



Revenue Services Lesotho Launches Electronic Seal Pilot Programme to Enhance Trade Security and Facilitation

Maseru, Lesotho – The **Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL)** is proud to announce the launch of the **E-Seal Pilot Programme**, a ground breaking step towards modernizing trade facilitation and strengthening cross-border security.

This initiative is made possible through the generous support of the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** as a donor, reinforcing its commitment to capacity building and promoting global trade facilitation standards.

As part of Lesotho's **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme**, the E-Seal Pilot introduces tamper-proof electronic seals that secure goods in transit, ensuring **real-time tracking** and enhancing **border efficiency**. This initiative aligns with global standards for trade facilitation, promoting economic growth, regional cooperation, and improved competitiveness for businesses.

Key Benefits of the E-Seal Pilot Programme:

- **Enhanced Trade Security:** Real-time monitoring and tamper-proof technology reduce risks of cargo interference during transit;
- **Improved Border Efficiency:** Faster clearance processes minimize delays, benefiting traders, border agencies, and management authorities alike;
- **Economic Competitiveness:** Streamlined trade processes support businesses and drive economic growth.

Role of Lesotho Border Agencies and Stakeholders

The success of the E-Seal Pilot Programme is built on collaboration with Lesotho's **Border Agencies**, which play a pivotal role in coordinating and streamlining border operations. Agencies including **Customs, Immigration, and Ministry of Agriculture, Port Health and Border Security** have worked closely with the RSL to ensure the effective implementation of the pilot.

The programme also emphasizes strong partnerships with regional stakeholders, particularly the **South African Revenue Service (SARS)** and the **Border Management Authority (BMA)**. These collaborative efforts ensure seamless alignment of border processes, reduce transit delays, and support the broader trade facilitation goals within the **Southern African Customs Union (SACU)**.



Speaking on the Launch

Ms. **Mpono Mosaase**, Commissioner Operations Support at the RSL, highlighted the importance of the initiative:

"The E-Seal Pilot Programme is a cornerstone of our efforts to modernize trade processes and strengthen Lesotho's role as a key player in the regional and global trade ecosystem. This initiative will not only secure goods in transit but also fosters trust, efficiency, and cooperation among traders, border authorities, and regional stakeholders. We are especially grateful to the WCO for its support in making this vision a reality."

Next Steps

The E-Seal Pilot will be implemented initially at the **Maseru Bridge** and **Ficksburg Border Posts**, commencing on **19th December 2024**. The pilot will be tested with a select group of **Traders** before being expanded to other border posts and traders.

Traders and businesses are encouraged to **enrol in the AEO Programme** to take full advantage of the benefits under this initiative, including reduced clearance times and prioritized border processes.

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For clarification, please contact RSL's PR Desk: 62112502