



Your G2B trading partner

KENYA TRADE NETWORK AGENCY (KENTRADE)
Simplifying Trade Processes for Kenya's Competitiveness

**SPEECH BY MR. AMOS WANGORA, ACTING CEO OF KENTRADE,
DURING THE SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN KENTRADE AND KIFWA ON
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 AT PANAFRIC HOTEL NAIROBI.**

KIFWA National Chairman Mr. Auni Bhaiji

KIFWA Board of Trustees Present

KIFWA County Chairmen and Staff present

My Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

Introductory Remarks

First let me convey greetings and appreciation on behalf of our Board of Directors to the entire KIFWA fraternity for the continued support and cooperation since we commenced implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System 4 years ago.

On the same breadth allow me to take this opportunity to formally congratulate all the leaders present here who were recently elected to the Board and of course to the KIFWA members for holding peaceful elections. Today is important because this is the inaugural formal meeting that the new Board is having with our senior management.

I would also like at the same time to sincerely thank the World Bank Group (IFC) through Mr. Mupelwa Sichilima for continuously supporting us in the journey towards implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System and today for supporting this particular event.

Objective of the Workshop

We are gathered here mainly to strengthen the already existing relations between KenTrade and KIFWA, because of the key role that both institutions play in the trade logistics industry. Importantly, KIFWA is the sole link between the Importers/Exporters and the Government through various our Partner Government Agencies which ideally makes it a significant stakeholder of the Kenya TradeNet System

In this regard therefore, as a key the implementers of the Kenya TradeNet System, we are here to rather and most importantly to engage with you the leadership of KIFWA and get your thoughts on the System with the objective of finding concrete, long term and win-win solutions.

As indicated in the program, we will also be seeking to discuss further collaboration between our two institutions, a collaboration that began 4 years ago and has proceeded smoothly and fruitfully.

This will culminate with signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions which for me is basically a continuation of the past relationship. The MoU will enable the KenTrade and KIFWA to enter into a non-exclusive, non-legally binding, collaborative relationship but also advance the common interests of the two Parties.

MoU between Ken Trade and KIFWA

Having mentioned this, and for the benefits of those who may have not gone through the MoU documents, I think its important to highlight some salient points intended to and foster the synergy between KIFWA and KenTrade contained in the document;

- To promote and maintain good working relationship between KenTrade, KIFWA and other stakeholders involved in trade logistics.
- To advocate for improved business environment by advocating for enactment/compliance of business friendly legislation.
- To enforce the Code of Conduct of the KIFWA among its members in the usage of Kenya TradeNet System.
- To work together in promoting and protecting interests of the legitimate trade in the East Africa Community (EAC) region.
- To facilitate trainings for the business community and other stakeholders.
- To promote a high standard of service to the business community (Importer/Exports).
- To promote use of Kenya TradeNet System as a trade facilitation tool in Kenya and the EAC region
- To promote the adoption of uniform documents and standard terms and conditions.
- To work jointly in identifying areas of improvement in trade documentation including proposals on harmonization, reduction and rationalization of trade documentation.
- To carry out research in areas geared towards improvement in trade processes to facilitate trade.
- To collect, collate and circulate information and statistics relating to or affecting the business interests in the region.

The above initiatives in a nutshell is binding us on issues of policy advice and dialogue in the area of trade logistics and specifically on how improve effectiveness in processing of cargo clearance documents through the Kenya TradeNet System .

Just to mention, in the last ranking, Kenya which is considered as East Africa's largest economy moved up one position to 136 from 137 in 2014. In trading across borders which is our main for the industry, Kenya dropped from position 152 in 2014 to 153 in 2015.

My conviction is that the initiatives being put in place by the Government such as robust Port reforms, implementation of the Kenya TradeNet

System the cross border trade automation among others will reverse the countries competitiveness.

Conclusion

As I conclude I wish to extend personal appreciation (acknowledge all) to the following officers for their unrelenting support and cooperation, and working with the KenTrade team on a daily basis (trainings, sensitizations, liason) for the benefit of the two institutions:

- Wycliff Wanda - Executive Officer, Nairobi
- Dennis Ombok -Mombasa
- Sam Akoko - Kisumu
- Deogratius Otia - Malaba
- Moses Ochieng - Busia
- Kenneth Kawai - Isebania

The significance of this event today is expected to have a bearing on the aforementioned either as a reference or indicator to traction that Kenya is making with Trade Facilitation, and I pledge that that we at KenTrade will work towards enhancing this partnership.

Finally, before I invite the KIFWA National Chairman Mr. Auni Bhaiji to deliver his Statement, I would like to invite Mr. Mupelwa Sichilima of the IFC – World Bank Group to make his remarks.

I thank all the participants who have come to this event.

I Thank You All.