made by the government to operationalise national competition regimes. Vladimir Chilinya acknowledged the presence of the representative from the Ministry of Trade of Mozambique and the respective resource persons and latter on welcomed participants to the workshop.



Participants at the National Training Workshop in Pretoria, during February 15-17, 2007

Trade and Market Linkages Strategy for Small Scale Producers in Eastern Province, Zambia

The Centre, with the support of The Danish Association for International Co-operation in Zambia (MS Zambia) has undertaken the project entitled, 'Trade and Market Linkages Strategy for Small Scale Producers in Eastern Province, Zambia'. The duration of the project is of one year. The objectives of the project are to:

- create awareness of market opportunities and challenges; and
- ensure capacity building for District Farmers Associations (DFAs) member small scale farmers to effectively influence policy for enhanced production and market access for small scale farmers and producers.

Advocacy and Networking

CUTS Lusaka, in collaboration with Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace (CCJDP), held a two-day advocacy workshop in Lusaka, on July 23-24, 2007, which aimed at sensitising farmers on the different scenarios in different markets. The workshop was attended by local participants and outside district farmers.

Research

The following advocacy documents were produced:

- Horticulture Trade and Poverty Reduction
- Access to secure market a scenario of Luapula Province
- Access to secure market a scenario of Eastern province

Capacity Building for Media coverage on issues of Trade and Development reporting in Zambia

The Centre with the support of Oxfam Novib and OneWorld Africa (OWA) undertook a two-year project entitled, 'Capacity Building of Media Coverage on Trade and Development Reporting in Zambia'. The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- create awareness among media practitioners about the on-going EPA negotiations; and
- build capacity among journalists to report on EPA and encourage them to analytically report on trade and development issues.

Advocacy and Networking

The Centre hosted a media workshop on EPAs, at Lusaka, Zambia, on January 06, 2007. The objective of the workshop was to engage media in Zambia on EPA negotiations, enhance communications on EPA between policy makers, CSOs and the media.

A proposal was submitted to the evaluation committee at the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MCTI) for undertaking an assessment of Economic-related CSOs and Trade Unions in Zambia. The project is being spearheaded by the EU, as part of the Private Sector Development initiative.

Helping African CSOs Influence the EPA Negotiations

The project was supported by Oxfam Novib and it involved undertaking lobby and advocacy on the EPAs between the European Union (EU) and the countries of the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP). The project organised a regional workshop on EPAs, a study on development benchmarks for Zambia in the EPA negotiations, a media workshop on trade and other policy papers related to the subject. As a result of the project, the Centre participated in the Regional Negotiation Forum (RNF) of the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) countries, under the EPA negotiations.

Advocacy and Networking

An advocacy event entitled, 'Media Training Workshop on Trade for Journalists' in Lusaka, on September 28, 2007. The workshop aimed at building the capacity of journalists to understand trade-related issues. It drew over 30 participants from both the electronic and print media. Participants represented government, private and community media institutions.

CUTS ARC, Lusaka, organised a National Conference, entitled, 'EPA: Boom or Doom for Zambia' in Lusaka, on May 23, 2007. The workshop aimed at building consensus on the ongoing EPA negotiations between Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and the EU.

The launch meeting of the project was held in Lusaka, Zambia, on February 08-09, 2007. The workshop will focus on the highly contested element that cannot be 'negotiated out' of the EPA: 'reciprocity' or the need for ACP members to remove trade barriers on 'substantially all' their imports from the EU over a transition period.

A two-day training workshop was held in Lusaka, on February 09-10, 2007. The objectives of the workshop were to: create awareness among the CSOs on the current stage of the EPA negotiation process; deliberate the implications of the EPAs, especially on the small-scale farmers; and stimulate a sense of need for civil society to be actively involved in the EPA negotiations.

Research

Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations in Whose Interest: Development Benchmarks for Zambia

NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative

The Centre has undertaken a study on behalf of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to prepare and present a background

report for the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative roundtable held in Lusaka, on November 27-28, 2007.

Research

The preparation of the background paper was done by CUTS Consultant, Annie Zulu Chime. The background paper was presented at the stakeholders' workshop, in Lusaka, on November 27-28, 2007. The aims of the background were as follows:

Test Policy Framework for Investment (PFI) draft guidance, as a tool aimed at building capacity and supporting governments completing the investment-related content of the Self-Assessment African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) questionnaire, using Zambia as a pilot case study. It also provides an assessment of the usefulness of the PFI guidance for fulfilling the self-assessment phase of the APRM issues, which includes user-friendliness of the PFI guidance and their relevance in an African country context.

Promoting African Woman's Voice in EPA Negotiations

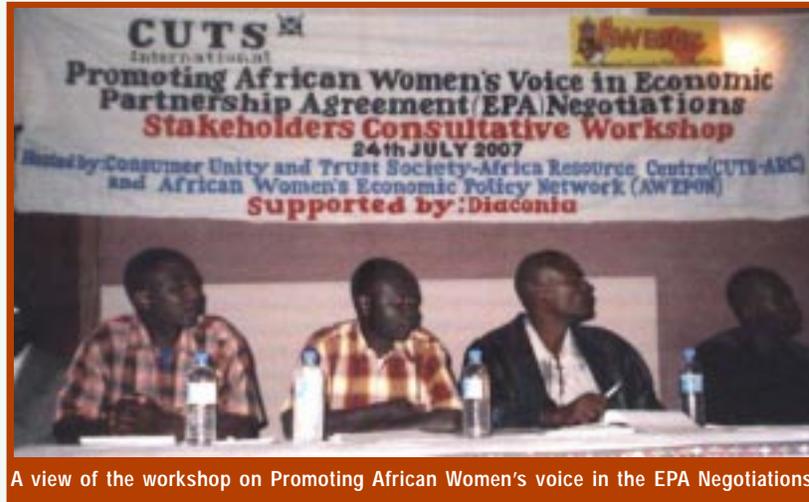
The Centre, with the support of African Women's Economic Policy Network (AWEPON)-Uganda/Diaconia has undertaken the project entitled, 'Promoting African Women's Voice in EPA negotiations'. The project is being implemented in South Africa, Zambia, Kenya and Uganda. The objective of the project is to conduct research on the likely impact of the EPAs on women, and on sectors dominated by women; and identify major issues in relation to EPAs.

Advocacy and Networking

A workshop was organised on 'Promoting African Women's Voice in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations' in Lusaka, on July 24, 2007. The workshop deliberated upon the ways of making the EPAs gender-responsive and ensuring economic rights to the women in Africa. It helped to supplement information got from the various interviews conducted by the research team.

Research

A draft study entitled, 'Threat of EPAs on Women in Zambia' was prepared to examine the likely effect on the EPA on women in Zambia. The study aimed to bring out the findings through examining sectors in which women dominate, such as services and agriculture. The study is expected to be used for lobbying pro-gender-inclusive trade agreements and the inclusion of gender analysis in trade agreements.



A view of the workshop on Promoting African Women's voice in the EPA Negotiations

Role of Agribusiness on Small Scale farmers

CUTS, in partnership with Civil Society Trade Network of Zambia (CSTNZ) and support from Oxfam Novib, launched a study, which aimed at understanding the role of agribusiness on small-scale farmers and workers' rights. The study highlighted that some of the challenges in the agri-business include the lack of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and poor workers conditions.

Other Initiative

Consultation on Trade and Service Regulation in Zambia

The Consultation workshop was held in order to discuss the country study report on Services Trade and Domestic Regulation in Zambia, undertaken by Dale Mudenda from the University of Zambia. The meeting was aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- to provide input to the study on services trade and domestic regulation in Zambia; and
- to make recommendations on services trade and domestic regulation.

Representations

In accordance with the mission of the Centre, the Centre took part in activities organised by its partners. During the reporting period, the representatives of the Centre took part in the following events:

Date & Place	Event & Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
April 16-19, 2007, Singapore	Workshop on the Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) of Challenges, organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat, in conjunction with Singapore	Developing a strategy in Zambia on development and promotion of SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Zulu Chime
June 08, 2007	National Working Group on Cotonou	Discussion on Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Customs Union and its implications for Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masheta Musamai
February 21-23, 2007 Bujumbura, Burundi	10 th EPA-ESA-Regional Negotiation Forum	Reviewing the EPA negotiations and developing positions on outstanding issues related to it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vladimir Chilinya
April 13, 2007, Lusaka, Zambia	Southern African Development Community-Non Governmental Organisation (SADC-NGO) Forum	Ensuring effective civil participation in the regional development and democratic governance in Southern Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vladimir Chilinya

Date & Place	Event & Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
June 07, 2007, Lusaka, Zambia	NGO Consultative Meeting on NGO Regulation Opts for Absolute Self-Regulation	NGO position on Government's proposed Draft Bill for NGO regulation in Zambia	• Masheta Musamai
June 07-10, 2007,	Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment Cluster Workshop	Revise and adopt the SADC Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) Implementation Framework for Zambia	• Patrick Chengo
August 15-16, 2007, Lusaka, Zambia	Southern African Development Community (SADC) People's Summit'	Opportunity for CSOs to share experiences and make their voices heard on various issues affecting the SADC region and Africa	• Masheta Musamai
May 07-10, 2007, Lusaka, Zambia	Workshop on competition by the Zambia Competition Commission	Review of the Draft Competition and Consumer Protection Act, Zambia	• Masheta Musamai
October 02-04, 2007, Pretoria, South Africa	Advanced Trade Analysis course organised by Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) of South Africa		• Masheta Musamai
March 21-28, 2007, Lusaka, Zambia	MS-Zambia Annual Planning Meeting	Discussion on the future and the priorities of MS-Zambia country strategy paper	• Vladimir Chilinya
April 26-28, 2007, Nairobi, Kenya	Interface of the WTO Doha and EPA negotiations workshop/CSO planning meeting	Drafting a regional strategy on EPAs and planning for activities before the ESA-EPA RNF	• Vladimir Chilinya

Date & Place	Event & Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
May 31, 2007	ESA-EPA Information Seminar organised by the EC	Information exchange on the state of play of the EPA negotiations the concerns of the private sector and CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masheta Musamai
August 08-10, 2007, Mauritius	Training workshop on Competition Policy and Law organised by the Institute for Consumer Protection (ICP) and CUTS International	Enhance the understanding of select national stakeholders on competition policy issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vladimir Chilinya

Outreach

Advocacy work on international trade and development issues encountered by the poor countries has been carried out through publication of policy briefs, news bulletins, newsletters e-newsletters, press releases and workshops. The Centre was involved in advocacy on competition policy, consumer protection, development-oriented FDI policy, fair trade, poverty reduction, and stakeholder involvement in decision-making process.

Newsletter

The Centre produced four issues of the newsletter entitled, *'Tradequity'* on trade and development issues. These were distributed among the partner organisations, development agencies, government and other stakeholders. The key themes of the newsletter published in 2007 comprise:

- EPA Threatens to Shrink ACP Domestic "Policy Space"
- Africa and China: A Strategic Partnership
- Civil Society Side-stepped as Crunch Comes in East Africa EPA Negotiations
- Interim EPA 'Saves' EU Market Access



Electronic Bulletin

Consumer Watch

Consumer Watch e-newsletter is a joint initiative of ARC Lusaka and ZACA, published with the objective of enhancing consumer welfare through sensitisation, information dissemination and capacity building of consumers, business entities and government. The newsletter focuses on bringing out issues such as violation of consumer rights and measures to be taken by the relevant authorities to protect stakeholders.

Newspapers/Media Interaction

The Centre interacts actively with the print media in its advocacy programmes. Following activities were done during the period:

- **EPN Conference on the EPN Roles in Lusaka, on March 09, 2007**
Tele-discussion with the EPN partners. Outcomes from the discussion included developing EPN programme website and addressing labour issues in Southern African and other developing countries;
- **Media briefing on EPAs in Lusaka, April 18, 2007**
A radio briefing on EPAs aimed at sensitising people on the EPAs and encouraging Zambians take an interest in the ongoing debate on EPAs and ensure that their voices are heard;
- **Media briefing on private sector development in Zambia**
Provided comments on the private sector's role in Zambia, which was published in the Times of Zambia newspaper.

By Joan Chikwa
COMESA will not open up any of its sectors to the EU countries until the development agenda of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) is addressed, commerce permanent secretary Davidson Chilipamushi has assured.

“This issue of the EPA negotiations are in full swing, scheduled to meet in Lusaka in the next few months in the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) region. Given the fact that the EPA negotiations are still in progress, we have to wait for the agreement to be signed by all the countries involved in the EPA negotiations by COMESA,” Chilipamushi said.

Zambia won't open its sectors to EU countries - Chilipamushi

...until development agenda of EPAs is addressed

COMESA and One World Africa (OWA) in Lusaka on Friday. Chilipamushi said. The Development Agenda (DA) of the EPA negotiations is still in progress, we have to wait for the agreement to be signed by all the countries involved in the EPA negotiations by COMESA,” Chilipamushi said.

“This issue of the EPA negotiations are in full swing, scheduled to meet in Lusaka in the next few months in the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) region. Given the fact that the EPA negotiations are still in progress, we have to wait for the agreement to be signed by all the countries involved in the EPA negotiations by COMESA,” Chilipamushi said.

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THE POST, Thursday February 1, 2007

ERB advised to consult before adjusting fuel prices

By Joan Chikwa
The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) should engage in consultations with stakeholders before adjusting fuel prices, Consumer Unity and Trust Society African Resource Centre (CUTS-ARC) has said.

Reacting to bus fare increases fuelled by a rise in petroleum products a few weeks ago, CUTS-ARC researcher Vladimir Chikwa said consumers in Zambia had been trapped in the ERB's system of adjusting prices without consultation.

“The system used by ERB to increase fuel prices is not working well for the consumers in this country. There is no consultation at all, all we hear is an increase almost every month without being notified of it in place,” Chikwa said. “There should be a way where ERB will be having meetings with stakeholders before increasing the price of fuel like Zesco does whenever it wants to adjust tariffs.”

Chikwa said Zambia needs regulations that would ensure benefits derived from the economy's good performance trickle down to ordinary citizens.

“ERB is a regulator and has a number of stakeholders ranging from manufacturing houses to domestic consumers,” Chikwa said. “The weakness is that government is not doing enough to ensure consumers are protected. Whenever the price of fuel is reduced, no adjustments are made to commodity prices, but immediately fuel prices are increased, we see prices of almost all the basic commodities going up.”

But the ERB recently justified its pricing mechanism, saying it was designed to remain relevant to the Zambian situation.

The ERB indicated that its latest decision on the wholesale prices of petrol, diesel, kerosene and jet A1 using the Import Parity Pricing (IPP) mechanism which was being used by most countries in the region.

And the country's inflation rate increased by 1.6 per cent to 9.8 per cent in January, from 8.2 per cent in December.

The increase in the rate of inflation has been attributed mainly to increased costs in petroleum products, food, beverages, house rent and motor vehicles.

Central Bank governor Caleb Fundanga also expressed concern that continued increases in the price of petroleum products was posing a serious threat to the single digit inflation rate.

COMESA position on regional partnerships awaited

By NEWENO MUPILA
GOVERNMENT is waiting for COMESA Market for Eastern and Southern Africa's (COMESA) position before having regional trade-in-services consultations under the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) ongoing negotiations.

COMESA has since completed a report from the submitted trade-in-services studies carried out by experts in member states which were expected to be tabled in the first quarter of this year.

Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry permanent secretary, Davidson Chilipamushi said there had been no concrete results that have come up from the ongoing EPA negotiations.

Mr Chilipamushi said the Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) countries have not agreed on a development agenda despite the negotiations coming to an end on December 31 this year.

He was speaking last Friday at a Consumer Unity and Trust Society and OneWorld Africa launch of a two-year project on “Capacity Building for Media Coverage on Trade and Development,” held in Lusaka.

He said the ministry had submitted its study on trade in services to COMESA which was done by experts.

The sectors studied include financial services, tourism and education.

“We have submitted our study to COMESA and are awaiting the outcome from the regional body,” he said.

He also said that the negotiations for EPA with European Union was one such area requiring participation from non-state actors.

And COMESA senior trade adviser, James Mwanza, said the secretariat was developing a framework on regional services. Mr Mwanza said COMESA would in the first quarter of this year consult with the stakeholders on the matter.

Networking with Stakeholders and other NGOs

CUTS ARC has established links with most of the CSOs working on trade and development issues in ESA. The Centre gives priority to do collaborative work with like-minded organisations with the objective of skills sharing and to achieve its objective of South-South civil society cooperation on trade and development.

The Centre has established networks with CSOs and consumer organisations in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Seychelles, Mozambique, Namibia, Mauritius, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. The representatives of these organisations have been participating in various training and other programmes being organised by CUTSARC Lusaka. During the 2007 period, the Centre was actively involved in networking with CSOs, regulatory and government agencies, inter-governmental bodies and business associations, etc.

The Road Ahead

The Centre is committed to strengthening its collaborative work with various stakeholders in the coming years. The Centre has continued to establish new contacts with organisations in the region and in Zambia for collaborative work and networking. A dynamic mailing list has been prepared by the Centre for distribution of printed and electronic publications.

The target is to become a reputed regional resource centre for policy research, advocacy and training on international trade, consumer protection, economic and regulatory policies having outreach to all Anglophone countries in Africa by the year 2007. In order to achieve its short-term objectives, the Centre draws up workable plans, which would be suitable to the national and regional context.

CONSUMER UNITY AND TRUST SOCIETY

**RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN RESPECT OF THE
PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31
DECEMBER 2007**

The Board is responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and the surplus and deficit and cash flows for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the board has selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently, made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and followed applicable accounting standards.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the Trust Society keeps proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust. The Board is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and taking reasonable steps for the preparation and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

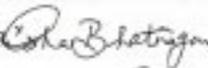
In the opinion of the Board:-

- (i) The operating statement is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the operations of the Trust for the year ended 31st December, 2007
- (ii) The balance sheet is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust as at 31st December, 2007
- (iii) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Trust will be able to pay its obligations as and when they fall due

These financial statements set out on pages 3 to 10 were approved by the Board of Directors on ----- and signed on its behalf by:

ANHA BHATTACHARJEE

DIRECTOR



PRADIP S. MOHAR

SECRETARY
GENERAL



Date 2008-03-20

CONSUMER UNITY AND TRUST SOCIETY

SUMMARISED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2007

CAPTION	NOTE	YEAR	YEAR
		2007	2006
		ZMK	ZMK
INCOME			
Income		150,571,076	453,920,214
Expenditure		(265,736,553)	(543,833,487)
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		<u>(115,165,477)</u>	<u>110,086,727</u>
MOVEMENT ON ACCUMULATED			
Balance as at 01.01.2007	7	129,796,884	19,710,157
Deficit for the year		(115,165,477)	110,086,727
Balance as at 31.12.2007		<u>(8,368,593)</u>	<u>129,796,884</u>

CONSUMER UNITY AND TRUST SOCIETY

DETAILED OPERATING STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2007

INCOME	NOTE	YEAR	YEAR
		2007	2006
		ZMK	ZMK
Exchange gain	2	150,571,076	453,920,214
		<u>150,571,076</u>	<u>453,920,214</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Administration expenses		2,952,000	1,004,140
Audit fees		5,000,000	4,200,000
Bank charges		4,282,003	2,051,426
Depreciation		2,865,000	1,425,000
Economic Partnership Agreements meetings		52,287,900	72,580,729
Eastern and Southern Africa meetings		-	653,740
Capacity Building Conference 7 Ups		22,217,060	12,552,425
MS Zambia Strategic Plan Policy		23,850,489	-
House rental		-	14,000,000
Insurance and license		-	942,201
International Competition Network Workshop		-	4,921,810
Legal and consultancy fees		-	8,305,150
Market Linkage Workshop		15,448,000	30,101,811
NAPSA-Statutory contributions		-	438,000
Access to secure market policy seminar		24,750,000	-
Hilokula Trade and poverty seminar		8,250,000	-
NEPAD Projects		3,372,200	15,410,550
Office rentals		20,944,000	17,386,000
Printing and stationery		4,085,590	5,740,554
Postage and telephones		12,007,101	23,536,457
AWZPOM Project		20,173,975	-
Repairs and maintenance		3,722,000	5,252,830
Salaries and wages		39,407,841	62,431,276
Trade Development Project and Research		-	15,590,000
Traveling expenses		18,098,214	12,987,308
Utilities and cleaning materials		70,000	452,240
Consultation Workshop		1,620,000	-
Training and staff welfare		500,000	-
		<u>285,736,553</u>	<u>343,693,487</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		<u>(135,165,477)</u>	<u>110,226,727</u>



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