



Your G2B trading partner

Simplifying Trade for Kenya's Competitiveness

REGIONAL LEADERS LAUNCH KENYA TRADENET

The new Trade Facilitation system set to enhance efficiency of cross-border trade at Kenyan seaport, airports and border posts

Nairobi, KENYA 8 May 2014 – Kenya's National Single Window System now officially known as KenyaTrade Net was officially launched in Nairobi by Rwanda President Paul Kagame in a ceremony witnessed by leaders from six African nations at Safari Park Nairobi.

The System is an electronic platform that enables Kenya to clear import cargo at mostly destined for neighbouring land locked economies of Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Burundi and DRC much faster, cheaper and efficient.

The presidential launch in Nairobi was witnessed by HE Uhuru Kenyatta President of the Republic of Kenya, HE Yoweri Museveni President of the Republic of Uganda, HE Mizengo Pinda Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania and HE Gervais Rufyikiri and 2nd Vice President of the Republic of Burundi.

Kenya TradeNet is the first comprehensive Single Window in the East African Community, and one of the very few in the world, that integrates a complex heterogeneous government agencies ecosystem onto a single common platform, streamlining clearance process for sea, air and land cargo.

It is developed by CrimsonLogic, a leading provider of eGovernment solutions and services headquartered in Singapore, under a government contract between Kenya and Singapore. The system is also CrimsonLogic's 18th live Trade Facilitation implementation so far, and its first major project in Kenya.

With the country's annual trade volumes exceeding US\$22.4 billion*, Kenya TradeNet is a flagship project under Kenya's Vision 2030 programme to position the country as a key trade in Africa. The implementation of the Kenya TradeNet is timely as the system is expected to reduce cargo dwell time at ports, and improve the ease of doing business.

* Source: CIA World Factbook, based on 2013 estimates

The Kenya TradeNet provide a single point of access for the Kenyan trading community to electronically submit and receive approvals from regulatory agencies, enabling an easier, faster and more transparent process, and providing significant cost savings to the trading community.

Key regulatory agencies such as Kenya Revenue Authority, Kenya Ports Authority, Kenya Maritime Authority, Kenya Airports Authority, Kenya Bureau of Standards, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services, Department of Veterinary Services, Horticultural Crops Development Authority, Pharmacy & Poisons Board and Port Health (and eventually over 20 partner government agencies) are integrated with the Kenya TradeNet. Kenya TradeNet is owned and managed by Kenya Trade Network Agency (KenTrade), a State Corporation mandated to implement, operationalise and manage the trade facilitation system.

Chairman of KenTrade Board Gen. Joseph Kibwana said: "The System provides working modules for relevant institutions which do not have adequate management information systems to interface with the Kenya TradeNet and will also be integrated with existing payment systems to provide an end to end electronic solution to trade logistics in Kenya.

"We wish to report that the deployment of the Kenya TradeNet System is complemented by a host of capacity building and communications activities to address uptake and sustainability concerns. These include the on-going sensitisation targeting Ports and Land Border Posts users and System User training for all our stakeholders."

The implementation of Single Window System has been funded by the Government of Kenya with support from the Investment Climate Facility (ICF), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA). Kenya Trade Net Single Window is seen as a part of solution to the inefficient and corruption prone trade cargo logistics.

CrimsonLogic CEO Mr Saw Ken Wye said, "We are extremely honoured to be a key partner to Kenya's eGovernment journey to transform the country's economy and trade; and as a Singapore company, proud to have shared our expertise and experience to support this project.

"As a global leader in Single Window implementations, it is always about working with governments that have the foresight and tenacity to drive the necessary reforms and investments to affect positive changes. I would like to congratulate KenTrade to have taken on the challenge to enrich the lives of citizens and business communities through the Kenya TradeNet project."

KenTrade CEO Mr Alex Kabuga said, "With the launch of the System, Kenya will in effect be transitioning its economy from the tedious, inefficient and wasteful paper based trade logistics process into the "digital league" of Single Window compliant economies like Senegal, Ghana, Mozambique and Mauritius.

"I must say that this feat is attributable to the key success factor for projects of this magnitude: Goodwill and support from the Government of the day. We are alive to the fact that under the Jubilee Manifesto (under Unity Pillar: Trade and Foreign Affairs), the Government commits to make deliberate steps to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers and also foster regional integration. KenTrade as the state Agency mandated with facilitating cross border trade is lucky to have a Government with a trade based Foreign policy"

CEO of Investment Climate Facility (ICF) Mr William Asiko said, "ICF congratulates KENTRADE and the Government of Kenya on the successful implementation and launch of the Kenya TradeNet National Single Window System project.

"ICF is pleased to have played a key role in supporting KenTrade in the project which is in line with ICF's goal of boosting economic growth in Africa through improved investment climate. Having an efficient system for importing and exporting goods is key to facilitating international and domestic trade and also helps to boost economic activity in the country. It is our hope that this new system will improve Kenya's investment climate and increase its competitiveness in the region. ICF is also happy to have worked with CrimsonLogic, which is implementing eGovernemnt solutions not only for this project but also in various ICF projects across Africa."

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 System is a web based portal and is accessible to stakeholders in trade logistics industry via portal address <https://kenyatradenet.go.ke> or through our official website www.kentrade.go.ke

+=====

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) 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. Additional info at www.kentrade.go.ke

About IC

- The Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF) is a donor funded, private sector focused development organization that focuses on improving the investment climate in Africa. Apart from trade facilitation, ICF also provides support in the areas of property rights and contract enforcement, business registration and licensing, commercial justice, tax and customs, financial markets, infrastructure facilitation, labour markets, competition, and corruption and crime. ICF is supported by development partners and the private sector. Additional information on ICF is available at www.icfafrica.org

About CrimsonLogic

- CrimsonLogic is an organisation that customers globally can trust to deliver world-class eGovernment solutions that creates value for citizens and businesses. For more than 25 years, CrimsonLogic has collaborated with governments and organisations to drive innovative and sustainable solutions in Trade Facilitation, eJudiciary and eCitizen Services that positively impact lives and communities. For more information, please visit www.crimsonlogic.com.

For further details please contact:

Ann Odera
Corporate Communications Manager
Kenya Trade Network Agency
Email: aodero@kentrade.go.ke
Cell : 0722 256 009
Tel: 0202614887
Website: www.kentrade.go.ke