PRESS RELEASE

KENYA LAUNCHES MARITIME SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM OPERATIONS TO AUTOMATE, STANDARDIZE AND ENHANCE INFORMATION FLOW AT THE PORT OF MOMBASA

…Implementation of the Maritime Single Window makes Kenya compliant with the Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL) Convention …

Mombasa Kenya July 7, 2021 – The maritime stakeholders in Kenya will benefit from enhanced efficiency at the Port of Mombasa following the launch of the Maritime Single Window System (MSWS). The system will facilitate end-to-end information flow between the Shipping Agents, Port Authority, as well as other government agencies. The MSWS which was officially launched on July 07, 2021, in Mombasa by the Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury & Planning Hon. Ambassador Ukur Yatani was developed jointly by Kenya Trade Network Agency (KenTrade) and the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) with financial support from UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) through TradeMark East Africa (TMEA). The Project now makes Kenya compliant with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Facilitation of International Maritime (FAL) Convention.

The FAL Convention contains standards, recommended practices and rules for simplifying formalities, documentary requirements and procedures on ships' arrival, stay and departure and recommends the use of the "single window" concept in which all the agencies and authorities involved in ship and passenger clearance exchange data via a single point of contact.

The MSWS which has been developed by CrimsonLogic, has been integrated with KenTrade's Single Window System (Kenya TradeNet) which covers the vessel arrival and departure process of both cargo and non-cargo vessels, facilitates the processing of all associated documentation for a quicker turnaround time in handling maritime traffic. This translates to reduced cost in processing cargo and non-cargo vessels.

The integration entails enhancing the Kenya TradeNet System by adding a module - Electronic Maritime Single Window System (E-MSWS) Module. It goes above and beyond by providing value added services, such as request for pilotage, tug, waste disposal, and so on, replacing the tedious over-the-counter operations that require physical visits.

The E-MSWS allows Shipping Agents in Kenya to electronically submit vessel pre-arrival and pre-departure FAL declarations to government agencies mainly, Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), State Department of Immigration, Port Health, National Environment

Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and the Kenya Coast Guard Service.

Presiding over the launch, The National Treasury Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Ukur Yatani said implementation of the Maritime Single Window System is part of the Government's initiative to facilitate trade in line with the IMO FAL which makes it mandatory for Governments to introduce electronic information exchange between ships and ports with the aim of making cross-border trade simpler and the logistics chain more efficient. *"Kenya is among the 120 member states that have ratified the International Maritime Organization Convention on Facilitation of Maritime Traffic commonly referred to as FAL Convention, which aims at promoting measures to bring about uniformity and simplicity in documenting requirements and procedures associated with the arrival, stay and departure of ships engaged in international voyages."* said the Cabinet Secretary.

Speaking during the launch, Principal Secretary, State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs, Nancy Karigithu noted that as a member of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Kenya has signed 26 conventions that have been domesticated through the Merchant Shipping Act, 2009 which is proof of Kenya's desire to grow its maritime sector and compete with global maritime nations. She added that the Kenya MSWS will address the main issue of numerous, non-harmonised reporting obligations in a more coordinated and efficient way, and improve inter operational tasks between various systems, making it much easier to share and re-use data.

According to the Kenya Maritime Authority Director General Robert Njue, MSWS will enhance greater transparency and provide efficient end-to-end information flow for the Government Agency officers to better ensure the safety of arriving and departing vessels, and their cargo. For ship operators or Agents, the Maritime Single Window System also helps with post docking and pre-departure operational needs to ensure they can be on schedule for their next leg of the journey. *"The FAL /IMO initiatives are designed to simplify cross-border trade, reduce the administrative burden and create a more efficient logistics chain and that is the fundamental reason we have developed the MSWS"* explained the Director General

"The recent Suez Canal incident has showed how vulnerable our global supply-chain can be. Kenya is currently one of the fastest growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, and we cannot be complacent in our digital transformation journey," said KenTrade Chief Executive Officer, Amos *Wangora "It is important to continuously innovate, and the MSWS is one such innovation that we are able to partner with the Kenya Maritime Authority and Crimson Logic to ensure marine waterways and operations stay efficient and safe for our stakeholders."* Wangora said. He added that the development of the Maritime Single Window System in Kenya was driven by the need to simplify the administrative burden for ships entering and leaving the Port of Mombasa. *"The current reporting requirements are extremely onerous and due to elements of overlapping legislations there is often a need to submit similar information to different authorities in different formats"* he said.

TradeMark East Africa, Country Director Mr. Ahmed Farah said, *"Reducing barriers to trade in Kenya so as to increase its trading opportunities internationally remains a key mandate for TMEA. We are proud to have supported KenTrade and Kenya Maritime Authority to develop the MSWS. The system will enhance trade facilitation for the maritime stakeholders and enable faster operational procedures and shorter process time, leading to increased transit traffic through the Port of Mombasa and reduced trade costs overall. MSWS complements TMEA's other work with government agencies including improving roads, the port, border posts and automation of key trade processes. Ultimately, these interventions will create a conducive business environment in Kenya, promoting job creation and reducing poverty"* said Ahmed.

About KenTrade

Kenya Trade Network Agency (KenTrade) is a State Corporation under the National Treasury established in in January 2011 to establish, implement and manage the National Electronic Single Window System (KenyaTradeNet System) and to facilitate trade. Kenya TradeNet System is an online platform that serves as a single-entry point for parties involved in international trade and transport logistics to lodge documents electronically, for processing, approvals and to make payments electronically for fees, levies, duties, and taxes due to the Government, on goods imported or exported in the country.

About Kenya Maritime Authority

Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) was set up in June 2004 as the semi-autonomous agency in charge of regulatory oversight over the Kenyan maritime industry. Maritime safety and security is one of the Authority's core functions. As the pacesetter of the Kenyan maritime industry, KMA thus strives to strengthen national maritime administration through enhancement of regulatory and institutional capacities for safety and security, fostering effective implementation of international maritime conventions and other mandatory instruments on safety & security, promoting maritime training, coordinating search and rescue, preventing marine pollution and promoting preservation of the marine environment as well as promoting trade facilitation and maritime investments.

About TradeMark East Africa

TradeMark East Africa is an aid-for-trade organisation that was established in 2010, with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade. TMEA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by the development agencies of the following countries: United Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, United States of America as well as the European Union. TMEA has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, with successful operations and offices in EAC-Arusha, Burundi (Bujumbura), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), Democratic Republic of Congo (Bukavu), Ethiopia (Addis-Ababa), Malawi, Zambia, South Sudan, Uganda (Kampala) and Rwanda (Kigali). For more information, please see our website **www.trademarkea.com**

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