



**KENYA TRADE NETWORK AGENCY (KENTRADE)**  
*Simplifying Trade Processes for Kenya's Competitiveness*

**SPEECH BY MR. AMOS WANGORA, ACTING CEO OF KENTRADE,  
DURING THE LAUNCH OF MOMBASA TRADE FACILITATION OFFICE  
ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2015**

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**Salutations**

- Chairman & Board Members Present
- CEOs Present (Juma Tellah, Gilbert Langat...)
- Port Community & PGAs representatives
- My fellow colleagues
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good Evening!

Let me first take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for honouring our invitation to join us in the official launch of the Trade Facilitation Office here in the port city of Mombasa. Your presence here this evening is a clear indication of the importance that you attach to the implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System and by extension your relationship with us at KenTrade.

As fate would have it this event comes in the wake of the send of our founding CEO, the late Alex Kabuga whose pioneering efforts culminated into setting up the Office we are commissioning today. Indeed the best way of promoting his legacy is to remain steadfast to the success of the Kenya TradeNet System whose implementation is now at the conclusive phase. I am sure he is happy where he is with this milestone.

**Milestones**

When we were last here in August this year at Bandari College for the routine stakeholder's engagement forum we had the opportunity to update representatives of the Port Community on the progress of with core mandate which is trade facilitation through implementation of the National Electronic Single Window System also known as Kenya TradeNet System.

Just like other previous forum of similar nature, we also had the opportunity to directly interact with the traders, and to benefit from their useful feedbacks on experience with the System.

As part of the deliberate efforts to address some of the challenges and concerns raised during our previous interactions, we have since our last meeting made some gains. The milestones include the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between KenTrade and umbrella body for Clearing and Forwarding Agents (KIFWA) in Nairobi which preceded a consultative forum with the KIFWA representatives from across the country.

The MoU objective was to document the realization that importers/exporters and other stakeholders involved in trade logistics industry in Kenya and the EAC region need to be facilitated in order to improve the way we do business especially the cargo clearance processes; The MoU was signed by myself and the KIFWA National Chairman, Mr. Auni Bhaji and witnessed by World Bank Group representative Mr Mpelwa Sichilima. I believe the KIFWA Secretariat has released the details of the MoU to members.

Apart from the MoU, we also had very fruitful discussions with the Board of Directors and key issues of which some of you have raised in the past were discussed. So in a nutshell we cemented our relationship with KIFWA. This is the direction that we want to take with other stakeholders, having a formal and documented relationship that will improve service delivery to our stakeholders.

Earlier on we also hosted in our office a delegation from the Trade Facilitation Association of Kenya (TRAFK) for deliberations that broke new grounds in trade facilitation in Kenya and which, together with expected signing of the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) of Port Community will hopefully advance Government transformative agenda on cross border trade.

The other key milestone worth noting was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) in October. The bilateral agreement with the development partner was among the many structured engagements on KenTrade's agenda aimed at improving its service delivery to the customers especially on its key mandate: Trade Facilitation.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As most of you may be aware by now, the World Bank recently released its latest report on **Ease of Doing Business** that records Kenya's impressive improvement in global competitiveness.

Kenya is now ranked position **108 up from 136** and listed among the world's top 10 "improvers" – way above regional competitors Uganda (122) and Tanzania (139). Kenya's gains in the latest World Bank ranking is undoubtedly partly because of the robust port reforms initiatives spearheaded by His Excellency the President as evidence with the signing of the Port Charter that binds respective members to certain time specific deliverables. We are confident that Kenya will make more impressive score in the coming year with the full implementation of the System that brings together over 27 Port agencies into a seamless cargo clearance platform.

## **Project Status**

Since the initial roll out on October 31, 2013, we have made significant progress in the System implementation and you will be updated on this during the PowerPoint presentation to be done shortly.

But to just to inform you, so far we have successfully implemented 17 modules and their functionalities which are currently live and stakeholders are already submitting/processing documents through the System as you will see in the presentation. The System has also been integrated with over 24 banks and two Mobile payment solutions through the Kenya Revenue (KRA) iTax system. This has made it possible for the traders to submit documents and make payments to the Government electronically.

We have held numerous trainings and sensitizations in major parts of the Country and mainly at the Border points. Training for the System Users is a continuous process and we have trained over 5,000 people on how to use the System.

## **Challenges**

It is obvious that the implementation of such a cross cutting and complex system cannot be without challenges. I am glad to say that setting up this Office in Mombasa is among numerous interventions that we are putting in place to ensure that we proactively engage with our Customers, the End Users of the System and also key stakeholders including the Partner Government Agencies. KenTrade and its partner institutions are committed to addressing the challenges and will be updating the traders where necessary.

## **Conclusion**

Let me conclude by saying that the commission of this Trade Facilitation Office is a major milestone and part of strengthening our trade facilitation mandate across the Key border posts. We continue to cherish and value the significant contribution of all users of the System and look forward to greater prospects in 2016.

Finally, I wish to thank the Investment Climate Facility (ICF) for its support through the partnership with the Government of Kenya that has enabled KenTrade to set up this Office that we are commissioning today.

**AMOS WANGORA**

**November 19, 2015**