

**For Immediate Release**

***Lead the Change .....National Treasury urges Government Agencies and Private Sector to embrace the Single Window System***

***Nairobi Friday January 23, 2015.....*** Key stakeholders of the National Electronic Single Window System (Kenya TradeNet) have been urged to take lead of change in their institutions to ensure successful implementation of the National Electronic Single Window System (Kenya TradeNet) which is a critical enabler in the delivery of Kenya's Vision 2030.

In a speech read on his behalf by Ag. Director of Administration at the National Treasury Ms. Margaret Muiru at a workshop organized for government agencies and the private sector to share best practices on change alignment for the Single Window System, Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury Mr. Henry Rotich said the Government was focused on the objective behind implementation of System as it was one of the measures that would lead to the economic recovery by improving the investment climate in the country.

He said the Government expect the usage of the System to improve Kenya's ranking in the World Bank Doing Business Index which currently stands at position 136 out of 189 Globally to improve. "The uptake and indeed overall success of the System as part of the change management process will enable the Government to facilitate trade by sealing off revenue leakages, eliminating wastages and avoidable backlogs and congestions at our Ports and in effect boost efficiency at the Ports," he said. He noted that once fully implemented the System would remove subjectivity since it is an electronic platform with minimum human intervention hence it enhances transparency in the whole trade logistics process.

He said that a fully operational Kenya TradeNet System would entail implementation of 20 Modules and key functionalities, 16 of which have been successfully completed while the implementation of 4 Modules & functionalities (Security Bonds; Declaration Submission; Exemptions Module and Outbound Processes) is ongoing and expected to be completed by February 28, 2015.

He noted that the Permit module has been operational since Go-Live of the System in October 2013 and that the overall target was to have all the 24 Partner Government Agencies involved in cargo clearance to be integrated with the Kenya TradeNet System in line with the Port Charter.

He also cited other ongoing activities at KenTrade such as Phase 3 Training for Partner Government Agencies, and Clearing & Forwarding Agents which are due for completion later this month. He also noted that the Piloting and End User Training for of the Declaration Module were running concurrently and were due for completing at the end of February.

He also revealed that National Treasury was putting in place a Government Payment Gateway to ensure that all payments to the Government by citizens and business is done electronically, adding that the Payment Gateway will integrate with the Single Window platform to facilitate an end-to-end electronic solution to business trade logistics in Kenya.

Speaking at the same event, KenTrade CEO Mr. Alex Kabuga said often times, electronic procedures are duplicated with manual mandatory procedures and does not include all major government agencies involved in cargo clearance.

He added that a lot more still needs to be done to cut the red tape and reduce trade transaction costs, and implementation of the Kenya TradeNet and paperless trade systems is crucial in addressing some of the challenges hindering smooth facilitation of trade in the country. "A fully automated and integrated procedure, developed in consultation with business, would ensure success of the Kenya TradeNet System". He said. He thanked the development partners who have supported the Kenya TradeNet System particularly the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF), International Finance Corporation ( IFC ) and the TradeMark East Africa (TMEA)

Equally important were the presentations, ideas and proposals made by stakeholders to share experiences and knowledge on how to work towards successful implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System. Director General Kenya Maritime Authority Nancy Karigithu commended KenTrade for organizing such forums. "There is need to seek greater collaboration and to provide agencies involved in the implementation of the Single Windows with more information on trade logistics," she said

Kenya International Freight & Warehousing Association (KIFWA) National Chairman Boaz Makomere was enthusiastic about the efforts tangible benefits that KIFWA was already realizing with the implementation of the various modules in the Kenya TradeNet System. He stated that KIFWA was fully supporting the Single Window System.

Kenya Ships Agents Association Chief Executive Officer, Juma Tella attributed the uptake in the usage of the Kenya TradeNet System to the continued stakeholders engagement that has enabled KenTrade to roll out the modules. "This project has been embraced by all stakeholders due to the frequent engagements between KenTrade and its stakeholders," he said.

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.

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.

Kenya TradeNet System being implemented by State Agency, KenTrade was launched on May 2, 2014 by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda during a regional Heads of State Summit that was also attended by President Uhuru Kenyatta and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Vice President of South Sudan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of Burundi and Prime Minister of Tanzania

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#### **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 (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](http://www.kentrade.go.ke)

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