

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Office of the Prime Minister

Cabinet Communiqué

On Monday, March 15th 2021, His Excellency Paul KAGAME, the President of the Republic of Rwanda chaired a Cabinet meeting at Urugwiro Village.

1. The Cabinet approved resolutions of the previous meeting held on February 19th 2021.
2. The Cabinet reviewed measures to contain spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following measures will take effect nationwide starting March 16th and be reviewed after 2 weeks upon a health assessment.

- a. **Movements are prohibited between 9 PM – 4 AM. All businesses must close by 8 PM.**
- b. **Movement between Kigali and other provinces and between districts of the country shall resume, except for Bugesera, Nyanza and Gisagara districts. Specific guidelines on the three districts will be provided by the Ministry of Local Government.**
- c. Public transport (buses) should not exceed 75% capacity. Bus operators will ensure passengers maintain social distancing and only passengers with masks will be allowed on board.
- d. **Physical meetings may resume not exceeding 30% of venue capacity. COVID – 19 testing is required for meetings of more than 20 people.**
- e. Public offices will continue with essential staff at no more than 30% capacity while other employees continue working from home on a rotational basis.
- f. Private businesses will continue with essential staff at no more than 30% capacity while other employees continue working from home on a rotational basis. Markets and malls will continue for essential vendors and must not exceed 50% of registered traders. **All businesses must close by 8 PM.**
- g. Motos and bicycles are permitted to carry passengers and must observe strict hygiene.
- h. **Restaurants and cafés will remain open with a 30% occupancy limit and shall receive clients until 8 PM.**
- i. All bars will remain closed.
- j. Places of worship will resume with no more than 30% maximum occupancy.
- k. **Arriving and departing passengers at Kigali International airport must present a negative COVID -19 PCR test taken within 72 hours prior to departure and should comply with health guidelines.**

- l. 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.
- m. Individual and non-contact outdoor sports activities are permitted. The Ministry of Sports will provide detailed guidelines.
- n. Gyms and recreational centers will remain closed. All swimming pools and spas are closed except for those at hotels hosting tested guests.
- o. Attendance at a wake/vigil (Ikiriyo) should not exceed 10 persons at any one time. Funeral gatherings should not exceed 20 persons.
- p. Civil and religious weddings will continue, but should not exceed 20 persons and must comply with all COVID – 19 preventive measures. **Receptions are not permitted.**
- q. Gaming activities remain prohibited.

Citizens are reminded of the critical importance of complying with health measures including physical distancing, wearing face masks and hand hygiene. Penalties will be applied for non-compliance.

3. The Cabinet was briefed on the implementation of the Economic Recovery Fund and its new allocation structure.
4. The Cabinet approved the following:
 - Restructuring and recapitalization of Umurenge SACCOs.
 - Draft law approving a ratification of the agreement between Government of Rwanda and the Government of the State of Qatar for the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of tax avoidance and evasion signed in Doha, Qatar on February 8th 2021.
 - Draft law amending the law determining publication, notification, and commencement of official acts.
 - Ministerial instructions determining the rate for publication of documents in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.
5. The Cabinet approved the agrément for the appointment of the following Ambassadors to represent their countries to the Republic of Rwanda:
 - **Mr. Bert VERSMESSEN**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Republic of Rwanda with residence in Kigali.
 - **Mrs. Monica de Greiff LINDO**, Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Colombia to the Republic of Rwanda with residence in Nairobi.
6. AoBs
 - The Minister of Trade and Industry informed Cabinet about Rwanda's celebration of the world consumers' rights day on March 15th 2021.

- The Minister of Environment informed Cabinet about upcoming events including the international day of forests on March 21st, world water day on March 22nd and the world meteorology day on March 23rd 2021.
- The Ministry of Sports informed Cabinet about Rwandan teams' participation in upcoming regional and international games including; the Continental Football AFCON 2021 Qualifiers, CAVB African Clubs Championships, Tour du Rwanda 2021, Basketball Africa League, Kigali International Peace Marathon, FIFA 2022 Qualifiers and AFROBASKET 2021.

Kigali, March 15th, 2021.



Dr. Edouard Ngirente
Prime Minister

