

REMARKS OF CAROLE KARIUKI – CEO KEPSA

AT BCCK/GBA LUNCH ON 9 JUN 2015

Actions by KEPSA to tackle corruption and other barriers to Trade:

1. KEPSA working to reduce the contact points and official bureaucracy in many areas such as business registration and services such as renewal of driving licenses, national IDs, online PIN & NSSF registration and facilitation of online payments of business permits.
2. KEPSA realized reduced incidences of fraudulent property transactions due to online land search on the e-citizen portal and marked reduction in time taken in carrying out property valuation and enhanced retrieval of records.
3. The i-Tax platform has improved the willingness for people and businesses to pay taxes online, reducing tax evasion and furthering improving government's efforts on revenue collection.
4. Kenyans no longer have to wait time without end or pay a bribe to resolve a commercial dispute. With more commercial Judges appointed recently and fast-tracking of reduction in backlog of cases, there is enhanced confidence in dispute resolution mechanisms and enforcement of contracts in the country.
5. There used to be unending concerns about the level of bribery, the time and cost it takes to clear your goods at the Port of Mombasa or even haul them through the borders. Through KEPSAs - Public Private Dialogue (PPD) work, the Mombasa Community Port Charter was launched in June 2014. The charter has established a single command and authority Centre thereby reducing the time taken to clear goods at the port of Mombasa from three days to five days and reduced weighbridges which used to be timewasters and the contact points for soliciting bribes. These have reduced from seven to four (Mariakani, Mlolongo, Gilgil and Malaba) among others.
 - Related to the above, the establishment of the Kenya TradeNet System (the Kenya National Electronic Single Window System) as a single point of contact for traders and government agencies involved in cross border trade has reduced the time taken to comply with payment of taxes and therefore reduced incentives to pay a bribe to clear your goods faster. This is really facilitating faster cross border trade in the EAC region.
6. Carole pointed out the private sector are not spared from the axe and purge - it takes two to tango and the private sector is the supply-side of most corruption. Together with the UN Compact, KEPSA developed a Business Code of Ethics and are replicating the same in the EAC region by developing a Regional Business Code of Ethics soon to be launched. So far about 150 businesses have signed this Code of Ethics. KEPSA working towards ensuring that the whole private sector side is trained on Ethics and Integrity and that all members comply with the code of ethics for business. KEPSA is encouraging the government when doing business with private sector to go for those that have signed onto the code of ethics. All business encouraged to sign to it, both local and foreign, as this will also help us to curb corruption in private sector.
7. If a KEPSA member is caught in bribery and corruption scandal, KEPSA contemplating measures against them including creating its own list of shame so that both the public and government are wary of doing business with them.
8. KEPSA is committed to fight corruption and is well aware that corruption does fight back. Encouraging all leaders including the intellectuals who are often stuck on methodological issues about it to join the fight. In the end, all institutions including foreign businesses must find ways to deal with corruption in the best way possible.
9. Carole concluded by saying as part of KEPSAs efforts to help Members build capability in Ethics and Integrity, they have facilitated Training for 22 Member business organizations and also collaborated with Partners in pushing for more members to sign the Business Code of Ethics developed in collaboration with the UN Global Compact Network.

10. KEPSA in collaboration with the government will continue working on enhancing doing business environment in Kenya by pursuing bold economic and business reforms so as to continue improving on Doing Business Report and Kenya's competitiveness index.