



NATIONAL COMMAND CENTRE

27.03.2020

STATE OF READINESS OF LESOTHO ON CORONA VIRUS (COVID 19)

Since the issuance of the statement of the Right Honourable Prime Minister Dr Thomas Thabane lockdown to protect Basotho against Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic, all legal processes have been completed to operationalise measures taken by Government of Lesotho.

You will all recall that, key amongst them is a decision to reduce to the extent all unnecessary and avoidable movement of people, maintenance of social distancing and observance of hygiene protocols that include regular washing of hands with soap and running water among others.

Today, as I address you there are three suspected cases reported which are yet to be verified, two are from Mafeteng, while one is From Queen 'Mamohato Memorial Hospital. Samples have been taken to South Africa for testing.

In Leribe, there is yet another suspected case which is yet to be verified.

On Thursday, there were reports that at Tlhanyaku, in Mokhotlong district there were illegal crossing cases, which caused panic to villagers and the National Command Centre deployed the District Administrator, Lesotho Mounted Police and Lesotho Defence Force to address the situation.

My fellow country men and women, it is imperative to abide as government will deploy security forces across the country. However, let us all remember that it is one's sole responsibility to keep well and safe from this pandemic.

Let me also take this opportunity to inform you that all structures at the National Command Centre have been put in place and are up and running. It is at this Centre where accurate and official information regarding COVID-19 will be disseminated and issued to the public regularly through press releases and live press conferences. In addition, meetings have been held with different sectors including political party leader

Similarly, at district level, Command Centre have been established and running cascading down to the community level. On Tuesday next week teams of Ministers will be deployed to all districts to ensure work is done.

In support of all government initiatives, the international community is also assisting in different forms. For instance, a consignment of 20,089 test kits, 741 personal protection equipment (PPE), 100,000 surgical masks and 1,111 face shields arrived on Thursday evening from Jack Ma Foundation and the Alibaba Foundation. The said consignment has been thoroughly tested and certified by the team of experts to ensure quality before its distribution.

This exercise is completed, and equipment is due for distribution throughout the country.

I would also wish to note with appreciation the role and contribution of the local private sector during this difficult time. In this regard, the Matekane Group of Companies, Global Fund and Econet Lesotho already have donated commodities that include sanitizers, face masks, gloves and surface sanitisers.

A distribution list is in place, which include border posts, Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS), Lesotho Mounted Police (LMPS), Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) and hospitals. The distribution will start on Saturday, 28-03-2020.

More support from other business community is expected.

All line Ministries are expected to present their ministerial preparedness programmes in regard to lockdown immediately. Government will provide free spectrum for all radio station to reach a wider population during this time of global crises.

The nation is urged to remain calm while exercising maximum caution in protecting the citizens lives

In conclusion, the government calls on all businesses providing food, medication and fuel among others to keep constant supply during this time.

KHOTSO PULA NALA