



Your G2B trading partner

Simplifying Trade Processes for Kenya's Competitiveness

SPEECH BY GEN JOSEPH R. KIBWANA (Ret) EGH, CBS, CHAIRMAN KENTRADE DURING KENTRADE BOARD OF DIRECTORS INDUCTION HELD AT FAIRMONT MOUNT KENYA SAFARI CLUB ON JUNE 29, 2015

Salutation

- KenTrade Board Members present
- Ag.CEO, KenTrade Mr. Amos Wangora
- Divisional and departmental heads present
- Representatives of Partner Agencies
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Goodmorning!

1. I am glad to join and to welcome you to be part of this retreat, as it is one of the important events that we as the KenTrade Board have been looking forward. As we all know that the outcome of some of the deliberations that we shall be having will be instrumental to the success of KenTrade. For those of you who are meeting the Board members for the first time, I urge you to familiarize yourselves with them and know how they can contribute towards the success of your various activities.

I must also acknowledge the presence of one of our main partners, the IFC- Worldbank group represented by Mr Mupewa Sichilima and Ms Akinyi Gikonyo who I must also note are meeting some of the costs related to this workshop.

2. Let me commence by saying that I met with the KenTrade management on Thursday last week, and we had very fruitful discussions, including making resolutions which I believe will make KenTrade a great institution not only for the management and staff, but for those who will come after we have long left the institution.

I want to assure the Board that the team here is indeed a great team, greatly endowed with diverse skills and are up to the task. The events taking place here over the next two days are critical because they will enable the new Board Members have an insight into the Structures, Operations and Services of KenTrade.

3. As you are all aware, the oversight and policy guidance mandate of the Board requires that we have clarity on our stated Vision, Mission and most significantly the strategic direction. As Managers, you are accountable to the Overall Board through respective Board Committees where your performance are aligned. This therefore requires that in our oversight role there should be systematic, practical and result based engagements for which we shall hold you as the management accountable.

4. I also wish to point out that the commencement of our work as the Board and the holding of this Retreat could not have come at a better time when KenTrade is getting set for a new Financial Year for 2015/2016. This means that we will starting the financial year when all of us are on the same page.

Towards this end, am happy to note that the His Excellency the President in his wisdom appointed a Board with varied expertise and experience to ensure ideas are fresh and innovative even as

we uphold continuity with policy oversight on the Agency's operations.

Suffice to say the previous Board of Directors had also put in place the requisite structures to ensure that the mandates that was given to the Agency by the Government 4 years ago, are delivered in accordance with the National Laws, Regulations and Policies. This implies that if we are to continue steering the Agency to achieve its stated mission, our success will largely depend on the foundation that they had laid.

5. Our vision at KenTrade remains to be a 'World Class Trade Facilitator'. It is our conviction that this vision is what has been the driving force behind the notable milestones that have been achieved in the past. But to move forward, we must appreciate the past achievements as we strive for the future. To this end, I would like to highlight a few but key milestones that KenTrade has been able to achieve so far:

- Official launch of the Kenya TradeNet System in May 2014.
- Implementation of 18 out 20 Kenya TradeNet System module (We will get detailed presentations of the Single Window System and Kenya TradeNet System in particular)
- KenTrade Draft Bill has been finalized
- The July 1, 2015 Cut – Off Day as announced by the Principal Secretary, Dr. Kamau Thugge is only a day away.

These are just but a few achievements and I am sure that adequate presentations have been prepared to capture these issues in detail in addition to what I have not mentioned.

6. **KenTrade's Niche;** From my assessment and having been privileged to be part of the Agency especially at its formative stage

for 3 years, it is my firm belief that KenTrade has found its niche among other Partner Government Agencies and is now strategically positioned to play a key role in improving business environment in this country. But we still need the commitment, dedication and hard work as we have previously demonstrated if we are to remain relevant.

7. As I conclude it befits to say that we have indeed received good financial support from development partners mainly from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Investment Climate Facility (ICF) for Africa with the later's support coming to a conclusion at the end of April 2015. We will continue knocking their doors for assistance and we believe the much needed support will be availed.

8. Finally, as your Board, we will be dedicated towards enhancing your strategic goals, upholding the institutions corporate values, and promoting the culture of good corporate governance.

9. I look forward to fruitful discussions over the next 2 days and I now have the pleasure to declare this retreat officially opened.

I Thank You all.
June 29, 2015