

**REPORT ON FACT-FINDING MISSION AT ELEGU BETWEEN BORDER  
AGENCIES AND THE AFFECTED PRIVATE SECTOR REGARDING  
TRUCKS WITH MAIZE GRAIN AND MAIZE FLOUR**



**SUBMITTED TO**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African  
Community Affairs**

**Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga**

**BY**

**PRIVATE SECTOR FOUNDATION UGANDA (PSFU)**

**14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023**

## Overview

Over the past four weeks, South Sudan authorities have been impounding trucks carrying flour (maize, cassava,) from Uganda to South Sudan. As of today Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 62 trucks have been impounded. PSFU has been consulting and engaging on this issue since to find a solution. However, in some cases information has not been forthcoming or partial making it hard to form an actionable position.

Because of this PSFU organized a fact-finding visit to Elegu in Uganda and Nimule in South Sudan to interface with authorities on the border particularly the South Sudan side and a group of stakeholders comprising Uganda Grain Council, Uganda Millers Association, KACITA, Truck Drivers Association travelled to Elegu border on Tuesday 06<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to ascertain the following.

1. To a fact finding and ascertain exactly what was on ground.
2. If the maize that had been impounded at the border by the South Sudan Bureau of standard was substandard.
3. To request for the release of the 62 trucks along with the drivers back into Uganda because they are not responsible for the cargo.

The Private Sector organizations included.

- i. PSFU (Co-Chair).
- ii. The Grain Council of Uganda.
- iii. Millers Association.
- iv. KACITA Uganda.

- v. 3 Transport and Logistics Associations (Uganda National Transporters Alliance, Regional Heavy Truck Drivers Association, Haulage Corridor Drivers Association).
- vi. Ugandan Traders from Juba.

The Public Sector border agencies included.

- i. Uganda Revenue Authority (Co-Chair).
- ii. Uganda National Bureau of Standards.
- iii. Ministry of Internal Affairs (Immigration department).
- iv. Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries.
- v. ISO.
- vi. ESO.
- vii. CMI.
- viii. Uganda Police.

A meeting was held on Wednesday 07<sup>th</sup> June 2023 between the border agencies and the private sector players in the One Stop Border Post (**OSBP**) boardroom meeting, Elegu.

Before the meeting, it was also mentioned that the South Sudanese team will be joining in the meeting and the private sector players will be given the opportunity to visit the area where the trucks have been impounded.

It was also mentioned that the summary of the discussion would be used during the meeting between the Ugandan Embassy in Juba and the South Sudan Agencies.

It was also noted that four (4) parties were affected in this issue, and these are.

- i. The importer.

- ii. The transporter.
- iii. The (2) standards bodies.
- iv. The drivers of the trucks.

**Findings.**

- i. It was noted that maize flour and grain was still being cleared at the Elegu OSBP destined for South Sudan after the 62 trucks were impounded.
- ii. UNBS was denied access to the 62 impounded trucks to get samples.

Below is a summary of the resolutions as discussed during the meeting.

PERIOD	ISSUE	ACTION
Short term	An agreement (in writing) be reached between the importers in South Sudan and the sellers in Uganda on the possibility of return of the goods to Uganda, a new consignment of Maize flour be sent to the importers as a replacement of the one impounded.	Needs Immediate action
	High level engagement with MDAs and embassies from both Uganda and South Sudan involved to the address the issue at hand.	Immediate
	Timely Communications from standards bodies and direct Ministries (Ministry of Trade, MAAIF, UNBS) on changes from	Immediate

	neighboring Partner States affecting exports from Uganda.	
	Negotiate harmonization of standards for Uganda's exports with export destination countries with a view of respecting the Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs).	Immediate
	Create a communication platform (Whatsapp group) for information sharing with the private sector that is directly affected to ease information flow.	Done
<b>Medium-term</b>	Joint examination/verification amongst the standards implementation MDAs between countries sharing a common border.	
	Grain Trade policy 2015 be operationalized to improve quality and secure the market.	
	Deliberate effort to sensitize exporters regarding requirements for quality and exports.	
	Quarterly engagements among stakeholders	
	MAAIF to step the verification of products at all border posts.	
<b>Long term</b>	Fast track completion of the OSBP facility at Nimule to fully operationalize the One	

	Stop Border Post principles to enhance trade facilitation.	
	MAAIF ensures that farmers and all stakeholders comply to post harvest management of produce.	

### Challenges noted.

1. The South Sudan team didn't join in the meeting.
2. The Ugandan Private Sector Players were not allowed to visit the areas where the trucks are impounded.
3. The South Sudan clearing system is still manual and affects transaction follow-up.

### IMPACT

#### 1. Financial

IMPACT	ITEM	ESTIMATED AMOUNT
<b>Monetary</b>	Goods	4,600,000,000
	Trucks	31,000,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>35,600,000,000</b>

#### 2. Relationship

This is likely to lead to souring relationships from the side of trade between the 2 EAC member states if this issue is not sorted.

#### Latest Update

From the discussion between the Ugandan Ambassador in South Sudan and the authorities of South Sudan on Thursday 08<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and Friday 09<sup>th</sup> June

2023, it was agreed that the drivers and truck drivers wait for the second standards sample result that will be released today Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and thereafter the trucks whose consignment has passed the test will be cleared to proceed to Juba while those whose consignment fails the test, will be sent back to Uganda.

The communication received from Ugandan Embassy in South Sudan on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 also gave a brief on the meeting held between Ugandan Authorities and South Sudan Authorities. In the meeting, it was agreed that;

1. All traders and owners of the cargo held in Nemuli should report to SSNBS for further information and instruction.
2. All institutions from both the Republic of Uganda and South Sudan to be involved in the exercise.
3. All consignments to be dumped in South Sudan and trucks are released to owners.
4. The dumping certificate will be provided to all owners of goods at Nimule.

Following the above resolutions, the information available to us indicate that the test results are not yet given to the transporters. Secondly, the private sector observes that the process has not been transparent given that UNBS was not given access to take samples of goods and do a test. Further, the said third-party country where testing has been done is not known to Ugandan traders.

### **Our Prayer**

1. Trucks and Drivers be released immediately.
2. Intervene by ensuring that the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) is respected.



## Conclusion

In conclusion, the meeting believed that if the short term period item of the importer and seller having an agreement is concluded, then this would provide a way for further discussion and organization of the exporters through the involvement of Uganda Export and Promotions Board taking the exporters through what is needed to export and also the involvement of UNBS and MAAIF at all exit points into partner states to verify the goods before they cross over even if they have got quality standard marks. This will at least minimize on such issues with the partner states. Secondly the release of the trucks together with the drivers back into Uganda.

## PICTORIALS





Sincerely,

Stephen Asimwe

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



*Business growth is our business*