



PRESS STATEMENT

INSECURITY ALONG NIMULE - JUBA HIGHWAY THAT HAS NEGATIVELY IMPACTED CARGO MOVEMENT IN THE EAC REGION

Nairobi, 8th September 2021: The Federation of East African Forwarders Associations (FEAFFA) joins other stakeholders in condemning in the strongest terms the ongoing attacks and killings of long-distance truck drivers ferrying cargo along the Nimule-Juba highway.

The Federation has learnt with disbelief that some truck drivers have lost their lives and others wounded with goods worth millions including trucks vandalized by the unknown assailants.

The Nimule-Juba highway is a strategic route along the northern corridor providing a link between the port of Mombasa and South Sudan, one of the key transit destinations of the port of Mombasa creating business opportunities for transporters, customs clearing agents and freight forwarders, the adjacent communities and other auxiliary transport workers. The ongoing insecurity along this corridor has hampered cargo transportation depriving multitudes of their daily livelihoods while at the same time withdrawing huge investment in terms of trucks and cargo out of the regional economy including South Sudan. This situation has significant implications for the logistics sector including increased container demurrage, short supply of containers as they remain stuck at the border and or in Juba further escalating a situation already worsened by the ongoing covid19 pandemic. All these are drivers to the already high transport and logistics costs. There is obviously no winner in this unfortunate situation.

Provision of guaranteed security along the corridor is therefore critical for the movement of cargo that resumed yesterday to continue and be sustained.

The FEAFFA fraternity appeals to:

- The government of the Republic of South Sudan to make good her promise to provide security along the Juba – Nimule corridor.
- Institute a mechanism for compensating cargo owners, transporters and freight forwarders for the lives and cargo lost as well as trucks destroyed by the assailants.
- The Government of South Sudan, the EAC and IGAD to initiate efforts to provide additional and sustainable security to guarantee economic activities within South Sudan especially the affected corridor.
- Provide a conducive a business environment for the transport and logistics sector before the escalating costs caused by this insecurity prompt hiking of transport costs.
- Prioritize Covid19 vaccination of transport and logistics practitioners as essential workers to shield them against Covid19.
- Kenya Maritime Authority to direct shipping line to increase the free container period for cargo to South Sudan.

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For more information contact:

For FEAFFA

Elias Rwamanyonyi Baluku

Ag. Executive Director

Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Associations

Tel: +254738150396

Email: baluku@feaffa.com

About FEAFFA

The Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Associations (FEAFFA) is a regional private sector apex body of the Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding industry in East Africa representing over 2500 clearing firms. The Federation aims at promoting a professional freight logistics industry for trade facilitation and regional economic growth. FEAFFA strives to address the challenges experienced by its members at Association, firm and individual levels through provision of training and other aspects of capacity building. The Federation advocates for the removal of barriers that impede the full implementation of the East African Community (EAC) Customs Union.