The ESA Vice Chair, Mr. Phodiso Valashia, and his team, recently visited Kenya, for a host of meetings with the ROCB, our host administration, Kenya, various missions and development partners. He held meetings with the Regional Office for Capacity Building’s Director and staff, including the WCO ESA Project team, during the 23rd to 25th September 2019 period he was in the country. During the meeting, Mr. Phodiso Valashia, highlighted the importance of the Vice Chair’s office to meet the staff of the ROCB and the WCO ESA Project II to chart the way forward for the region for the next two years. The main focus of the meeting was three fold; the ESA Regional Strategy, which has specific milestones to be executed (the role of the ROCB, WCO ESA Project II as well as the Members), the Governance of the ROCB (Staff welfare and Finances) and the relationship of the region with the ROCB host, Kenyan government and the revenue authority, which are providing the much appreciated support.

During his visit, the Vice Chair paid courtesy visits to various diplomatic missions as well as other development partners with a view of strengthening cooperation and collaboration, especially in light of the implementation of the Regional Strategy and enhancing the capacity of the ROCB.

The Vice Chair paid a courtesy visit to the GIZ offices in Kenya which offer a wide range of services to governments, companies, international institutions and private foundations to explore the possibility of partnering with the region in the implementation of the regional strategy.

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EDITORIAL

Churning out quality newsletters has now become our cup of tea! And it is our pleasure to present to you the third edition of the WCO ESA ROCB Newsletter for 2019. Our toast for this edition is just concluded visit of the WCO ESA Regional Vice Chair, Mr. Phodisho Valashia, for discussions on pertinent issues with the Director and staff of the ROCB. He also held meetings with our host administration, Kenya, different missions and development partners based in Nairobi.

Meanwhile, progress continues to be made on the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement, in light of which Uganda recently hosted the continental Directors General of Customs under the African Union umbrella.

We continue to call to attention the events that took place during the second quarter of 2019 and we are pleased to share the developments with and beyond our administrations. Herein are articles on illicit trade and terrorism, missions and money laundering, perceptions and perspectives among other intriguing articles from the ESA region.

We applaud the dedication of our Members, Regional Economic Committees and other development partners who have always sent us articles and ensured the success of this newsletter.

Enjoy.

Acknowledgments

- African Union
- East African Community
- Ethiopian Customs Commission
- Japan International Cooperation Agency
- Kenya Revenue Authority
- Mauritius Revenue Authority
- Rwanda Revenue Authority
- South Africa Revenue Service
- Tanzania Revenue Authority
- Uganda Revenue Authority

Editorial Team

- Larry Liza - Editor in Chief
- Faith Mosongo - Programme Officer and Editor
- Eric Kaburu – Issue Editor and ICT Intern
- Martin Ngugi - Design and Layout
The Vice Chair Mr. Phodiso Valashia paid a courtesy visit to Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), the host of the ROCB, where he was received by Mr. Githii Mburu, Commissioner General, KRA, and Mr. Kevin Safari, Commissioner of Customs & Border Control, KRA. He thanked Kenya for hosting the ROCB and for its continuous support to the region, he also appreciated the efforts made by Kenya towards the registration of the office. During his visit, the VC was taken through a tour of the Kenya Revenue Authority Integrated Scanner Command Centre and Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking (RECTS). He was accompanied by Larry Liza.

The Vice Chair Mr. Phodiso Valashia paid a courtesy visit to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kenya where he was received by His Excellency, Ambassador Choi Yeongham and First Secretary Song Da Hee. He expressed his gratitude to the Republic of Korea for its continuous support to the region in terms of capacity building and stressed the importance of strengthening the existing partnership towards the sustainable economic development of the Region. He was accompanied by the ROCB Director Larry Liza.

During his visit, the Vice Chair Mr. Phodiso Valashia paid a courtesy visit to Techno Brain Group which helps global enterprises, including Fortune 100 companies, by providing leading technology, consulting, and outsourcing solutions. Discussions were held around Techno Brain’s support to the region in the implementation of the strategy as well as building capacity among Member Administrations as well as the ROCB. He was received by Srinadh Kotturu, General Manager – Digital Business, Techno Brain Group. He was accompanied by the ROCB Director Larry Liza.

Finally, the Vice Chair Mr. Phodiso Valashia paid a courtesy call to the Finnish Ambassador to Kenya, H. E. Erik Lundberg. The VC thanked Finland for their support to the region and discussed areas of further cooperation with the region. He was accompanied by the ROCB Director Larry Liza and the Project Manager of the WCO ESA Project II, Ms. Riitta Pasi.
11th Ordinary Meeting of the AU Sub- Committee of Directors General of Customs

The 11th Ordinary Meeting of the AU Sub- Committee of Directors General of Customs is currently ongoing in Kampala, Uganda. In attendance are 104 participants from 29 Member countries as well as representatives from various international organizations; EAC, ECCAS, IGAD, UN - OCHA, UNCTAD, WCO, WCO ESA ROCB, ITC and Afrexim Bank.

The meeting was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Uganda, Right Honorable Ruhakana Rugunda, who applauded the African Union for the efforts made towards ensuring the Entry into Force of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). He further called for enhanced cooperation among all Customs Administrations in addressing emerging issues as well as promoting intra-African trade.

Other dignitaries who delivered statements during the opening ceremony include; Ambassador Albert M. Muchanga, Commissioner for Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization, Mr. Souef Kamalidini, Current Chair of the AU Sub Committee of Directors General of Customs and Director General of Comoros Customs as well as a welcome address by Ms. Doris Akol, Commissioner General for Uganda Revenue Authority.

The meeting is being held under the theme “The Entry into Force of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – Implications to African Customs Administrations." and is expected to provide a platform for Heads of Customs to discuss the operationalization of the AfCFTA.

The meeting is also expected to review the report of the Experts Meeting held prior to the DGs Meeting as well as make pronouncements on the various topics contained in the report and thereafter adopt, amend or reject the recommendations related there to.
Five Revenue Authorities of East Africa – those of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda – gathered in Zanzibar, Tanzania, on 17 July 2019, for the third Regional Joint Coordinating Committee (RJCC) meeting of their Project on Capacity Development for Trade Facilitation and Border Control in East Africa. This Project is implemented by the five East African Revenue Authorities (EARAs) with support jointly provided by JICA and WCO. With the aims of improving the efficiency of border procedures and enhancing border control, the five EARAs have been working together through the Project on (1) effective operation of One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs), and (2) Customs capacity building in (i) risk management (RM), (ii) post clearance audit (PCA), and (iii) Program Global Shield (PGS).

The meeting was hosted by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) with attendance by the Commissioners General, Commissioners Customs and other senior officials from the EARAs, the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, the WCO, JICA and Japan Customs. The RJCC reviewed progress made during the last six months including the Master Trainer Program (MTP) on PCA, Training-of-Trainers (ToT) activity on PGS and its national follow-ups, and the Benchmarking Study on intellectual property rights (IPR) border

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Strong Ownership of East African Customs Administrations in the Project for Trade Facilitation and Enhanced Border Control

Continued from page 5

control conducted in Thailand and Japan to further enhance their RM capacity. The meeting particularly noted the strong ownership and excellent follow-up work demonstrated by the PGS national trainers developed in East Africa through the PGS Training-of-Trainer activity earlier this year. The RJCC welcomed the work progress and agreed on concrete target figures relating to OSBP operation and customs capacity building to be achieved through collaborative work among the parties concerned. The meeting also expressed appreciation to the WCO and JICA for the quality support offered. JICA and WCO reaffirmed their commitment and support for the Project to achieve more sustainable economic and social prosperity in the region.

BUILDING TRUST THROUGH MARINE CONSERVATION TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC

The Kenya Revenue Authority recently (KRA) embarked on a transformation agenda aimed at enhancing customer satisfaction and meeting its revenue targets. Further, in achieving its vision of being a globally trusted revenue agency facilitating tax and customs compliance, the Authority has initiated a partnership approach of working closely with stakeholders to achieve its goal of revenue collection, facilitating trade and safeguarding the safety and the security of the society through ensuring that illicit goods do not get into the Market. In one of these key initiatives KRA southern region partnered with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Stakeholders

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Continued from page 6

and members of the local community to engage in a corporate social responsibility project to protect the ocean from pollution and protect the endangered sea turtle from being rendered extinct.

This partnership created an opportunity to conduct tax education on the importance of paying taxes and the key role played by Customs and boarder control in protecting our border. This initiative will hopefully strengthen the partnership as we create a sense of inclusivity and patriotism with the local community.

The positive social and economic impact of this CSR programme is now being felt with marine experts saying that since the implementation of the project there is less pollution along the project area park and has reduced by 60 per cent.

KWS senior warden, Mombasa Marine Park and reserve Mr. John M. Wambua recently wrote a letter of appreciation to the Authority, through Southern Region Coordinator Mr. Nicholas Kinoti, for supporting the Government and stakeholder’s efforts to protect the endangered species from being rendered extinct and safeguarding general marine life which bear a great significance to the society, from being destroyed by pollution.

Apart from building two turtle egg hatcheries, one at the Milele beach Hotel near Jomo Kenyata public beach and the other at the Nyali Sun Africa beach hotel, the Authority provided signage and billboards bearing messages urging beach users to dump litter on designated sites, donated litter cleaning materials including rakes, gloves, reflectors, and volunteered to participate in the beach cleanup exercise together with KWS staff and other stakeholders. The letter dated 31st July partly read: “The KRA artificial Hatcheries are doing well with 106 hatchlings having been released from the Milele Beach hatchery recently and 128 hatchlings were released from the Nyali sun Africa beach hotel. 324 eggs are currently being incubated at the Hatchery and the hatchlings are expected to be released to the ocean soon.”

BUILDING TRUST THROUGH MARINE CONSERVATION TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC

Continued on page 8

Emerging Trend of Drug Trafficking in Mauritius

With the upsurge of traffic through the Eastern and Southern coast of Africa, it is observed that availability of illicit opiates in the market has increased considerably giving rise to unscrupulous persons to enter this drug trafficking business. The recent trend observed in Mauritius is that drug traffickers are using drug mules of African origin and Europeans residing in Africa to introduce drugs from Kenya and South Africa into Mauritius through corporeal concealment.

The above seizures have been made possible with the coming into operation in August 2016 of a new dedicated Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) in the Customs Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority with a clear mandate to effectively and efficiently combat drug trafficking and money laundering in all their forms in Mauritius.

Selection of Officers for this Section is based on their experience, competency and this has resulted in an efficient and effective enforcement of national legislations relating to illicit drugs and money laundering. Officers of CANS have been posted in all the strategic places at the points of entry fully equipped with modern tools and equipment to combat drug trafficking on a risk management basis.

Cases of corporeal concealment in Mauritius detected by Mauritius Revenue Authority Customs Department (Year 2018 up to End of August 2019):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>2018 No of cases</th>
<th>Weight (Grams)</th>
<th>Market Value (Mauritius Rupees)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>753.53</td>
<td>11,302,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8,297.54</td>
<td>124,463,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9,051.07</td>
<td>135,766,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashish</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>461.65</td>
<td>1,384,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13,699.92</td>
<td>205,498,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14,161.57</td>
<td>206,883,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued from page 8

2018 2019 (up to End August)

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<thead>
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<th>Drug</th>
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<td>14,161.57</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Emerging Trend of Drug Trafficking in Mauritius

Continued from page 8

Seizures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Drugs Seized</th>
<th>Method of Concealment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/04/2019</td>
<td>937.98 gm of heroin</td>
<td>Swallowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/07/2019</td>
<td>461.65 gm of hashish</td>
<td>Swallowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/07/2019</td>
<td>93 pellets/991.46 gm of heroin</td>
<td>Swallowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/09/2018</td>
<td>216 gm of heroin</td>
<td>Stuffed in private parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/10/2018</td>
<td>1080 gm /83 pellets of heroin</td>
<td>Concealed in underwear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/06/2019</td>
<td>9.57 gm of cannabis and 2012.85 gm of hashish</td>
<td>Concealed in shorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/07/2019</td>
<td>724.66 gm of hashish</td>
<td>Concealed in underwear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MRA HOSTS WORKSHOP ON FIGHT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) in collaboration with the French Customs hosted a workshop entitled “The Fight Against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism”, at the Regional Training Centre, Custom House, Mer Rouge from Monday 24 to Friday 28 June 2019. MRA benefited from the technical expertise of the resource persons from the French Customs namely Mr. Erwan Chauveau and Mr. Thomas Fevre from France, and Mr. Thierry Atchamah- Souramah from Reunion Island. The objective of the workshop was to enhance knowledge and skills on money laundering investigations and the financing of terrorism. This included techniques of gathering information and evidence for prosecution.

His Excellency, Mr Emmanuel Cohet, French Ambassador to Mauritius graced the launching ceremony of the workshop on Monday 24 June 2019. H.E, Mr Cohet underlined the importance of regional cooperation in different fields through the exchange of ideas and information regarding the tracking of drug dealers and the setting up of joint interaction groups. He equally highlighted the close collaboration between the Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS) of the MRA and the customs administrations in Reunion Island and Madagascar in the fight against drug trafficking.

Mr Sudhamo Lal, the Director General of the MRA laid emphasis on the harm
The Preferred Trader Programme (PTP) in South Africa was initiated under the auspices of the World Customs Organisation’s Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme as one of the initiatives of the Customs modernisation journey.

There was a successful launch of the SARS PTP at a prestigious function on 8 May 2017 where 28 traders were granted the Preferred Trader (AEO Compliance) status. This was the building block for expanding the accredited trader’s database as progression to the AEO Programme. This is one of the phenomenal achievement wherein year to date (15/ Sept/2019) SARS has 105 accredited PT traders since May 2017.

The main objectives of the PTP are to move from the traditional gate-keeper to a predominantly risk-based approach where Customs needs to establish and maintain an open, transparent, and mutually beneficial relationship with accredited traders. Application to join the programme is voluntary and applicants being importers and exporters are segmented based on their compliance status. After undergoing a stringent application assessment and audit process an accreditation status is conferred at the Accreditation Review Committee (ARC) to those who meet the criteria.

Trade facilitation benefits for accredited clients ultimately culminate in the following PT benefits: reduced stops, reduced security amounts for compliance with Customs procedures, priority processing of electronic declarations, priority service for tariff and valuation determinations, prioritising and expediting inspections, access to non-intrusive inspection techniques, and the option of application for inspections at the trader’s premises through embargo. The Customs Relationship Manager (CRM) was highlighted by accredited traders as one of the most effective and popular benefit. Regional and national PTP Forums of accredited traders were well attended by all stakeholders as it serves as a platform for meaningful discussions and experience sharing platform. The quarterly client surveys provide accredited traders with a conduit to assess, comment and provide feedback on the benefits. It is exciting to mention that to date traders have given an overwhelming satisfaction feedback of the PT programme as a result the programme has gained more traction.

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MRA HOSTS WORKSHOP ON FIGHT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

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The Authorised Economic Operator Programme Journey
THE AUTHORISED ECONOMIC OPERATOR PROGRAMME JOURNEY

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Footprints on the road to AEO Programme pilot implementation have been embedded. Successful engagements with Other Government Agencies (OGAs) set the foundation for the establishment of an AEO Working Group to oversee the introduction of the programme, socialise and align the benefits to the interest of all stakeholders. An AEO Working Group is scheduled to meet for the 1st time in September 2019. Significant progress has been made on the AEO pilot programme with identified participants in the automotive industry together with Clothing, Textile &Footwear industry as the next phase of the journey continues. Out of four accredited OEMs, at least three have confirmed interest in participating on the pilot which is planned to be implemented before the end of the year 2019. Preparations are currently underway for the inclusion of SMME’s on the pilot. Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) engagements have commenced with a specific focus on BRICS and EU member states and later on SACU as our major trading partners. The collaboration with business and OGAs is the key driver of the successful PT/AEO programme, at which SARS is committed to sustain as this exciting journey continues.

Organisational Diagnostic Mission for EAC held at the WCO RTC Kenya between September 10th - 13th 2019

The WCO RTC Kenya hosted a workshop titled the Organizational diagnostic mission for the East African Community (EAC) organized by the EU-WCO Programme for Harmonized System in Africa whose theme is dubbed "Supporting a coordinated implementation and uniform application of the HS in Africa". The workshop was officially opened by the Chief Manager in charge of Customs operations within the Regional Headquarters and outstations Mr. Wilson Nzoka representing the Regional Coordinator in charge of Kenya Revenue Authority’s Southern Region Mr. Nicholas Kinoti. In his opening address read on his behalf by Mr. Nzoka the Regional Coordinators urged the participants to exercise Solomonic wisdom to strike a balance between interests of the their individual nations and the regions as whole. The opening ceremony was also graced by the Principal of the School Mr. John Langat.

The workshop attracted 15 participants from the all the East African Community partner states of Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan and two participants from the private sector – The Global Trade Solution from the Republic of South Africa. The Programme Manager of the EU-HS programme for Africa Mr. Badr Mouhcine and the HS Lead Expert –EU WCO programme for Africa Mr. Alexey Shcheglov led the deliberations.

Continued on the next page
COASTWISE CARGO TRANSFER-TRANSIRE (C.27) AS A POOL FOR SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE REGION

by Oscar Leonard
Tanzania Revenue Authority Customs and Excise
oleonard@tra.go.tz

Coastwise cargo transfer entails goods conveyed by sea or air from any part of a Partner State to another part thereof. Section 100 of EACCMA, 2004 and Reg.127 and 134 of EACCMR entails Transire (C.27) as a Single document for coastwise transfer within the Region. The cargo transferred coastwise under this regime are prone for smuggling activities along coastal area within the region due to the ground below;

- **Existence of a lot of unauthorized port** on which the dhow/vessel can discharge the goods without customs procedures on a way to the port of discharge.
- **Transire are not electronically generated** on which tracking of it from port of loading to the port of discharge create a room for which disposal of goods can be mishandled.
- **There is a big number of accidents within the coastal area** on which transferred good are collected by Smuggler due to accidents of the dhow/vessel, local made wood/iron dhow failed to repel changes/bad weather conditions.

- **Under declaration of transferred good**, the hand written Transire do miss sequential arrangement of Manifest Number which can be tracked in different customs system within the region.
- **Lack of Customs marine patrol**, this will strengthen the operations along the coast for good from one port to another. Basically customs marine patrol is not so common in the Region which create the room for smuggling activities.

Serious measure must be placed on how to control movement of goods from one port to another, there is a big hole which degrade Government revenue and underperformance of our Organs. Poverty eradication in our region is a daily song for each partner state, Customs operation is the corner stone and benchmark tool toward attainment of sustainable development within the region.

Organisational Diagnostic Mission for EAC held at the WCO RTC Kenya between September 10th -13th 2019

The discussions mainly focused on the usage of WCO tools and instruments, the status of implementation of the CET in the EAC especially the HS 2017, Establishment of a continental cooperation framework at the level of the African Union (AU), involving RECs, Specific programmes and procedures to facilitate the classification of goods, Development, implementation and managing continental and regional classification systems in a coordinated and sustainable manner among other things.
I was fresh from the Kenya Revenue Authority Training Institute. I was ready to commence the customs journey, apply the knowledge that I had acquired from the school. I was waiting with bated breath to apply the harmonized system, rules of origin, verification of cargo and writing a very detailed examination account of my findings. My goal was to be the best customs officer.

My letter for the first posting came and I saw that I had been posted at Old Port Mombasa. This is what I term as the Vicious Customs Cycle. God has an ingenious way of slowing your pace if he sees that you want to ascend rapidly. I reported on duty on a Monday. The station overlooks the Indian Ocean; I took a deep breath of fresh air as I took a minute to appreciate God's wondrous deeds. Old Port taught me that it's the small things in life that matter. Customs work can be so much that you even forget to have a minute to reflect on your life, your ambitions, your dreams and even thank God for His Grace and Love.

It was an uncommon favour, a unique favour, a rare customs chance to see customs in another light. To see the human face of customs and better still to embrace the lovely unknown inner beauty of Customs. The Customs that is serene, quiet, peaceful and extremely thoughtful. Old port gave me a chance to forget for a second the fast pace of customs life and helped me take a back seat and observe the world in a different eye. It will truly remain to be Uncommon Favour that will take a very long time to be erased from my mind.

One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) as an Instrument for Trade Facilitation in Africa

Trade facilitation is key to improving the trade environment and economic growth. OSBPs play a critical role in trade facilitation and regional integration by reducing the time and cost for transporting goods between countries, in line with the commitment in the recently launched African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Economic Transformation and Improvement in the Business Environment and Institutions through Private Investment and Innovation was emphasized as a main pillar established by the Tokyo International Conference.
CONTAINING ILLICIT TRADE IN THE EAC; A CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Role of Customs in Combating Illicit Trade

One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) as an Instrument for Trade Facilitation in Africa

Continued from page 12

on African Development (TICAD) VII, and OSBPs are recognized as an important tool for contributing to this pillar by promoting trade facilitation and regional integration.

In this regard, it was timely for African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to organize a Training of Trainers (ToT) and Data Collection Seminar for Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Kigali, Rwanda, from 29 to 31 July 2019. The REC participants shared their knowledge and experiences in the development and operation of OSBPs. The seminar was co-sponsored by AUDA-NEPAD and JICA, and hosted by the EAC.

The participants were infrastructure and customs experts from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), EAC, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Union Economique et Monétaire de l’ouest Africaine (UEMOA) and Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA).

The OSBP procedures manual developed by the EAC with support from JICA was shared amongst the RECs as a model to be used in rolling out OSBPs. The REC participants were also trained on the use of the African Infrastructure Database (AID) as a monitoring tool for infrastructure development on the continent.

There is a major concern of prevalence of illicit goods in the country as this is negatively affecting the growth of manufacturing sector. The major role of Customs and Border Control is not only collection of revenue but it is also aligned to the fight against importation and exportation of illicit goods. This is achieved by having Customs control tools that are designed to ensure compliance of Customs domestic laws and other international laws.

Customs Legal Framework;

Why Enforcement?

Customs Control Measures to Curb Illicit Importation and Exportation of Illicit Goods;
Verification-Partial or 100% depending on risk Profile-currently 100% joint verification with OGAs on Used Clothes, Consolidated Cargo and Goods without Certificate of Conformity, Surveillance and Risk Profiling, Intelligence gathering and collaboration with other Government Agencies, Patrols, Non-Intrusive Verification i.e. K9 & Scanners, Boarding and Rummaging, Scanning, Laboratory Tests and Analysis and Market Surveillance among other measures.

Activities Generally Indicative of Illicit Trade;
Importation and Exportation of Prohibited and Restricted Goods either by Customs Law or other Laws, Concealment, Smuggling, Contraband, Counterfeit Goods, Under-Valuation and Mis-Declaration.

Issues contributing to presence of illicit goods;
Porous borders – Kenyan Borders cover approximately 4100 kms with significant part not adequately covered, Laxity and integrity issues for staff of agencies manning the borders, Challenges arising from the cargo consolidation processes and cargo without Certificate of conformity (CoC), Prevalence of illegal immigrants, Silo approach by agencies with enforcement mandates, Non-punitive sanctions for non-compliance which fail to achieve deterrence i.e. Sugar, milk powder, ethanol, raw tobacco, maize, motor vehicles.
The Government of Rwanda has developed the Trade Information Portal to fulfill Article 1 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, requiring Member States to publish their trade procedures online, displaying them step-by-step, with contact information on enquiry points, fees and access to forms. The development of the Trade Portal was made possible with support from TradeMark East Africa and technical assistance from UNCTAD and ITC.

This online platform (rwandatrade.rw) launched in March 2018, is implemented by Rwanda Revenue Authority under the supervision of the National Trade Facilitation Committee. It provides a comprehensive, single-point access to user-centric information needed to trade in and out of Rwanda: at its core, a database of procedures provides step-by-step guides to imports, exports and transit, including formalities such as licenses, permits and customs clearance.

**How does it work?**
- Step-by-step guides: for each procedure, the system shows all the steps the trader will go through, each containing:
  - What you will get: result(s) of the step
  - Who to see: entity/unit/officer in charge, with contact information
  - What to bring: requirements (forms and documents)
  - What to pay: costs
  - How long it takes: duration in the queue, at the counter and in between steps
  - Why it is necessary: legal justification for each step
  - Who to complain to: recourse in charge of attending complaints, with contact data
  - Authority certifying that the step is correctly described

**Trade Portal in numbers**
Since the launch of the Trade Portal, the implementation team has thrived to increase awareness and the number of visits:
- 128 published procedures made up of 658 steps,
- 203 laws and regulations,
- 680 forms and requirements
- 109 civil servants with contact details
- 10 awareness campaigns around the country, in collaboration with the Private Sector Federation
- 16 partner websites with Trade Portal window embedded
- Twitter account created with weekly tweets
- Up to 4,000 visits a month.

The numbers keep growing as the team expands the coverage of the Trade Portal to encompass an increasing number of commodities.

**Key benefits**
1. Brings total transparency to rules and procedures, detailed from the trader’s point of view
2. Facilitates simplification of procedures by enabling easy identification of unnecessary steps and requirements
3. Promotes public-private dialogue through a shared understanding of rules and procedures
4. Reduces cost, time and effort spent in searching for trade information.
Smuggling into and out of Ethiopia began long time ago. Since then, smugglers do not hesitate to smuggle goods into and out of Ethiopia and they are still doing it in spite of all laws and regulations. Among the other goods smuggled into the country are illegal drugs. To prevent the adverse effects of the contraband drugs on the health of the society, the Ethiopian Customs Commission (ECC) takes action against the act of drug smuggling.

In its effort to prevent drug smuggling, the commission has recently seized 1280 kg of cannabis at Yabello Checkpoint, located at 200 km away from north of Moyale, a border town between Kenya and Ethiopia.

The cannabis was detained buried in a pile of gravel transported by a truck with plate number ET3-57519 for construction purpose. The seizure of cannabis was made possible as a result of the search and examination conducted by federal police in collaboration with customs officials. In order to escape capture, the driver fled, living his truck behind.

Customs officials have also seized over 10 kg of cocaine and heroin, worth approximately over 900 thousand US dollar in an operation at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

A passenger from Sao Paulo, Brazil to Nigeria was arrested for involving in drug trafficking. The contraband drugs were seized as a result of a search made in the luggage of the passenger.
A total of 116 persons drawn from public and private sector agencies/organizations operating at Malaba, from both Kenya and Uganda, participated in training on effective OSBP operations, with support from the JICA Project on Capacity Development for Trade Facilitation and Border Control in East Africa, from 14 to 16 August 2019.

The main objective of the training was to provide technical officers and stakeholders at the Malaba OSBP with the necessary skills, knowledge, and attitudes to effectively function within the OSBP control zone. The training modules were based on the EAC OSBP training curriculum, which provides a uniform and harmonized approach to building capacity for the management and smooth implementation of OSBPs in East Africa. Specific objectives of the training were understanding:

1. the EAC OSBP legal framework and procedures,
2. border security and disaster risk management,
3. coordinated border management, (iv) OSBP support programs (e.g., change management, ethics and integrity, gender mainstreaming, international relations), and
4. environmental and social safeguards.

The training was hosted at Uganda OSBP and most participants were receiving OSBP training for the first time. All participants agreed that they would put to use what they had learned during the training immediately.

The Malaba OSBP is located along the Northern Corridor (one of major trade and transport corridors in East Africa) and construction of the OSBP is ongoing.

Some of the Key Strategic Priorities of the Kenya Revenue Authority other than to Enhance revenue through improved compliance are to improve Public confidence in the integrity, professional competence and customer focus of our staff, to rely on Data and intelligence driven operations, and most importantly to improve the business climate in the country with respect to taxation and trading across borders.

How do we do this:
KRA aims to achieve a quantum leap in customer service over the plan period. Key targets include significantly raising customer satisfaction, achieving a top 50 position in the Paying Taxes and Trading across borders measures and enhancing the country’s competitiveness by improving the business climate. Key initiatives will be in four areas:

A customer service improvement framework, a programme to improve the Paying-Taxes rank to a top 50 position, a programme to improve the Trading Across Borders ranking to a top 50 and restructure VAT refunds management along best practice lines. Within the overall reform agenda for KRA places emphasis on the identified pain areas in various surveys undertaken.

Consequently:
We have created very good incentives for Compliant traders such as The Authorised Economic Operator Program (AEO), the envisaged Pre Arrival Processing - PAP, but the reverse is equally true for the non-compliant traders, the operationalized the Revised CoC program by KEBS, we are implementing the Presidential decree regarding the four Partner Government Agencies authorized to operate inside the Port of Kilindini and IDCN, we are cooperating with the multi agencies (including the Anti Counterfeit Agency), under the Multi Agency Framework and we are developing a robust risk engine in the iCMS. 

Kyoto Convention on Trade Facilitation, real-time relaying of scanner images via iSCAN to the Command Centre for intervention, retooling and reequipping our staff, integrating with other Partner States officials in our port operations with regard to international trade, prosecutions of offenders with heavy sanctions.

Finally;
KRA is a listening partner. We extensively involve all our partners both in the public and private sectors in formulating our strategies in thereby creating a favorable business environment in the EAC region.
Under the auspices of JICA/WCO, Kenya Customs conducted training and awareness sessions for Customs and other staff working at various border stations in the Southern region, where Kenya receives most of its import and transit goods in East Africa (through Mombasa port). The sessions were delivered by Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) staff, who had been trained as Programme Global Shield (PGS) trainers. Together with WCO experts, PGS trainers introduced PGS and trained/sensitized approximately 80 KRA officials on precursor chemicals, improvised explosive devices (IED), and detection methods, as well as their handling, labelling and storage regulations.

These sessions are a part of the ongoing efforts of KRA to further enhance its border control capacity to improve the safety and security of people in Kenya. KRA – together with the revenue authorities of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda - participated in the Sub-Regional Training-of-Trainer Workshop in East Africa on PGS organized jointly by JICA and WCO earlier this year and developed a pool of PGS trainers for more sustainable PGS training delivery. PGS is a multilateral WCO initiative, which aims at building the capacity of customs administrations to counter the illicit trafficking and diversion of chemicals and other components used by terrorists to manufacture IEDs.

CROSSBORDER TRADE MANAGEMENT: A CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION HEADACHE

Custums administration is most interesting at the exit points or border station if you may that includes the port and airports. Policies I believe should emanate from these areas and flow upwards as opposed to many situations which the reverse is true. These sentiments though on this article may not be backed by research statistics however a review of literature on the subject of cross border trading ought to yield a myriad of wealth of data in support of my assertions.

The border points more so the land ones are more often than not characterized by a flurry of informal business activities between nations. In a bid to promote compliance to individual or regional customs laws, to meet the ever growing desire to meet security needs and in a bid to harmonize systems of inter and intra national systems a lot of enforcement measures are meted on the partakers of said illegal activities border on infringement of human rights in some administrations. So the dilemma is most African states neither have secure borders nor the technological knowhow to anticipate or effectively combat smuggling especially of small items across the border areas and yet the laws are usually quite rigid in a bid to enforce uniformity across the nation. The conundrum therefore is should there be a different set of rules for the border communities or should the customs authorities employ discretionary powers and address some of the unique challenges affecting certain areas. On a more holistic approach can integration and harmonization of regions in terms of policies, rates and other logistics be done in such a way that it will not be cheaper to say divert transit cargo or buy goods from neighboring states and have a significant impact on costs. Points worth pondering on for effective management of borders.

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