



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **APPEAL TO “INDUSTRIAL TEMA” TO SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media, I have invited you this morning to give you a brief on how the Tema Metropolis is faring so far as the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is concerned.

The theme for this morning’s meeting is **Appeal to “Industrial Tema” To Support the Fight against COVID-19.**

I must thank you profusely for your support throughout the campaign by disseminating information on good hygienic practices to prevent the spread.

It is our expectation that you will continue to use your medium to educate the residents of Tema to observe Social Distancing at all levels.

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

As part of activities to contain and prevent the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Tema Metropolitan Area, the Public Health Emergency Committee under my Chairmanship has been formed with membership drawn from the various stakeholders as directed by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

This Committee together with its subsidiary committees, have worked hard to sensitise the general public on the need for them to protect themselves from being infected with the deadly COVID-19 by observing basic hygienic practices.

#### **2.0 SENSITIZATION OF MARKET WOMEN**

On Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, the Tema Metropolitan Assembly launched the program “*Sensitizing Communities about COVID-19 – Focus on Market Women*”. At the event, the Leadership of all markets in Tema were sensitized on the appropriate use of the Veronica Buckets, Hand Washing techniques and related measures to prevent contamination and the spread of the virus. After the training program, the Market Women were presented with 20 Veronica Buckets each with its accessories for use at the various Market Centers throughout the Metropolis.

#### **3.0 DISSEMINATION/SENSITIZATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Tema Metro COVID-19 Response Team is the sensitization arm of the Public Health Emergency Committee. This sub-committee has rolled out several outreach programs to educate and inform the general public on preventive measures.

- Radio Jingles were produced and Street Announcements have been made and still on-going.
- Production and distribution of Posters and hand bills to create the needed awareness.

The Team has communicated to all key stakeholders on the ban on social and religious gatherings as well as festivals and funerals.

These groups included;

- Faith based Organisations
- Youth Groups in Tema
- Hotels and Restaurants
- Gaming Centers
- Keep fit and Gyms
- All Market Associations
- Transport Unions
- Tema Traditional Council etc.

#### **4.0 DISINFECTION OF MARKETS IN TEMA**

As a sequel to the directive from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD), on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020 all markets in Tema were fumigated concurrently as part of efforts to enhance the hygienic situation in the Markets.

#### **5.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTIAL LOCKDOWN IN TEMA METROPOLIS**

Following H. E. The President's directive for Partial Lockdown in Areas including Tema Metropolis, I met with my Team and Management to fashion out a strategy that will make it easy for us to implement the lockdown by taking cognisance of our peculiar situation as a Port City and the Industrial Hub where workers work around the clock. We met with our major stakeholders including the **Market Leaders, Transport Unions** and the **Metro Security Committee**.

The following key decisions were reached;

- i. To create Temporary Open Markets to ease congestion at the existing Markets. This will enable the Market Women observe 'Social Distancing'
  - These markets have since been created at Chemu Open Market to serve Tema Central – (C4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 6 & 12) and Oninku Open Market to ease congestion at the Community 1 main market.
  - Another Temporary Open Market has been created at Twedaase as part of the decongestion strategy.
  - Closure of existing markets in C4, 7, 8 & 9

- The Tema Main Market is operating partially.
- ii. The Transport Unions agreed to reduce the operations of high occupancy vehicles that ply the Central Business District Area.
  - This has significantly led to lowering of the numbers that enter Tema on daily basis.

## **6.0 ENFORCEMENT OF THE RESTRICTION ORDERS ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT**

Compliance levels to the Restriction Orders issued by H. E. The President in the Tema Metropolis has been generally high.

However, there have been pockets of challenges within the densely populated communities such as Tema Manhean and the Inner Cities; - Sites 1, 2, 20 and a few other localities in Tema Central; Comm. 7 and 8.

The Tema Canoe Basin has seen significant bumper catch within the past week and this has led to overcrowding in clear breach of the protocols on Social Distancing.

The aforementioned challenges have come to Security attention and steps are being taken to address them. My appeal to you is that the media will continue to assist us to educate the general public that COVID-19 is a deadly, pandemic that can only be spread through person-to-person contact.

**We must all note that the recklessness of one person puts the whole community at risk, therefore we must all be vigilant and continue to be each other's keeper.**

## **7.0 COVID-19 SITUATION IN TEMA METROPOLIS**

The Tema Metro Health Directorate has deployed Eight (8) "*Contact Tracing Team*" who are currently on the ground working to trace more contacts.

- The Health Team has successfully traced 41 out of 46 contacts who have been tested.
- The Health Team encountered three (3) suspected persons who showed symptoms. Two (2) of them were tested. The third person is under observation.
- I have directed that existing CHIPS Compounds and available hostel facilities should be assessed and if found suitable should be converted as temporary holding bays for isolation of patients for testing.

## **8.0 APPRECIATION**

Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me at this juncture to commend Kingdom Exim Group of Companies for presenting sanitary items to the Assembly. We have since distributed the items to beneficiary groups including Clan Houses in Tema Manhean.

## **9.0 APPEAL FOR SUPPORT TO THE POOR AND VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media, the Tema Metropolis by virtue of its attribute, as a Port City and Industrial Hub, has attracted quite a number of migrants who throng the City in search of jobs. These persons end up in the slums as squatters who live by doing menial jobs on daily basis to survive.

The ramifications of the raging Coronavirus pandemic, has put our homeless brothers and sisters in a very pathetic situation. These are people who survive on the streets as head porters, hawkers etc. most of them sleep at the street corners, markets, the Canoe Basin, Timber market, Tiobodum, Communities 2000 and 5000.

Our Metropolis has a very significant number of urban poor who live in poverty and squalor.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my brothers and sisters, we bare a responsibility to quickly go to the aid of these persons, who I describe as **Urban-Poor and very vulnerable persons in our society.**

**It is on this note that I launch an Appeal to All Business Institutions, Companies, Public Spirited Individuals and Faith Based Organisations; Churches and Mosques to support the Assembly in Cash and Kind to enable us feed the sick, poor and needy during this challenging period.**

H. E. The President has said that we are not in normal times. This implies that we must all rise up to the occasion and together we shall come out victors.

Thank you and God bless us all.