

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

- 1. The Northern Corridor Transit Transport Co-ordination Authority (TTCA) held its 14th Meeting at the Nile International Conference Centre, Kampala, on 23rd November, 2001.**
- 2. The meeting was attended by Ministers responsible for transportation from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The respective delegations were led by the following Ministers:**
 - Hon. Severin Ndikumugongo, Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Republic of Burundi.**
 - Hon. Peter S. Lengees, Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications of the Republic of Kenya.**
 - Hon. Silas Kanamugire, Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications of the Republic of Rwanda.**
 - Hon. John Nasasira, Minister of Works, Housing and Communications of the Republic of Uganda.**
- 3. Representatives from International and Regional organizations – Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), Regional Trade Analytical Agenda (RTAA) – also attended as observers.**
- 4. The meeting was officially opened by Rt. Hon. James F. Wapakhabulo, 3rd Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda.**

5. In his opening remarks, the Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister stressed the importance of regional cooperation as an important factor for African economic integration and thanked the five countries namely, Burundi, D R of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda for having set up the Northern Corridor Transit Transport Co-ordination Authority in 1985. The Deputy Prime Minister reiterated the Uganda Government's commitment to ensure smooth flow of transit traffic through her territory by guaranteeing safe, efficient and reliable transport services along its stretch of the Northern Corridor as a means of providing effective support to increased agricultural production, trade, industrial development and tourism in the entire great lakes region. On behalf of the TTCA member States, he thanked the donors for the continuous technical and financial support they have offered to the TTCA in the execution of its tasks. He concluded by stressing the need for peace in the sub-region and expressed hope that the troubles in Burundi and the D R of Congo will be finally overcome so that the people of the entire sub-region can leave in peace and enjoy fruits of such endeavors as the TTCA.

6. The meeting adopted its bureau as follows:

Chairman	-	Uganda
Vice-Chairman	-	D R of Congo
First Rapporteur	-	Burundi
Second Rapporteur	-	Kenya

7. The meeting discussed and made decisions concerning road and rail infrastructure of the Northern Corridor, customs documentation and procedures along the Corridor, revision of the Northern Corridor Transit Agreement, restructuring of the Secretariat, the work program for the year 2002 and financial and administrative matters.

- 8. Regarding the road and rail infrastructure the Authority agreed on the importance of maintaining and rehabilitating all the road and rail infrastructure of the Northern Corridor and to make it an integrated transport network.**
- 9. On customs procedures and documentation, the Authority reiterated the need to have one customs transit document all along the Corridor, namely the CD-COM [the COMESA customs declaration], to harmonize customs transit procedures and to conduct a study on customs fraud and diversion of transit traffic along the Corridor.**
- 10. Regarding the rehabilitation of the Malaba border post, Uganda assured the other member States and the general public both within and outside Uganda, that the border post will not be closed during the rehabilitation works. In this regard, the meeting was informed that a consultative meeting between Ugandan and Kenyan authorities will be held at the Malaba border post on 26 November 2001 to discuss and agree on the modalities and strategies thereof. Thereafter, the Uganda Government will make an official statement informing all the other member States and northern corridor stake holders on the strategies that will have been adopted.**
- 11. With regard to funding of the activities of TTCA, the Ministers pledged their respective Governments' commitment to fulfilling their obligations relating to contributions to the Secretariat's budget. In this regard, member States with arrears of contributions undertook to clear their arrears as soon as possible.**

Done in Kampala, this 23rd day of November 2001.

**For the Republic of Burundi
Hon. Severin Ndikumugongo**

**For the Republic of Kenya
Hon. Peter S. Lengees**

**For the Republic of Rwanda
Hon. Silas Kanamugire**

**For the Republic of Uganda
Hon. John Nasasira**