

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix-Travail-Patrie

SERVICES DU PREMIER MINISTRE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace-Work-Fatherland

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE

Under the effective chairmanship of the **Prime Minister, Head of Government, H.E. Joseph DION NGUTE**, the weekly meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee in charge of evaluating and monitoring the implementation of Government's response strategy against the COVID-19 pandemic in Cameroon was held this Wednesday, 1 July 2020, by videoconference.

Discussions during this meeting focused mainly on:

1. the evolution of the pandemic in Cameroon and the reinforcement of the medical devices deployed at the borders;
2. the contribution of traditional pharmacopoeia to the fight against COVID-19;
3. the finalisation of the international flight management protocol, as a prelude to the reopening of air traffic, and the examination of the situation resulting from the decision of the European Commission concerning international travel to States of the European Union;
4. the process of repatriation of Cameroonians in distress abroad.

With regard to the evolution of the coronavirus pandemic in Cameroon, to date **13,711** people have tested positive. Furthermore, **11,114** patients have been declared cured, while **328** have died as a result of COVID-19, a case-fatality rate of **2.3%**. With regard to epidemiological surveillance at the borders, the Minister of Public Health reported that specialized teams are deployed in ports, airports and border access points. Other health measures are being examined with a view to strengthening the response on the ground.

With regard to the contribution of the traditional pharmacopoeia to the fight against COVID-19, the Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation reported that the studies already carried out have identified some 100 medicinal plants that could be used

in the production of drugs against COVID-19. These studies are currently being extended, in order to evaluate in particular the active ingredients and toxicity of the therapeutic solutions envisaged.

With regard to the finalization of the international flight management protocol, as a prelude to the reopening of air traffic, the Minister of Transport indicated that circulars had been drawn up to codify the rules to be observed during the boarding and landing of passengers at airports, as part of the fight against COVID-19. With regard to the recent decision of the European Commission concerning international travel to European Union States, the Minister stressed that the measures already taken and those envisaged are in conformity with the requirements of the European Union. He recommended that diplomatic action be taken to reconsider the situation of Cameroon.

As for the repatriation of Cameroonians in distress abroad, the Minister of External Relations said that as at 30 June 2020, 2,085 compatriots had already returned to Cameroon. The repatriation programme provides for the arrival in the coming days of 863 people, 162 of whom are expected at the Nsimalen airport today.

At the end of the discussions, the **Head of Government** instructed:

- the **Minister of Public Health**, to ensure the strengthening of health measures deployed at land, sea and air borders, in liaison with the Minister of Transport and the General Delegate for National Security;
- the **Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation**, to supervise the initiatives developed by those involved in traditional pharmacopoeia and to carry out a meticulous examination of the proposed therapeutic solutions, in conjunction with the competent teams of the Ministry of Public Health, in order to use the most relevant ones for the treatment protocol administered to COVID-19 patients;
- the **Minister of Transport**, to organise tests on the application of the passenger management protocol, in liaison with the Ministry of Public Health, the Aeronautic Authority and other competent administrations, as a prelude to the reopening of international air traffic;
- the **Minister of External Relations**, in liaison with the Ministers of Transport and Finance, to finalize the pending administrative and financial procedures for the repatriation of our compatriots who are still stranded abroad.

Lastly, the Prime Minister instructed Members of Government to ensure, each in their own right, the implementation of the measures prescribed on 17 March 2020, which remain in force throughout the national territory until they have been formally lifted by the **President of the Republic.**-

Yaounde, the 10th JUL 2020

FOUDA Séraphin Magloire
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