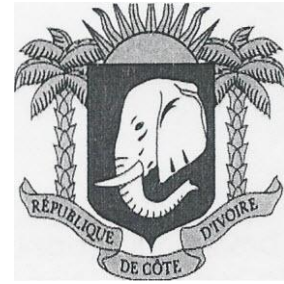




REPUBLIC OF GHANA



REPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT AND TRANSIT FACILITATION COMMITTEES (NFC) FOR GHANA AND COTE D'IVOIRE

ACCRA, 21-22 June, 2017

FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

A working meeting was held on Wednesday, 21st and Thursday, June 22nd, 2017, in the conference room of the Ministry of Roads and Highways of Ghana by the National Road and Transport Facilitation Committees (NFC) in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

The meeting, which had as its theme, exchange of experiences and good practices within the framework of a better governance of the Abidjan Lagos corridors brought together experts of the two NFCs and was chaired by Mr. Kwabena Owusu Aduomi Deputy Minister for Roads and Highways of Ghana.

The delegations of the two National Facilitation Committees were led respectively by Mr. Edmund OFFEI-ANNOR, Chairman of the NFC of Ghana and Mr. GORE Bi-Tié Jules, Director of Technical Operations of the Observatory of Transport Flow, representing Mr. TOURE Abdoulaye, Chairman of the NFC of Côte d'Ivoire.

The attendance list of the experts from the two countries is attached as an annex.

PROCEEDINGS

Speeches

There were three speeches given at the NFC meeting by the following personalities: The Chairman of the NFC of Ghana, the representatives of the Cote NFC Cote d'Ivoire, and the Deputy Minister for Roads and Highways Ghana. The working meeting of the two National Facilitation Committees had three presentations from the following personalities: The Chairman of NFC Ghana, a representative of Chairman of NFC Cote D'Ivoire, and the Deputy Minister of Roads and Highways of Ghana.

The Chairman of NFC Ghana, in his speech welcomed the delegations of expert from NFC Cote D'Ivoire and encouraged them to cooperate to achieve the set objectives.

The representative of the Chairman of NFC Cote d'Ivoire thanked the NFC Ghana for the warm reception that was accorded to the delegation that he was leading. After reminding house of the mission entrusted to the National Facilitation Committees by the decisions of ECOWAS Heads of states and government, he laid specially emphasis on the mission of the Ivorian NFC, entrusted with the mission of removal of ail barriers and the monitoring of the implementations of the construction projects for JBP at the borders.

Furthermore he pleaded for closer collaboration between the two NFCs to give more impetus to the improvements of the indicators of the Abidjan Lagos Project.

The Deputy Minister of Hon. Deputy Minister for Roads and Highways of Ghana commended the two delegations while wishing the two experts from the two countries sincere and fruitful exchanges that will go to improve on practices on the corridor, especially with regard to the crossing of borders within the sub region, the application of Regulation 14 on Axle Load and dimension of haulage vehicles. He ended his speech by welcoming the Ivorian delegation and asked them to enjoy the Ghanaian hospitality.

Work program

The following work program was adopted:

- 1- Presentation of a section of the report of the seventh report (year 7) of the ALCO;
- 2- Problems of crossing the border of Noe / Elubo;
- 3- Presentation of the NFC strategy to improve certain performance indicators of the Abidjan-Lagos corridor project;
- 4- The situation for the national implementation of Regulation 14 on Axle Load and compliance with the gauge of freight vehicles;
- 5- The status of implementation of the construction of the Noé / Elubo Joint Border Post

Presentations

The National Committee of Facilitation of Côte d'Ivoire, through Mr. Y ANGBA Tia Roger, Permanent Secretary of the Committee gave a presentation of the five points of the work program.

The following information came up:

- 1- The crossing time recorded by ALCO from July to December 2016 is 20 hours against 25 in the Noé-Elubo direction and 11 hours against 15 hours in the Elubo-Noé direction.
The number of roadblocks is 5 against 3 stated on the Abidjan-Noé highway is 170 km and 13 against 5 on the Elubo-Aflao highway.
- 2- The lack of synchronization in the activities of the two customs services, inadequate scanners, inadequate parking space, the existence of a taxi rank on the 'no mans' land between the two post.

3- Organization of periodic working session with national border stakeholders, sensitization workshop for inter border stakeholders, and meeting between NFCs of the two countries was presented as the Ivorian strategy to contribute to the improvement of the border crossing time. Similarly, the workshop for road stakeholders, illegal barrier removal missions and the monitoring of recommendation of the workshop, communication campaign and sensitization road show, are the means to be used to ensure improvement of the number of blocks

4- The application of Regulation 14 in Côte d'Ivoire is ongoing. The full implementation phase was implemented from 6 April to 20 April 2017. This phase was temporarily suspended at the request of the authorities of the land lock countries to enable them to go through the Muslim fast. It will be re-launched in July 2017.

5- Côte d'Ivoire today has completed all the necessary conditionalities related to the start of the construction project for the Noé / Elubo Joint Border Post. Works on relocation of the interconnection power line is being implemented.

The difficulties the people in the two countries faced in crossing the border was raised as well as the issue of seizure of identification document of people visiting the Elubo market from Cote d'Ivoire by the immigration services was also mentioned.

The NFC of Ghana gave information that working strategies of their committee had been developed and was waiting to be validated by the authorities for its implementation.

Discussions that followed the presentation helped in bringing out the following recommendations.

Recommendations

1. The NFC of Ghana pledged to support the actions of the border services before the competent authority, to extend the closing time of the border to 10 pm as is the case at Aflao.
2. The experts requested that the two NFC should promote the introduction of a memorandum of understanding between the border stakeholders of the two countries.
3. The experts commended the effort ongoing for the interconnection of the customs computer systems between the Noe' and Elubo posts.

4. The National Facilitation Committee of Ghana is committed itself to finding a solution to the presence of the taxi rank in the no man's land.
5. The two National Facilitation Committees committed themselves to participate in the sensitization workshop for border stakeholders and to do the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations.
6. The two National Facilitation Committees commended the commitment of the unions of the transporters of the two countries in support of the full implementation of Regulation 14
7. The experts suggested to the NFC of Ghana to speed up the process of making available to Ecowos the land titles for the Elubo site to start the JBP.

Conclusion

At the end of the meeting the experts congratulated each other for the quality of discussions, which took place in the atmosphere of brotherliness and cordiality which has always existed between our two countries.

They pledged to cooperate between the two National Facilitation Committees.

Signed in Accra on 22⁰⁰ June 2017

For the Ghanaian delegation

For the Ivorian delegation


Coré Bi Tie Jules
For Chairman, NFC, Cote d'Ivoire

JJY

Edmund Offei-Annor
Chairman; NFC, Ghana