

CCPC named one of world's best competition bodies

The Government has disclosed that Zambia has recorded tremendous development in competition and consumer protection advocacy.

Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry Permanent Secretary, Kayula Siame, said that the development was evident through the breaking of concentrated markets, increased firm entrants in the market and economic diversification.

Mrs Siame noted that the Government believed that competition reforms are a driver for sustainable economic growth and competitiveness, adding that competition in domestic markets was a key ingredient to a country's performance in trade and competitiveness.

Commenting on the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC)'s award of best Competition Authority, by the International Competition Network (ICN) in conjunction with the World Bank, Mrs Kayula said that the award showed that the country had reached higher heights in consumer and competition advocacy.

"The ministry wishes to heartily congratulate CCPC for being named as one of the best competition authorities, and this achievement shows Governments commitment to ensuring businesses and companies compete fairly with each other thereby helping markets to work better," she said.

The International Competition Network (ICN) in conjunction with the World Bank has named the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission as one of the best Competition Authority.

The Commission was awarded the recognition on grounds that it was the best among Competition Authorities that were advocating for Competition in key domestic markets.

The heavily contested awards attracted a total of 43 Competition Authorities from countries around the world, among them France, Kuwait, Kenya and Pakistan Competition Authorities.

The recognition was made at the 2016 ICN Conference in Singapore where CCPC received the winner's prize for its efforts in fostering competition values and principles that enhance consumer welfare in the economy of Zambia.

The Conference had four themes, and the Commission together with France scooped the first prize in the second theme dubbed "Advocating competition in key domestic markets to maximize the benefits of trade".

The second theme sought to recognize the competition agency that created maximum impact on the market that aimed at benefiting consumers and the economy as a whole.

Accepting the prize on behalf of the CCPC, Chief Analyst, Patrick Chengo, thanked the World Bank and ICN for recognizing the work and efforts of the Commission in bettering the Zambian economy.

Mr Chengo stated that the recognition was not only a milestone for the Commission and Zambia as a country, but an achievement which would motivate CCPC to enhance its interventions on competition and consumer protection matters in various sectors of the Zambian economy.

The World Bank and ICN conference created a platform for Competition Authorities to share different techniques and practices used in Competition law enforcement.

At the three-day conference, the Commission was given a platform to share its experience on how its intervention had impacted on the Zambian forestry sub-sector thereby curtailing any form of anti-competitive conduct, a situation



CCPC Chief Analyst, Patrick Chengo, giving a speech after receiving an award on behalf of the Commission.

which resulted in job retention and creation.

The Commission cited the Zambia Forestry and Forest Industries Corporation (ZAFFICO) case it handled in 2014 as one of the cases that had a great impact on all the players in the Forestry sub-sector.

The Commission's intervention meant that ZAFFICO would have to come up with a competitive process of allocating the soft and hard wood licences to both existing and new Saw Millers.

ZAFFICO was directed to come up with a competitive bidding process that would enhance and promote sustainability in the sub-sector.

The results further benefited a cross section of Zambians in various sectors of the economy such as manufacturing and construction among others.

However, the active involvement of CCPC in this situation resulted in the creation of 5000 direct and more than 5000 indirect jobs, thus improving the livelihood of more than 10,000 families in Zambia

A total of 50 small scale saw millers retain their jobs with 500 new entrants in the sector.

The intervention also led to saw millers appreciating and protecting forestry by replanting other trees. This, according to World Bank and ICN, was an intervention which created an economic impact which required noticing and recognition.