



Republic of South Sudan (RSS)

The First Vice President

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Communication from The Presidency No. Nineteen (19)

The High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic

Wednesday, 8th April 2020

Juba, South Sudan

The High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic held its 18th Meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 8th April 2020 under the Chairmanship of **H. E. Dr Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon**, the First Vice President and Deputy Chairman of the **High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic**. **The Taskforce** considered the following items on the Agenda:

- 1- Overview of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation in South Sudan, the Region and the Globe.
- 2- Update on the 11th IGAD Health Ministerial Committee Virtual Conference on COVID-19, Wednesday 8th April 2020.

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The High-Level Taskforce listened to the report of the Honourable Minister for Health on the Situation of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in South Sudan, the Region and the Globe. The Minister updated **the Taskforce** on the Ministry of Health's Rapid Response Teams collection of more samples from suspects of the first case for testing. The team is also working on tracing the contacts of the second case and regular updates will be availed as appropriate.

The High-Level Taskforce also listened to the briefing from the Honourable Minister for Health on the Virtual Conference of the Ministers of Health of IGAD countries on Response Strategies for mitigating the risk of COVID-19 Pandemic in the Region that took place on 8th April 2020.

The High-Level Taskforce welcomes the Communique of the 11th IGAD Health Ministerial Committee Meeting on Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and directs the Ministry of Health to take the necessary actions in collaboration with the IGAD counterparts to implement the provisions of the Communique.

The High-Level Taskforce welcomes and commends the Government of Japan for allowing Japanese workers and engineers to continue working in South Sudan during this difficult time of the Pandemic.

The High-Level Taskforce welcomes the action taken by the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Protection of Civilian Sites (POCs) in Bentiu, Wau, Bor

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and Malakal to voluntarily return home, and encourages those in Juba and to do the same.

The High-Level Taskforce requests the UNMISS to facilitate transport and provision of relief to IDPs who voluntarily return home.

The High-Level Taskforce notes with concern that citizens, understandably, continue to turn up in large numbers at funeral places, disregarding the importance of social distancing, and hence, expose themselves to high risk of contracting and or transmitting the infection.

The High-Level Taskforce directs community leaders that, until the COVID-19 crisis is over, funeral and religious rituals should end with the burial.

On special Requests to land Planes at Airports in South Sudan; and Requests for Special Entry Permits, The High-Level Taskforce resolves as follows:

1-**Grants** a Russian Aircraft IL-76TD operated by AVIACON ZITORANS to overfly the territory of South Sudan en route to Russia, and land at Juba International Airport for Cargo Transportation on 10th April 2020.

2-**Advises** the MSF Consortium that their request for special permit for entry of technical staff shall be considered on a case by case basis.

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