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### **BEWARE OF MERCHANTS OF MEDICINES warns MeTA Zambia chairperson Hon Lazarus Chota**

Procurement officers are points of focus for “merchants of medicines products”. This was said by MeTA Zambia chairperson Hon Lazarus Chota when he opened a one day workshop for procurement officers at Amaka Lodge in Lusaka on 22 August.

He told participants from UTH, Levy Mwanawasa General Hospital, Chainama, Maina Soko and Lusaka District Health Management Team he used the word “merchant” because of the manner some of these suppliers market their medicine products.

“So awareness of the dangers inherent in mis-procurement on purchasing large quantities of medicines should be understood by all involved.” he emphasized adding that the topics they would discuss were self-explanatory.

You will discuss Good Governance in Medicine Procurement a presentation by the Ministry of health, Preventing Corruption in Medicines procurement by the ACC, Procurement and Handling Pharmaceutical Products by ZAMRA and Citizens Expectations in Medicines Procurement. by TIZ. All these are important topics for this workshop..” he said.

He reminded participants that the Ministry of Health procurement operations were guided by the Zambia Public Procurement Authority created by the 2009 Act which laid down procedures for public procurement. The procurement methods recommended by ZPPA include: the International Competitive Bidding (ICB); Limited International Bidding (LIB) and; National Competitive Bidding (NCB) which should be familiar to the participants.

“Our hope as MeTA Zambia is that as procurement officers, at your institutions you are abiding by these rules, laws and regulations,” he noted.

He also reminded participants of the sources of funding for procurement of medicines in Zambia. He said the main source of funds was the Zambian government which was supplemented by the cooperating partners.

“I cannot go into details but we all know what has gone on in the past with regard to procurement,” he said.

On today’s workshop, Hon Chota noted, the title for this programme is Awareness on Transparency and Accountability in Procurement of Medicines in Lusaka for officers in public health institutions

“There are two objectives for the workshop namely: Sensitize Procurement and Controlling officers in order to promote medicines price disclosure and secondly Encourage accountability and transparency in line with increased access to quality assured medicines for all, he said, adding MeTA Zambia has targeted public health institutions and



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procurement officers because. Public Health institutions provide the bulk of health requirements for most if not all  
Zambians. Procurement of medicines.



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