

May 9th
FIXTHECOUNTRY Protest March

#FixTheCountry #BlackSunday #KumePreko

For Your Attention
Ghana Police Service
Accra

**Notice of Intention to exercise constitutional rights under Article
21(1)(d) and (f) of the 1992 Constitution**

Compliance with Statutory Requirement to Give Notice

We write with reference to Section 1 of the Public Order Act (Act 491), which provides that any person who desires to hold any special event within the meaning of that Act in any public place shall notify the police of his intention not less than 5 days before the date of the special event.

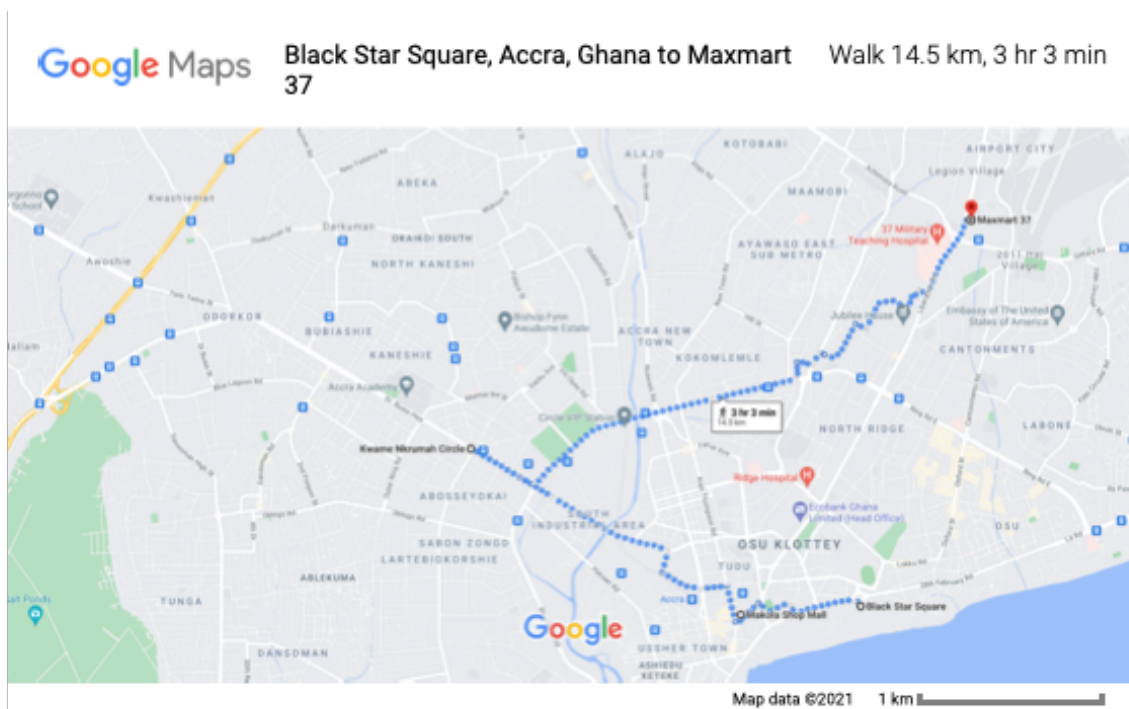
In this connection, kindly note that:

- (a) **Date:** This special event will be held on **May 9th, 2021**.
- (b) **Significance of the Date:** The date “**May 9th**” has been spontaneously and specifically chosen for two reasons. First, it captures the restless spirit of over 126 Ghanaians who lost their lives in the May 9th Accra Sports Stadium Disaster due to institutionalized incompetence and disregard for Ghanaian lives. Secondly, the Protest commemorates the 26th Anniversary of the Kume Preko Demonstration of 11 May 1995. Thus, the event draws inspiration from the undying culture of protest and dissent that has forged our democracy, and which Kume Preko has become a synonym for in our collective memory.
- (c) **Purpose:** The Event, which is a single purpose event, is being organized on the back of a string of consistent broken promises by successive governments; and in exercise of our democratic rights as citizens to express our frustration over perennial Governmental incompetence, refusal and/or inability to **fix the country**.
- (d) **Motivations of Organizers:** The Organizers believe, as does the President, that democracy is not a spectator sport. We are committed to improving the substance of governance in this country by ensuring that the ordinary voices of Ghanaians provide a mechanism to hold elected officials accountable. There comes a point where enough is enough. Just fix the Country!!! That’s our only message. We have had it with purposeful deceit and the absence of truth and genuine accountability in how this country is being governed.
- (e) **Format:** The special event will entail a socially distanced assembly of people embarking on a silent march.
- (f) **Proposed route and destination:** The March will proceed peacefully and at a socially distanced pace from the **Blackstar Independence Square** Station. From the Independence Square, the group will continue along the 28th February Road, then join the Atta Mills High Street; then down Graphic Road towards circle, using Dr. Busia Highway, then return on Dr Busia Highway to meet Ring Road West Road, then continue on that street through Ring Road central, then Odoi Kwao Loop, then join Hilla Limann Highway, then Turn on Sunyani Avenue continuing straight till turn on Kanda Link,

then Turn on President Drive, then continue till we hit Liberation Road, then continue down Liberation Road till 37 Maxmart where Group Disperses. [A Print of the route on Map is attached.]

- (g) ***No intention to breach the Peace:*** The Organizers do not intend to deliver a petition the Presidency. What's the point of that? We have no intention of gaining entry into any security installation, destroying private property or breaching the peace in any other way. The March is about due process and government accountability. As such we intend to conduct the March in a manner consistent with the laws of the country, with particular regard to our rights and duties under the Constitution and such other relevant. This notice being itself an indication of such intent. There is no intention to engage in the same patterns of lawless conduct that elected officials and their appointees are prone to. Also, we assure you that unlike the 2020 Elections which led to the unexplained deaths of Ghanaian citizens for which, till this day, no official has been held accountable for; our March is not grounded in gratuitous violence.
- (h) ***Starting Time:*** The Organizers anticipate that the people will assembly from 8:30am. The march along the outlined route will start at 9:30am.
- (i) ***Time of closure of the event:*** The crowd will disperse at 2pm.
- (j) ***Signature:*** As required by law, this notification is evidently in writing and has been undersigned or on behalf of the organizers of the special event.

Route of Planned Protest March



Compliance with COVID-19 Health Directives

1. The Organizers note, with regret, that for nearly 18 months since the outbreak of the covid-19 health emergency, the Government has not developed any protocols for how public assembly for the purpose of exercising the right to freedom of assembly including the freedom to take part in processions and demonstrations.

2. Despite this several public gatherings have been organized by the State, including political rallies, voting exercises and other such events during this period. As the government has shown, it is possible for Public gatherings, especially in outdoor spaces to be carried out without significant risk of a spread of infections.
3. We note in particular that throughout November 2020 to January 2021, the Minister for Information Kojo Oppong Nkrumah continuously challenged any claims that political gatherings led to any increases in COVID-19 cases, or rate of infection.
4. We are assured that if political gatherings drawing thousands of people; and a voting exercise entailing over 13 million Ghanaians did not lead to a rise in new infections, it is possible to hold a public event, in compliance with public health protocols, without an increased risk to public health.

In this regard, the organizers will take all measures to ensure that the March is undertaken in compliance with all relevant and well-known public health directives. We are certain that constitutional rights are not entirely displaced by public health situations, irrespective of measures taken to anticipate and address risks associated with such situations. In this connection, the organizers:

1. Have sought advice from relevant public health specialists regarding how to ensure that a public assembly is compliant with relevant public health protocols.
2. Have referred to international best practices regarding how public gatherings, including processions and demonstrations can be made COVID-19 Compliant.
3. Will ensure that all public messaging regarding the event emphasize all relevant public health protocols.
4. Will ensure that all persons taking part in the event adhere to the relevant public health protocols.
5. Have set below a tentative guide for making the event COVID-19 compliant

Proposed COVID-19 Protocols for the May 9th FIXTHECOUNTRY Protest

Social distancing:

All persons attending the Event should ensure that social distancing is practiced traveling to and from, and during the ***FIXTHECOUNTRY Protest***. This means that:

- Each person will stay at least 2 metres (3 steps) away from anyone they do not live with.
- Each person must wash their hands with soap and water before you leave the house
- Each person must use hand sanitiser gel regularly during the March
- Each person must wash their hands as soon as they get home - do this for at least 20 seconds
- Each person must cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Each person must carry a utilities bag in which they will put used and wash their hands afterwards or use hand sanitisers immediately after
- Each person must refrain from touching their eyes, nose or mouth if their hands are not clean.

Face coverings

- The organizers shall ensure that each person wears and keeps their face-covering on at all times. A face-covering means something that covers your nose and mouth, such as mask.
- The Organizers will distribute masks to anyone who comes without a mask.
- People will be advised to refrain from share their face covering with others.

Travel

- Observe all current travel restrictions relating to public transport use when travelling to the gathering Grounds at the Independence Square.
- However, avoid using public transport where possible. Travel to and from protests by foot or cycle.

Health protection advice for participation in protests

Things to consider before choosing to attend the ***May 9th FIXTHECOUNTRY Event:***

- do not attend the event if you have symptoms of COVID-19 (a new cough, fever or change in your sense of taste or smell) – stay home and get tested to protect others
- consider who is in your household. Do you live with people who have health conditions and are extremely vulnerable to catching COVID-19 and becoming ill? Think about how they can continue to be protected
- avoid the event if you do not feel that you will be able to keep 2m apart from others, to reduce your risk of acquiring infection
- consider alternative ways to show your support, such as donating funds, supporting initiatives or virtually protesting via social media channels
- handwashing stations won't be available everywhere. Take hand sanitiser with you and use it often
- toilet facilities won't be available to use.
- water filling stations won't be available to use. Bring water with you and stay hydrated. Do not share your bottle with anyone else.

Event Messaging

- Protect yourself and others
- Consider who else is in your household and their vulnerability to infection so that you protect them
- Don't go out to protest if you have any symptoms
- Wash your hands before you leave the house and use hand sanitiser regularly when you're out
- Keep 2m apart from others on your journey to and from, and during the protest
- Wear a face covering
- Walk or cycle there and back if you can

- Do not attend a protest if you have symptoms of COVID-19 (a new cough, fever or change in your sense of taste or smell) - stay home and get tested to protect others.
- After going to a protest if you develop cough, fever or change in your sense of taste or smell, stay home and get tested.

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