

Zambia, Kenya excel in trade

By NKOLE CHITALA
ZAMBIA and Kenya have scored 9.50 points out of 14 points under the inclusive trade policy-making (ITPM) index.

The ITPM index measures the inclusiveness of trade policy-making process in the project countries.

Consumer Unit and Trust Society (CUTS) International Geneva Resource Centre deputy director and research coordinator Rashid Kaukab said Zambia and Kenya scored the highest because of good performance by their ministries responsible for trade, and consistent scores by other group stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society organisation and other government ministries and agencies.

Mr Kaukab said the respective ministries of commerce, trade and industry in Zambia and Kenya have done well regarding the identification

of stakeholders, establishment and functioning of consultative mechanisms and creating awareness about trade policy.

He was speaking during a presentation of research findings from a project called 'Fostering equity and accountability in the trading system' (FEATS) in Lusaka on Monday.

Mr Kaukab, however, recommended that more needs to be done in the identification and inclusion of remaining stakeholders and improving the functioning of consultative mechanisms.

He said although several consultative mechanisms on trade issues have been established, there is need for a legal mandate and adequate resources.

FEATS is a three-year project aimed at building the capacity of relevant stakeholders from Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia through research, public education and networking to enhance positive linkages between trade and development.

The project is carried out to establish two-way linkages between activities in Geneva and in the project countries and generate a more coherent and pro-trade-for-development voice at both the national and international levels.

FEAT is the first phase research focusing on trade policy-making processes and the role of stakeholders in five countries, including Zambia.

Two publications entitled 'Towards More Inclusive Trade Policy-making: Process and Role of Stakeholders in select African countries' and 'Improving Ownership Through Inclusive Trade Policy Making Process: Lessons from Africa' have been published.

The organisation says scores by ministries responsible for trade in Tanzania and Uganda are on the lower side, but weaker areas are different.

Other relevant government ministries and agencies have also scored well, except Tanzania.