

Facilitating Trade for Kenya's competitiveness

Pictorial



*APTION: KenTrade Chairman **Gen. Joseph Kibwana (Ret)** welcomes Singapore Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and for Home Affairs, **Mr Masagos Zulkifli** (left) during a meeting at a Nairobi hotel. Looking on is the CEO of KenTrade **Mr. Alex Kabuga**, KenTrade's General Manager Support Service **Mr Amos Wangora** and Consultant **Mr Solomon Raj** of CrimsonLogic (Singapore)*

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KENTRADE WELCOMES SINGAPORE MINISTER

Singapore is keen on exploring trade opportunities with Kenya and is looking forward to bilateral trade pacts that will boost investment, trade and travels between the two countries.

This was said in Nairobi by the visiting Singapore Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and for Home Affairs, **Mr Masagos Zulkifli** during a meeting with officials from state agency, Kenya Trade Network Agency (KenTrade).

Mr Zulkifli said his Government had initiated discussion with Kenya on how the airlines of the two countries can make direct passenger and cargo flights between Singapore and Kenya to promote trade and investments.

“I have asked my Kenyan counterpart Ambassador Amina Mohammed that we look on how we can make substantive agreement between the two countries so that investments can flow both ways between Kenya and Singapore, “he said in Nairobi at the start of his visit to Kenya and Tanzania.

The Minister was hopeful that Kenya Airways and Singapore Airlines will soon begin direct flights as a step of facilitating trade and investments between the East African and Asian big economies.

His delegation included High Commissioner of Singapore to Kenya and Rwanda **Mr Yatiman Yusof, Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE)** Chief Executive Officer **Mr Kong Wy Mun**, Head of CrimsonLogic’s Solutions & Consulting **Mr Jonathan Koh Tat Tsen**, and Deputy Director, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa Directorate **Ms Sheela Pillai Quah**.

The KenTrade delegation was led by Chairman **Gen. Joseph Kibwana(Ret)** and included CEO **Mr Alex Kabuga**, General Manager Support Services **Mr Simon Kiplangat**, General Manager Operations **Mr Amos Wangora** and Corporation Secretary and Head of Legal Affairs **Mrs Beatrice Kosgei**.

The significance of the meeting lay in the fact that Kenya relied on Singapore's experience and expertise in the development of the its cargo clearance system, Kenya TradeNet System that was launched in Nairobi five weeks ago by Presidents of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan together with Prime Minister of Tanzania and deputy President of Burundi.

“Indeed when the story of how KenTrade has impacted on lives of Kenyan people through its mandate is finally written, the Republic of Singapore will be part of its great narrative given the instrumental role that your Government through the Singapore Enterprise Corporation (SEC) has played in the delivery of our core mandate,” Gen.Kibwana said in his remarks.

He said KenTrade's engagement with Singapore through the SEC dates back to January 2010 when a high powered Kenyan delegation to Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The technical assistance for implementation of the Kenya National Electronic Single Window System was one of the Vision 2030 flagships projects that were covered under the MoU.

“One of the frequently questions on our mandate delivery is why we settle for Singapore as a strategic partner in the implementation of such a complex and cross cutting project. We did so because of Singapore's consistent high ranking in the annual Transparency International report, the World Bank's Doing Business Report and the experience, mastery of Electronic Single Window Management and the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2011 ranking in Port Efficiency and Cross Border Trade,” he said.

Mr Zulkifli who earlier held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Ambassador Amina Mohamed said the world was experiencing a global shift in favour of Asia and Africa.

“This is the new age where Africa and Asia is going to grow much, much faster than what we were doing before. Infact this is the age when Asia and Africa will likely be basis of growth that will exceed that of Europe and America. I am hopeful that both governments will be serious about looking at various means to improve our trade and investment and people to people flow and that this will be one of our first favourite places to go to for our Singapore people investments for, even friendly business environment,” he said

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

About Kentrade

- Kenya Trade Network Agency (KenTrade) is a State Agency under the Ministry of National Treasury with the mandate to facilitate external trade and implement the Kenya National Electronic Single Window System (KNESWS) which is simply known as the Kenya TradeNet System. The System is platform that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. It was officially launched in Nairobi on May 2nd 2014 at a presidential event witnessed by Heads of State and Government delegation from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Uganda. Additional info at www.kentrade.go.ke

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