



LTA Official Media Release

23 March 2020

LTA Applauds Transport Operators in Fiji

The Authority wants to pay tribute to the positive way in which transport operators in Fiji have responded to keeping the country moving despite adversity over the past number of days.

Both inside and outside the Lautoka Area Cordon Transport Operators have taken a pragmatic common-sense approach to ensuring that those in key jobs in our nation can still rely on public transport to get them to and from their places of work.

So, to all the bus, taxi, minibus, carriers etc. we say **A Big Thanks!**

You have demonstrated the best in Fijian.

The leading international transport organisation (International Association of Public Transport based in Brussels) UITP has issued the following guidance for transport operators in relation to COVID-19. Many bus, taxi, minibus and carrier operators may find this helpful. Of course, some measures will not apply in Fiji.

PREPAREDNESS

It is advisable to develop an inventory of staff qualifications, licences, etc. in order to identify employees, who could act as back up for critical positions. It is also important to check the validity of driving licences and renew them if needed;

Review the stock and availability of essential protection and cleaning equipment and supplies and plan their distribution and refill;

Review stock and supply chains for operational material, such as fuel, lubricants or spare parts and investigate alternative suppliers if possible. Note Fuel stocks in Fiji are plentiful.

PERSONAL PROTECTION

Regularly wash hands, to sneeze and cough into the elbow and to use paper towels. Information bulletins are widely available and should be displayed throughout the premises and in vehicles.

Staff wash rooms, meeting rooms and offices should be equipped with hand disinfectants and paper tissues;

General advice of the World Health Organisation is to wear masks when tending to an infected or potentially infected person;

Cleaning routines may have to be adapted and increased focus should be put on disinfecting common surfaces and spots to touch as well as waste disposal. For working places, where no cleaning may be possible between shifts, employees should be equipped with the necessary means and be made responsible to remove any waste and disinfect surfaces before taking over as part of the routine;

Staff that have to tend sick passengers, clean body fluids or potentially contaminated items and surfaces, should wear disposable gloves.

REDUCTION OF CONTACT

The following options could be considered to reduce the exposure of public transport staff:

- Customer service staff should only be available at desks with sufficient distance to customers;

- Remote working should be considered for activities that could be carried out without physically being present in company premises. The stimulation of home working might further contribute to reducing contact and might allow working for employees, who have to take care of relatives at home but are not sick.

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