

# PRESS STATEMENT

## Port Operations; Tea and Avocado Exports

Our attention is drawn to a news article that appeared in a section of the media this week postulating that the Port of Mombasa is experiencing operational challenges leading to shutout of export cargo, particularly tea, by shipping lines. The report did not depict the actual situation on the ground, and we wish to make the following important clarifications:

- In April this year, the Port received some of the much-needed cargo handling equipment comprising one Ship to Shore Gantry (STS) crane and eight Rubber Tyred Gantry cranes (RTG). The offloading of the equipment at berth number 21 took five days, which meant that no other vessel could use the berth, thus interrupting the fixed berthing window operation system
- During the offloading period, the coastal region also experienced unprecedented heavy rains that slowed down port operations and offtake. Consequently, some exports, mostly Tea, were shut out as they could not be loaded onto vessels on time
- To mitigate the impact of the mentioned delay, a consultative meeting was held between the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), Shippers Council of Eastern Africa (SCEA), The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and the East Africa Tea Trade Association (EATTA)
- It was resolved that each of the stakeholders had issues to address to ensure the matter is amicably sorted out as follows:

### Areas to be addressed by KPA

- 1) Sustain with the aim of improving the current performance of 30 moves per hour
- 2) Provide dedicated blocks for stacking of export containers
- 3) Prioritize deployment of adequate equipment for loading of export boxes
- 4) Enhance berth productivity
- 5) Ensure adherence to the Fixed Berthing Window (FBW)
- 6) Communicate and update on the development and/or envisaged challenges continuously
- 7) On SGR matters - KPA in consultation with stakeholders to address the identified challenges at the ICDN and at the Port on the SGR operations. These issues include ICT systems, raiiling, demurrages and storage

### Issues to be addressed by Exporters/Importers

- 1) Sensitize transporters to adhere to the export boxes designated delivery points as indicated in the delivery slips
- 2) Deliver containers on time to enable KPA to do effective ship planning
- 3) To collect their cargo on time

### Issues to be addressed by Shipping Lines

- 1) Endeavor to adhere to the Fixed Berthing Window schedules

The above measures have been implemented to ensure that all exports have been shipped out to reach their markets in time. The situation has so far greatly improved and exports backlog is now almost cleared. Meanwhile, the affected shipping lines are accepting bookings for exports.

Currently, a number of vessels at the Port are loading tea for export. Mv Ever Dynamic is loading 201 containers of tea, while Mv Uni Florida is loading 219 tea containers and 91 boxes of avocado export. All these vessels are expected to leave by early Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018. In addition, Marie Delmas is loading 34 tea containers to depart on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Other export commodities are also receiving adequate attention, and it is expected that there shall be no outstanding containers for export by the close of the week.

We regret the inconveniences caused by these events as we commit to continue working closely with all stakeholders in facilitating trade.

It is also critical to note that the new equipment is poised to increase the overall efficiency of the port by enhancing ship productivity and Turnaround Time.

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