



Tradequity

A Newsletter of CUTS Africa

Year 17, No. 1/2018

AU Member Countries Create History by Massively Signing the AfCFTA Agreement in Kigali



Close to Fifty African Union Member States have signed the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – the Kigali Declaration and the Free Movement Protocol by order of interest. This was accomplished during the official opening ceremony of the 10th Extraordinary Summit of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held on March 21, 2018, in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda. A majority of the African countries signed all the three legal instruments while some signed two and the others signed one of the three instruments. However, very few countries are yet to sign the AfCFTA Agreement.

The Summit dedicated to the AfCFTA, was described by the African Union (AU) leaders and decision makers, as a historic moment for the continent. The signing ceremony of the legal documents was a solemn event that marked a milestone in the realisation of the ‘Africa We Want’... A dream come true! Another important page in the history of Africa was written with the massive turnout and efficient participation of the African countries, who expressed the willingness of

materialising the continental development agenda of the AfCFTA as enshrined in Agenda 2063.

The AU Chair appreciated the fact that this historic signing of the AfCFTA will enhance the dignity and well-being of Africa’s farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth, as it will create more jobs, bring more investments and prosperity in the continent, with the view of prioritising the production of value-added goods and services, that are ‘Made in Africa’.

According to the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, the world is changing, and changing at a great speed. International competition is fierce. It leaves no room for the weak...these last few months have, indeed, demonstrated the urgency of hastening the pace.

Faki concluded his opening address by borrowing some words from Kwame Nkrumah’s speech to the Ghanaian National Assembly in June 1965: “The task ahead is great indeed, and heavy is the responsibility, and yet it is a noble and glorious challenge – a challenge which calls for the courage to believe, the courage to dare, the courage to do, the courage to fight

and the courage to achieve the highest excellences and the fullest greatness of man. Dare we ask for more in life”.

Faki said, “This address has particular resonance as we gather in Kigali. We need to summon the required political will for the AfCFTA to finally become a reality”. He, therefore, called on the AU Member States to ratify the entire legal instrument signed during the historic moments in Kigali.

The Legal Instruments signed by the AU Member States were handed over to the Chairperson of the AUC, as custodian of the AU Treaties and Archives.

IN THIS ISSUE

Rate Cap Hit Economy	2
US-Ghana Trade Hub	3
Exxon to Invest in Ghana	4
ECOWAS-Turkey Economic Cooperation	5
Creating Consumers’ Rights Awareness	6

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– This cover story has been adopted from <https://au.int/> published on March 21, 2018

Oil to Drive Ghana Economy

The World Bank (WB) has projected a bright economic outlook for Ghana as it has predicted that the country's economy will grow by 8.3 percent in 2018. The growth is to be largely driven by increased production in oil and gas which is expected to lift the country's exports.

According to the World Economic Prospects report for 2018, the increase in the output projection for 2018 is due primarily to a revised 2017 TEN projection from 50,000 bopd to approximately 54,000 bopd, and the 2018 Sankofa Gye Nyame (SGN) projection from 35,441 bopd to 43,000 bopd. *(GO, 18.01.18)*

Moody Critical on Zambia

In January 2018, a Moody's Rating Committee was called to discuss the rating of the Government of Zambia. The main points raised during the discussion were: Zambia's fiscal or financial strength, including its debt profile, has materially decreased; susceptibility to event risks has not materially changed; and economic fundamentals comprising its economic strength have materially increased.

Other challenges highlighted by Moody's include sizeable funding requirements, a rising reliance on external debt including for local currency government securities and large Eurobond maturities due early in the following decade. *(LT, 27.01.18)*

OPIC Praises Africa

Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), a US agency that helps businesses invest in developing markets around the world has recognised the potential of Africa as an investment destination. OPIC have made great investments in Cameroon, Togo and in Ghana. OPIC has called for investors from all over the world to tap into the potential of doing business in Africa.

OPIC has also called on African leaders to implement policies that will attract investors and create opportunities for Africa's rapidly growing urban population as well as to connect the continent to the rest of the world. *(GNA, 8.01.18)*

Positive Impact of Sugar

Zambia sugar has recorded a positive economic impact of K3.8bn in the 2016-2017 financial year representing a 33 percent increase in the company's total contribution in the country's economy.

In the 2016-17 financial year, its total sugar economic impact on the local economy amounted to K3.8bn. This comprises K1bn in direct impacts and the balance resulting from the multiplier effects of its business operations within the supply chain.

Zambia Sugar Managing Director Rebecca Katowa said total direct tax paid by the company in 2016-17 amounted to K20.3mn, while indirect taxes totalling K213.8bn were collected on behalf of the Zambian Government. *(ToZ, 27.02.18)*

AfDB Reprimand Kenya Debt

Kenya could struggle to meet its public debt obligations as more long term loans mature this year, economists at the African Development Bank (AfDB) have said, in what appears to be a veiled warning against the borrowing frenzy.

The government has increasingly used loans to patch up its tax revenue shortfall as it continues with its race to, among other things, modernise railway lines, expand roads and upgrade sea ports.

The National Treasury is setting aside Sh658.2bn for loans repayment in 2017-18 alone, the single-largest public expenditure item. Continued high public consumption expenditure keeps the budget deficit at close to 10 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). *(TEA, 18.01.18)*

Ghana's Master Plan Unveiled

Ghana's ambition to build its road infrastructure to facilitate economic activities with neighbouring West Africa countries has been given a boost. This follows the approval of final report on corridor development for West Africa Growth Ring Master Plan (WAGRIC).

Deputy Minister of Roads and Highways of Ghana, Kwabena Owusu-Aduomi described the master plan as timely, indicating that it was a major step towards sustaining economic growth and moving the country beyond over reliance on aid and opens the country for investment and trade. *(B&FT, 16.03.18)*

Rate Cap Hit Economy

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has renewed push for a repeal of the law capping interest rates, which it states is having a negative effect on the economy. CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge argued that the controls have resulted in a credit crunch as banks ration credit had slowed down the economy.

Private sector credit grew by 2.4 percent in the 12 months to December 2017, only slightly higher than the two percent in October 2017. The economy grew five percent in the first half of last year, falling short of a full-year government revised forecast of 5.5 percent. *(<https://mwebantu.news>, 01.01.18)*



Kenya-Mauritius Trade Ties

Kenya and Mauritius have agreed on the need for African countries to expedite the implementation of the historic AfCTA Agreement that was signed. President of Republic of Kenya, Uhuru Z Kenyatta held talks with Mauritius Foreign Affairs Minister Seetanah Lutchmeenaraidoo during his visit at State House.

During the discussion, President Kenyatta and Lutchmeenaraidoo discussed bilateral issues related to Blue Economy, the development of Economic Processing Zones and Special Economic Zones in which Mauritius has substantial experience. The President said that there is need for the two countries to strengthen their financial services so as to better serve their citizens. *(DN, 23.03.18)*

Rising Zambia-India Trade

Trade between Zambia and India improved from US\$650mn in the year 2016 to US\$980mn for the year 2017. Zambia's High Commissioner to India Judith Kapijimpanga said the mission was happy as it was targeting trade between Zambia and India to reach US\$1bn mark.

"Business visas issued to Indian traders and investors also increased from three hundred (300) in the year 2016 to five hundred and twenty (520) in the year 2017," she said. The High Commissioner appealed to all stakeholders to promptly ensure that prospective investments were actualised as the Mission's mandate ended at marketing the country. *(TM, 02.01.18)*

Call for Intra-African Trade

A former Nigerian President, General (Retd.) Olusegun Obasanjo, has urged African countries to intensify intra-African trade to promote fair trade. General Obasanjo said boosting intra-African trade will provide excellent opportunity for farmers and other small businesses on a sub-regional level to create greater economies of scale and to increase competition in inefficient agricultural industries.

He urged developing countries to strengthen initiatives and efforts to ensure that rural economies were fairly considered and given the opportunity to thrive in a global economy that was increasingly promoting inequality. *(Be&FT, 2.02.18)*

US-Ghana Trade Hub

Heritage Securities limited (HSL) in partnership with the US Friendship and Economic Development (FED) Group has launched the first-ever Ghana-US Trade Hub to provide facilitation services companies seeking trade with the US.



Edward Agyekum Kufour, Director of HSL, said that the partnership is an important one in Ghana's quest to move from aid to trade in its bilateral relations with development partners. Kufuor said trade, especially through the export of value-added Ghanaian products, was what would make the rest of the world hear about Ghana, instead of aid or hand-outs. He added it is a good step to support the President's policy to boost trade and investment in Ghana. *(Be&FT, 12.02.18)*

Kenya Raises Import from Uganda

Uganda overtook South Africa for the first time in November 2017 as the largest source of goods ordered by Kenyans, underlining the impact of drought which saw electricity and food imports shoot up.

Kenya's monthly import Bill from Uganda jumped more than two-fold to Ksh7.59bn (US\$74.6mn) compared with Ksh2.93bn (US\$28.8mn) in October 2017, marking the highest ever recorded monthly imports value from the land-locked country.

Goods from South Africa stood at Ksh4.60bn (US\$45.2min), a 5.66 percent drop compared with October's value. Kenya largely buys foodstuffs, especially cereals, and electricity from the west-neighbouring country, its biggest trading partner. *(BD, 05.02.18)*

Zambia to Use Angolan Port

A visit to the Rivungo/Shang'ombo Canal at the border of Zambia and Angola by Transport Minister Brian Mushimba and his Angolan counterpart Dr Augusto da Silva Tomas revealed that there was lack of progress on the Zambian side of the

bilateral project compared to the Angolan side which had maritime infrastructure already standing in Rivungo, Angola.

Angola urged Zambia to utilise its transport facility at the Lobito port by importing and exporting through the port which has world class infrastructure. Angola has also invested about US\$1.5bn in the rehabilitation of the Benguela Railway. *(ND, 24.01.18)*

Double Taxation Agreement

Ghana and Ireland have signed a double taxation agreement (DTA) with the view to enhancing the business climate in the two countries. The Minister of Finance, Ken Ofori Attah, signed on behalf of Ghana, while the Irish Ambassador to Ghana, Sean Hoy signed for Ireland.

Ofori Attah said the signing of the Agreement will bring Irish investors and their expertise to Ghana to help the necessary institutional linkages for the benefits of local companies. He added the Agreement will further deepen the bilateral relationship between the two countries and enhance trade.

(Be&FT, 8.02.18)

Exxon to Invest in Ghana

Ghana's oil sector has received a major boost with the recent signing of a major petroleum Agreement between Government of Ghana and one of the World's biggest oil companies, Exxon Mobil Corporation of the US.



for Deepwater Cape Three Points (DWCTP) block-the Tano Basin, in particular.

The Agreement subject to Parliamentary ratification and the first after the historic judgement in favour of Ghana at the International Tribunal of the Laws of the Sea (ITLOS) will allow Exxon to acquire exploration and production rights

(GO, 19.01.18)

Key among the steps is a joint effort by the Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA) and the Export Import (Exim) Bank to offer financial support for the retooling of troubled factories to use state-of-the-art technologies to ensure efficient processing for optimum output. Ghana currently has 13 cashew processing factories, with a total production capacity of about 65,000 metric tonne. (B&FT 18.01.18)

Illegal Fishing Despite Ban

The Department of Fisheries in Kalabo District of Western Province of Zambia has expressed unhappiness over the stance taken by locals to defy the extended fishing ban. District Fisheries Officer, Nancy Mukelabai mentioned that it is regrettable that fishermen and traders have disregarded the ban despite being in force.

Mukelabai, who is also District Agricultural Information Officer (DAIO) believed that the move is against the Fisheries Act.

She, however, said that her Department lacks resources to intensify surveillance patrols and other enforcement measures. The fishermen and traders, respectively, were found to be openly engaged in fish trading in broad daylight.

(LT, 21.03.18)

ICC-BUSAC Trade Strategies

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Ghana, with the support of the Business Sector Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund is advocating for the implementation of strategies that will seek to streamline and simplify international trade procedures.

The Secretary General of ICC Ghana, Emmanuel Doni-Kwame, stated that for the advocacy action to achieve its target of getting the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) implemented, the right synergies with key stakeholders must be secured at the 4th World Customs Organisation's Global Authorised Economic Operator Conference in Kampala.

He added that effective trade facilitation requires efficient trade coordination across the entire supply chain.

(B&FT, 26.03.18)

Kenya Bans SA Meat Imports

Kenya has banned importation and sale of cold processed meat from South Africa (SA), citing recent outbreak of Listeriosis poisoning.

Kepha Ombacho, the Director of Public Health, has asked health officers in the counties and ports of entry to enforce the ban on meat and meat products from Enterprise Food Production Factory and Rainbow Chicken Limited.

The list of affected products includes Bokkie, Renown, Lifestyle and Mieliekip and Polony, Russian and Viennas. A spot check on some of the major supermarkets in Kenya including Tusksys, Naivas and Carrefour did not immediately yield a stocking of meat products from the South African suppliers. (BD, 06.03.18)

RITCO Invests US\$80mn

A Zambian firm, Roland Imperial Tobacco Limited Company (RITCO) has invested US\$80mn in its expansion programme. Company Chairman, Dr Ephraim Mwenda said RITCO was undergoing a rapid expansion programme which would see the creation of hundreds of jobs for the local people.

"In May 2013, RITCO established a cigarette manufacturing plant with an initial investment value of US\$8mn to produce the now popular brands, namely

Life and Guards, both Full Flavour and Menthol, said Dr Mwenda. He mentioned that two more brands would be launched later in the current year.

(DN, 26.02.18)

Zambia Not Ready for AfCFTA

Zambia did not sign the AfCFTA as it was still conducting internal negotiations on some protocols in the Agreement, a Zambian official said. 44 African countries signed the Agreement to launch the AfCFTA during an extraordinary Summit of the AU in Kigali, Rwanda.

Zambia's Foreign Minister Joseph Malanji said Zambia only signed the African Free Trade Area Declaration and not the AfCFTA Agreement, and that Zambia had negotiated the protocol on goods and services and the dispute settlement mechanism.

The remaining protocols, including trade competition, investment and the intellectual property, were yet to be negotiated.

(<http://www.china.org.cn>, 23.03.18)

Reviving Cashew Factories

The Ghana Government has as part of its industrialisation drive outlined measures aimed at reviving all collapsed cashew processing factories in the country to make Ghana a trade hub.

Regional Round Up

ECOWAS Single Currency by 2020

Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have reaffirmed their commitment to meet the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme deadline by 2020.

A communiqué issued by the end of the 5th meeting of Presidential Task Force on the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme in Accra (Ghana) affirmed a gradual approach to achieve the objective of single currency for the sub-region.

Ghana President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo noted that the introduction of a single currency in West Africa would, among other things, help remove trade and monetary barriers, reduce transactions costs, boost economic activities and raise the living standards of the people of the region. (<https://www.graphic.com.gh>, 22.02.18)

SGR to Go Electric

Rwanda and Tanzania are reviewing the designs for the Isaka-Kigali standard gauge railway (SGR) line to accommodate electricity-driven locomotives – the fastest in East Africa. The Isaka-Kigali line was launched in January 2018.

By going electric, the two countries will give the Central Corridor a competitive edge over the Northern Corridor that runs through Kenya.

Kenya's diesel-run SGR trains – launched in May 2017, are currently operating between Nairobi and Mombasa. Rwanda and Tanzania are targeting passenger trains, travelling at up to 160kph and cargo trains at up to 120kph.

(TEA, 18.03.18)

Launching SAATM in 2018

The African Union (AU) Commission is set to launch the first AU Agenda 2063 – flagship project, the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on January 28, 2018, as a historic event at the African Union Summit nearly two decades after the adoption of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision.

Dr Amani Abouzeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy at the African Union Commission said that the launch of the Single African Air Transport Market will spur more opportunities to

promote trade, cross-border investment, tourism, job creation and socio-economic growth of the continent.

(B&FT, 25.01.18)

SAA Draws Revival Plan

South African Airways (SAA) mapped out its turnaround strategy to make the struggling airline more competitive and cost-efficient after reporting a hefty annual loss. SAA, which has not generated profit since 2011, is regularly cited by ratings agencies as a drain on the government purse and survives on state guarantees totalling nearly Rand20bn (US\$1.69bn).

The company's results for the year to March 31, 2017 which had been delayed after the company received a Rand10bn rand government bailout last year showed a deepening loss of Rand5.6bn, a more than threefold increase from the previous year's loss of Rand1.5bn.

(<https://www.cnbc.com>, 29.03.18)

Busia One-Stop Border Post

President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Ugandan counterpart launched the Busia one-stop border post to enhance efficiency at the Kenya-Uganda border. The border post combines the traditional two stops for border processing into one. It is meant

to improve efficiency in immigration clearance and ease the movement of goods and people.

The customs facility comprises offices and space for immigration processes and verification; warehousing and cold rooms for the goods traded across the border; and facilities for expediting trade. The one-stop border posts aim at easing trade in the region and reducing the time it takes to move goods across the East Africa Community EAC. (DN, 24.02.18)

Call for Borderless WA

Ghana has urged members of the ECOWAS to show commitment to a borderless sub-region. The Minister of Interior of Ghana, Ambrose Dery, who made the call indicated that the rationale for forming ECOWAS, which was a borderless West Africa (WA) – still remains relevant and requested member-countries to show commitment.

“Undoubtedly, the success of ECOWAS is hinged greatly on its flagship protocol i.e. Free Movement of Persons, Rights of Residence and Establishment to encourage free mobility of persons and goods within the sub-region by removing obstacles to free movement by Member States”, Dery stated. (B&FT, 22.02.18)

ECOWAS-Turkey Economic Cooperation

The ECOWAS Commission has signed Trade and Investment Cooperation Agreement with the Republic of Turkey as part of efforts to deepen economic cooperation between members of the Sub-regional body and Turkey. The Agreement is seen as a principal step towards institutionalising relations between Turkey and the ECOWAS Commission.



Kalilou Traore, the Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotions of ECOWAS said. Kalilou Traore led the signing of the Agreement in Istanbul, with government officials of Turkey, led by Minister of Economy of the Republic of Turkey, Nihat Zeybekci. (B&FT 26.02.18)

CCPC's Concern on Price Hike

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) of Zambia has observed with concern the sudden increase in the prices of disinfectants in particular chlorine in the wake of the cholera outbreak.

Public Relations Officer Namukolo Kasumba said the increase in the price of chlorine reported to have increased by between 800 percent and 1000 percent. "The Commission has thus taken keen interest in this matter and has launched investigations.

All traders that will be found to have increased the prices of this 'now basic' item without justifiable corresponding increase in the sourcing costs will be taken to task", stated Kasumba.

(<https://zambiareports.com>, 18.01.18)

Reduction in Fuel Taxes

The Executive Director of Chamber of Petroleum Consumers (COPEC), Ghana, Duncan Amoah has called on the National Petroleum Authority (NPA) not to increase fuel prices as this will overburden Ghanaians.

The possible increase in fuel prices in the coming days is partly as a result top the increase in crude oil prices as the performance of the Cedi among others.

"We believe that the special petroleum tax component on the price build-up has gotten to a point where it has to go down completely or get re-positioned altogether to give reduction in fuel prices to Ghanaians", Amoah added.

(CBN, 17.01.18)

Logging Ban of 90 Days in Kenya

The Kenyan Government has imposed a three-month logging ban in the country following widespread outcry over the wanton and consistent loss of forest cover to logging, a fact that continues to expose Kenya to the vagaries of climate change.

The Government has with immediate effect imposed a moratorium on timber harvesting in all public and community forests for a period of 90 days to allow reassessment and rationalisation of the entire forest sector in Kenya.

Deputy President of Kenya William Ruto ordered immediate suspension of timber harvesting in public and community forests for three months.

(SD, 24.02.18)

Instant Services Flourishing

There are clear indicators that bank customers prefer to have instant access to their money as demand for express and

instant services surge. The Chief Executive of Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems Limited (GhIPSS), Archie Hesse said that it is encouraging that patronage for express and instant pay services are experiencing the most growth.

Hesse mentioned that once people have easy access to their money at the bank, they will have more confidence to keep their funds with the financial institutions. Therefore, he encouraged financial institutions to use these express services as tools to attract customers.

(B&FT, 31.01.18)

Law to Remove Lending Cap

The Kenyan Treasury is preparing a consumer protection law to replace the legal caps on commercial lending rates, blamed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for sluggish credit growth to the private sector.

Principal Secretary Kamau Thugge said the programme, which will include a Bill to safeguard borrowers against expensive bank loans, will be presented soon. The government in September 2016 capped commercial lending rates at four percentage points above the central bank's benchmark rate, which stands at 10 percent, and put a minimum deposit interest rate of 70 percent of the benchmark.

(BD, 02.03.18)

CCPC Fines Airtel

The CCPC of Zambia has fined Airtel Networks Zambia PLC Kwacha 600,000 in a matter in which a complaint was raised against the Company for deceiving Internet users.

Facts are that on September 13, 2013 the complainant, Macnicious Mwimba lodged a complaint against Airtel Networks Zambia Plc that it deceived Internet users by providing an Internet service called 'unlimited daily/monthly plan' which, according to him, was in actual fact limited.

The CCPC on February 28, 2018 delivered a judgement and ordered Airtel to pay costs incurred by the complainant to include costs of the proceedings in the last four years.

(LT, 02.03.18)

Creating Consumers' Rights Awareness

World Consumer Rights Day Joint Committee Chairperson Lee Hamunji said that there is need for concerted effort in creating awareness on the rights of consumers. Hamunji said the task of sensitising consumers on their rights should not be left to state agencies alone.

Hamunji mentioned the Joint Committee will use the commemoration of the 'World Consumer Day' to create awareness among members of the general public on their rights as consumers of various products. Hamunji has appealed to the business community in the country to take advantage of the E-commerce.



(LT, 25.01.18)

E-petition Campaign to Prioritise the Passage of the Consumer Protection Law in Ghana

CUTS Accra, Ghana in collaboration with Consumer Protection Agency (CPA) has launched an E-petition campaign to garner 20,000 signatories to get President Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo to prioritise the passage of the Consumer Protection Law before close of the year.



In a Press conference organised to commemorate the ‘World Consumer Rights Day 2018’ and launch the campaign in Accra, the Country Coordinator for CUTS Accra, Appiah Kusi Adomako, called on Ghanaians both home and abroad to support the campaign.

It is only through public support that the issue can be seen on the radar of the Executive and Parliament he added. He called for a strengthened media advocacy and public education to engage the attention of policymakers to prioritise the passage of a comprehensive National Consumer Protection Bill, to replace the current fragmented ones.

Speaking on the theme for global celebration, ‘Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer’, Appiah added that the Day is meant to promote and protect the basic rights of all consumers. For instance, in areas like ensuring the safety of their information and in the financial sector address high interest rates, unfair contract terms on loans and mortgages, ATM fees, hidden charges, security issues, privacy concerns and high taxation and vast inequalities that exist.

In his keynote speech, Chief Executive Officer of the Consumer Protection Agency Kofi Kapito said, “Over the past ten years, there have been various attempts by government through the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) to get into Cabinet the draft Consumer Protection Law.

Four Presidents have come and gone, yet the progress has painstakingly been slow. It is discouragingly disheartening, the tro-tro pace at which government is handling the process. The seeming lack of interest in the law by government can be seen to have stalled the progress”.

Kapito indicated the absence of Consumer Protection Law makes it difficult to do consumer advocacy and consumer protection in the country. Because the country lacks the enabling laws for consumer protection, Ghana has literally become the junkyard for inferior goods.

“As you make your way to shops across the country, one notice that you will come across is: **goods sold are not returnable**. For a manufacturer or merchant to say goods sold are not returnable, it means that the goods are inferior and are not fit for purpose”, Kapito stated.

Kapito added that though there are limited provisions in some legislations like the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) Act 538, National Communications Authority (NCA) 524, Act, and Food and Drug Authority (FDA) that protect Ghanaian consumers, these provisions are scattered in over 40 statutes – and it is even difficult for a smart lawyer to find them.

“Neighbouring countries including Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Nigeria and Cameroon all have a Consumer Protection Law”, mentioned Kapito. He advised customers to boycott such facilities and their products, in order to mount pressure on those manufacturers and merchants to adhere to internationally acceptable standards.

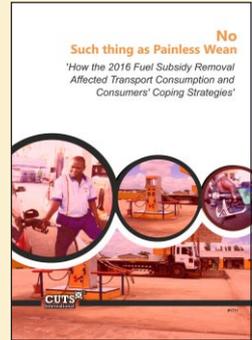
The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI); FDA; National Petroleum Authority’s (NPA’s) Participatory Development Associates (PDA); and 31 media houses.

Publications

Research Reports

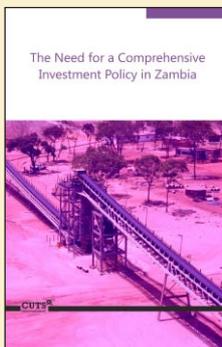
No Such thing as Painless Wean 'How the 2016 Fuel Subsidy Removal Affected Transport Consumption and Consumers' Coping Strategies'

In October 2016, the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) removed subsidies on fuel to let its prices be determined by market forces. It is highly expected that this policy shift had both direct effects on end-users of fuel products and indirectly on consumers of fuel-input intensive goods and services. In this regard, Consumer Unity & Trust (CUTS, Lusaka) and Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR) carried out research aimed at informing public debate and potential policy responses on fuel subsidies and their removal. The objective of the research was to understand how the fuel subsidy removal affected individuals with different incomes residing in both rural and urban areas in Zambia.



This can be accessed at: <http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf>

[How_the_2016_Fuel_Subsidy_Removal_Affected_Transport_Consumption_and_Consumers.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/How_the_2016_Fuel_Subsidy_Removal_Affected_Transport_Consumption_and_Consumers.pdf)



The Need for a Comprehensive Investment Policy in Zambia

This study focusses on the investment policy regime in the Zambian economy in general. This was an interesting exercise given that Zambia was looking to investments as a means for growth, job creation and poverty reduction. Therefore, any diagnosis that tries to point out where the flaws and strengths in the investment regime, is key in informing any policy decision. Therefore, Oxfam and CUTS should be felicitated for initiating this piece of research which is timely as the Ministry of Commerce, Trade & Industry (MCTI) has taken a board decision to officially develop an investment policy that should take into account the contemporary developments on investment. The publication, by undertaking a systematic scoping of existing institutional, legal, policy and regulatory framework associated with investment in Zambia, validates old insights on investment, on one hand, and more importantly provides new insights, on the other.

This can be accessed at:

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/The_Need_for_a_Comprehensive_Investment_Policy_in_Zambia.pdf

Our Twitter Handle (@cutsafrica)



@Cutsafrica March 28: Africa will have its own journal #ScientificAfrican at #Elsevier platform @CUTS_Nairobi @CUTS_Accra @CUTS_Lusaka @AJENews

@CUTS_Accra March 27: Help Ghana get Consumer Protection Law. Sign the e-petition <http://www.change.org>. It takes less than a minute to do so. Please share and retweet @Psm_cuts @samir_cuts @cutsafrica @CUTS_Geneva @CUTS_Lusaka @CUTS_Nairobi

@CUTSNairobi March 20: How does the Buy Kenya Build Kenya strategy apply within the context of @jumuiya integration? Does it align to the Buy East Africa Build East Africa Campaign? #NRG5 #PACT #BKBK

@CUTS_Accra March 21: CUTS Ghana calls on government to enhance domestic revenue collection to address challenges in the health and education sectors

@CUTS_Accra February 20: "Inequality compounded by large inequality which also exist within Ghana on urban and rural lines. It is crucial that the Ghanaian government works to address this spiralling inequality"-@appiahkusi with @BaisiwaDH on @GHOneTV @Psm_cuts @oxfamghana @samir_cuts @naankansah

@CUTS_Lusaka February 05: A study of @CUTS_Lusaka reveals #Zesco still not making money despite massive #tariffs hike @CUTSCCIER @CUTSCART @Psm_cuts

@Cutsafrica January 29: #SingleAfricanAirTransportMarket will boost #connectivity, reduce fares and stimulate #EconomicGrowth

@CUTS_Accra January 08: @CUTS_Accra cautions against the possible abuse of dominance in the Ghanaian local airline industry now that there is only one player in the market

Sources

BD: Business Daily, B&FT: Business & Financial Times, CBN: Citi Business News, CD: Citizen Digital, DG: Daily Graphic, DN: Daily Nation, GO: Graphic Online, GNA: Ghana News Agency, GT: The Ghanaian Times, LT: Lusaka Times, SD: Standard Digital, TEA: The East African, TM: THE MAST, ToZ: Times of Zambia

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