

**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

PRESS RELEASE 24th AUGUST, 2020

**MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19
THROUGH PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM**

In the last few weeks Zambia has experienced an increase in the number of Corona Virus cases detected on a daily basis. It is clear from the Ministry of Health's regular announcements that the pandemic is on the upswing and we need to make concerted efforts to prevent further spreading of the disease.

Public Transport has been identified as one of the key avenues through which the Corona Virus is spreading in addition to public gatherings such as funerals and churches. In line with the Revised Government's Strategy and measures on the fight against COVID 19 and to prevent the spread of the Virus through the Public Transport System (Buses, Taxis and Trucks), Government through the Ministry of Transport and Communications has developed the following Standard Operating Procedures which all Public Transport operators in Zambia should comply with without fail:

1. Number of Passengers to be carried on Public Transport Vehicles

All Public Passenger Vehicles (Buses and taxis) both intercity and local should carry the number of passengers in accordance with the registration requirement. Carrying passengers above the registration requirement is strictly forbidden. Bus and Taxi Owners, Drivers, Conductors and

Passengers must ensure that buses and taxis are not overloaded at any time to prevent the spread of coronavirus;

2. Mandatory Masking by Drivers, Conductors and Passengers:

All passengers, drivers and conductors must wear masks to cover their nose and mouth throughout the period of the journey without fail. Any person who contravenes this requirement during or before the journey must not be allowed to enter the passenger vehicle and proceed on the journey. It is therefore, the responsibility of both drivers and conductors to ensure that their passengers adhere to this requirement and vice versa for drivers and conductors;

3. Frequent and Routine Sanitization of Public Passenger Vehicles:

All Public Passenger Vehicles are expected to be fully disinfected before loading passengers for any route/trip. The owners of Public Transport Vehicles must provide the necessary cleaning and disinfection materials while designated drivers and conductors must ensure that vehicles are cleaned and disinfected.

4. Provision of Hand washing Materials and Hand Sanitizers:

All Public Passenger Transport Operators must provide alcohol-based sanitizers in their Buses/Taxes for use by drivers, conductors and passengers. Passengers are encouraged to carry their own hand sanitizers to be using during the journey. Therefore, Passengers, Drivers and Conductors must wash their hands with soap and running water or Sanitize their hands using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before entering the bus/taxi before embarking a Public Transport Vehicle, during the journey and immediately after disembarking.

5. Mandatory Temperature Readings:

All Public Passenger Transport Operators must provide temperature readers to test each passenger before boarding the bus/taxi. A mandatory temperature reading is therefore a requirement and it is the duty of the drivers and conductors to carry out these responsibilities.

6. Ventilation:

Whilst on Bus Stations, Bus Stops and in Transit (Journey Period) Buses/ Taxis should allow free flow of air by opening windows to allow fresh air circulate freely.

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7. Expected conduct/Behavior During the Journey

- Drivers/Conductors and Passengers must avoid handshakes, hugs or kissing;
- Drivers/Conductors and Passengers must avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Drivers/Conductors and Passengers must avoid touching bus surfaces unless necessary whilst in the bus;
- Drivers/Conductors and Passengers must practice respiratory hygiene by covering your mouth and nose with a flexed elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissues into a bin immediately and wash your hands or sanitize your hands; and
- All drivers must maintain their seats throughout the period of the journey


8. Inside the Buses/Taxis, on Bus Stations and Bus Stops:

Bus Operators, Drivers and Conductors should use posters and announcements on radio to remind passengers on good hygiene practices such as washing their hands, using hand sanitizers as often as possible and wearing masks at all times; and

9. All Trucks to Park in Designated Parking Areas:

All trucks plying on Zambian roads should park in *Designated Truck Parks*. No trucks will be allowed to park along the roads in cities and towns.

The Zambia Police Traffic Division and the Road Transport and Safety Agency are instructed to enforce these Standard Operating Procedures with immediate effect. Any Transporter violating these measures will risk a withdrawal of their Road Service License.



Hon. Mutotwe L. Kafwaya, MP

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS