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Our Ref: **C&T/2/1/1**  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2020

**Amb. (Col) Wilbert Augustin Ibuge**  
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Dear Permanent Secretary/Commissioner General,

## **RE: FACILITATION OF MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE RE- GION AMIDST COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

I have the honour to refer to the above subject matter.

We have received reports that the region is facing challenges on movement of goods and services transiting through Partner States due to measures taken to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the meeting of the EAC Ministers responsible for Health and EAC Affairs held on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 through Video Conference, it was resolved, among others, to facilitate the free movement of goods and services in the Region.

You will recall that the Commissioner for Customs - Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) through the Legal Notice No. EAC/48/2018 dated 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 appointed transit routes including those linking the Central Corridor from the Northern Corridor. According to the EACCMA Act, 2004 the economic operators are allowed to transit goods through the appointed routes from the date when the respective Legal Notice takes effect.



During this period of the pandemic, it is pertinent to scale up exchange of information amongst customs administration to enable a coordinated regional real time response mechanism. In this regard we have established a communication forum through WhatsApp of Commissioners of Customs where all except one are already engaging. We therefore request that the Commissioner of Customs TRA accepts to join this forum or to delegate a Deputy Commissioner for the same. This will strengthen our efforts during this difficult period through a regional front.

The purpose of this letter is to request for facilitation of transit goods that connect from the Northern to Central Corridor destined to inland Partner States and neighboring countries. We also wish to enjoin Customs Administration to be part of the communication mechanism we have established.

The Ministers' Joint Statement and the Legal Notice are hereto attached for ease of reference.

Please accept, Permanent Secretary and Commissioner General, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Kenneth Bagamuhunda  
Director General (Customs & Trade)  
For: SECRETARY GENERAL

cc

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