



Republic of South Sudan

The First Vice President

Communication from the Presidency No. Four (4)

The High Level Task-Force

Tuesday, 24th March 2020

Juba, South Sudan

The High Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic held its 3rd meeting on the evening of Tuesday 24th March 2020 under the Chairmanship of H. E. Dr Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, the First Vice President of the Republic and Deputy Chairman of the High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19.

H. E. The First Vice President and Deputy Chair of High Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic, briefed the **Taskforce** on the Meeting of the **Presidency** on Tuesday 24th March 2020. After thorough deliberations and careful consideration of facts around COVID-19 Pandemic, the Presidency approved recommendations of the **Taskforce** contained in Communications from the Presidency No. 1, 2 and 3 of 19th, 21st and 23rd March 2020, as follows:

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On the Restriction of Movement of People, the Presidency directs:

1- Immediate closure of Juba International Airport and all other International Airports in the face of international flights. All international flights destined to, and from Juba International Airport and all other International Airports/Airstrips are advised to cease their operations by midnight on Tuesday 24th March 2020. The following air operations will be exempt under specific conditions:

- a. Food Cargo flights.
- b. Aircrafts in State of Emergency.
- c. Flights passing through South Sudan airspace to destinations further afield.
- d. Humanitarian aid operations, including medical and relief flights.
- e. Alternate aerodromes identified in the flight plan, including extended diversion time operations.
- f. Technical landings (passengers will not disembark).

2-Immediate closure of all border crossings in the face of passenger coaches/buses and vehicles. Cargo vehicles, trucks and fuel tankers will be exempt.

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- 3-**The Presidency** directs the 'Council of Ministers' Meetings be suspended instant for a period of two weeks. In the interim, the government shall work in clusters.
- 4-**The Presidency** directs the employers, both private and public to make provisions for allowing their non-essential staff to stay home on a paid leave.
- 5-**The Presidency** further directs worktime at public institutions shall be limited to a half-day starting at 7:30 AM and ending at 1:00 PM Monday to Friday. Hospital staff, Police and other security agencies shall follow their normal work routine.

On Religious, Sporting and Socio-cultural Events;

The Presidency directs suspension of all planned religious events including Christian Sunday Prayers, Muslim "Salat Al Juma" Prayers, overnight prayers and all other religious congregations; sporting events, socio-cultural events such as weddings, funeral rites, and political functions.

On Social Distancing,

The Presidency orders closure of all bars, tea places and night clubs effective as of midnight on Tuesday 24th March 2020. Restaurants may open for takeaway services only till 6:00 PM. Restaurants owners and traders are advised to make provisions for infection prevention procedures in and around their workplace.

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The Presidency have observed with great concern that some senior government officials and members of the public are not complying with the Presidential Orders contained in the President's Statement on COVID-19 of 16th March 2020, the Communication from the Presidency Nos. 1 and 2 of 19th and 21st March 2020 respectively, and the Ministry of Health's Advisory. **The Presidency**, therefore, instructs the Law Enforcement Agencies; the Police, the Military, and the National Security Forces to take immediate actions to impose these orders, and to impose curfew all over the country starting from 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM effective as of Wednesday 25th March 2020. Emergency service workers, oncall hospital staff, airport, telecommunication workers and security personnel on duty will be provided with distinctive departmental passes/permits to facilitate their movement.

The Presidency approved the Taskforce's Operational Plan Budget for COVID-19, April - September 2020.

On the Requirements of South Sudanese Students studying in COVID-19 affected countries;

The Presidency further approved allocation of USD three (3) millions to cater for their needs.

The Presidency confirms the Resolution of the **Taskforce** to co-opt the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Information, communication Technology and Postal Services, Petroleum, Environment and Forestry; and of the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management.

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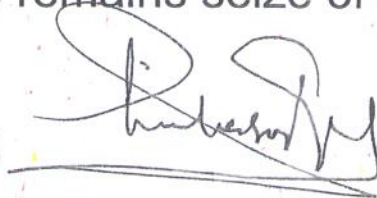
The Presidency urges traders and members of the public not to panic, and that there is no cause for alarm, as cargo vehicles, trucks and fuel tankers shall continue to flow in and out of the country.

The Taskforce, in its meeting on Tuesday 24th March 2020, directed the Ministries of Finance and Planning, Trade and Industry and the Bank of South Sudan to facilitate urgent purchase of sufficient essential goods such as food items, medicines, medical products, fuel and other essential commodities.

The Taskforce urges the Media Houses to partner with the government in fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic by airing jingles and health messages.

These orders shall remain in force for a period of 30 days subject to the evolution of the Pandemic.

The Taskforce remains seize of the situation.



H. E. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, (PhD)
First Vice President
Deputy Chairman of the High Level Taskforce on
Coronavirus (COVID 19)