

DTIS UPDATING PROCESS ON TRADE FACILITATION AND TRANSIT ISSUES

THE GAMBIAN EXPERIENCE

Presented by
Bai Ibrahim Jobe

INTRODUCTION

- Trade Policy in the context of Vision 2020
- Maintain a liberal trade regime
- Invest and adopt rules and regulations to improve trade facilitation system
 - Formulated a National Transport policy
 - Establishment of National Roads Authority
 - Implementation of Port Master Plan (2003-2020)
 - Development of cargo complex at Banjul International Airport
 - Support from development partners for improvement of transport infrastructure
- Focused more on improving road, customs clearance of goods and delivery of sea and air ports services
- Overall policy objective – to ensure efficiency

INTRODUCTION Cont'd

- Moving from entrepot (***Old DTIS***) to export (***DTIS Update***)
- Trade Facilitation feature in the DTIS and DTIS update to find ways and means of removing impediments to trade so as to effectively utilize the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) for export to the sub-regional markets.

METHODOLOGY

- fully understand the transport and customs clearance processes in Gambia and at different border posts,
- bottlenecks that are affecting the possibility of Gambia to become a hub for intra-regional trade
- relevant import and export procedures, required customs documentation.
- interface between customs and the Gambia statistical office on the collection of trade data in relation to transit trade and its origin.

SCOPE

- Amdalai – Garange Border Post
- Farafenni Kerr Ayib – Kerr Ali Border Post
- Giboro - Seleti Border Post
- Basse – Badiara Border Post

SCOPE Cont'd

- Focus
 - Documentation
 - Administrative Procedures
 - Charges and fees
 - Time
 - Delays
 - Bilateral Trade Agreement to facilitate implementation of the ISRT

POLICY SPACE

- ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS)
 - Common External Tariff (*Common Market Initiative*)
 - Free Trade Area –Elimination of customs duties on imports and export, removal of tariff and non tariff barriers (*Common Market Initiatives*)
 - Remove impediments of free movement of goods, person, services and capital and rights of residence (*Common Market Initiative*)
- Bilateral Trade Agreement
- Economic Partnership Agreement
- Inter State Road Transit PROTOCOL

IMPLEMENTATION

- To facilitate transit
 - Finalize the implementation of the ECOWAS ISRT
 - Interface of customs automated systems
 - Joint Customs border posts
 - Exchange of information on offence relating to cross border and smuggling
 - Opening Basse – Badiara route
 - Hot pursuit of smugglers

CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Major challenges

- Strengthen collaboration
- Harmonization of documentation
- Stop harassment
- Enhance communication
- Improve Infrastructure (Joint Border Post)
- recognize ECOWAS – ISRT
- Eradicate arbitrary charges and fees