For immediate Release

Nairobi January 15th 2014……….Kenya Trade Network Agency

The Implementation Status of Kenya TradeNet

Kenya National Electronic Single Window System (KNESWS) also known as Kenya TradeNet went Live on pilot basis and commenced Roll-Out of the various modules on October 31, 2013 at 23:59hrs as scheduled. The roll out of Kenya TradeNet that is being implemented by State Agency KENTRADE, marked the transitioning of Kenya from the existing multiple manual systems by various stakeholders in cargo import and export documentation into a single electronic cargo clearance platform.

KENTRADE together with Joint Stakeholder's Technical Team (encompassing all port based state agencies) adopted a "soft launch" approach in the form of a phased roll out of various modules after the System Go–Live as opposed to the "big –bang" approach. This approach was necessitated by the cross-cutting nature and size of the System transactions and also borrowing from experiences in the implementation and roll-out out of Single Window Systems in other countries.

The System is accessible 24/7 via portal address https://kenyatradenet.go.ke or through our official website www.kentrade.go.ke to stakeholders in trade logistics industry and is currently processing live transactions with the selected groups during this piloting phase ending January 31st before phased roll out to all groups and stations. The ongoing pilot phase involves 9 out of 24 Government agencies and 40 private sectors companies involved in cargo clearance processes at the Port of Mombasa, JKIA and land border posts.

KENTRADE technical team are working together with technical staff from the nine (9) Government Agencies who are involved in the Live Piloting Phase to offer technical support to private sector companies who are participating in the pilot phase.

The October 31st roll out of the Kenya TradeNet is an important milestone as it marked the beginning of automation of cargo documentation processes by integrating Systems of all key stakeholders involved in cargo clearance such as Kenya Revenue Authority and Kenya Ports Authority among others.

The services that rolled out in October 31, 2013 include: Pre – Clearance documentation which includes Impending Arrival Report (IAR), Import Declaration Form (IDF), Import/Export permits and electronic payment of the above documents. This will incrementally be expanded to include other documents like the Sea/Air manifest and declaration.

Other modules will be gradually incorporated in subsequent roll out and will involve: Integration with other Government Agencies, Dynamic Risk Management, Road Manifest Module and Declaration module for land. Kenya TradeNet shall supplement the current systems such as the KRA SIMBA and KPA KWATOS to work together in order to ease trade facilitation in the country but will not replace any existing system.

Kenya TradeNet was also successfully integrated with the National Payments System (NPS) via a Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Payment Gateway on October 31st 2013 to ensure an end-to-end electronic solution in trade logistics thus enabling exporters and importers to apply for import and export permits online and pay for the same electronically through the Payment Gateway.

The implementation of Kenya TradeNet will contribute to elimination of inefficiencies, wastage and delays that are associated with the Port of Mombasa, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport cargo terminals and land border posts. The Project is the first of its kind in Kenya and is aimed at improving Kenya's global and regional competitiveness through integration of import cargo clearance and trade logistics processes.

Latest global ranking by World Bank on Ease of Doing Business showed that Kenya had dropped by 7 points from position 122 in 2012/2013 to 129 in 2013/2014 while Rwanda which relies on Kenyan ports for import clearance had improved by 22 points from number 54 to 32.The Single Window System is funded jointly by the Government of Kenya and the Investment Climate Facility (ICF).It has also received support from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA).

Training of System End Users

On September 2013, KenTrade through funding from investment Climate Facility embarked on the training process for end users of the Single Window System. The Agency through a public notice in the national newspapers and in its social media platforms invited applications for training on the Single Window System use.

Targeted were institutional nominees of Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association (KIFWA i.e. Clearing and Forwarding Agents), Kenya Ships Association Agents (Ships Agents), Container Freight Stations (CFSs), Ground Handlers of cargo at the airport (GHAs), Exporters and Importers and private sector players including the insurance and banking industry.

KENTRADE partnered with key stakeholder organisations including the Kenya International Freight and Warehouse Association (KIFWA) to conduct end user training for target groups in Nairobi, Mombasa, Malaba, Busia, Isebania, Namanga and Taveta border stations. A total of 1,610 personnel drawn from the various stakeholder organisations were trained on the rolled out modules between November 11, 2013 to December 18, 2013.

The second round of end user training will be advertised in the papers soon and will cover modules geared for roll out in the subsequent phases.However steps are being taken to ensure that all deserving cases especially those with proof of submission of applications for the End User Training as per the Public Notice are trained.

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Additional information:
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) The Electronic Single Window 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. Key stakeholders – includes Kenya Revenue Authority, Kenya Ports Authority, Kenya Bureau of Standards, Tea Board of Kenya, Kenya Bankers Association, Kenya Shipping Council, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services, Kenya association of Manufacturers, Kenya Maritime Authority, Kenya Shipping Agents Association and Kenya ICT Board

The objectives of the Kenya National Electronic Single Window System (KNESWS) Project are:

- To facilitate international trade in Kenya by reducing delays and lowering costs associated with clearance of goods at the Kenyan borders, while maintaining the requisite controls and **collection of levies, fees, duties and taxes**, where applicable, on imports or exports.

- Reduction of cargo dwell time at the Port of Mombasa to a **maximum 3 days** and a **minimum of one day** at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport **over a period of 1 year** after operationalization. At the border posts the Single Window System is expected to reduce the cargo dwell time for both transit and intra-regional trade consignments to **a maximum of one hour**.