press release
CONTAINERIZATION THE SOLUTION TO SMALL BUSINESS WORKSPACE WOES

Nyeri, July 9 2015: “Containerization is the solution to small business workspace problems.” says Anthony Kwache, National Chair Kenasvit.

Containerization is the customization of containers (such as those used to ferry cargo) to create working environments that are suitable for businesses. Containers are made of high quality material that is fire proof and easy to customize into workspace for most small businesses. “Space is quickly diminishing in urban areas; on the other hand, the number of small businesses is on the rise. Containers provide the solution since they are temporary structures that can be moved around when need arises without causing loses and damages to business owners” adds Mr. Kwache.

In Kenya there are 9.3 million small businesses. These businesses contribute 14% to the GDP and account for 75% of jobs created annually. At the same time, the sector is growing at the rate of 7% annually. Consequently, workspace conflicts are on the rise. “We appreciate that there are very many small businesses therefore it is a challenge for the National Government and County Government to provide each one of us with space for business, which is why we are proposing to the Governments’ to consider temporary, affordable structures that can be moved when required” says Mr. Kwache.

In recent times, there have been numerous conflicts between the county governments and small businesses triggered by what the small businesses say are inadequate and inappropriate workspace. On the other hand, the county governments claim that the sector is simply undisciplined, and does not want to follow the law. Despite numerous talks and negotiations the relationship between the two parties remains volatile.

By allowing some permanency of work station to small businesses the county governments will gain extra revenue in the form of licenses and rents. Meanwhile, the national government will start to achieve the much needed formalization that will allow for an expansion of the tax bracket. At the same time, businesses will now have safe storage for their goods and leases that can guarantee access to credit facilities.

“Small businesses cannot be simply wished away, because they are a solution to unemployment and a major contributor to Kenya achieving Vision 2030. It is time that the governments started to embrace practical, affordable and quick solutions to the workspace challenge in order to promote the development of small businesses.” Says Mr. Kwache

Kenasvit is the umbrella association for small businesses in Manufacturing, Trade, Agribusiness and Service sector. The Association has 15,000 members in 16 counties. KENASVIT exists to promote the growth of small business in Kenya, to increase livelihoods and participate in national development, through collective action, promotion of entrepreneurship, practice of responsible management and provision of a voice for the most marginalised in society.

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For more information please contact, Anthony Kwache, Chairperson Kenasvit on 0721845424