



## **NATIONAL COMMAND CENTRE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**08.04.2020**

The Ministry of Health, has noted with concerned over reports of declining number of patients who go for medical check-ups in Bloemfontein, South Africa during lockdown.

The Director General of the Ministry of Health, Dr Nyane Letsie, said they have made arrangements to accommodate patients who might need health services outside Lesotho.

Nevertheless, she said the concerned patients are advised to approach the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital authority (currently operating from BEDCO) to make necessary arrangements with the South African High Commission before travelling.

Dr. Letsie said the Ministry has arranged with the South African High Commission that all patients who get medical services outside the country should continue to do so during lockdown. She said the arrangement has been made for both patients who are self-sponsored and those who are catered for by the government.

The Director General further said although there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country, the Ministry continues to conduct screening, since it is the only form of investigation against the suspects of coronavirus.

The Ministry, she said is aware of the alarming numbers of Basotho who entered the country from the Republic of South Africa few days before the lockdown, and are making every effort to ensure that they are screened and necessary follow ups are taken to avoid the spread of the virus in the country.

The Director General of Health Services urged the public to remain calm, and be vigilant and maintain safety protocols to minimise the spread of the virus.

The Ministry encourages the public to stay at home; and wash hands with soap and running water, observe coughing and sneezing etiquette, to follow quarantine measures to reduce possible spread of the virus.

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