

Study says red tape driving import costs up

Import procedures in Zimbabwe consume much more time and are much more costly than what the country's exporters incur to fulfil the same procedures in other countries, new trade statistics have revealed.

A document entitled *Trading Across Borders in Zimbabwe* published by the World Bank, indicates that while the country has suffered massive shortages of locally manufactured goods including food, government has not reviewed its policies to make it easy for importers who are augmenting local supplies.

This, the document said, has discouraged the importation of goods by making prices of imported goods in Zimbabwe more expensive compared to the region.

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