



# Republic of South Sudan (RSS)

The First Vice President

Ref: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Communication from the Presidency No. Twelve(12)**

**The High Level Task-Force on COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020**

**Juba, South Sudan**

**The High Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic** held its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting on the afternoon of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**The High Level Taskforce** listened to an overview from the Honourable Minister for Health on the Situation of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Situation in South Sudan, the Region and the Globe.

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The Taskforce also was briefed on the requests of some countries and organisations to grant them special landing permission for either, evacuation, or admission into South Sudan, of their workers who are currently outside South Sudan.

**The High Level Taskforce** welcomes the benevolent act by some philanthropists, encourages and advises them to coordinate with relevant agencies of the Government in order to ensure equitability and observe strict infection prevention procedures through social distancing.

**The High Level Taskforce**, confirms that South Sudan remains COVID-19 free. The Taskforce, however, emphasises the importance of sound healthy personal practices and **Social Distancing** as the most proven tools for mitigating the risk.

**The High Level Taskforce** re-affirms the Presidency's directives on **Social Distancing** including limiting worktime to only half-day, none essential staff to stay home on paid leave, and encourage their employees to work from home.

**The High Level Taskforce** further directs the Honourable Minister for Labour and Industrial Relations to take necessary measures to implement these directs.

**On the Request of some countries and organisations to be granted special landing permits to cargos or evacuation of foreign nationals from South Sudan;**

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**The High Level Taskforce** resolves as follows:

- 1- **Block clearances** will only be granted by the **High Level Taskforce** on case by case basis.
- 2- **Grants special landing permission** for a plane to evacuate 13 United Nations' staff with pre-existing Medical Conditions.
- 3- **Grants Special landing permission** to MSF's Cesena and Fokker 27 planes to land at Juba International Airport. There must be no passengers on the planes and pilots must submit to a 14-day-quarantine in a designated accommodation facility. **The High Level Taskforce** further urges the MSF to provide details of their humanitarian workers including the countries of origin for further consideration.
- 4- **Grants special landing permission** for the Ethiopian Airline flight ET 355. The only passenger on plane, the **American Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission**, must submit to a 14-day-quarantine period in a designated accommodation facility prior to engaging in public business.
- 5- **Grants special landing permission** to Juba Handling Services Cargo Plane from Khartoum to land at Juba International Airport. No passengers shall disembark.

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- 6- **Grant special landing permission** to a MAF Plane from Loki to land at Juba International.
- 7- **Grants special landing permission** for a Sudanese plane with 8 passengers onboard. The passengers must submit to a 14-day-quarantine in designated accommodation facility prior to engaging in their routine business.
- 8- **Grants special landing permission** to a Samaritan's Purse cargo plane to land at Juba International Airport. The Organisation must provide details of the 4 passengers including their origin for further consideration.
- 9- **Grants special landing permission** to the Ethiopian Airline Plane to evacuate the Malaysian oil workers to their home countries.
- 10- **Declines to grant special landing permission** for Astral cargo plane to land at Juba International.
- 11- **Refers the request by Nile Drilling and Services** to the Minister of Petroleum for further scrutiny and advice.

**The High Level Taskforce** welcomes the assistance of the World Bank in supporting efforts of the government in its fight against the pandemic.

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