



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

PROCUREMENT WORKSHOP IN LUSAKA

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Health and the Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia. It took place on 22 August 2013 at Amaka Lodge in Lusaka. The participants were drawn from the University Teaching Hospital, Levy Mwanawasa General Hospital, Chainama College Hospital, Churches Health Association of Zambia, Mina Soko Military Hospital and Lusaka District Health Management.

PRESENTATIONS

The workshop started with introduction and a welcome address by the MeTA Zambia chairperson. 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 Lusaka.

Ruth Mundondo from the Zambia Pharmaceutical Business Forum led the discussion where participants shared experiences from their work environment. This was quite difficult as most participants initially appeared unwilling to open up regards their experiences.

Other presentations were from Mr Chikuta Mbewe Director at the Ministry of Health. He emphasized his ministry's concerns

And Mildred Mulenga, a pharmacist at the Ministry of Health discussed Good Governance in Medicines – the results of a WHO/MOH project which was conducted in three phases. She said the first phase covered the National Assessment that resulted in an Assessment report being 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 Mulenga 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



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a diagrammatical representation she listed corruption and unethical practices that occurred at different levels in the medicine chain:

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 Anticorruption Commission on preventing corruption in the procurement of medicines. The ACC discussed the provisions of the Anticorruption Act 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

Lyoko Nyambe	Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority
Liyoka Liyoka	Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia
Hon Lazarus Chota	MeTA Zambia
Mildred Mulenga	Ministry of Health
Chikuta Mbewe	Ministry of Health
Goodwell Lungu	MeTA Zambia/Transparency International Zambia
Masautso Phiri	MeTA Zambia/MISA Zambia
Zindaba Ngwenyama	Video record.



PARTICIPANTS

Amida Kulukulu	LMGH	amidal2002@yahoo.com
Bibian M. Sifwa	LDCMO	nyembamwalukanga@yahoo.co.uk
Morton Khunga	LDCMO	mortonkhunga@yahoo.com
Nathan L. Muzungu	CHCH	lutangumuzungu@yahoo.com or lutangumuzungu@gmail.com
Chazya Sinkombe	CHAZ	chazprof@yahoo.com
Victor Mulubwa		victormulubwa2007@yahoo.com
Sebastian Banda		banda.sebastian@yahoo.com
Israel Siakasasa		isrealsiakasasa@yahoo.com
Joseph M. Sitenge		jsitenge@yahoo.com
Kenneth Chisamanza		kenzanaco@gmail.com
Alfred Munkinyi		



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