



KENYA REVENUE  
AUTHORITY

Office of the Commissioner General

## PRESS STATEMENT

### SLANDER AIMED AT TARNISHING THE NAME OF KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY AND ITS EMPLOYEES

Kenya Revenue Authority takes great exception to continued unjustified slander aimed at tarnishing its name and that of its employees by some individuals and a section of the media. The latest events that have been highlighted include the ongoing drug saga. As I believe the public does remember, we were faced with a similar situation about a year ago when one of the media houses embarked on a similar mission. Rather than take legal measures whose outcome would have had severe consequences, we opted for the softer option of arbitration through a third party, in this case the Media Council of Kenya. It is sad to note that after about a year of waiting for the matter to be resolved, to date no action has been taken at all. As a result, we have once again been left at the mercy of detractors whose unverified claims have found prominence in the local media.

I am deeply concerned about articles that have of late been carried by a section of the media, attributable to a report by a Mr. Mohammed Godana Jarssa, claiming that the Authority in general and I in particular frustrated efforts to investigate a particular case of drug trafficking in January 2005. The correct position in so far as the matter is concerned is as follows:

- Kenya Revenue Authority has always worked closely with the Kenya Police and other law enforcement agents in the course of undertaking their respective duties. Indeed it is as a result of this cooperation that the largest haul of cocaine ever recovered in the country worth Kshs.6.5billion was impounded in December 2004. KRA facilitated the exercise until recovery was made. We will continue upholding this spirit.

*Mh*  
29/11/2010

*Judith W. Wanjau, Deputy Commissioner*



- Regarding the allegation that the immediate past Commissioner of Police Maj. Gen. Hussein Ali and I stopped investigation into circumstances surrounding 21 containers allegedly stuffed with narcotics, I am not aware at all of any such investigations neither did the then Commissioner of Police or I commission any. Investigations that took place were in regard to two containers of goods declared as personal effects and involved all the relevant law enforcement agencies. They were conducted and concluded by the end of December 2004 when the aforementioned haul of narcotics was recovered.
- It is worth noting that as law enforcement agents, KRA and Kenya Police consult regularly in the course of discharging their respective mandates. Whenever the police interdict drugs, they always have the courtesy to let us know and vice versa. We therefore do not dictate to the Police force or any other law enforcement agency for that matter, what action to take in the course of discharging their respective mandates.

Kenya Revenue Authority has been at the forefront in the fight against illicit trade, narcotics included. Among the measures we have taken so far include:

- Establishment of a K9 unit in Nairobi and Mombasa . We plan to deploy the same in other parts of the country in due course.
- We have also introduced fixed, mobile and palletised scanners in all regions.
- The Authority also reactivated its marine operations both in the Indian Ocean and Lake Victoria through the deployment of six boats to ensure effective marine patrols.
- We have teams in place to deter entry of prohibited goods into the country. They include Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO), Mombasa Anti Smuggling Team (MAST) and Rapid Response Teams.

*MLH*  
29/11/2010

We wish to request the media houses to always ensure that they get their facts right before publishing articles which may portray others in negative light. We are an open organisation and will always respond to queries whenever they are raised.

In view of the foregoing, I would like to state that Kenya Revenue Authority reserves the right to take any measures that it deems necessary to defend its reputation and that of its employees. However, I hope this shall not be necessary after this press conference. We consider the media an integral part of our business and would not like this relationship to be destroyed by incidences as unfortunate as the ones that have been at play of late.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.G. Waweru', written in a cursive style.

**M.G. Waweru CBS**

Commissioner General