



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
The Vice President

Communication from the Presidency
No. One hundred (100)
The National Taskforce on Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Pandemic
Friday, December 17th, 2021
Juba, South Sudan

The National Taskforce on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, held its 21st Meeting on Friday 17th December 2021, Chaired by **H.E. Hussein Abdelbagi Akol, the Vice President and the Chairman of the National Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic.**

The Incident Manager briefed the National Taskforce on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in South Sudan, the Region and the Globe.

He informed the meeting that the Public Health Laboratory, on 16th December 2021, released the total number of tests performed to date as 279,819 and the new cases confirmed in the last 24 hours is 94. The cumulative number of cases

confirmed to date is, 13,143. The total cases currently under follow-up/active is 396. The number of cases that are severe in the IDU is (0) while the number of cases that are in critical condition in the IDU is (0). The number of cases that have recovered is 12,614. The number of new deaths in the last 24 hours is 0 while the number of cumulative deaths is 133.

The Taskforce examined the communication from the Chair, COVID-19 situational updates, vaccines, action points of the previous meeting and Any Other Business (A.O.B). After thorough discussions, the following were resolved:

- 1. The Taskforce** is alarmed with the current rate of infections. In light of the surge in COVID-19 cases in the Country, there is need to get many more people vaccinated in order to avoid further surge in infections and hospitalizations.
- 2. The Taskforce** expressed the need to expand access to test the public; this will be very beneficial as asymptomatic patients contribute to a high level of community spread.



3. **The Taskforce** stressed the need to know the occurrence of the current variant since the spread of infection is so high. In view of that, there is a need to take the sample abroad or urgently plan to purchase the genomic sequencing machines.
4. **The Taskforce** directs the audit Committee to immediately audit the National Taskforce activities for the past one year to ascertain what was done right and what went wrong to forge a way forward.
5. **The Taskforce** urged the State Taskforces to send staff to be trained in the use of the PCR Machines.
6. **The Taskforce** further urged for the urgent introduction of RTDs and temperature reader at Juba teaching hospital and other hospitals in the country.
7. **The Taskforce** directs the labs to suspend the payment of the six dollars charges. Therefore, the reconstituted committee is tasked to investigate the genesis of that payment. The committee comprised of the following;

1. Col. Dr. Ajak Makor, Chairman



2. Dr. Moua Moti, the legal Advisor, Secretary
3. Hon. Dr. Victoria Stephen Majur, member
4. Dr. Fredrick Khamis Tawad, member
5. Maj-Gen. (Police) Majok Kuol
6. Dr. Ader Macar, member

The committee is further directed to sit with the labs management to agree on the issue of percentages.

8. **The Taskforce** further directs the Central Equatoria authority to revoke all COVID-19 related Charges towards the Labs, since COVID-19 is a national issue.
9. **The Taskforce** is urged to summon the e-governance board for a meeting on Monday 20th December, 2021 with the Chair to discuss issues related to e-governance performance. Similarly, the Deputy Commissioner for National Revenue Authority is to be summoned to clarify on the same.
10. **The Taskforce** expressed disappointment in handling of the protective equipment. They can only be used during national events.



11. **The Taskforce** emphasized that testing and vaccinations should be mandatory in the universities to save lives.

12. **The Taskforce** reiterates that no events should be conducted without the permission of the National Taskforce owing to the surge in infection.

The National Taskforce on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic remains seized of the situation.



H.E. Hussein Abdelbagi Akol

**Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan and the
Chairman of the National Taskforce on COVID-19
Pandemic.**

17/12/2021