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PRESS RELEASE

UPDATE ON MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID 19 IN THE SEKONDI-TAKORADI METROPOLITAN AREA

The management of Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA) and Effia-Kwesimintsim Municipal Assembly (EKMA) jointly had a meeting today (Monday, March 30, 2020) with the leadership of transport unions and various markets within the metropolitan area to discuss the implementation of measures on social distance protocol in commercial vehicles and markets.

The Metropolitan and Municipal Chief Executives of STMA and EKMA, Hon Anthony K. K. Sam and Hon Kojo Acquah respectively took turns to address the meetings after which participants were also given the opportunity to ask questions or contribute to the discussions.

The meeting with leadership of transport unions among others concluded on the following;

1. Taxis and urban buses that take three (3) passengers on a row shall take not more than two (2) passengers on a row with one (1) passenger in front with immediate effect.
2. Other commercial vehicles taking four (4) or five (5) passengers on a row shall not take more than three (3) passengers on a row with one (1) passenger in front with immediate effect.
3. And that, till any further directives from the national level, the fares will remain as being charged presently.
4. Passengers are to as much as possible reduce the rate of talking while in commercial vehicles, wash and/or sanitize their hands before boarding and after alighting.
5. Passengers are advised to report or insist on the above seating directives in case a driver or driver's mate decides otherwise.

In respect of the meeting with the leadership of various markets, the following were some of the decisions taken to reduce congestion in the major markets;

1. For Takoradi Market Circle, all bulk breaking activities will be relocated to the Takoradi Jubilee Park with effect from Wednesday, April 1, 2020 till further notice.

2. No trading activities will be permitted at the inner and outer perimeters of the market circle. All traders who will be affected by this exercise at the market circle will be given a temporal space at the jubilee park.
3. For Sekondi Market, the following decisions were taken to reduce congestion during the Tuesdays' market;
 - a. All second-hand cloth and shoe dealers are being relocated to Ekuasi Park with effect from Tuesday, March 31, 2020 till further notice.
 - b. Other traders selling within the median from Commercial Bank to Star Night will be relocated to the park close to the Independence Circle (Enamasi). Thus, no one will be allowed to sell or display goods within the median.
 - c. Other traders selling outside the market will be directed to observe the social distance protocol.
4. For Kojokrom Market, all bulk breaking activities will be relocated to the Kojokrom Community Park (close to the Methodist Church) from Wednesday, April 1, 2020 till further notice.
 - a. Dealers in some selected commodities will be relocated from the market to other locations in due course.

Meanwhile, the joint security and STMA monitoring team to arrest and detain children selling in and around the various markets and transport terminals commenced their operation today. At the central business district of Takoradi, the team arrested thirty-two (32) children whilst forty-one (41) children were arrested in Kojokrom. The particulars of children who were arrested and their parents were taken and cautioned. Parents whose child/children will be arrested on two occasions will be arraigned before court.

The team will continue the operation tomorrow at the other markets within the Metropolis. They will also ensure enforcement of directives on public gatherings, closure of beaches, provision of hand washing facilities and compliance of social distance at the banks, restaurants, transport terminals and all other institutions.

SIGNED
JOHN LASTE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER