



Your G2B trading partner

KENYA TRADE NETWORK AGENCY (KENTRADE)

Simplifying Trade Processed for Kenya's Competitiveness

SPEAKING NOTES FOR KENTRADE CHAIRMAN GEN. JOSEPH R. KIBWANA (RET), CBS, EGH, DURING THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF MOMBASA TRADE FACILITATION OFFICE ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2015

Salutations!

- National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Mr. Henry Rotich
- County Executive Trade and Industrialization Mr. Mohamed Abdi
- Chief Executive Officer, Investment Climate Facility for Africa, Mr. Wiliam Asiko
- Chief Executive Officers present
- Partner Government Agencies present
- KenTrade Board members and staff
- Invited Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening!

A very warm welcome to you all this evening.

On behalf of the entire Board, Management and Staff of the Kenya Trade Network Agency and indeed on my own behalf I welcome you to the official opening of our trade facilitation office here in Mombasa.

We are indeed delighted to have all of you here today and I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to our Cabinet Secretary at the National Treasury Mr. Henry Rotich for accepting our request to officially preside over the launch of KenTrade's Trade Facilitation Office in Mombasa today.

Equally I wish to recognize the presence of the County Executive Trade and Industrialization Mr. Mohamed Abdi for finding time to join us during this auspicious occasion.

The milestone we are witnessing today would not have been achieved without the kind financial support of the Investment Climate Facility for Africa, (ICF) that not only provided the initial commitment funds for this centre but also provided resources to partition, furnish and equip this centre. In this regard we are deeply indebted to the ICF and on behalf of KenTrade and the country at large, I wish to extend our appreciation to ICF represented here today by the Chief Executive Officer Mr. William Asikofor the continuous support and for being here to witness this event.

This Centre has been opened with the sole purpose of bringing our services closer to our stakeholders without whom we would have no reason to exist as KenTrade. For this reason I wish to recognize all our stakeholders, both public and private who are here today for believing in the TradeNet System and for supporting us at every step of this journey. We assure you of our continued commitment to deliver to you our best services both in this Centre and other centres that we will be operating from.

Incidentally the launch of this office coincides with the 2nd Anniversary of the Go – Live of the Single Window System in Kenya. It is now exactly two years since we went live with the TradeNet System and the two years have provided us with numerous lessons that continue to inform the operations of the TradeNet System. We are now at a point where we are able to assess the road that we have gone through since we started on this initiative and build the lessons in the activities that we plan for the next couple of years.

During this period, different Users of the Systems have had different experiences and I am happy that some of the feedback we have received includes testimonies such as:

- Permit application is online and one does not have to make numerous trips to Government Agencies to secure the permits
- Clearing agents/ importers are now able to attach scanned copies of all documents and hence need not to physically present approved permits to various PGAs to get cargo clearance.
- Business community now taking about one day down from 2 weeks in some cases to get approval from PGAs after submission of permits
- The manifest is distributed to all PGAs and other stakeholders who require it to process documents immediately after approval and therefore Ships agents are not required to distribute hard copies of manifest and hence are saving on fuel and stationary
- Traders are not required to fill forms at the banks but just present a copy/reference number of the e-slip making the process of payments faster

The above feedback continues to encourage us and as we focus on the road ahead, our mandate as KenTrade will remain that of trade facilitation through the implementation, operationalization and management of the Kenya TradeNet System. As the Ag. CEO has just articulated in his speech the implementation of the System is nearing completion and the next phase for us as KenTrade is to ensure that the TradeNet System remains sustainable and continues to play its role of making it easier for the business community to carry out their business activities.

We are however aware that a few challenges exist especially due to the Declaration module that is yet to be fully rolled out but I want to assure our stakeholders that we are working closely with KRA and KPA to ensure that work in this area is finalized.

Finally distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, as we seek to increase the quality and timeliness of our service delivery we continue to urge you as our stakeholders, to give us feedback through the available channels that have been set including visiting the office being launched today. I am confident that we have the right human resource at KenTrade, but ability to make it happen must encompass all the stakeholders and your feedback that will fuel our drive to serve you better.

With these remarks, I once again wish to express our appreciation to the Cabinet Secretary to the National Treasury for the continued support that he has personally rendered to KenTrade especially his intervention when we required more resources and we assure you that we will continue discharging our mandate with diligence. Again I want to thank the ICF for their support and we look forward to working with you in other projects that lie ahead of us that will ensure that the Single Window System that you worked so hard to make a reality is sustainable.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I now invite the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Mr. Henry Rotich to deliver his keynote address and subsequently launch the KenTrade Mombasa office.

I thank you all for your attention.

Gen. Joseph Kibwana (Ret) CBS, EGH
Friday November 20 2015