

Simplifying Trade Processes for Kenya's Competitiveness

For Immediate Release

Nairobi Friday December 5, 2014..... The Chief Executive of Shippers Council of Eastern Africa (SCEA) Mr. Gilbert Langat has attributed the achievements of the ongoing reforms at the Port of Mombasa to the implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System being implemented by state agency, KenTrade.

Speaking when he officially opened the Kenya TradeNet System stakeholder's consultative forum organized by KenTrade in Naivasha, Mr. Langat who is also the Chairman of Executive Committee of the Port of Mombasa Charter, said the implementation of the System that integrates online cargo clearance processes at the Port was a test of the Port based state agencies on their commitment to the port reforms.

"The Port of Mombasa Charter that was launched by President Uhuru Kenyatta on June 30, 2014, spelt out specific targets and delivery time lines for each Port Community member under the Port Reforms initiatives and the Kenya TradeNet System Project that we are assessing today was listed as among the priority focus," Under the Port Charter, each agency pledged on specific action within six months effective June 2014 as contribution to the Port reform which is part of the regional Heads of State stated agenda.

SCEA is keen on partnering with KenTrade to promote adoption of the Single Window System in the region as directed by President Uhuru Kenyatta during the launch of Kenya TradeNet System in May 2014. " SCEA will team up with the KenTrade to promote Kenya's agenda for the regional Single Window once the TradeNet System project is completed by December 2014". Mr. Langat emphasized on the tremendous interest and expectation from the Government and President Kenyatta who he said was part of this Kenya TradeNet System project since inception.

He said contrary to some fears of job losses, the Kenya TradeNet System will generate more jobs by creating more opportunities from improved efficiencies at the cargo exit and entry points.

“We may recall that the introduction of Simba System by the Kenya Revenue Authority witnessed a significant increase in the number of clearing agents contrary to fears that the automation of the KRA system would results in job losses,” he said.

Speaking during forum, KenTrade CEO Mr Alex Kabuga the said that the Kenya TradeNet System was a complex and cross cutting project that involved all the Port based agencies that signed Port Charter on June 30, 2014 in the presence of President Kenyatta. He added that the implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System was on course and that Kentrade would deliver on its pledge to the President as outlined in the Port Charter by ensuring that the System is fully rolled out by December 31, 2014.

The success of Kenya TradeNet System as championed by the President Uhuru Kenyatta will have tremendous impact on the Kenya as proven by economies that have successfully implemented the System. “Revenue generation went up by over 30 per cent in economies where Single Window has been successfully implemented and this is the direction that the Government is keen on taking this nation with Kenya TradeNet System,” Mr Kabuga said. He added that the Agency will soon hold a consultative forum between stakeholders and the banks with a view to facilitating traders on the payments of permits through banks.

CEO Kenya Ships Agents Association Juma Tellah and KIFWA Mombasa Executive Officer Dennis Ombok observed that the Kenya TradeNet System was one project of its kind that has met its timelines because of stakeholders’ involvement and would therefore avoid challenges.

The two days workshop was hosted by KenTrade with support of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and attended by representatives of 25 stakeholder organisations including port based state agencies, shippers, clearing agents and bankers who also addressed the forum.

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The Kenya Trade Network Agency (KENTRADE) is a State Corporation under the National Treasury mandated to among other things, implement, operationalize and manage the Kenya National Electronic Single Window System as well as other trade facilitation initiatives. The Single Window System (also dubbed as the KenyaTradeNet System) is an electronic platform which integrates electronic systems international trade transactions with an aim of simplifying clearance processes of cargo passing through Kenyan borders. Additional info at www.kentrade.go.ke

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