

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ONE STOP TRADE PORTAL TO BOOST TANZANIA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Dar es salaam, Tanzania, July 8th 2021 – Traders in Tanzania stand to benefit from increased efficiency following launch of the Trade Information Portal in Tanzania (www.tantrade.go.tz), which has consolidated more than 100 documents and procedures required for import and export business in Tanzania on one online platform.

The portal is estimated to serve at least 1.5 million users per month and publishes information on 84 procedures made up of 336 steps, 851 forms and documents, 140 contact persons, 88 norms and laws. It covers 11 priority product groups (6 products for export and import, thus ensuring a shorter period in the export and import processes). Completion and launch of the information portal make Tanzania the fourth country in the East Africa Community (EAC) to fulfil Article 1 of WTO Trade Facilitation agreement which requires member states to publish their trade procedures online, displaying them step-by-step, with contact information on enquiry points, access to forms and other required documents and all relevant trade and customs laws.

Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) under the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) implemented the portal with financial support of approximately US\$ 498,000 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through TradeMark East Africa (TMEA). United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) provided technical assistance.

Presiding over the launch, the Zanzibar Minister for Industry and Trade, Hon. Omar Shaban (MP) said, *"The Tanzania trade portal is part of the Government's initiative to facilitate trade in line with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation, to which Tanzania is a signatory and obliges governments to be transparent and to provide information to businesses."*

Also speaking at the launch TanTrade Mr. Rutegaruka said,

"If you are a trader, the portal will enable you to access all the relevant documentation requirements for imports and/or exports of your respective commodities from the comfort of your office or place of business. Our aim is to boost Tanzania's efforts to become a globally competitive player in the overall share of trade in the world. It provides the current, potential traders and other stakeholders with total transparency on rules and procedures pertaining to import and export formalities, through detailed, practical and up-to-date descriptions of steps to go through, as seen from the user's point of view to assist them to make informed business decisions," Mr. Rutegaruka explained.

TradeMark East Africa Tanzania Country Director, Monica Hangi said, *"Reducing the barriers to trade in Tanzania to increase its trading opportunities internationally remains a key mandate for TMEA. We are proud to have partnered with TANTRADE and UNCTAD to provide a portal that makes international trade information available, thus simplifying the process of exports and imports and reducing the time*

taken. This portal 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 Tanzania, promoting job creation, boosting investments and ultimately reducing poverty."

Kjartan Sorensen, UNCTAD's head of the business facilitation programme, said that the portal uses UNCTAD's eRegulation content management system that enables transparency and efficiency in Trade therefore helping decision makers and implementers objectively analyze their progress towards effective trade facilitation.

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Notes for Editors

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1. About Tanzania Trade Development Authority

Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) was established by Parliament Act No. 4 of 2009 and commenced on September 3, 2010 (GN No 338). Her establishment followed a repeal of the Act of Parliament No. 15 of 1973 that established the Board of Internal Trade (BIT) and the Act of Parliament No. 5 of 1978 that established the Board of External Trade (BET). It is a statutory organ vested with regulatory, executive, advisory and consultative power of developing and promoting both internal and external trade in Tanzania. For more information visit www.tantrade.go.tz

2. About TradeMark East Africa

TradeMark (Trade and Markets) 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: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom and United States of America. TMEA works closely with Regional Intergovernmental Organisations, like the East Africa Community, national governments, the private sector and civil society organisations.

The first phase of TMEA (2010-20) delivered exceptional results which contributed to substantial gains in East Africa's trade and regional integration in terms of reduced cargo transit times, improved border efficiency, and reduced barriers to trade.

We are now in the second phase (2018 - 2023) where we will focus on:

1. Reducing barriers to trade; and
2. Improving business competitiveness.

We believe this will deliver large-scale impact in job creation, poverty reduction and enhanced economic welfare.

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), The Horn (Hargeisa) South Sudan (Juba), Uganda (Kampala) and Rwanda (Kigali).

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