



For immediate release

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PRESS RELEASE

Zambia Records Positive Trade Balance with Botswana

The virtual Botswana-Zambia Trade Mission is expected to increase trade volumes and investment prospects between Zambia and Botswana.

LUSAKA– High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia to Botswana His Excellency Mr. Mwansa Kapeya has disclosed that Zambia has to date recorded a positive trade balance with Botswana.

Officiating at the virtual Botswana-Zambia Investment Promotion Trade Mission that took place from September 2 through September 3, 2020, Mr. Kapeya explained that the export volumes between the two countries ranged between US\$ 31 million in 2015 and US\$ 24 million in 2019.

He explained that the mission was just the beginning of the many initiatives for both countries to mutually benefit from each other’s comparative advantage.

Mr. Kapeya cited Zambia’s major exports to Botswana as copper, oil seeds and oleaginous fruits.

He further explained that through the initiation of mutually beneficial bilateral agreements, both countries could harness potential exports such as sugar, cement, honey, dried vegetables and detergents from the Zambian side.

“I therefore encourage local business enterprises to take advantage of this mission to showcase the various avenues for possible business partnerships with their selected Botswana counterparts,” said Mr. Kapeya.

He urged the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) and the Botswana Investment Trade Centre (BITC) to take advantage of the mission, in order to establish a good relationship for future trade and investment missions.

And at the same function, High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana to Zambia His Excellency Mr. Alpheus Matlhaku said the need for enhanced intra-Africa trade could not be

over-emphasized as the continent continued with its efforts to reach high standards of living for its citizens.

Mr. Matlhaku explained that the cordial relations between Botswana and Zambia dated back to the pre-Independence era and were formalised at Independence in 1966.

“The nearly completed Kazungula Bridge Project and the One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) bear testimony to the deep and cordial relations that our two countries have enjoyed over the years,” he said. “It is imperative for all of us to ensure that the improved connectivity brought about by the Kazungula Bridge is fully exploited for mutual benefit.”

Meanwhile, ZDA acting Director General Mukula Makasa pledged the Agency’s commitment to offering a range of business development support services in order to enhance export volumes to Botswana and Africa at large.

The Trade and Investment Mission organized and hosted by the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) in collaboration with the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC), the Botswana High Commission in Zambia and the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry was focused on discussing the trade and investment opportunities available for business enterprises in the two countries. The mission is expected to enhance trade between the two countries.

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About the Zambia Development Agency www.zda.org.zm

The Zambia Development Agency is Zambia’s premier economic development Agency with a multifaceted mandate of promoting and facilitating trade, investment and enterprise development in the country. The Agency is also responsible for building and enhancing the country’s investment profile for increased capital inflows, capital formation, employment creation and growth of the Medium Small and Micro Enterprise (MSME) Sector.