

## Zimbabwe Officially Launched its Single Window Project



The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority officially launched its Single Window project in June 2022, which is a 3-year project which involves bringing on board 9 cross regulatory agencies involved in cross border trade under this 1st phase of the project.

The official launch was presided over by the Commissioner General of the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority, Ms Regina Chinamasa, who delivered the keynote address on behalf of the Secretary of Finance and Economic Development, Mr George Guvamatanga.



ZIMRA Commissioner General, Ms Regina Chinamasa

The electronic single window will be managed centrally by a lead agency, enabling the appropriate governmental authorities and agencies to receive or have access to the information relevant for their purpose. The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) was appointed as the Lead Agency at ports of entry, and as such it is the lead agency in the implementation of the Zimbabwe Electronic Single Window.

The implementation of a single window was agreed upon on 17th November 2016, when all relevant Government Ministries and border agencies signed an Interagency Agreement on the establishment and Implementation of a Single Window Facility. The project was officially launched on 10th June 2022 by the Commissioner General, Ms Regina Chinamasa, and was well attended by all concerned stakeholders from both private and public sector.

The project is taking an incremental development approach with agencies being incorporated in the system in phases.

A single window is a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. The system allows this electronic information to be submitted once. The electronic single window aims to expedite and simplify information flows between trade and government and bring meaningful gains to all parties involved in cross-border trade.

The internationally accepted definition of a single window is provided by the UN/CEFACT Recommendation No. 33, on "Establishing A Single Window" which states:

**"A Single Window is defined as a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. If information is electronic, then individual data elements should only be submitted once"**

There are many benefits to Government, Private sector, and the citizens of the country. However, it is envisaged that the Zimbabwe Electronic Single Window will not only make it easier for traders importing and exporting goods to comply with all requirements for all concerned Border Stakeholders, by allowing for the electronic submission of clearance documents once, it will also provide importers/exporters with a single response to their clearance request.

The system will also reduce the clearance time at ports of entry and increase transparency by helping to ensure clearance data is accurate, reliable and available online for all related parties.

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