



# St Kitts and Nevis Customs and Excise Department

*“To Protect and Collect”*

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **CUSTOMS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE**

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, JANUARY 22, 2017 (Customs PRO) - The St. Kitts and Nevis Customs and Excise Department has launched its new website. The site, [skncustoms.com](http://skncustoms.com), which is now in its third generation and offers many attractive features was launched earlier today at the annual Customs Week gathering, held at Government House, under the auspices of His Excellency Sir Tapley Seaton, the Governor-General and Dr. Hon. Timothy Harris, Prime Minister of the Federation and Minister of Finance.

Acting Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Mr. Kennedy De Silva outlined how many of the functions of the new website helps the government of St. Kitts and Nevis to be compliant with a number of the measures of the World Trade Organisation’s Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The site gives the general public insights into the performance of the department. Through Declaration Clearance Time Statistics portal, traders and potential investors in St. Kitts and Nevis will now know the average daily, weekly, monthly and annual time it takes to process cargo in each station and department wide.

The catalogue of legal texts and agreements has been updated to include the full text of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement that is expected to enter into force later in first quarter this year.

All features of the upgraded website are also accessible in all major languages. This feature broadens the reach of the department and the impact of our information on potential investors around the world.

Prime Minister Harris, in his address to launch the website, commended the department for its advanced approach to change and innovation. “This new website is a testament to the fact that the St. Kitts and Nevis Customs and Excise Department is a visionary and progressive arm of the government. That, my friends, is worthy of highest commendation,” Dr. Harris said.

The Prime Minister ended his remarks by thanking the department for upgrading the portal through which many nationals of the federation at home and abroad will have access to productive customs information.

Director of Information Technology in the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis, Ms. Amicia Mussenden was on hand to witness the launch of the new website. Ms. Mussenden in a message to the Department said, “The launch of the new Customs and Excise Department website demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to utilising technology to transform how Government works. The upgraded website will allow the Customs Department to provide services to businesses and citizens more efficiently and effectively.”

“In so doing, they will be helping the administration to advance its e-Government agenda. Through the provision of online access to relevant trade related tools, data and information, the Customs and

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Excise Department is making a significant contribution to the Federation's open data and open government initiatives.”

The IT Director pledged her Department's continued support to work together with Customs and Excise to evolve business and citizen access to Government services through the use of ICT.

The Customs Department will follow up later this year with other ICT tools including the unveiling of the SKN Customs app that will put many of the features of the website in the hands of the citizens through their smartphones and other devices.

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