



FEDERATION OF EAST AFRICAN FREIGHT FORWARDERS ASSOCIATIONS

Hill Crest Court, Slip Road, Waiyaki Way, Westlands,
P.O. BOX 22694-00400, Nairobi, Kenya
Email: info@feaffa.com Website: www.feaffa.com
Telephone: +254 738 150 673 /+254738 165 318

STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE EAC INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE IMPASSE AT THE KENYA - UGANDA BORDERS HELD ON 10TH JANUARY 2022.

The Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Associations (FEAFFA) – the regional umbrella association of customs agents and freight forwarders in East Africa wishes to appreciate the considerations and concessions that were made during the Joint Multi-Sectoral Virtual Meeting of the Ministers/Cabinet Secretaries responsible for EAC Affairs, Health and Transport from the Republics of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan convened by the EAC secretariat on 10th January 2022 in order to clear the traffic backlog that has been building up at the borders as a result of the introduction of new requirements by the Republic of Uganda and other considerations to facilitate movement of goods and persons within the EAC region in the era of the new normal.

The meeting among others resolved to:

- a) clear the traffic deadlock at the Uganda -Kenya borders by the government of Uganda providing free covid19 tests for the truck drivers and crew members already at the borders for at least one week.
- b) Uganda to recognize Covid19 test results from accredited/nationally recognized laboratories uploaded by other EAC partners in the RECDTS.
- c) Uganda will delay the requirement for a negative PCR result acquired in 72 hours,
- d) Introduce incentives for fully vaccinated truck drivers by allowing a longer (14 days) validity period for their covid19 test results and 72 hours for those not fully vaccinated.
- e) Partner States should always notify each other in case of any deviations from the agreed protocols relating to measures against Covid19.
- f) Reconvene in five days' time to assess progress in the clearance of the traffic backlog at and the borders.

The regional freight forwarding industry is grateful for the considerations and appreciation of the effect of the impasse on business and the general economy. Sparing time out of your busy schedules to address the industry concerns is a big plus for this very important sector.

FEAFFA urges the hon Ministers to

1. Continue engaging until a revised mutually agreed position is reached in the brotherly spirit of the EAC. This will facilitate embarking on the necessary upgrades in the RECDTS.
2. Consider adoption of antigen tests for truck drivers. This will reduce the time taken to carry out the test and release results, reduce the psychological effect on the drivers who test quite often as well as reduce the cost of testing to levels manageable by governments.
3. Fast track adoption of the EAC Covid19 pass to reduce the burden on regular essential travelers and promote uptake of the covid19 vaccine among truck drivers and other logistics sector workers. The transport and logistics industry will continue encouraging

4. Truck drivers and logisticians to get vaccinated and or boosted to remain compliant with the requirements of the EACPass.
5. Consider continuing to provide free COVID19 testing for truck drivers beyond the one-week commitment by the government of Uganda.
6. Desist from introducing any actions that affect global trade and continuous movement of cargo with far-reaching effects on our region's competitiveness.
7. In the long run, work with the private sector to ensure the self-regulation laws being pushed by the freight forwarding industry are enacted into law. This will facilitate the establishment of legally backed systems and structures for managing the transport and logistics industry.

Signed by



Fred R. Seka

PRESIDENT - FEAFFA

