For Immediate Release

CARGO CLEARANCE USING THE KENYA SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM TAKES EFFECT

August 1, 2014 Nairobi, Kenya................. Importers of Cargo into Kenya will now be required to apply for Import Declaration Forms (IDFs) through the Kenya National Electronic Single Window System (Kenya TradeNet) and at the same time to apply for Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) consignment approval through the same System effective August 1, 2014.

According to the Kenya Trade Network Agency (KenTrade) Chief Executive Officer, Alex Kabuga, this requirement follows successful piloting of the electronic permits module of the Kenya TradeNet System and is part of the ongoing rollout of the System aimed at simplifying trade processes for Kenya's competitiveness. "We are determined to build a strong cooperation with stakeholders in ensuring that the Kenya TradeNet System is effectively implemented to expedite clearance of goods. I am optimistic that effective implementation of the System will reduce the cost of doing business due to online clearance and simplified procedures" he said.

He added that the System is currently able to process pre-clearance documents including import and export permits from Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA), Pharmacy & Poisons Board (PPB) and Port Health. The system is also used to apply for and approve Kenya Revenue Authority's Import Declaration Form (IDF).

KEBS Managing Director, Charles Ongwae, reiterated that the new rule takes effect on August 1, 2014. "Under the new rule that takes effect on August 1, 2014, cargo importers with hard copies of clearance documents (such as customs declaration) presented at the entry points for goods whose IDFs were processed

through the Kenya TradeNet system must also include a copy of the KEBS consignment document from the Kenya TradeNet System" he said.

Kenya Revenue Authority's Simba System, Kenya Ports Authority's KWATOS System and Kenya Plant Heath Inspectorate Service's system, which play central roles in cargo clearance, have already been integrated with the Kenya TradeNet System to enable electronic lodgment, processing, and sharing of Import Declaration Forms (IDF) and Manifests (Sea and Air)_among stakeholders. Integration with Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) system is currently ongoing.

KenTrade completed piloting for Phase 1 of the electronic Permits module in March this year. The organisation has embarked on Phase 2 of implementation of the electronic Permits module with piloting set to start in August 2014 for the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), Kenya Sugar Board (KSB), Kenya Dairy Board (KDB), National Biosafety Authority, Ministry of Mining, Coffee Board of Kenya (CBK) and Kenya Radiation Protection Board.

On processing of manifests, KENTRADE has completed piloting with bulk cargo and motor vehicles. For containerized cargo, piloting was completed in July 2014. KENTRADE plans to roll out the final phase of the project, the Declaration Submission module, which will enable electronic lodgment of declarations to Customs for processing by September this year.

During the recent launch of the Port of Mombasa Community Charter, President Uhuru Kenyatta remarked that the integration of all port community stakeholder systems with the Kenya TradeNet System should be accomplished by December 2014.KenTrade has been involved in the development of the Mombasa Port Charter including working with other stakeholders in setting up specific Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for each of the key players at the port.

The Kenya TradeNet System was officially launched by His Excellency President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda on invitation by His Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya on May 02, 2014. The system, developed by CrimsonLogic, a leading provider of e-Government solutions and services headquartered in Singapore went live in October 2013 on pilot basis, with the processing of pre-clearance documentation from 7 government agencies. Once fully operational, the Kenya TradeNet System will provide a single entry point for importers and exporters to electronically submit and receive approvals from twenty four regulatory agencies, enabling an easier, faster, cheaper and more transparent cargo clearance process.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES

About Kentrade

The Kenya Trade Network Agency (KENTRADE) is a State Corporation under the National Treasury mandated to among other things, implement, operationalize and manage the Kenya National Electronic Single Window System as well as other trade facilitation initiatives. The Single Window System (also dubbed as the KenyaTradeNet System) is an electronic platform which integrates electronic systems international trade transactions with an aim of simplifying clearance processes of cargo passing through Kenyan borders. Additional info at www.kentrade.go.ke

About Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)

Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) is a State Corporation established under the Standards Act, CAP 496 that is mandated to among other things carry out inspection of imported products in order to ensure that only quality goods enter the country. Additional info www.kebs.org

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