



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

FAX MESSAGE

FROM : FOREIGN & RI, ACCRA *L/12*
TO : ALL MEDIA HOUSES
FOR : THE NEWS EDITOR
FROM : DIRECTOR/ INFORMATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU
DATE : 28TH JANUARY, 2013

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PRESS RELEASE

LAGOS ASSEMBLY BANS SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE ATTACHED PRESS RELEASE ON THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SUBJECT COULD BE PUBLISHED/ANNOUNCED GRATIS IN THE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ATTACHMENT, GHANAIS TRAVELING TO NIGERIA ARE BEING ADVISED THAT FINES AND PENALTIES HAVE BEEN SET FOR SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES IN NIGERIA.

3. COUNTING ON YOUR USUAL CO-OPERATION.


for: MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION
FLORENCE AKONOR (MRS.)
DIRECTOR II/INFORMATION
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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COMMUNICATIONS
P. O. BOX 53

PRESS RELEASE

LAGOS ASSEMBLY BANS SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

THE GHANAIAN PUBLIC IS INFORMED THAT THE LAGOS STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY HAS PASSED A BILL FOR A LAW TO BAN SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES.

2. THE BILL, WHICH WAS PASSED ON MONDAY, 20TH JANUARY 2014, HAS BEEN SENT TO THE EXECUTIVE ARM OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ASSENT. THE BILL, WHICH SCALED THROUGH THE THIRD READING PROHIBITS ANYBODY SMOKING IN ALL PUBLIC PLACES SUCH AS LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, PUBLIC TOILETS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, DAY CARE CENTRES, PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND RESTAURANTS AMONG OTHERS.

3. THE BILL STIPULATES PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING THE RESTRICTION, RANGING FROM N10, 000 (US\$58) TO N50, 000 (US\$295) FINES OR IMPRISONMENT. A STATEMENT BY THE ASSEMBLY ON 20TH JANUARY, 2014 SAID THE BILL CONSISTED OF 16 SECTIONS, WHICH EXPLAINED THE REGULATION OF SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES.

4. THE BILL READS IN PARTS, "IN SECTION 12, POSTING OF SIGNS WITH 'NO SMOKING' SYMBOLS, DEPICTS A PICTORIAL REPRESENTATION OF A BURNING CIGARETTE ENCLOSED IN A CIRCLE WITH A BAR ACROSS. IT SHALL BE PROMINENTLY POSTED AND PROPERLY MAINTAINED WHERE SMOKING IS REGULATED BY LAW, BY OWNER, OCCUPIER OR PERSON IN CHARGE OF A 'NO SMOKING AREA'.

5. 'SECTION 4: DUTY OF OWNER/ OCCUPIER, SAYS IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THOSE WHO OWN OR OCCUPY PUBLIC PLACES TO ENSURE THAT APPROVED 'NO SMOKING' SIGNS ARE DISPLAYED CONSPICUOUSLY AT EACH ENTRANCE AND IN PROMINENT LOCATIONS THROUGH THE PREMISES.

6. THE BILL ALSO STATED THAT THE PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE BY OWNER/ OCCUPIER OF A 'NO SMOKING AREA' WOULD BE N100, 000 (US\$588) OR SIX (6) MONTHS IMPRISONMENT OR OTHER NON-CUSTODIAL PUNISHMENT THAT THE JUDGE MIGHT DEEM.

7. "IT SHALL BE AN OFFENCE TO OBSTRUCT A DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER FROM CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE LAW", THE STATEMENT ADDED.

8 THE LAW ALSO STATED THAT ANY PERSON WHO SMOKED IN THE PRESENCE OF A CHILD HAD COMMITTED AN OFFENCE AND WOULD BE LIABLE, ON CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF N15,000 (US\$88).