

Ministry of Lands Housing and Country Planning

PUBLIC NOTICE

It has come to the notice of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning that certain individuals are engaged in unlawful activities on State Lands across the Western Area.

Of special concern is the massive deforestation, land grabbing and construction works on water catchments and forest reserve areas, especially along the Regent Bye-Pass Road.

In view of the aforementioned, in order to protect the environment and enhance proper planning of the communities, through the protection of public and private tenure, the Ministry hereby announces an <u>immediate halt on all land development and other related activities</u> in the following communities until further notice: Charlotte, Morthaim, Mongegba, Masaro, Madina, Orogu, Mayenkeneh and Honey Town.

While the Ministry encourages all to comply, it will do all it can to restore normalcy in development activities within the aforementioned areas in the next few weeks. Therefore, anyone found engaged in any land or environmental related activities in the above communities during this period will be considered a violation of this Press Release.

The general public is hereby encouraged to desist from land transactions, land clearings, including cutting down of trees, deforestation, construction without building permit and any other environmental degradation activity on protected areas including the Bennet Hill and Mountain.

All those <u>laying claims to parcels of land</u> along these communities are requested to <u>submit their land documents</u> to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning, through the <u>Directorate of Surveys and Lands</u>, not later than Wednesday June 2 2021, <u>for verification</u>.

The Ministry appreciates the understanding of the general public as we work towards speedily concluding the verification to restore normalcy in the affected communities.

Signed

Permanent Secretary Tuesday May 26 2021 The Country Planning