



# **ePing implementation in the Gambia**

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# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION



- Introduction
- Challenges for dissemination of TBT and SPS notifications
- Benefits of the ePing system for The Gambia.
- Recommendations for implementation of the ePing system in the Gambia.



# Introduction

- National activities relating to notifications send to or received from the WTO are coordinated by the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional integration and Employment (MOTIE) as NNA:
- The Gambia has established the TBT and SPS Enquiry Points to fulfill its WTO requirement and most importantly to help increase Gambian businesses access to markets
- The Gambia Standards Bureau hosts the TBT Enquiry Point.
- Food Safety and Quality Authority hosts the SPS Enquiry Point



# Introduction cont.

- Both TBT and SPS Enquiry Points have been set up and are functional:
- SPS National Committee is established and is functional.
- TBT National Committee is yet to be established.
- TBT and SPS notifications are being received by both enquiry points.
- The TBT NEP has established a database. **SPS NEP is yet to establish a database.**
- Weekly TBT Notifications are received and summarized into the database.
- Enquiries from the private sector are being processed and responses provided by the TBT NEP.



# Challenges – dissemination of TBT and SPS notifications



- Dissemination of TBT and SPS notifications to both public and private stakeholders is weak.
- The Gambia lacks a TBT and SPS measures notification system to facilitate the workflow of the national enquiry points.
- The link between enquiry points and private operators is weak or non existent limiting information sharing.



This creates impediments to Gambian exporters in accessing markets of other WTO members

- Both TBT and SPS NEPs will need the information system, supportive infrastructure and databases to help in sorting and disseminating notifications to stakeholders in a more simplified and regular basis.



# Benefits of ePing system for the Gambia



- The *ePing system* will ensure that SPS or TBT related notifications from WTO SPS and TBT IMS reach relevant private sector stakeholders (via email and SMS).
- It will invigorate the work of TBT and SPS enquiry points and Committees to give more attention to notifications that are received from WTO members – the notifications have to be sorted and summarized for dissemination.



# Benefits of ePing system for the Gambia cont.



- It will enhance the interaction and information sharing between the public and private sector stakeholders on TBT or SPS notifications.
- It will increase the provision of responses to notifications and request for assistance where there are implementation challenges
- It will reduce the obstacles that Gambian exporters face in markets of other WTO members – exporters will be aware of the changes in TBT and SPS measures of trading partners.
- National regulators can use the system to easily reach the operators on TBT and SPS measures – **this will reduce number of rejections and build confidence with trading partners.**



# Recommendations – implementations of ePing in Gambia

- The ePing system can be established in one of the institutions in TGSB and a link system to be provided at the FSQA
- The system should provide alerts via email but most importantly via SMS
- Training on the information system should be provided to selected officials of TGSB and FSQA





# Recommendations –



## implementations of ePing in Gambia

- The eping should have a feature where notifications are summarized so that private sector stakeholders will not be bothered with too much information
- Simplified standards forms or template should be prepared to facilitate the summarizing of notifications for disseminations.
- The private sector should be able to sent enquiries to the ePing system via emails and SMSs and receive responses via SMS and email alerts.
- The National TBT Committee should be established and both the TBT and SPS National committees should be functional.



# Recommendations –



## implementations of ePing in Gambia

- Both SPS and TBT NEPs should keep a full and regularly updated list of stakeholders for dissemination of notifications and for mobilising comments on other notifications made by other members.
- The NEPs, through the TBT or SPS committee, should step up and strengthen the sensitisation of the ePing system to stakeholders so that they are aware of the system.



**THANK YOU**