Following the outbreak of Corona virus (COVID-19) and the declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by World Health Organization (WHO), and in line with the Declaration of a National State of Disaster by His Excellency the State President, Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, the Ministry of Transport and Public Works hereby gives the following directives with respect to public transport services across all modes of transport.

**Rail Transport**

1. The Central East Africa Railways (CEAR) will reduce the carrying capacity of each passenger coach from 90 to 40 for Economy Class and from 54 to 28 for Business Class.
2. CEAR is required to disinfect all passenger coaches before commencement of every trip.
3. All cabin crew are required to put on protective face masks.
4. All passengers must wash hands before entering a train station and before embarking on a train. CEAR will provide hand sanitizer to all passengers on board a train.

Government inspectors have been deployed to enforce the implementation of these measures.

CEAR has deployed social monitors at every train station to ensure compliance with sanitation and social distance guidelines.

**Water Transport**
1. All vessels carrying passengers are required to reduce their carrying capacity by 50 percent
2. All vessels are required to disinfect before commencement of every trip
3. All crew are required to put on protective face masks
4. All passengers must wash hands before entering a port area and ship. All vessels should provide hand sanitizer to all passengers on board
5. Passengers are not allowed to carry animals on any vessel
6. Movement of passengers within ships is restricted
7. Large vessels should make provision for a cabin to be used for isolation of people showing general symptoms of COVID-19
8. Social visits to ports and vessels have been suspended forthwith

Ship surveyors have been deployed to enforce the implementation of these measures

The Department of Marine Services will launch sensitization programmes at all major ports from 27th March, 2020.

**Road Transport Services**

1. Passenger service providers are required to comply with the following
   a. All public service vehicles should reduce their seating capacity to 60%
   b. No standing passengers are allowed on any public service vehicle
2. Public service vehicles should have slide opening windows those without should have a functional ventilation system
3. All public service vehicles are required to disinfect before commencement of every trip
4. All crew are required to put on protective face masks
5. All passengers must wash hands before entering a bus or minibus. All public service vehicles should provide hand sanitizer to all passengers on board
6. Passengers are not allowed to carry animals on any public service vehicles
7. All goods vehicles are not allowed to carry passengers
8. All tricycles should carry 1 (one) passenger only
9. All cross-border passenger travel is suspended effective 1st April, 2020
10. All passengers in private vehicles should sit next to windows with no passenger sitting in the middle

Traffic law enforcement officers, local council representatives, representatives of Passenger Welfare Association and members of the respective public transport associations will be carrying out joint exercises to inspect compliance to the above.

Traffic law enforcement officers are not allowed to touch driver or vehicle documents and any other document required by law except where it is very necessary.

Meanwhile the Department of Road Traffic and Safety Services is developing measures to be followed by bicycle and motorcycle taxis.

**Air Transport**

All international flights are suspended effective 1st April, 2020 except for the following:

i. Aircraft carrying health personnel, essential health equipment and emergency relief items
ii. Aircraft carrying returning residents or general cargo which will be handled on a case by case basis

The following will apply across all modes of transport:

Those with common flu and showing general symptoms of COVID-19 should not be allowed to use any public transport service

Citizens are encouraged to only take essential travel and where possible to walk to various destinations wherever practical.

The Ministry of Transport and Public Works will continue to monitor and review the situation in consultation with the Ministry of Health for the next 30 days.
Hon. Ralph Jooma (M.P.)

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS