



Plot 35 Central Street
Jesmondene, Lusaka
info@metazambia.org
www.metazambia.org

PROCUREMENT WORKSHOP IN LIVINGSTONE

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Health and the Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia. It took place on 27 September 2013 at Wasawange Lodge in Livingstone. The participants were drawn from the Provincial Ministry of Health, Livingstone General Hospital, Batoka General Hospital, Choma, Gwembe, Siavonga and Kazungula. The local coordinator for the workshop was Ms Kalaluka Litebele from TIZ Livingstone.

PRESENTATIONS

The workshop started with introduction and a welcome address by the president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia Mr Liyoka Liyoka. This was followed by a brief background about Medicines Transparency Alliance international and MeTA Zambia in particular by Mr Goodwell Lungu. He also discussed the objectives of the workshop being aimed at promoting transparency and accountability in public sector procurement of pharmaceutical products. The workshop's target was the procurement officers in public institutions in Livingstone though from the list of participants, much of Southern provinces had been covered.

And Loyce Lishimpi, formerly of the World Health Organisation in Lusaka and participated in the GGM made the presentation. She discussed Good Governance in Medicines – the results of a WHO/MOH project which was conducted in three phases. The first phase covering National Assessment and an Assessment report produced, the second phase involved the development of national Good Governance for Medicine Programme which was officially adopted by the Zambian government and the third phase has involved the implementation of national GGM programme. The implementation has involved the development of a GGM national strategy.

Ms Lishimpi also looked at the diverse nature of unethical practices in the country's medicines chain. She noted that Zambia's pharmaceutical sector was a target for corruption and unethical practice. Using a diagrammatical representation she listed corruption and unethical practices that occurred at different levels in the medicine chain:



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At R&D and Clinical Trials, Patent, manufacturing, registration, pricing and selection – cartels come up, unethical donations and collusion. At procurement and import there can be falsification of safety/ efficacy data, counterfeit/substandard and conflict of interest. Other vices include unethical promotion, over-invoicing, thefts and bribery affecting the whole chain or specific instances at distribution, inspection, prescription, dispensing and pharmacovigilance.

Mr Lyoko Nyambe from the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority discussed procurement and handling of pharmaceutical products.

Further presentations were from the provincial Anticorruption Commission officer on the provisions of the law regarding corruption and what constituted corruption in procurement in the health sector. Transparency International executive director Goodwell Lungu discussed Citizens Expectation on Procurement of Medicines for public health institutions. He emphasized the fact that citizens viewed shortages and stock outs as manifestations of corruption –the possibility that procurement officers caused deliberate shortages to make urgent procurements that would force increases in prices and hence their own benefit through commissions.

FACILITATORS

Liyoka Liyoka	MeTA Zambia/PSZ
Loyce Lishimpi	Pharmacist formerly with WHO
Goodwell Lungu	MeTA Zambia/TIZ
Anne Mungomba	Southern Province Medical Officer
Kalaluka Litebele	Local coordinator

PARTICIPANTS

Guissimon Phiri	Gwembe
Sinachikupo Nchimunya	Choma/Pemba
Simaimbula Kenao	Kazungula
Chibubi Kaulu	Sinazongwe
Simon Mwala	Livingstone



Daniel Mavu

Livingstone

Watson Mtonga

Zimba

Susiku Nyambe

Kazungula



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