

TO: THE NEWS EDITOR

DATE: 2010 JANUARY 19

Bus and Taxi Operators who overcharge fares to face stiff penalties

The Transport Authority is warning bus and taxi operators who seek to charge more than the prescribed fares that, they could face fines of up to one hundred thousand dollars. Under section 129 (d) of the Road Traffic Regulations (1938), a driver or conductor, who willfully deceives or refuses to inform any passenger or intending passenger of the fare for any journey commits an offence and is liable for prosecution.

The Authority says it has received numerous complaints of overcharging of fares particularly by JUTC sub-licensed operators in the KMTR and route taxi operators, island wide. The 20% fare increase is **NOT** applicable to the JUTC sublicensed operators who ply routes such as Lawrence Tavern to Down Town or Greater Portmore to Half Way Tree. For these operators, the fares of June 2008 are still in effect. Elsewhere, route taxi operators are required by law, to charge the fares prescribed by the Transport Authority which are posted at Post Offices, island wide.

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Therefore, the Authority is urging commuters to report incidents of overcharging of fares by providing the license plate numbers of the vehicles and for **route taxis**, the Taxi Association name on the logo found on the front door of the vehicles. These reports may be made toll free at 1-888-991-5687.

In the meantime, the Authority's Route Inspectors continue to monitor the implementation of the fare increase and operators found in breach of the regulations will be prosecuted.

For further information persons may contact our Communication & Customer Services Department at 1-888-991-5687 toll-free or visit our website www.ta.org.jm.

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