

Quarterly Sub-Committee Meeting on International Trade, Transport Statistics and ICT

The Quarterly Sub-committee meeting on international trade, transport statistics and ICT was held in Kisumu Hotel on 27th January 2011.

The guest of honor was Mrs. Joyce Ogundo, the Director of Internal Trade, at the Ministry of Trade, who was represented by Mr. Jared Nyaundi.

Ogundo said the Ministry is mandated to undertake the development of international and domestic trade policies, promotion of retail and wholesale markets, development of micro and small business, ensuring fair trade practices as well as consumer protection, development of the private sector and facilitation of international trade.

Since Kenya's current trade regime is guided by market-driven principles of liberalization under the World Trade Organization (WTO), "there is increased effort in the regional economic integration that has resulted in the establishment of and participation in the East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)" Ogundo added.

With a view to enhance trade and investment promotion, Kenya is a signatory to a various preferential and bilateral trade and investment agreements, including those under AGOA and EPAs. Expansion of regional integration and bilateral trade agreements has widened trade opportunities for Kenyan businesses.

Trade is important as it creates markets through which goods and services reach consumers. It plays a critical role on poverty reduction through employment creation in informal, retail, wholesale and distributive trade. In addition, trade provides micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with opportunities to access favorable process in international markets.

To effectively plan for the strengthening of forward and backward linkages of distributors, wholesalers and retailers, as well as improve their marketing capacity, there is need to determine the number of these establishments according to the broad categorization. This, Ogundo maintains, is hampered by

“lack of accurate and reliable data on the number of retail and wholesale establishments.”



**QUARTERLY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE
TRANSPORT STATISTICS AND I.T.C.HELD AT KISUMU HOTEL.ON 27th JAN..2011.**

The Sub-committee was set up in 1978, after the break-up of the EAC. It is concerned with the quality of trade data and data auxiliary to trade. It draws its membership from-

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics - KNBS

Kenya Pipeline Company - KPC

Kenya Maritime Authority - KMA

Kenya Revenue Authority (ICT, PMU, Statistics) - KRA

Kenya Railways Corporation - KRC

Kenya Petroleum and Refineries Limited - KPRL

Kenya Power and Lighting Company - KPLC

Kenya Ports Authority - KPA

Central Bank of Kenya - CBK

Export Processing Zones Authority - EPZA

Insurance Regulatory Authority - IRA

Ministry of Trade - MoT

Ministry of Energy - MoE

Ministry of Industrialization - MoI

