



MINISTRY OF WORKS & TRANSPORT

5/31/2021

PRESENTATION TO COMCEC BY UGANDA

**MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR TRANSPORT SERVICE
PROVIDERS DURING AND AFTER THE COVID19**

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ▶ **Background**
 - ▶ Transport related measures taken by Uganda to control COVID19
 - ▶ Lifting of lockdown
- ▶ **Response to research questions**



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BACKGROUND

- ▶ WHO declared COVID19 a public health emergency of international concern on 30th January 2020
- ▶ Uganda reported its first COVID19 case on 21st March 2020.
- ▶ Until **May** 2020, most of the cases were imported cases. The Government response at the time was aimed at prevention/ containment of imported cases.
- ▶ The updated COVID19 statistics for Uganda as at 24th May 2021 are as follows:
 - ▶ Conducted **1,087,405** tests and had a cumulative total of **44,281** COVID19 cases, **43,401** recoveries and **359** deaths.
 - ▶ 541,569 people have been vaccinated



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MEASURES TAKEN BY UGANDA

- ▶ 21st March 2020- Closure of international borders by air, land, rail or water. Cargo planes, trains and vehicles were not affected.
- ▶ 25th March 2020- Suspension of public transport including matatus, buses, passenger trains and boda bodas. Private cars restricted to carry 3 people.
- ▶ Declaration of curfew starting at 1900 hrs to 0530 hrs for all movements
- ▶ 30th March 2020- Suspension of all movements including those travelling by private vehicles. Apart from cargo vehicles and cars for workers in essential sectors that were provided with stickers e.g Health facilities, Utility companies, Banks, Security agencies, food and produce e.t.c.
- ▶ Special permission to move in case of emergency could be given by RDCs.



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LIFTING OF LOCKDOWN

- ▶ **It followed a phased approach.**
- ▶ 4th June 2020- Public transport resumed with strict SOPs which are still in place today.
- ▶ 27th July 2020- Boda bodas (Commercial motorcycles) permitted to resume operations with strict SOPs
- ▶ 1st October 2020- Uganda reopened international borders. International flights resumed. Negative COVID19 result required.



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RESPONSE TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS

▶ **Question 1: Assessing political support**

- ▶ infrastructural development and transport are identified as key drivers of economic development in Uganda as per National Development Plan III.
- ▶ Government strongly supports infrastructural development and transport

▶ **Question 2: Administrative measures to halt adverse implications**

- ▶ SOPs developed to allow transport operators to resume business while protecting public from COVID19 spread.
- ▶ SOPs aimed at ensuring that all operators operated at least a percentage of their fleets. Temporary routes issued to buses whose routes were still under lockdown.
- ▶ Deployment of technology to track drivers tests before reaching border to reduce time



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RESPONSE TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ **Question 3:- Financial measures/incentives implemented to protect financial viability of transport operators**
 - ▶ Tax incentives including deferment of payment of income tax for SMEs to enable them retain cashflows and employees; waiver of interest and penalties on outstanding tax liabilities.
 - ▶ Waiver of Park User Fees for public transport operators for 6 months.
 - ▶ Bank of Uganda instructed commercial banks to restructure loans of businesses.
 - ▶ Direct capital incentives to self help groups of business people (Emyooga).
- ▶ **Question 4: Technological, IT measures implemented to transform transport services**
 - ▶ Private sector has developed Applications to provide online booking; ride hailing and carpooling services, door to door deliveries, cashless transactions e.t.c



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RESPONSE TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ Increase in Agency banking.
- ▶ Increased use of e-services by Government Agencies e.g URA, KCCA e.t.c
- ▶ **Question 5: Hygiene measures introduced**
 - ▶ .Hand washing and use of sanitizers;
 - ▶ Social distancing in public service vehicles (Requirement to carry half of licensed capacity.
 - ▶ Use of masks while in public places.
 - ▶ Continuous sensitization of the masses on COVID19
- ▶ **Question 6: Safety and Security risk management measures**
 - ▶ Requirement to maintain a passenger manifest by all public service vehicles and vessels



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RESPONSE TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ Security checks conducted at terminals including checking temperature.
- ▶ Curfew imposed on all modes of transport apart from cargo vehicles and vessels.
- ▶ **Question 7:-Protective policies adopted for transport operators**
 - ▶ SOPs developed to enable public transport to resume while protecting the public from COVID19
 - ▶ Public transport operators organized on route basis to avoid wasteful competition
- ▶ **Question 8:- Measures adopted for e-commerce delivery capacities**
 - ▶ Provided conducive environment for private sector to operate e-commerce delivery services.
 - ▶ E-commerce service providers included among essential sectors and issued stickers
 - ▶ Increased sensitization on use of e-commerce



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RESPONSE TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ **Question 9:- Transportation management technologies for transport operators**
 - ▶ Not yet. However, Government is in the process of organizing public transport operators on a route basis. Government will find the appropriate Transport Management Technologies to compliment the organization.
- ▶ **Question 10:- Stakeholder approach in implementing the measures**
 - ▶ National Taskforce and sub-committees were constituted to lead Uganda's response to COVID19. the National Taskforce coordinates the preparation of measures by different sectors and harmonizes them.
 - ▶ Ministry engages the transport operators when developing and implementing SOPs. Stakeholder views are forwarded to subcommittee and then to National Taskforce.



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RESPONSE TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ **Question 11:- Success factors for better mitigation strategies**
 - ▶ Continuous engagement and candid discussion of intervention to ensure that they are practical.
 - ▶ Benchmarking on best practices across the region and the globe.
 - ▶ Proper planning to build resilience of the sector
- ▶ **Question 12:- Major obstacles and drawbacks**
 - ▶ Complacency in the general public
 - ▶ Inadequate resources and personnel.
 - ▶ Limited sensitization and mobilization



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RESPONSE TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ **Question 13:- Overall assessment of effectiveness and success of strategies**
 - ▶ The strategies have been effective in containing the spread of COVID19 and to ensure that the sector remains vibrant.
 - ▶ Government must continue to provide robust leadership and interventions to protect transport providers from after effects of COVID19.
- ▶ **Question 14:- Legal, administrative policies and strategies to support transport service providers**
 - ▶ Traffic and Road Safety (Amendment) Act 2020 requires transport operators to form transport companies and cooperatives in order to qualify for a licence.
 - ▶ Routing of public transport operators to protect them from unfair competition.



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RESPONSE TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ Signing Bilateral Air Service Agreements to support Uganda Airlines
- ▶ **Question 15- 17:- How long will the Pandemic and global recession be? How long will the lockdown and travel restrictions continue?**
 - ▶ It is difficult to predict how long the pandemic or global recession will be.
 - ▶ Lifting the remaining restrictions (curfew and some international borders) will depend on the level of vaccination.
- ▶ **Question 18:- How fast will consumer confidence in air transport be restored.**
 - ▶ Air transport serves a unique purpose in the transport sector that cannot be substituted.
 - ▶ Consumer confidence will gradually increase with the lifting of the global restrictions/barriers depending on how the pandemic progresses.



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RESPONSE TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ **Question 19:- Will there be a structural shift in industry and consumer behavior?**
 - ▶ The shift has already started with people avoiding non- essential travel and relying on e-commerce.
 - ▶ There has been a big increase in the number of applications to cater to the new transport trends and dynamics.
- ▶ **Question 20:- How long can air transport industry withstand financial adversity.**
 - ▶ The Air transport industry will require deliberate and sustained support from Governments and a high level of innovation to reduce the cost of operation and attract travelers in order to withstand the financial effects of COVID19.



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THANK YOU