

Business as usual will not transform southern Africa

Lusaka, 01 October 2012 (ECA) - The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) appealed to participants of a training in results based management to apply the acquired knowledge to transform their institution and the sub-region.

Speaking at the closing of a three day results-based management training for COMESA in Chisamba, Zambia, ECA-SA Officer-in-charge Mr. Johnson Oguntola said that the training was not an end in itself but a means towards transforming the socio-economic conditions of southern Africa. "I strongly appeal to you not to take the outcomes of this training as business as usual, but use it to deliver results and address the deficiency of many programmes in the sub-region."

Delivering remarks on behalf of ECA-SA Director, Mr Oguntola said that the purpose of the training was for the participants to acquire and apply the skills to impact and achieve results for social economic growth, regional integration and sustainable development. He said that he hoped that the training will help shift managerial and administrative emphasis from an approach that focuses on processes and activities to one based on performance and results.

Meanwhile, participants said the training was very valuable and appealed to ECA to extend future training to a week. COMESA Human Resource Expert, Ms Joyce Kamau said that the training was an eye opener "The concept of focusing on results, beyond outputs is remarkable. The training will significantly improve achievement of results set in our work plans."

This was echoed by COMESA Competition Commission, Executive Director, Mr George Lipimile, who said that the training was essential and will improve the delivery of work programmes. " This training is very useful, we now know the difference between outputs, outcomes and result which we confuse too often. I appeal to ECA to extend this training to the Competition Commission which is an autonomous body."

The three day training which took place between 26-28 September is the second in a series of trainings planned for two years for regional economic communities, member States and other partners. The first training was conducted in 2011 for COMESA top management.

The thirteen participants included programme staff, management and Heads from other COMESA organs including the Court of Justice, the Common Monetary Institute and the Competition Commission. The training ended with a session on Knowledge management and an introduction to the African Knowledge for Development Networks platform.

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