

PRESS STATEMENT

COVID-19 EPIDEMIC

Yaounde, March 07, 2020

- The Minister of Communication**

- The Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industry**

- Ladies and Gentlemen of the media;**

- Representatives of WHO, CDC, the Centre Pasteur of Cameroon and other Administrative Partners;**

- Ladies and Gentlemen.**

As you are no doubt aware, the Covid-19, which made its appearance in China, has been in circulation since December 31, 2019. This virus has the potential to spread rapidly

worldwide due to significant population movements between countries. It is transmitted from animals to humans and human-to-human transmission has been proven. The disease is characterized by symptoms of respiratory tract diseases such as cough, runny nose and/or breathing difficulties, sometimes accompanied by fever. In limited cases; three point 4 per cent (3,4%) it can lead to death. Although it should be noted that some cases are asymptomatic.

The epidemiological situation reports over one hundred thousand (100.000) confirmed cases and over three thousand (3000) deaths. At present, about eighty eight (88) countries in the world have registered cases; including Cameroon. The first confirmed case in

Cameroon is that of a 58-year-old French citizen who arrived in Yaounde on 24 February 2020. The second case concerns a 30-year-old Cameroonian citizen who was in contact with the first confirmed case.

The following Governmental actions were promptly taken in compliance with the International Health Regulations:

On the level of coordination:

_ The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre, which is the instrument for managing public health incidents in our country, has been activated; that is, it has switched from "alert mode" to "activated mode";

_ The multisectoral collaboration between the Ministries of Public Health, Transport,

External Relations, Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, Defence and the General Delegation for National Security is effective in order to strengthen epidemiological surveillance at the various airport and port entry points and even on land for travellers and animals. It should be noted that temperature-taking devices have been installed and are being used, as well as health declaration forms and information and sensitization materials.

In terms of diagnosis and management, the Centre Pasteur of Cameroon has demonstrated its technical capacity to make the biological diagnosis of the disease as quickly as possible. Thus, the two confirmed cases were reported within four (04) hours, and both broke

out in isolation and received appropriate symptomatic treatment.

I would like to point out that basic amenities are provided in strict compliance with ethical and health safety regulations.

At the same time, the tracing and active search operations for contact subjects are effective and are continuing, and the perfect cooperation between the contact cases and health personnel is to be welcomed.

Isolation space and room have also been identified respectively in airports, seaports and health facilities to accommodate cases throughout the country. Rapid Response and Investigation Teams are deployed in all 10 regions of the country, actively searching for

cases and decontaminating sites as well as conducting community outreach activities.

In order to prevent the risk of spreading the virus, it is recommended that the population observe the following basic hygiene rules:

- Wash their hands with clean running water and soap or use a hydro alcoholic solution;**

- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing, sneezing or using the crease of the elbow;**

- Avoid close contact with anyone with flu symptoms or with wild and farm animals;**

- cook meat and other foods thoroughly before eating them.**

Travellers are advised to postpone unnecessary travel to affected countries. In addition, we invite anyone who has travelled outside Cameroon or has been in contact with a sick traveller, and who presents the above-mentioned symptoms in the last fourteen (14) days before the onset of the illness, to call 1510 immediately for treatment. In this context, I have instructed the medical staff to reinforce preventive measures and immediately report any suspicious case according to the guidelines in force.

Ladies and gentlemen, media professionals, the Government will continue to inform the population in real time on the evolution of the situation in all transparency, in

**application of the very high directives of the
President of the Republic, H.E. Paul Biya.**

**For all intents and purposes, the toll-free
number 1510 is open.**

Thank you for your kind attention.