

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Communiqué

On Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, His Excellency Paul KAGAME, the President of the Republic of Rwanda chaired a virtual Cabinet meeting.

1. The Cabinet approved resolutions of the previous meeting held on January 4<sup>th</sup> 2021.
2. **Upon assessment of the recent unprecedented rise in cases, deaths, and transmission rates in the community, the Cabinet called on Rwandans to heighten vigilance in observing COVID-19 health guidelines in order to slow the spread of the virus.**

**The surge in cases specifically in the City of Kigali has necessitated a lockdown. Citizens are urged to significantly reduce social interactions and limit movements only to essential services.**

**The following measures will take effect immediately to be reviewed after 15 days upon a health assessment.**

**Specific measures in the City of Kigali.**

- a. **Unnecessary movements including visits outside home are prohibited** except for essential services including medical/healthcare, food shopping, banking etc and for the personnel performing such services. All movements will require an approved permit from Rwanda National Police. A complete list of *essential services* will be shared by the Ministry of Local Government.
- b. **Travel between Kigali and other provinces and districts of the country is not permitted**, except for essential services and tourism (tourists must possess a negative Covid19)
- c. **Public transport is prohibited** however transportation of food and essential goods will continue to function. Motos and bicycles are not permitted to carry passengers, but may offer delivery services.
- d. **All employees (public and private) shall work from home**, except for those providing essential services.

- e. **Businesses are closed**, except distribution and delivery services as well as those selling food, medicine (pharmacies), hygiene and cleaning products, fuel, and other essential items but will operate at 30% capacity. Businesses permitted to operate must close by 6 PM.
- f. **Restaurants and cafés will only provide take-away service.**
- g. **All schools (public and private) including universities are closed however remote learning is encouraged.**
- h. **Places of worship are closed.**
- i. **Kigali international airport will remain open**, arriving passengers must present a negative PCR taken within 120 hours prior to their first departure. Departing passengers must present a negative PCR test before departure.
- j. **Designated hotels for arriving passengers will remain open** under strict COVID-19 prevention measures. RDB will share complete list of approved hotels.
- k. **Tourism activity will continue in strict adherence with COVID – 19 health guidelines.** This includes hotels, tour operators and transport services facilitating guests. Tourists and service providers shall inform RDB of itineraries.
- l. **Hotels will only host essential conferences upon written approval from RDB.** Detailed guidelines will be provided by RDB.
- a. **Farming will continue for the ongoing agricultural season** while observing COVID – 19 control measures.
- m. **Funeral gatherings should not exceed 15 persons.**

#### **Measures in the remaining part of the country**

- b. **Movements are prohibited from 6 PM to 4 AM.**
- c. **Places of worship are closed.**
- d. Schools will continue while respecting COVID – 19 control measures.
- e. All bars will remain closed.
- f. All social gatherings and events including religious weddings ceremonies, receptions, meetings and conferences are prohibited.
- g. Public gyms and swimming pools shall be restricted from the public with the exception of tested guests staying at hotels.
- h. Attendance at a wake/vigil (Ikiriyo) should not exceed 10 people at any one time.
- i. Funeral gatherings should not exceed 15 persons.
- j. Gaming activities remain prohibited.

3. The Cabinet approved establishment of a technology support center in Rwanda by TEK Experts.
4. The Cabinet approved the following:
  - Draft law modifying law determining state finances for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.
  - Draft organic law amending organic law on governing elections.
  - Presidential order determining elective posts at the village, cell, sector and electoral colleges.
  - Prime Minister's order determining members of the executive committee of national councils and modalities for elections.
  - Ministerial order relating to the national report on climate change.
5. The Cabinet approved the following country representatives of international organizations in Rwanda:
  - **Ms. Aissa Toure Sarr**, Country Manager of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Rwanda, with residence in Kigali.
  - **Mr. Okechukwu Daniel Ogbonnaya**, Country Representative of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in Rwanda, with residence in Kigali.
6. AOBs
  - The Minister of Youth and Culture informed Cabinet of the National Heroes Day observed on February 1st 2021. Related activities will be organized from January 24th - 31st via multiple media platforms through radio, television as well as social media.

Kigali, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2021.



**Dr. Edouard Ngirente**  
Prime Minister

