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PRESS RELEASE

STRENGTHENING VIGILANCE AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK WHICH IS RIFE WORLDWIDE

On 15 February 2020, the technical services of the Ministry of Public Health investigated two suspect cases of the novel coronavirus disease currently named COVID 19 by the World Health Organization.

Both cases were safely transported to the isolation rooms of the Yaounde Central Hospital; specimens were collected and analysed at the Centre Pasteur of Cameroon. Fortunately, the results were negative for COVID 19. The clinical status of the suspect patients is satisfactory.

The Minister of Public Health hereby calls on the population to be more vigilant and observe hygiene rules as recommended. He particularly urges travellers from countries where the disease is currently rife to report to health authorities for monitoring upon their entry into Cameroon soil.

Thus, any person who travelled outside Cameroon or has been in contact with a sick traveller, and presents with flu-like symptoms, coughing sometimes along with fever, in the previous 14 days before the onset of the disease should immediately call 1510 for management.

The staff at entry points and health care personnel should be more vigilant, reinforce preventive measures and report any suspect case in compliance with the current guidelines.

The Minister of Public Health thus wishes to reassure Cameroonians that a tracking system of all travellers, namely from China, has been set up through the systematic completion of a health form bearing among others, the traveller's names and surnames, the country where he/she travelled from, the telephone number and the dwelling neighbourhood.

Therefore, everything is undertaken to guarantee the health safety of the concerned, in compliance with the instructions of His Excellency Mr. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic.



Dr. Manon Malachie