

**FROM** : GOVERNMENT SECRETARY  
**TO** : PS HEALTH  
PS HOME AFFAIRS  
PS FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
PS JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE  
PS TRADE AND INDUSTRY

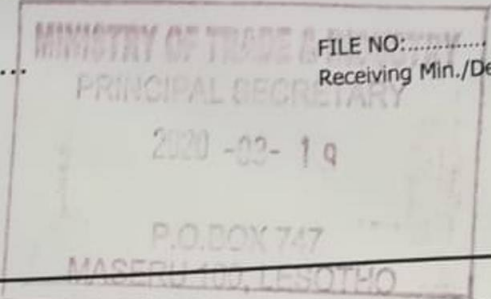
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**SIGNED** : .....  
(Full Signature)

**NAME** : MOAHLOLI MPHAKA  
(Typed)

**DATE** : 19 MARCH, 2020



**NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

Memorandum **C3(2020/10)23** by the Honourable Minister of Transport.

At its Special Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday, 18 March, 2020 under "Memoranda"

**Cabinet decided as follows with regard to the Corona Virus (COVID-19) Pandemic:**

1. That the Covid- 19 pandemic be declared as a National Emergency;
2. That the following measures intended to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in Lesotho be embarked upon:
  - i. **OBSERVANCE OF PREVENTION AND PROTECTION PROTOCOLS**
    - a) All public areas must introduce and maintain hand-washing facilities and sanitizing points.
  - ii. **PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF SOCIAL DISTANCING**
    - a) All gatherings attended by more than 50 people everywhere in Lesotho are restricted forthwith, and people are discouraged to gather in large numbers, this includes funerals, weddings, and any other social gatherings or festivities.
    - b) All schools from pre-school level to tertiary institutions and other institutions of higher learning and TVET schools will be closed from 19 March to 17 April, 2020. Reopening of schools will, however, be informed by the status of the epidemic. Government will provide meals to all disadvantaged children under the school-feeding programme, through feeding schedules devised by school Principals.

- c) Immediate suspension of all sporting activities including scheduled professional and social tournaments and games.
- d) Visits to correctional facilities will be reduced considerably and all new inmates shall be screened properly on arrival.
- e) Non-essential travel for all citizens is banned; in this regard scheduled school, church, social or other trips of groups of people must be abandoned.
- f) The Management of institutions in the Public, Private and Civil Society Sectors must devise and implement workplace programmes designed to ensure the safety of employees and clients during this national emergency. This will include provision of personal protective equipment and hand sanitizers; ventilation of buildings, promotion of cough etiquette; one-metre spacing policy for employees and customers and routine temperature monitoring for employees.
- g) Operating hours for all bars, taverns, night clubs and some such other recreational facilities shall be adjusted to closing at 18H00.

### **iii. BORDER CONTROL MEASURES**

- a) A Covid-19 clearance certificate declaring a traveller corona-free, issued by the department of health of the country of origin shall be an additional and critical requirement for visa application for all travellers intending to visit Lesotho. The same certificate, which must be will be a prerequisite to boarding planes from points of origin.
- b) All travellers into Lesotho must fill the public health self-declaration form on entry, and must possess a passport valid for no less than 6 months.
- c) Compulsory 14 day quarantine in designated facilities at own cost for all travellers (Foreigners and Lesotho Nationals) arriving in Lesotho from all affected countries.

### **iv. LESOTHO NATIONALS LIVING ABROAD**

- a) Lesotho Missions abroad shall urge all Basotho living abroad to refrain from non-essential international travel, and to rather remain in their current locations to minimize spreading the virus.
- b) Basotho students studying in affected foreign countries will receive support for daily living through the NMDS; while for those who are currently in Lesotho, Government will provide internet access through its ICT resource centres for continued learning.

#### **v. COORDINATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS**

- a) Continuous epidemiology surveillance and mortality rate on Covid-19 shall be embarked upon in the country
  - b) There shall be one official channel of communicating matters relating to Covid-19 to the public in Lesotho. This shall be the Office of the Minister of Health, in consultation with the Office of the Prime Minister.
  - c) Government shall establish a Covid-19 National Command Centre to oversee the implementation of this national response.
  - d) Cabinet shall meet every two days to review progress and effect the necessary adjustments as required by the evolution of the pandemic.
3. That a contingency budget be set aside for the implementation of these measures; and that emergency procurement regulations be used for the procurement of all items related to the national response to this pandemic.