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A newsletters Issued by Department of Seaports & Customs, 25th year, Issue No. 99 April- June 2020

Customs at Corona Times

During the First Half of 2020
**Sharjah Ports Performance
Hiked Despite Covid-19
Consequences**

**To Boost Trade in Sharjah
DSPC Renovates Sharjah
Creek Quay**



Sharjah

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حكومة الشارقة
دائرة الموانئ البحرية والجمارك

A newsletters Issued by Department of Seaports & Customs 25th Year/ Issue 99 April /June 2020

Dedicated to News of Sharjah Seaports & Customs

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Since the breakout of the fatal corona virus (Covid19-) at the end of 2019 which soon became a worldwide pandemic, the Department of Seaports & Customs has adopted several measures to deal with its consequences and stood firm against it.

The ports of Sharjah have supported port dealers, agents and maritime lines with all possible means of assistance and succeeded in maintaining the flow of the goods and shipments thanks to the great efficiency of logistic services available in the Emirate of Sharjah and the UAE generally. Sharjah Customs also adopted more electronic services and applications that eased the work of traders to continue their supplies and shipments to the community of the Emirate. In fact the sound infrastructure of Sharjah ports and customs in the Emirate has played a key role in facing the consequences of Covid19- that hit hard the world trade activities after the time when borders were closed, terminals stopped and flights banned. Also we have to state the role of the dedicative work and performance of Sharjah ports and Customs personnel during these extraordinary circumstances in which some categories of the staff have worked remotely from their homes.

The return of almost all staffs of the Department back to the work at their working places which was blessed by His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah and Supreme Council Member was a strong message that we are on the right track in confronting the consequences of the pandemic .



The following is the message of His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi , Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, to Sharjah Government Employees on the occasion of their return to their workplace:

My sons, Sharjah government employees

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon you

We appreciate your work-from-home performance, and we congratulate you for the auspicious return to your workplaces. We wish you safety. We urge you to take all necessary precautions to preserve your health, as your health is a main priority for us, wishing you success and great achievements.

Your father,

Sultan bin Mohamed Al Qasimi





Customs at Corona Times

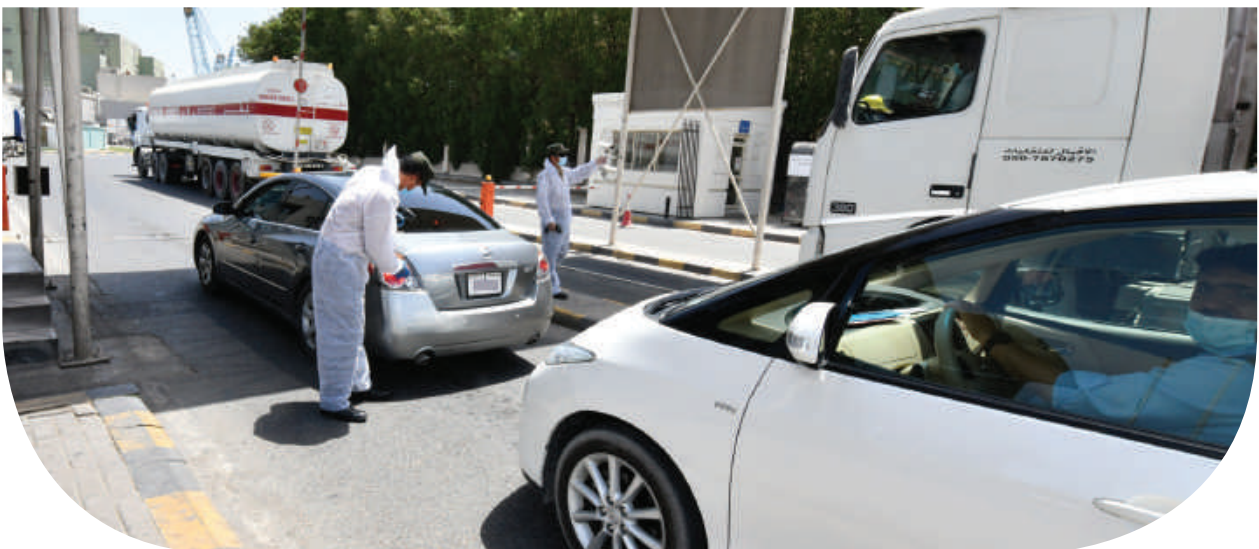
In the era of modernity and huge technical development and after engaging in fields that man had never dreamed of it before, the world stunned at the appearance of corona virus or what is now known as Covid19-. The world was not prepared for facing any epidemic which soon became a pandemic that within few months spread all over the globe.

The tiny virus has changed and affected our world and put us face to face with unprecedented challenges. But the human being know no limits for facing challenges and this is what is happening today in his endeavor to go ahead with high spirit in his daily life despite the pandemic.

The business sectors including customs have taken the new challenge by the dedicated available technical resources. Customs which are in charge of facilitating the trade and counter fighting smuggling have played a key role in streaming cargos and supplies. Customs staffs with great faith and supported with protective gears have continued in carrying out their duties dedicatedly as front line defenders in protecting the country as in regular times before the time of the pandemic. During the time of the pandemic, Sharjah Customs works were well represented in processing customs formalities in

easy way by adopting remote work mechanism; proceeding customs clearing by e-applications; taking intensive customs control on shipments and verifying that these shipments are virus free by taking more safety and protective measures.

Sharjah Customs personnel have worked with great efforts to overcome all difficulties with the circumstances accompanied with pandemic and by returning back to their work places they wowed to go ahead in serving this bounteous homeland.





Sharjah Ports & Customs Protective Measures During Covid-19

During the Covid19- pandemic, the Department of Seaports & Customs adopted several measures to protect customs and ports employees, customs-officers, port users, port labors, clearance agents maritime agents, crews and pilots. These measures were intended to reinforce the department's efforts in facilitating trade activities in the Emirate of Sharjah and continuing the transport of supplies as on normal times.

Sharjah Customs has depended on e-services as the best choice to minimize contacts and customer attendance to Customs Centre especially those services which are concerning procedures of customs clearance.

The measures included the provision of self-sanitization booths at the entrances of ports administrations and customs-centre-buildings for customers who are entering these premises. Noncontact thermal devices were used for this purpose. Use of disinfectants and putting on masks and gloves and adhering to social distancing for staff and customers alike are compulsory in all working places of Sharjah Ports and Customs. Customs and port staffs at the front lines are using PPE during their missions.

Sharjah Customs has depended on e-services as the best choice to minimize contacts and customer attendance to Customs Centre especially those services which are concerning procedures of customs clearance. The Department of Seaports & Customs spares no efforts to confront the challenges of Covid- 19 in the most professional and resilient manner by preserving the safety of staff and customers as it is one of the most essential priorities of the Department.





During the First Half of 2020

Sharjah Ports Performance Hiked Despite Covid-19 Consequences

Imported and exported vehicles through the ports of Sharjah have increased during the first half of 2020 to 23,648 Vehicles from 16,672 in the same period of 2019 recording an increment of %41.00.

Despite the decline in the world trade under the dark shadows of Covid19- consequences on the global economy that saved no country from its drawbacks, Sharjah Ports continued to accomplish its services with great determination. More ever, Sharjah Ports operations that include import, export, re-export and transit have witnessed considerable increment. The unwavering dedication of Sharjah Ports has played a role to the continuation of supplies to the people of the Emirate of Sharjah and other Emirates during the tough time of Covid19- and its aftermath on the global trade.

Shipments of general cargo (non-oil cargos) witnessed a 59.92% increment during the first half of 2020 and reached 1,533,946 tons while it was 959,192 tons during the same period of 2019.

Imports and exports of nonedible bulk cargo operations increased by 74.76% during the first six months of 2020 and recorded 730,213 tons while it was 417,851 tons during the same period of 2019.

Imported and exported vehicles through the ports

of Sharjah have increased during the first half of 2020 to 23,648 Vehicles from 16,672 in the same period of 2019 recording an increment of 41.00%. The commitments of Sharjah Ports in supporting and facilitating the requirements of the traders companies and keeping supply chains functioning as in ordinary times and as well as the availability of sound and strong infrastructure and efficient logistic services have their good impacts on the continuation of import – export cargo operations and supply chains.





OUR SEAPORTS

Vessels importing goods from GCC states, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Comoro Islands, Indian Peninsula and countries of the African horn are using Sharjah Creek.

To Boost Trade in Sharjah **DSPC Renovates Sharjah Creek Quay**

Within the course of the continuous development of Sharjah Ports, the Department of Seaports & Customs renovates the creek quay side at the entrance of the creek from the seaside.

Sharjah Creek is one of key port facilities in the Emirate of Sharjah which participates in the enhancement and growth of trade movement in the Emirate. Vessels importing goods from GCC states, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Comoro Islands, Indian Peninsula and countries of the African horn are using Sharjah Creek. These vessels are mainly importing vegetables, fruits, gypsum, charcoals, salt and others. They are returning back loaded with export shipments of various goods. Vehicles, tyres, furniture, air conditioners, equipment, construction materials and food stuff are being amongst other cargos re-exported.

Dhows and other traditional wooden vessels are not the only ones using the waterway. Other vessels, such as fishing boats, tug boats, crew boats, barges, pontoons, supply boats, yachts and utility boats are the principal users.





Two Training Courses for Sharjah Customs

In order to improve skills and performance of Customs Staff which might reflect positively on service provided to the customers, two training courses were conducted:



A Training Session on Regulatory Legislations for Hazard Chemicals

The Federal Customs Authority and in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change conducted a training session about the regulatory legislations of Hazard Chemicals. Sharjah Customs has participated in the session.

The session was conducted on July 9 2020 via Microsoft Teams - remote conferencing. Five customs inspectors from Sharjah Customs Centres have participated in the session.

A Training Session of TIR System

In cooperation of the Federal Customs Authority and in coordination with Automobile & Touring Club of the United Arab Emirates (ATCUAE), Sharjah Customs participated in training session on TIR Systems.

The training session was conducted on July 9 2020 via Microsoft Teams - remote conferencing. Several customs inspectors from four customs centres have participated in the session.

