Best practices require that a Single Window System is managed centrally by an independent corporate entity, to enable appropriate Government Agencies and Authorities to receive and access information relevant for their purposes. In Kenya, the Government established the Kenya Trade Network Agency (KENTRADE) in January 2011 to implement, operationalize and manage the Kenya National Electronic Single Window System (Kenya TradeNet System) and to facilitate International trade.

What is a Single Window System and is it the same as the Kenya TradeNet System?

A Single Window System is a trade facilitation tool that enables parties involved in international trade to submit regulatory import and export related documentation to lodge their documents through a Single platform hence the name Single Window System. Kenya TradeNet System is a trade mark name for the Single Window System in Kenya.

How does the Kenya TradeNet System facilitate trade in Kenya?

The Kenya TradeNet System facilitates trade by expediting and simplifying information flows between traders and the Government Agencies in order to bring meaningful gains to all parties involved in cross border trade. The objective of the System is 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.

Who is eligible to log into and use the Kenya TradeNet System?

All parties involved in the import and export (international trade) are eligible to use the Kenya TradeNet System portal. These include Partner Government Agencies, Customs Agents, Banks, Insurance, Consolidators, Container Freight Station, Ground Handling Agents, Shipping Agent, Exporter/Importer and Courier Service. All the above can apply for registration to use the Kenya TradeNet System and they will get their individual accounts credentials depending on the activities they authorized to perform.

How can a trader get access to the Kenya TradeNet System?

A Trader can get access to the Kenya TradeNet System through the KenTrade's website (www.kentrade.go.ke). There are links provided at the bottom of the Agency's website's homepage, which can be accessed by clicking on the TradeNet portal.

What are the services and/or documents that are currently processed or available through the Kenya TradeNet System?

The services that are available through the Kenya TradeNet System are **Submission, Processing, Payments** and **Approval** of cargo clearance documents electronically.

How are payments done through the Kenya TradeNet System?

Registered traders/Clearing Agents can log into Kenya TradeNet System portal to lodge application for permits/IDF and generate an eSlip. There are clear steps on how to generate e-slips through the TradeNet System which then allows the trader to make payments over-the-bank counter or via a mobile platform in case of IDFs.

Is the data sent through the Kenya TradeNet System in real-time or transmitted later?

The Data sent via the Kenya TradeNet System is Real time. The Kenya TradeNet System is web based and running under the most current Technology.

What benefits has the System generated for government so far?

First and foremost the Kenya TradeNet System is part of the World Trade Organization (WTO) efforts to ease trade and enhance compliance as well as simplifying bureaucratic procedures in the movement of goods across borders. The System It has also brought greater harmonization and better sharing of relevant data across the Government departments/System resulting in improved efficiency, transparency and effectiveness of official controls. This enhances revenue collection and reduce cost of doing business for both the Government and the business community.

What was the previous scenario before the implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System?

Prior to implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System, the clearing System for cargo at various border points were facing numerous challenges that compromised the country's ability to maximize benefits that are accrued with efficient Systems. For example, the documentation procedures associated with international trade were largely manual, resource intensive and expensive. Secondly, the traders had to deal separately with a multiple of government agencies which some had no electronic Systems.Thirdly,the usual inefficiency of trade documentation processes created perennial problems of delays in clearance of goods at the Kenyan ports on the Trading community which resulted in high transaction costs.

What is the current scenario?

With stakeholders now using the Kenya TradeNet System, the cargo documentation is now transmitted electronically; it is submitted only once and the same is transmitted to the relevant Government Agencies. All key players are integrated/interfaced through the Kenya TradeNet System platform through which they can complete their procedures for the movement of goods in a simplified framework at minimum time and cost without physically going to various Government Agency offices.

What type of trainings are conducted for the Kenya TradeNet System?

The Kenya TradeNet System trainings are conducted based on the stakeholders need and modules that are available on the Kenya TradeNet System. The training include: Traders Module (Unique Consignment Reference Number, Import Declaration Form, Consignment Document, Master document. Payments)

Port Module; Declaration Submission Module; Partner Government Agency Module.

How can traders be sure that hackers will not interfere with the system and gain access to confidential information?

As per ICT Security best practice used to secure key National Information Systems, KenTrade has implemented a host of cutting edge Information Security technologies to provide assurance of system security. KenTrade also has a highly qualified ICT team that works to ensure Information Systems security.

Will implementation of the Kenya TradeNet System result in job losses?

No. Implementation of the Kenya TradeNet will not lead to job losses. The System will instead enable the business environment to trade efficiently. An improved business environment is expected to lead to a reduced cost of doing business and increased efficiency in trade. This will increase Kenya's competitiveness and attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) which will create more jobs.

How is the Kenya TradeNet System funded?

The Kenya TradeNet System is funded by the Government of Kenya with support from development partners mainly the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF) the World Bank Group (WBG). The project has also received support from TradeMark East Africa.

What is the future of the Kenya TradeNet system?

The Single Window Concept is not new. It is currently operational in Singapore, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Tunisia and Ghana just to mention a few. Studies from these countries indicate their economies have realized large savings via: Reduced inefficiencies, improved transparency and visibility in trade documentation processing, Reduced manual documentation /paperwork, Reduced cost of capital (JIT Concept); Reduced demurrage, improved space utilization at the Ports – increased capacity utilization for higher volume turnover.

International Organizations such as World Trade Organization (WTO), World Customs Organization (WCO), United Nations (UN), Africa Alliance for Electronic Commerce (AACE) among others are promoting the Single Window System Concept as a tool for efficient trade facilitation.

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