



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

**COMMUNICATION FROM PRESIDENCY
NO. FORTY FOUR (44)**

**THE HIGH-LEVEL TASKFORCE ON THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
PANDEMIC
PROTOCOL
ON
QUARANTINE AND MOVEMENT OF MEMBERS OF
THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS),
UN AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
AND ALL THE INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENT
ORGANIZATIONS (INGOs)
ACCREDITED TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
DURING THE CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

1ST MAY 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Protocol made pursuant to the laws of South Sudan, the Statement of the President on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, dated 16th March 2020, the Communication from the Presidency dated 19th March 2020, the Communication from the Presidency No. Two (2) dated 21st March 2020, on the Restriction of Movement of the people, the Communication from the Presidency No. Three (3) dated 23rd March 2020, on Closure of Juba International Airport and all other International Airports in the Face of international flights, the Communication from the Presidency No. Four (4) dated 24th March 2020, on Social Distancing, including Imposition of Curfew all over the country starting from 7:00PM to 6:00AM, and the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

1.2. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide the Diplomatic Corps, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the United Nations Agencies, the International and Regional Organizations, and all the INGOs in South Sudan with answers to questions relating to their wellbeing in terms of security, provision of medical services, evacuation, quarantine and movement within and in and out of the country during this COVID-19 emergency period.

1.3. These guidelines address the following key issues:

1.3.1. Dependents of the Diplomatic Community wishing to join their families in South Sudan;



1.3.2. Movement of staff of UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and all INGOs in South Sudan;

1.3.3. Evacuation of Foreign Nationals;

1.3.4. Mandatory Quarantine;

1.3.5. Movement during the curfew;

1.3.6. Movement in the event of a lockdown.

1.4. Background and Development of the Protocol

1.4.1. The guidelines on the Movement of Members of the Diplomatic Corps, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and all the INGOs during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Explanatory notes have been developed pursuant to the relevant laws and international guidelines by WHO on management of COVID-19 Pandemic.

1.4.2. This Protocol is an important addition to the public health policy framework and serves to elaborate the rules to be followed by the Diplomatic Corps, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, all the INGOs, in South Sudan during the COVID-19 Pandemic period. This Protocol is meant to guide the Diplomatic Community on the best practices and application of the

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policy provisions within the South Sudan context during this unprecedented emergency.

1.4.3. In a public health emergency situation, all citizens and residents of South Sudan shall follow the Government public health measures that have been put in place.

1.5. Purpose and scope

1.5.1. These guidelines broadly lay out what should be done and to a lesser extent, how the containment operation would be undertaken with regard to the Diplomatic Community in South Sudan.

1.5.2. These guidelines will also serve as a foundation for more detailed operational planning.

1.5.3. This framework outlines procedures aimed at protecting and providing security, medical and other services to the Diplomatic Community during this COVID-19 Pandemic emergency.

2. General Principles

2.1. **Accountability:** ensure that any emergency response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) must be proportionate, necessary and non-discriminatory.

2.2. **Confidentiality:** shall be respected only with the exception of COVID-19.

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- 2.3. **Transparency:** Following early detection, effective, transparent, and timely communications are critical pre-requisites for the launching of a time-sensitive evacuation and, or, containment operation.
- 2.4. **Congruence** of Mandate by leveraging mutual synergies for effectiveness and efficiency.

3. Ethical Considerations

- 3.1. All measures employed during a containment operation should adhere to ethical principles set within a framework of international human rights, public safety and fundamental rights and freedoms.

4. General Evacuation Guidelines

- 4.1. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, evacuations of foreign nationals shall be undertaken in a well-coordinated and systematic manner by Diplomatic Missions, UNMISS, Specialized Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and all the INGOs, that wish to do so.
- 4.2. Evacuations of foreign nationals by their governments shall take place as and when requested pursuant to the following mandatory conditions: -

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- 4.2.1. The Diplomatic Mission, UNMISS, International and Regional Organization, UN Agency, an INGO, shall send a formal request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation via a Diplomatic Note to the Department of Protocol. The Note should include: full details of the flight (Aircraft type, Registration, Flight Number, call sign, date of the flight and flight plan).
- 4.2.2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation shall present the request to the High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic, and other relevant authorities such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Transport and the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, before granting the clearance.
- 4.2.3. Diplomatic Missions, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and all the INGOs, shall adhere to the official channels of communication through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for a coordinated approach to having their request granted. In this regard, Diplomatic Missions, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and all the INGOs, are urged to refrain from calling other government institutions /offices directly. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation remains the primary focal point for Diplomatic Corps, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and

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Regional Organizations, all the INGOs, as stipulated out in the relevant International Conventions and Treaties.

- 4.2.4. Clearance shall only be given to the Diplomatic Mission, UNMISS, UN Agency, International and Regional Organization, an INGO, when all requirements set out in these guidelines are fulfilled.
- 4.2.5. All requests must be submitted during current official working hours (9.00a.m. to 4.00 p.m.).
- 4.2.6. With the exception of emergency, the request must be submitted 72 hours before the intended evacuation and the Aircraft should have double crew, since the crew shall not be allowed to disembark in South Sudan.
- 4.2.7. In case of evacuation authorized personnel are not allowed to enter into Juba International Airport or any other South Sudanese Airport.
- 4.2.8. Any inbound flights should be without any cargo or passengers apart from the crew who must produce a certified evidence of a COVID-19 free status.
- 4.2.9. All inbound flights must be sanitized prior to entry into South Sudan airspace, and also at the Juba International Airport and at any other South Sudan Airport.

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5. Medevac Guidelines

5.1. The procedures for Medevac shall be as described in the General Evacuation Guidelines at 4.0 above but the following additional requirements are mandatory:

5.1.1. All MEDEVAC requests shall be supported by a Doctor's Report; name of Hospital where the patient will be admitted and the person that shall be responsible for the patient.

5.1.2. There shall be no blanket authorization: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation after consultation with the High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic for MEDEVAC on a case-to-case basis.

5.1.3. A certified free COVID-19 person or person holding a certificate of 14 days self-quarantine from a relevant authority prior to departure shall be allowed into South Sudan and shall be quarantined for 14 days.

5.1.4. Priority will be given to emergency evacuation in life threatening situation.

5.1.5. Contact Persons for MEDEVAC are:

5.1.5.1. Dr. Makur Mator Korioum, Undersecretary of Ministry of Health, Member of High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic. Tel: +211-922344444.

E-mail mkariom@talktalk.net

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5.1.5.2. Dr. Angok Gordon Kuol, Case Manager. Tel: + 211-922739739. E-mail angokkuol@gmail.com

5.1.5.3. Amb. Joseph Dut Kuol, Director of Ceremonies, Directorate of Protocol & Public Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation. Tel: + 211-912289954. E-mail kuoibeny@gmail.com

5.1.5.4. Amb. Kulang Monytil Wijang, Department of Passports and Visas, Directorate of Protocol & Public Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Relations, Tel: +211-92646999. E-mail Kulonggewijang@gmail.com

6. Mandatory Quarantine Guidelines for Diplomatic Corps, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and all the INGOs

6.1. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in consultation with the Diplomatic Community, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, all the INGOs, in Juba, agreed that the following guidelines shall apply:

6.1.1. Diplomats, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and INGOs staff shall be quarantined in their premises and compounds. However, if necessary, the High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19

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Pandemic shall agree for a hotel which will be used as a quarantine facility for Diplomats, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and INGOs staff, in interim period, at their own cost.

- 6.1.2. Isolation is mandatory for all persons who are COVID-19 positive. All isolation must be in hospitals, or home based care if approved by the High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic.
- 6.1.3. Quarantine is mandatory for all persons returning to South Sudan as of 1st March 2020.
- 6.1.4. Home/self-quarantine must be approved by the High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic in writing.
- 6.1.5. The High-Level Taskforce will continue to identify infected persons through tracing of COVID-19 contacts. All identified individuals irrespective of status or nationality will be ordered into self-quarantine or confined to mandatory quarantine.
- 6.1.6. In the event the members of the Diplomatic Corps, or UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and INGOs, begin to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 virus and require hospital care, they should access treatment at any private hospital or Dr. John Garang Infectious Disease Centre or in a UN/Diplomatic dedicated facility, if any.

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7. Internal Movement

- 7.1. The Diplomatic Community, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and all the INGOs shall be bound by the Communications issued during this emergency period in so far as the laws (orders) are made to reduce the spread and enhance the containment of the COVID-19 virus.
- 7.2. The Diplomatic Community, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and all the INGOs are encouraged to work from home and restrict non-essential internal movement within South Sudan.
- 7.3. Humanitarian Organizations must reduce inter-state travel to vital and life-saving work and COVID-19 related travel during this period. If requested they need to be able to justify why each person travelling is for an essential purpose.
- 7.4. All humanitarians planning to travel from areas with local transmission of COVID-19, currently Juba and Torit, to work in field offices across the country without local transmission of COVID-19 must be quarantined for 14 days before departure.
- 7.5. This quarantine must take place inside the concerned organization's property under the close supervision of the organization involved. Any organization that cannot set up an independent quarantine facility should get space from those that have capacity. The Ministry of Health shall inspect this property during the quarantine time.

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7.6. The organization must report on a daily basis to the Ministry of Health on:

7.6.1. How many people are in quarantine with names and at which stage of 14 days.

7.6.2. Daily temperature check result.

7.7. Should any quarantined individual began to display symptoms, the organization should contact 6666 immediately and planned travel should suspended if the persons meets the case definition for COVID-19.

7.8. The Ministry of Health may conduct spot checks on organization's quarantining sites to verify this quarantine reporting at any time.

7.9. Any organization which is found not to be complying may be suspended from travel.

8. Curfew

8.1. Movement is strictly restricted to emergency cases and exceptional circumstances only pursuant to Presidential Communications issued in March.

8.2. A formal request must be made to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for giving details of the critical



movement during the curfew period and shall be dealt with by Taskforce on a case-to-case basis.

- 8.3. If the movement is originated through an emergency service and undertaken by an ambulance, the ambulance will by extension be deemed, in accordance with the Presidential Communications, to be allowed to move freely during the curfew to and from the hospital.
- 8.4. In case of an emergency during this crisis period, the Diplomatic Community, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and all the INGOs should call the **hotline number 6666 (or any number to be specified)**.
- 8.5. All approvals for movement during curfew period shall be given by the High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- 8.6. With regard to evacuations and MEDEVAC during the curfew, all relevant Civil Aviation Authority regulations as well as pertinent aviation and global health regulations must be complied with.

9. Security

- 9.1. The South Sudan National Police Service through the Diplomatic Police Unit and other Security Organs have put in place contingency plans to ensure that there is adequate security during the COVID-19 curfew period.

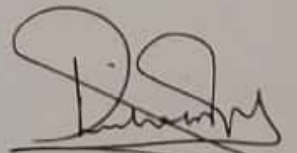
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- 9.2. Private Security Firms are expected to continue to provide additional security as per the Presidential Communications.
- 9.3. All requests for enhanced security should be channeled through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for onward transmission to the South Sudan National Police Service and other Security Organs.

10. Airport Flights Operations

- 10.1. There shall be established a Joint Operations Room (JOR) to process internal and external flight permits and clearances issued the High-Level Taskforce.
- 10.2. The JOR shall be composed of Security Agencies, UNMISS and NGOs.
- 10.3. The JOR shall operate from Juba Airport.
- 10.4. The JOR shall be headed by the senior security officer in-charge at the airport.


1/5/2020

H.E. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, PhD

The First Vice President and

Deputy Chairman of the High-Level Taskforce on Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

