



Republic of South Sudan

The First Vice President

Communication from the Presidency No.Nine(9)

The High Level Task-Force on COVID-19
Pandemic

Monday, 30th March 2020

Juba, South Sudan

The High Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic held its 8th Meeting on the afternoon of Monday 30th March 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. **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-Briefing from **H.E. Dr Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon** on the Statement of H.E. the President during the IGAD Heads of State and Government Virtual Summit.

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The High Level Taskforce listened to a briefing from **H. E. Dr Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon** on the Statement of **H. E. the President** during the IGAD Heads of State and Government Virtual Summit on Formulation of Regional Response on COVID-19. The Summit recommended installation of fiberoptic in government institutions, development of the regional emergency fund, mobilisation of medical and health professionals from the diaspora and called for cancellation of debts owed by the Member States. **The High Level Taskforce** welcomes the initiative.

On the Influx of Returnees on the Borders with the Sudan;

The High Level Taskforce welcomes the intervention by the World Food Programme (EFP) to provide food for the returnees and applauds the efforts of Border Control officers and health personnel in keeping our borders safe.

On the Plight of the South Sudanese Students in Ethiopia and the Kingdom of Morocco;

The High Level Taskforce welcomes the decision by the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to allow South Sudanese Students to stay on the Universities' Campuses during this difficult times of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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On Implementing the Social Distancing Directives;

The Taskforce appreciates the initiative taken by the Ministry of Interior to recommend urgent review of cases on remand, release of juveniles and inmates with minor crimes or who are approaching the end of their prison terms.

The Taskforce further directs the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional to expedite the processes.

On the Repatriation of Malaysian Oil None Essential Workers to their Home Countries;

The High Level Taskforce resolves to grant special landing permission for a plane owned by the oil companies to evacuate their none essential workers.

The High` Level Taskforce reiterates, Juba International Airport and all other International Airports/Strips remain close in the face of all International flights, be they commercial passenger or private jets.

On the Humanitarian Action During the COVID-19 Possible Lockdown;

Th High Level Taskforce, welcomes the initiative of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management; and the World Food Programme to distribute food items to every household across the country during the restrictive period.

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On the Development of Mechanism for the implementation of orders on Social Distancing;

The High Level Taskforce directs the Ministry of Transport in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Juba City Council to take the necessary actions to implement the restrictions on the use of Public Transport System, restaurants, tea and shisha places; and Re-organisation of Public Markets Places.

The Taskforce encourages the Bank of South to develop and develop regulatory framework for the electronic payment system and mobile money services in the banks and shopping centres to.

The High Level Taskforce urges the Telecommunication Companies to professionalise the use of existing Telecom Towers either singly or in unison.

The Taskforce condemns the allegations trending in social media that the government has suspended training of Unified Forces.

The Taskforce would like to confirm that training is ongoing and encourages commanders and the trainees to observe sound infection prevention procedures through social distancing in the camps.

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