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## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

### LAUNCHING OF THE SADC ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN (E-COO) AS PER THE SADC PROTOCOL ON TRADE - 6 DECEMBER 2022

In its quest to adhere to the national Information Communications Technology (ICT) Guidelines as per the Harambee Prosperity Plan II, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Trade, the Revised Kyoto Convention ICT Guidelines by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement, the Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA), is launching the SADC Electronic Certificate of Origin (e-CoO).

The envisaged implementation of the SADC E-CoO will not only ensure that NamRA meet its strategic objectives of enhancing trade facilitation and pursuing innovation, but will also enhance compliance with regional and international requirements as stated above.

The main objective of the SADC eCoO is to facilitate the easy movement of goods, in addition to reducing cost of doing business within the region, in relation to goods that conform to the SADC Rules of Origin. The expected benefits from the use of the SADC eCoO include improving intra-regional trade, promoting a paperless environment, time efficiency, increased trade and reduction of origin fraud risks.

The SADC e-CoO is an electronically processed and issued certificate of origin by an issuing authority attesting that the goods declared by an exporter conform to specific rules of origin. The SADC Secretariat encouraged the Member States through their customs administrations, to migrate from the manual processing of the certificate of origin to the electronic version.

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NamRA hereby informs all exporters, manufacturers, customs clearing agents and freight forwarders, as well as the public that the issuance of the SADC e-CoO will commence on 6 December 2022, in respect of all applications relating to products traded under the SADC Protocol on Trade.

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