



CSDS AFRICA

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND DEFENCE STUDIES, AFRICA

Technical Assistance
Policy Advice, Research, Training
and Advocacy

4 Akusika Avenue
Haatso-Mabey, Accra
Box 172 Kw, Kwabenya
www.csdsafrika.org

+233 (0) 266 260 453
+233 (0) 544 231 646

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TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES

PRESS RELEASE

CSDS AFRICA URGES GOVERNMENT TO BOOST PRODUCTION OF FACEMASKS AND SANITIZERS AND MAKE SAME FREE FOR GHANAIANS

CSDS Africa calls on the Government of Ghana to boost the production of face masks and sanitizers and make them mandatory, free and available to ALL GHANAIANS, this we believe will significantly mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

2. Over forty national and local governments worldwide have made face masks mandatory in public. Some of these are the Czech Republic,

Advancing Cyber, Maritime, Border Security, CBRN, Defense, Governance and Electoral Integrity in Africa

Dr. Ebenezer Appiah-Denkyira
Amb. (Dr). William Brandful

Prof. Robert Ebo Hinson
Ms. Esther N. Appiah

Dr. Angela M. Lamptey
Mr. Christian Adu-Febri, CA Nicole-Marie Poku, Esq

Indonesia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Austria, Taiwan, Singapore, Colombia, Poland, Kenya, Zambia, Luxembourg, Benin, the Bahamas, Liberia, Guinea, North Macedonia, Thailand, Peru, Lithuania, Gabon, Bahrain, Mozambique, Guatemala, Parts of China, Parts of USA Parts of Russia, Parts of Germany, Parts of India, Parts of Italy, Parts of Argentina, Parts of Mexico, Parts of Cameroon, Parts of Pakistan and Parts of Democratic Republic of Congo.

3. In his seventh address to the nation on 19th April 2020 on efforts to alleviate the spread of the coronavirus in the country, President Akuffo-Addo said “I want to encourage you to wear a mask wherever you go, as it will help you not to contract the virus, and keep it clean. If you own a business, or are providing a service, i.e. a barber, a hairdresser, a tailor, a taxi driver, a trotro driver and his ‘mate’, a shop keeper, a food seller, please do well to use a mask.” This message has resonated well with many facets of the Ghanaian society.

4. On Tuesday 21st April 2020, in a meeting with President Akuffo-Addo, the Council of State made a similar call on Government to boost the production of face masks and sanitizers and make them available for all. Nana Otuo Serebour, the Chairman of the Council, said “The fact that all Council of State members are donning face masks is an indication that the wearing of face masks have become part of the regime of prevention.

5. CSDS Africa believes that if Government undertakes efforts to make facemasks free for all Ghanaians, the private sector will move in to support Government’s efforts, and this will go a long way in enhancing prevention. Countries such as South Korea and Iceland, are two countries that have implement measures that has greatly reduced the spread of the coronavirus.

6. We endorse public education, continuous enforcement and mandatory compliance with existing laws. We accordingly urge the following:

- Government should boost production of face masks and sanitizers and make them free;
- The private sector should support Government's efforts on prevention and treatment;
- Handwashing should be imposed at all trading and commercial places;
- The wearing of face masks in public should be made mandatory; and
- Stringent laws are needed to increase safety compliance in markets

8. Experts from CSDS Africa voluntarily developed a number of draft national guidelines. Among them, the **CSDS Africa Draft Guidelines for Covid-19 Droplet Control Using Cloth Face Masks** and the **Mandatory Guidelines for Distribution of Covid-19 Relief Items**. These have been adopted by various implementing agencies of the Government of Ghana. CSDS Africa has also taken the initiative to produce and provide free face masks under our **#FaceMaskForAll Campaign**. CSDS Africa will continue to contribute its quota in the fight against the coronavirus in Ghana, and on the wider African continent.