



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Communication from The Presidency

No. Thirty (30)

The High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, 18th April 2020

Juba, South Sudan

The High-Level Taskforce on COVID-19 Pandemic held its 28th Meeting on the afternoon of Saturday 18th 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 High-Level Taskforce was briefed on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation in South Sudan, the Region and the Globe by the Honourable Minister for Health.

The Honourable Minister informed the Taskforce that seven (7) tests of samples collected today from contacts whose quarantine time has elapsed, are currently running. South Sudan still has four (4) confirmed cases.

RMCID



The High-Level Taskforce welcomes pledges and donations from the Petronas, the Atlantic Energy Company, the MTN Telecommunication Company, and Carnak South Sudan LTD towards supporting implementation of the South Sudan COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan.

The High-Level Taskforce directs the Ministries of Health and of Finance and Planning; the Bank of South Sudan and the Secretariat of the **High-Level Taskforce** to expedite opening account in the name of High-Level Taskforce where all donations in cash shall be deposited.

The High-Level Taskforce shall establish a website and WhatsApp Group for its work.

The High-Level Taskforce has learned with dismay that one of the enlisted Ninety-Nine (99) contacts (supposedly in isolation) has secretly travelled out of South Sudan aboard a United Nations flight, and has since arrived their home country. This is in clear contravention of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).

The High-Level Taskforce condemns the act in strongest terms possible, holds the UN System in South Sudan accountable for any unseemly events that may ensue, and urges the World Health Organisation (WHO), South Sudan Country Office to provide further clarifications on the matter.

RMTS



The High-Level Taskforce notes with concern the wave of rumours, misinformation and disinformation being circulated on the social media and fake news outlets that the Taskforce has bought cars to its members and paid SSP 600,000 to drivers and bodyguards of member Ministers.

The High-Level Taskforce strongly objects to these politically motivated allegations and reiterates that all members of the Taskforce, including their drivers, bodyguards and support staff are volunteers, and do not engage in monetary transactions or handling funds. The Taskforce further informs the public that the USD one million released out of USD Three (3) Million to assist students studying in COVID-19 affected countries has since been disbursed to the beneficiaries through the respective Embassies of the Republic of South Sudan in those countries. The USD Two (2) Million approved for the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan is yet to be released by the Bank of South Sudan.

The High-Level Taskforce, after listening to the explanation of the Commissioner of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), expresses concern over Humanitarian Food being illegally sold in the market.

The High-Level Taskforce resolves that Humanitarian Goods destined for illegal sale must be impounded as exhibits, the culprit arrested and prosecuted.

RM/TD



On Requests for Special Permission to enter or leave the country,

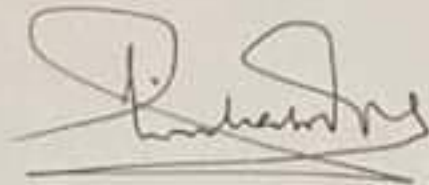
The High-Level Taskforce resolves as follows;

- 1-**Grant** Special Permission to Embassy of the Republic of Kenya to land Aircraft 5Y-HOT CARAVAN C208 at Juba International Airport on MEDEVAC operation of two Kenyan nationals. The Pilots must remain onboard the aircraft at all times.
- 2-**Grant** Special Permission to the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Juba to land an aircraft operated by the Federal Air Limited to land at Juba International Airport to repatriate nine (9) Kenyan nationals from South Sudan to their home country. The Pilots must remain onboard the aircraft at all times.
- 3-**Grant** Special Permission to transport the remains of the Late Tol Mager Achiek from Juba to Yirol.
- 4-**Grant** Special Permission for the Evacuation of Chief Dhor-dit Ariik Mawein and nine (9) other family Members from Khartoum to Juba. Each passenger must produce a certified evidence of a COVID-19 free status and must submit to a 14-day-quarantine in Juba prior to interacting with community.

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

RMTD







18/4/2020

H. E. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, PhD
First Vice President
Deputy Chairman of the High-Level Taskforce on
Coronavirus (COVID-19)