



## **COMMUNIQUE OF PRIVATE SECTOR ASSOCIATIONS ON FREE MOVEMENT OF CARGO ACROSS BORDERS IN THE EAC REGION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

**(National Focal Points Chief Executive Officers Meeting coordinated by the East African Business Council on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020.)**

We, the Chief Executive Officers of National Private Sector Apex Body Associations in the EAC region held an online meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to assess the status of the transport and logistics sector in light of the outbreak of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the EAC region.

**Noting**, the EAC region has reported 1354 cases of COVID-19 as of 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

**Acknowledging**, the paramount importance of protecting the health, and safety of the East African people during this pandemic.

**Appreciating**, the EAC Heads of State for reiterating the importance of a regional coordinated approach on COVID-19 at EAC level during their presidential addresses.

**Further appreciating**, the Governments of the EAC Partner States for facilitating the free movement of goods and services in the region during the COVID-19 pandemic period and partnering with the private sector to curb the outbreak of COVID-19.

**Noting, the EAC Partner State have instituted different measures aimed to facilitate the free movement of cargo and curb the outbreak of COVID-19 in the EAC, we recommend as follows:**

- i. EAC Partner States should agree and implement a coordinated regional approach on COVID-19 to facilitate free movement of cargo across the EAC region.
- ii. EAC Partner States to hold bilateral meetings to unlock barriers to free movement of cargo across the EAC region.
- iii. Ministries of EAC Affairs to engage the Ministries of Trade, Transport, Health including other line ministries and trade facilitation agencies in a bid to ensure measures on COVID-19, do not cause unnecessary cost and time burden to the free movement of goods and services in the EAC region.
- iv. We should not discriminate or put fear or stigma to essential service providers but treat them with respect and understanding.

- v. Mask among other Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to be given to truck drivers. EABC is trying to procure thermo-guns and masks for truck drivers to support the free movement of cargo within the region.
- vi. EABC on behalf of the private sector organizations will facilitate dialogue on regional issues, particularly at the border points.
- vii. National Transport Associations coordinated by the Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Association (FEAFA) to work closely with EABC to enhance information sharing in a bid to facilitate the free movement of cargo across EAC borders.
- viii. EAC Partner States, Development Partners and Private Sector to continue undertaking sensitization campaigns to the public, truck drivers, women cross border traders on COVID-19 to avoid misinformation and stigmatization.
- ix. EAC Partner States to enhance security to facilitate free movement of cargo across borders in the region.
- x. Truck drivers and all operators to observe the laid down guidelines on health by the respective Partner States.

**Signed on this 5<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2020.**

**Dr. Peter Mathuki**  
**CEO/ Executive Director, East African Business Council (EABC).**

**Mr. Stephen Ruzibiza**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Private Sector Federation- Rwanda (PSF).**

**Mr. Godfrey Simbeye**  
**Executive Director, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF).**

**Mr. Gideon Badagawa**  
**Executive Director, Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU).**

**Mr. Denis Nshimirimana**  
**Secretary General, Federal Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture – Burundi (CFCIB).**

**Ms. Carole Kariuki**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA).**

**Mr. Hamad Hamad**  
**Executive Director, Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC).**

**Mr. Simon Deng**  
**Secretary-General, South Sudan Chamber of Commerce Industries and**  
**Agriculture (SSCCIA).**