**SRA intensifies on facilitating trade for importers & exporters**

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SRA Director of Customs Khauhelo Mawana said this would help SRA in enforcement adding that a consultant would be in the country so as to assess the legal framework and all aspects that pertain to this development.

He said this project started before the Time Release Study adding that the World Bank would provide a server to share information with South Africa. “If a trader buys goods in South Africa and declares the with SARS, SRA will be able to see that. SRA is making arrangements to see this being rolled out soon and a consultant will be here,” he said.

Adding, he said customs was a key pillar for economic development internationally, however, countries needed to develop systems that would fit into the agenda for the development of their economies.

He was speaking during a stakeholder meeting on the development of the Integrated Border Management Systems (IBMS) which SRA seeks to launch in the near future. The IBMS is a national and international coordinated cooperation among relevant institutions and agencies involved in border security and trade facilitation. The objective is to establish effective and efficient border management.

Mawana said governments needed to have the political will and support for the systems implementation to be smooth.

On the same note, SRA Commissioner General Dumsani Masilela said countries needed to find a balance between the movement of goods and people as the mobility between borders increased. He said all departments involved must cooperate as it was impossible for one entity to discharge its duties individually if there was an interconnection among them.

Govt revenue to improve with SRA’s new system THE country’s revenue will continue to improve with the adoption of the Integrated Border Management Systems (IBMS) by the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA). World Bank IBMS Consultant Charles Nuwugaba said there was urgency to establish this sytem in the country.

 “There is urgency to establish efficiency in national trade facilitation regime that will lead to improved revenues, cost of doing business and investment competitiveness in Swaziland. “A clear policy statement and consensus in identifying the institutions and practices which will have to be integrated.

“There are plans on how the integration process will be implemented, by whom and in what sequence. “Appropriate conceptualisations of border cooperation and coordination challenges and goals have to be identified, agreed on and defined from the inception,” he said.

He said a success criteria for evaluating progress towards IBM establishment have to be designed and validated. Nuwutaga said the system would be rolled-out in stages adding that autonomous decisions will be taken by actors working on the same policy problem but on parallel and distinct tracks, with information sharing (‘letting you know what we are doing’) on a voluntary basis. He said another stage would be the systematic and mandated information sharing among multiple agencies at the border.

“There loosely coupled coordination of agency policies on a voluntary or semi-mandated basis step.

**“Also there** will be the strengthening operational cooperation among multiple agencies on an encouraged or mandated basis using memorandum of understanding and agreements.

“Goals, standards and policies will be harmonised among existing agencies, including common standards of performance (such as training),” he said.

Nuwutaga said multiple organisations and actors would work together to achieve a common goal under a unified organizational management structure for limited but lengthy time periods, such as task forces or joint operations. He said there would be a formally established permanent organisations working under a common internal and external governance system within one state or regionally, staffed by delegated officials from other agencies. Nuwutaga said newly created autonomous organisations which were staffed by independently hired personnel and have the executive authority to carry out tasks done before by other agencies.

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