



## **NATIONAL COMMAND CENTRE**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**March, 30, 2020**

### **LOCKDOWN OBSERVATION**

The Right Hon Prime the Minister Dr. Motsoahae Thomas Thabane launched the national lockdown dubbed “Operation saves lives” at Makoanyane barracks on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

As a result the army and police presence is visible in many parts of the country to enforce the lockdown.

The army and police and other law enforcement agencies will be seen patrolling in different areas of the country particularly along the borders between Lesotho and South Africa.

However, some businesses do not take precautionary safety measures such as to observe social distancing and to provide sanitisers for their staff and customers. At some Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) People are still queuing in large numbers. The management of the National Emergency Command Centre(NECC) strongly appeals to bank authorities to ensure that social distancing and other safety measures prescribed by World Health Organisation (WHO) are observed accordingly in all banking Halls.

The same applies to supermarkets and other essential services providers.

The NECC recommends proper use of masks and gloves as the wrong use could increase the spread of the virus.

However, it has come to the attention of the NECC that some of the Chinese businesses have so far failed to comply with the said prescribed measures for their staff and customers. As of now any business found contravening prescribed safety measures will be closed down forthwith.

It should be remembered that we are saving valuable lives of citizens and then we cannot afford any level of compromise.

NECC wishes to remind public transport operators to strictly observe the following passenger loads. For 2+1 for 4+1 taxis and 9 + 1 for mini-buses which are expected to operate from 06hrs – 10hrs and 15hrs to 18hrs in the evening.

The passenger load also applies to private vehicles.

NECC acknowledges and appreciates the important role the media plays in the fight against COVID 19 by reporting and disseminating information to the public. We appeal to both print and broadcast media to consistently keep updating the public about this pandemic.

Government has found it necessary to take these decisive steps of directing people to stay at home and to observe social distancing as the only option to save lives of Basotho.

The lockdown is not meant to punish people but to minimise the rate of infection as Covid 19 is transmitted through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Meanwhile, public is reminded that movement along the borders is restricted for the persons, only essential goods and services will be transacted.

The public is encouraged to be vigilant and maintain safety protocols to minimise the spread of the virus that is, wash hands with soap and running water, observe coughing and sneezing etiquette and follow quarantine measures.

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