

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت

د سوداګرۍ چارو او صنایع وزارت

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جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان

وزارت تجارت و صنایع

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Ministry of Commerce and Industries

## PRESS RELEASE

**The Government of Afghanistan Advises the Business Community to Embrace Competition to Promote Healthy Economic Environment.**

*For immediate release:*

*Kabul: 8 December 2013 - The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industries responsible for*



*Deputy Minister of Commerce & Industries, Motasel Komaki (far left) addressing a gathering in the conference hall during the World Competition Day celebration.*

Private Sector Development, Mr. Motasel Komaki said that the Government of Afghanistan is highly committed to ensuring that competition remains the lifeblood of doing business in Afghanistan. Mr. Komaki said this during this year's commemoration of World Competition Day held at the Ministry's Head

office in Kabul. He reminded those who attended the function that competition is healthy in every economy as it keeps every player on their toes while trying to win consumers. He pledged government's support to create an enabling environment for the private sector development, noting that the private sector is the engine of growth in even fragile economies.

This year's theme for World Competition Day celebration is **Impact of Cartels on the Poor**. Speaking in reference to the theme, the Director of Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Directorate (CPCPD), Mr. Hafizullah Walirahimi deplored cartels, saying they harm the well-being of the poor. He stressed that "there was evidence that cartelization raises price and over-charges consumers", leaving the poor with no better options. "If all firms compete vigorously, prices should be low enough for consumers to benefit". He added that the theme was more relevant to Afghanistan because it raises the importance of the need for effective coordination between the competition authorities to fight cartels and eliminate them.

Also speaking during the occasion, President of Afghanistan Board of Entrepreneurs, Mr. Haji Ahagh said that the business community appreciates the importance of competition in contributing towards the growth of national economy and offering quality goods and services to the consumers. He however, urged the government to expedite the operationalization of the competition law so that its rightful role is fully realized. He said he was grateful that the government has formed a National Competition Board (NCB) to take charge of the operationalization of the law.

The celebration was attended by officials from various government ministries, the private sector and partner organizations such as Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan, Afghan National Standards Authority, UNDP and the Civil Society Organizations.

World Competition Day is commemorated on 5<sup>th</sup> December each year, but Afghanistan celebration the day on 8<sup>th</sup> December due to the national calendar's dictates. The country has joined the international community in celebrating the day for the third year running since 2011.

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