

Communication from the Presidency

No. Sixty Three (63)

The National Taskforce on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Friday 3rd July, 2020

Juba, South Sudan.

The National Taskforce held its 5th meeting on Friday 3rd July, 2020 under the Chairmanship of **H.E Hussein Abdelbagi Akol**, The Vice President and Chairman of the National Taskforce on COVID -19 Pandemic.

1. The National Taskforce reviewed and adopted with amendments the minutes of the 4th meeting held on Friday 26th June, 2020.
2. The Taskforce listened to the action points of the previous meeting presented by the Chair, **H.E. Hussein Abdelbagi Akol**. After lengthy deliberations, the Taskforce resolved the following:

- Assigned the ⁵⁴Secretary to oversee the committee tasked to review the **Plan B** for reopening of the University of Juba.
- Directed the ⁵⁴Secretary to inspect the stores of the Ministry of Health and ensure that useful items are singled out for distribution to Ten (10) States and the three Administrative Areas. Eastern and Central Equatoria are prioritized.
- Directed the ⁵⁴Secretary to coordinate with necessary authorities to ensure that State Taskforces are formed appropriately to respond to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Directed the ⁵⁴Secretary to continue following up donations from the oil companies towards the fight against COVID-19.
- Directed further the Undersecretary Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance and Planning to equally continue to follow up the transfer of the USD 2million to COVID-19 accounts.

- Directed the Undersecretary Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs to swiftly clear with the Company intending to supply sanitizers but should ensure that all legal procedures pertaining to procurement are followed.
- Urged the government to take the lead in funding the activities of the response towards the fight against COVID-19 Pandemic in the Country.
- Advised the Secretary to translate the budget of the frontline workers into local currency as a back-up to the external funding and present to the Presidency for approval.
- Instructed the Undersecretary Ministry of Health to study the new improved Government salary structure for doctors and inform the meeting on the gap accordingly.
- Urged the Undersecretary Ministry of Health to scale up training for the doctors on handling COVID-19 cases in the Country.

- Directed the Undersecretary Ministry of Health and the Undersecretary Ministry of Finance to present the bank statement of the COVID-19 account in the next plenary.
- Recommended to the Undersecretary Ministry of Health to ensure that South Sudanese doctors are encouraged through better pay so that they return to serve in the government health facilities.
- Endorsed the proposal for the incentives of the frontline workers and the Secretary was directed to expedite the payment.
- Advised the Undersecretary Ministry of Health to present the budget for the requirements of the National COVID-19 response plan for six (6) months in the next meeting.
- Advised the Committee to carry-out awareness and sensitization campaign on COVID-19 to clear the air on myths and stigmatization. *↔ sign or not*
- Directed the Secretary to ensure that a PCR machine and reagents are delivered to Northern Bahr-El Ghazal

as soon as possible to save lives and minimize surge in infection.

- Approved the issuance of incentives to health workers in Northern Bahr-El Ghazal State.
- Endorsed a team to conduct an assessment mission to monitor the entry points in the Northern part of the country.
- Directed that ^{MOT to develop} a comprehensive health facilities checklist be developed in the ten (10) States and three (3) Administrative Areas.
- Urged the Undersecretary, Ministry of Health to ensure that there is a unified training on case management and handling of all COVID-19 cases in South Sudan.
- Urged the Chairman, **H.E Hussein Abdelbagi Akol** to consult with the Presidency on the status of Juba International Airport to ascertain if it has been declared open.

3. The Taskforce was briefed on the National COVID-19 Structures by the Steering Committee and advised that the composition of the sub committees be clearly spelt out and to co-opt members from different institutions such as the Medical Advisory Panel, civil society and line Ministries.
4. Directed the Undersecretary Ministry of Health to present the document of the steering Committee to the Medical Advisory Panel for further study.
5. The Taskforce further directed the Undersecretary Ministry of Health to form a committee to visit the Ten (10) States and three (3) Administrative Areas to come up with a comprehensive report on COVID-19 challenges.
6. The Chairman of the National Taskforce, **H.E Hussein Abdelbagi Akol**, delegated the Secretary General of the Government to chair the meetings of the Taskforce in his absent while away on a mission to Northern Bahr-El Gazal.

7. The Taskforce directed the Secretary General of the Government to study the proposed incentives for the committee members and report back in the next meeting.
8. The Taskforce directed the Undersecretary Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs to prepare all documents concerning legalities of contracts related to COVID-19.
9. The Taskforce further directed the Secretary to ensure that the operational budget of the Taskforce be prepared comprehensively.

**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,
Chairperson of the National Taskforce on COVID-19.**