



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
**MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**PRESS RELEASE**

P.O. Box 31968  
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**Zambia moves towards electronic means for issuance of import and export trade certificates.**

*“Trade among private sector players projected to exponentially increase”*

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**To All media institutions**

The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI) has supported the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) in developing the electronic Rules of Origin (eRoO) system. The Ministry has also supported the Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Services (PQPS) Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture to develop the back end system for issuance of import and export certificates for plant and plant products.

The support, which has been rendered through the European Union (EU) supported Southern African Development Community (SADC) Trade Related Facility (TRF) Project at the Ministry, has replaced the manual certificates issued by the two institutions and this will in turn help to circumvent the onerous manual process.

Speaking during a virtual launch of the two systems, Mushuma Mulenga, Permanent Secretary, MCTI, said the need to start implementing the electronic systems for RoO and import and export permits and certificates for agricultural products has gained urgency given the challenges that movement of goods across borders is facing.

He said that the challenges which are as a result of inefficiencies associated with manual processes and restrictive measures put in place in response to the coronavirus pandemic were going to be addressed through the automated systems.

“The electronic systems replaces the manual certificates which were issued and will help to circumvent the onerous manual process,” he said.

Mr Mulenga expressed happiness that both systems were developed using local expertise from ZRA and this would go a long way in guaranteeing utmost ownership which is necessary and essential in the management and running of the system.

Meanwhile Dr. Kingsley Chanda, Commissioner General, ZRA said that the development of the eRoO system underscores the importance that the institution attaches to the need to modernize its clearance processes in order to ensure that legitimate trade is facilitated safely and quickly resulting in reduced costs of doing business.

He also added that ZRA’s corporate strategic plan of 2019-2021 reaffirms the commitment towards enhancing process efficiency. This commitment is aimed at

ensuring that ZRA leverages on technology to enhance service delivery and promote compliance by simplifying business processes through relying on ICT systems.

Dr Chanda called upon Manufacturers, Producers and Exporters to register on the electronic System so as to start experiencing the benefits.

And speaking earlier, Dr Kenneth Msiska, Director, PQPS, said that the importance of the agricultural sector in Zambia cannot be overemphasised as trans-boundary plant pests cause significant losses thereby threatening food security and impacting negatively on trade and market access.

“This requires a well-established Phytosanitary Regulatory and trade facilitation system in place,” he said.

He, therefore, explained that with the coming in of the back-end system, field operations of PQPS were expected to be more efficient which will be a direct benefit to stakeholders who include importers and exporters in particular. In addition, this is also expected to improve non-tax government revenue generation

And Mr Fudzai Pamacheche, Key Expert, SADC Trade Related Facility Programme, expressed gratitude that Zambia had completed automation of both the systems based on the SADC RoO and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) framework.

“SADC Rules of Origin are the cornerstone of the SADC intra-regional trade and serve to enable SADC goods from benefiting from the preferential tariff treatment offered under the trade regime. Equally, ensuring that SPS systems are in place and adhere to the generally accepted standards is key,” he said.

He also commended Zambia for the development, which was undertaken by domestic expertise led by the ZRA staff.

He said that in this regard, Zambia has become a reference on which a number of other SADC countries will tap in to share knowledge and even provide them with expertise.

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