

**REMARKS BY MR AMOS WANGORA, ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
KENTRADE DURING THE EXPORTERS' /IMPORTERS' OF AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTS AWARENESS MEETING AT KEPHIS HEADQUARTERS ON  
THURSDAY APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> 2015**

**1. Salutation & Introductions**

- Dr. Esther Kimani, Acting Managing Director-KEPHIS
- Staff of KEPHIS present
- Colleagues /staff from our Partner Government Agencies
- Distinguished Importers and Exporters
- Invited Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

**Good Morning!**

First and foremost allow me to sincerely thank my counterpart Dr. Esther Kimani the Acting Managing Director of Kephis for inviting us to participate in this important event. This is a demonstration of the cordial partnership between KenTrade and Kephis to enable the two agencies improve the trade facilitation industry in our country aimed at reducing the cost of doing business.

Before I proceed further, allow me to introduce my team who have accompanied me for this function. (You may ask the KenTrade team to stand for introductions)

Indeed we are happy to be here today to participate in this awareness meeting. Our participation today has been realized as a result of many consultations and meetings that we have had with Kephis.

Let me also say that this meeting could not have come at a better time for us at KenTrade given that it has been our desire to participate in such forums with a view to fostering our relationship in the trade facilitation industry stakeholders. These forums avail great opportunities for us to address emerging issues as pertains to implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System (Single Window System). These are also avenues to improve our service delivery in order to serve you better.

## **2. Kenya TradeNet System**

As most of you are aware, the implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System basically ( what was originally known as the Single Window) aims at facilitating international trade in Kenya by reducing delays and lowering costs associated with clearance of goods at the Kenyan borders. The Kenya Trade Net project is a complex and cross cutting project and cannot be implemented by KenTrade in isolation. (You may ask how many of the participants have interacted with the Kenya TradeNet System and experience just to engage the level of knowledge).

I am sure you are aware that the Kenya TradeNet System “Go – Live” was on the midnight of October 31, 2013 and has been operational to date. Since then we have implemented 17 out of the 20 Modules and the remaining 3 modules is expected to be completed by mid this year, 2015. We envisioned that by the end of this year, the Kenya TradeNet platform will be fully operational.

The System will be integrated with various stakeholder systems involved in the cargo clearance process e.g. KRA, KEBS, KEPHIS, KPA, Sugar Directorate, Port Health, PPB, DVS among others (I hope we will get an opportunity to give a detailed Information on the Kenya TradeNet System and its integration with Kephis during this meeting).

In total there are 27 Partner Government Agencies whose Systems will be integrated with the Kenya TradeNet System. What this simply means is that all Manifests (Sea and Air) and Declarations will be submitted through an electronic platform which will then disseminate them to the relevant Government Agencies for processing/approval.

### **3. Partnership with KEPHIS & Horticultural Crops Directorate ( HCD)**

Dr. Kimani, your institution is one of the partner agencies that we have had a wonderful partnership with, in the implementation of the Kenya TradeNet. The integration with the Kephis System has been less strenuous owing to the remarkable cooperation from both agencies and more so your goodwill.

Your team lead in this Project Mr. James Aboge has indeed given us the necessary cooperation and support with regards to trainings, piloting and integration and allow me to express our sincere gratitude to him, because these efforts and commitment ensured that the Kenya TradeNet System and KEPHIS System are now fully integrated.

In the same breath, I also recognize the support and partnership from Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD) Interim Director, Mr. Zakayo Magara and his team Hosea Boswony who is the lead person in the integration with HCD System together with Josiah Syanda, the Acting Officer in Charge (JKIA). I am also informed that HCD has resumed the process of approving the Consignment Documents lodged via the Kenya TradeNet System. These are key milestones which we must take further with you stakeholders hence the need for us to be part of this meeting.

#### **4. Sensitization/ Trainings /Change Management**

Ladies and Gentlemen, a lot has been done with regards to the implementation of the project, and it is my conviction that for us to have achieved the milestones so far, we have engaged with some of you in sensitizations, trainings and change management strategies. Of course these are continuous activities and we are here to engage you more on these activities.

At this point I must mention the immense support that KenTrade has received from our development partners mainly the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Trademark East Africa because without their support we would not have done much.

#### **5. Conclusion: KenTrade Expectation & Proposed Way Forward**

Ladies and gentlemen as I conclude, it is my expectation and appeal that we actively engage in this forum and to also get to hear your honest feedback on your experiences with the Kenya TradeNet and most importantly critical suggestions that would enrich the integration and delivery of our services.

We look forward to continued partnership aimed at improving Kenya's investment competitiveness climate in order to assist the economic growth not only in Kenya but also in the Eastern Africa as we work towards a complete regional (EAC) integration. Finally, again let me express my gratitude to Kephis for organizing this forum and to all of you stakeholders for your participation.

I thank you for your attention.

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ENDS