



PRESS RELEASE

Elegu border front line staff and informal traders receive Personal Protective Equipment from TradeMark East Africa

Elegu, 10 November 2020: TradeMark East Africa, the regional trade facilitating agency has handed over Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Elegu One Stop Border Post (OSBP) frontline staff and informal cross border traders.

The delivery of PPEs at Elegu OSBP comes at the back of concentrated efforts undertaken by the Government of Uganda and its partners to further curb the spread of the novel COVID-19 virus that continues to cause havoc across the world.

The PPE presented at Elegu OSBP were **funded by Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) through TradeMark East Africa's** Safe Trade Emergency Facility. Other OSBPs that have already benefited from this Safe Trade initiative are Busia and Mutukula.

Ulrik Jorgensen, Counsellor and Teamleader Growth Team at the Denmark in Uganda Embassy and **Damali Ssali**, the acting country director for TradeMark East Africa, Uganda delivered the PPE to Elegu OSBP.

On hand to receive the PPE was **Abel Kagumire, the Commissioner Customs at Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)**. The equipment provided includes infrared thermometers, re-usable safety boots, full protective PPE, filtering facepiece respirator, reusable masks, plastic face shield.

While receiving the PPE, Abel Kagumire, the URA commissioner customs underscored the significance of the Elegu OSBP as a strategic border for Uganda.

"As a country, we look at Elegu border as a strategic border for growing our exports. We have a lot of agricultural produce in Uganda which is needed in South Sudan. That is why we come up with processes that help facilitate exports. We are challenging our people to add value to the products that they export so that we earn even more from South Sudan. As government agencies, we are here to facilitate this trade," Kagumire said.

She further added, *"We thank our partners; TradeMark East Africa and the Danish Embassy for donating this Personal Protective Equipment. Allow me confirm that this equipment received today is not for the customs team alone but for all trade facilitation agencies operating here and informal traders."*

Ulrik Jorgensen, the Counsellor and Team leader Growth Team at the Denmark in Uganda Embassy noted that he was happy that Trade was continuing even amidst challenges such as COVID-19 and floods in Elegu.

"It is very positive to see that Trade is still progressing even amidst some difficulties. COVID-19 has affected the whole world. Many places in Europe and North America are experiencing a second wave with countries being locked down again. Fortunately, we are not seeing the same here in Uganda. This because of the efforts that Uganda has managed to put in place to



contain the spread of COVID-19. Uganda is in a very good place and we are happy to continue working with you to achieve even more success.” He noted.

The equipment presented today will enhance the safety and working condition of front-line workers in key borders, which are critical arteries of trade in and out of Uganda and her neighbours South Sudan and DR Congo.

These PPEs are part of the Safe Trade Emergency Facility, a USD 23 million emergency program rolled out by TradeMark East Africa in the East African region in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic that seeks to ensure regional economies continue to trade in a safe way, while curbing cross-border infections.

“We are handing over Personal Protective Equipment because we want to see that Safe Trade continues. People still have to trade, eat and live even as we continue to battle Covid19. These PPEs are for all border agencies operating here in Elegu and Informal Traders particularly Women Cross Border Traders. We have already delivered the same to Busia, Mutukula and Mirama,” **Damali Ssali, the acting country director for TradeMark EA, Uganda** noted, adding.

“The Safe Trade Emergency Facility that was developed by TradeMark EA and funded by our partners - Denmark includes the Safe Trade Zones. We are still in the planning of how to implement these Safe Trade Zones. The Safe Trade Zones will facilitate Informal Trade. It is not just about Formal Trade”

Other interventions under the Safe Trade Emergency Facility include: technology to enhance truck driver testing and tracking; the development and implementation of relevant protocols to enhance efficient and safe trade; supporting trade policy, standards and SPS; policy advocacy and improving e-commerce.

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1. Press contact details:

Nelson Karanja
Communication Director,
TradeMark East Africa
Email: nelson.karanja@trademarkea.com
Cell: +254 731 500 596

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, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America as well as the European Union. 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), Malawi, Zambia, South Sudan, Uganda (Kampala) and Rwanda (Kigali).

To find out more, please visit our website www.trademarka.com

3. About Safe Trade Emergency Facility (STEF) Programme

Eastern and Southern African governments have recognised an immediate need to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 on trade for the good of the economy and their citizens. As a result, TMEA has created a US\$23 million Safe Trade Emergency Facility (STEF) to support Eastern African governments to undertake critical measures along the transport and trade routes that will ensure trade continues safely while protecting livelihoods.

STEF components:

- Making the ports, borders and critical supply chains safe for trade;
- Ensuring food security and access to critically required medicines; and
- Supporting measures that reduce jobs losses and supports exports.

To find out about SAFE trade programme, please visit www.trademarka.com/safetrade