



NATIONAL ENQUIRY POINT AND E PING

PRESENTED BY
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
LESOTHO

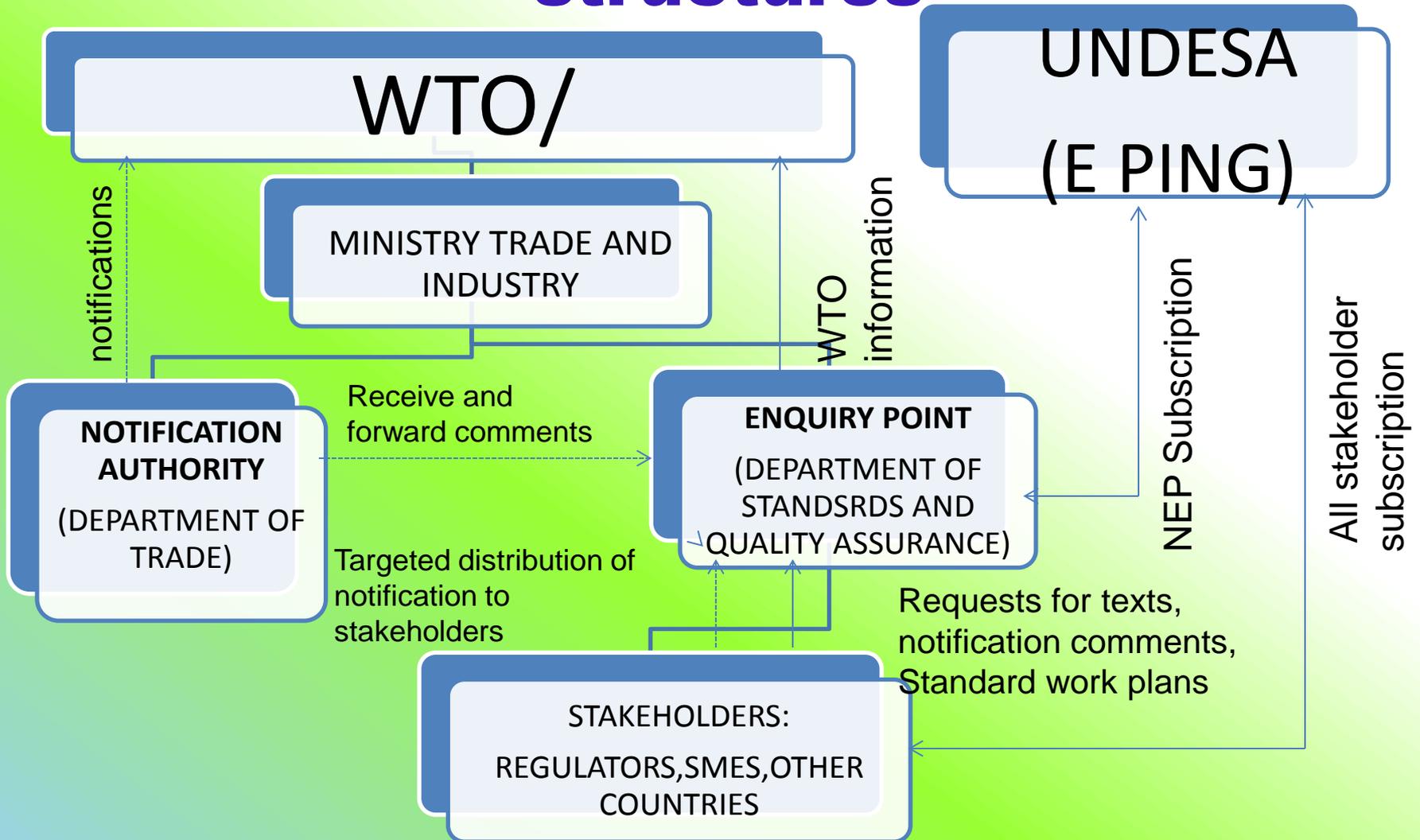
Lesotho and Transparency Obligation

- Lesotho subscribed in 1995
- Hence adoption of TBT Agreement
- Regionally, Lesotho is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and has obligation under TBT Annex under SADC Protocol to Trade
- Despite early subscription, like many countries in Southern Africa, Lesotho lags behind in implementation of the agreement hence the intervention by SADC to harmonise procedures
- Several efforts tried to accord Lesotho's products competitiveness in the global market but lack of designated and centralised location for Standards, regulations and conformity assessment procedures hampered such

National Enquiry Point

- Established in November 2014 under the assistance of USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub Programme
- Long term objective of housing both the Notification Authority and the Standards Information Hub (refer to diagram)
- NEP is under review:
 - To achieve its long term objectives
 - Sustainability measures 
 - Effective communication strategy and outreach to all its stakeholders
 - Take ownership of all the support granted

Notification and Information structures



Benefits of E ping

- E ping will bridge the information gap to private sector that WTO cannot reach easily
- Lesotho business community can take advantage of UN support measures and access such trainings
- Eping can help strengthen coordination mechanism of notifications and enhance relationship with regulators and industry
- E ping can even strengthen other TBT Structures such as the TBT Consultative Committee
- Educate the business community about global market requirements and hence informed enquires

Challenges

- Lack of harmonized national notification System although the NEP is under review against good practices
- Lack of web presence and sustainable support
- Lack of effective mechanism for dissemination of information, notification and facilitation of comments

Action prior implementation

- Link to the Lesotho Trade Portal for widespread promotion
- NEP website and a functional electronic notification system(covered in the draft Action plan as part of the USAID Project)
- Revive the National Notification Authority
- Strengthen the capacity of TBT related institutions on the importance of notification

Conclusion

- Lesotho fully embraces and honors all efforts which underpin to global multilateral trading system.
- Lesotho strives to take advantage of the technical assistance programmes to ensure that enabling infrastructure is available as this is a prerequisite for effective participation in global trade.
- Furthermore, we pledge to fully utilise the support being given under UNDESA as in all other various trade related technical assistance programmes at all levels in order for it to address its supply side constraints to enhance its our participation in the international trading system.

Thank you!!!