



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Prime Minister's Office

No. 524/PMO
Vientiane Capital, dated 1 May 2020

Notice

To: Ministers and Minister Equivalence

Vientiane Capital Mayor and Provincial Governors

Ref: Continue to implement the measures to prevent, contain, control and response to COVID-19 from 4 to 17 May 2020.

- With reference to the PM's Order No.06 dated 29 March 2020 [on reinforcement of COVID19 pandemic containment, prevention, control and fully response].
- With reference to the report of the Task Force Committee for COVID-19 pandemic prevention and control to the Politburo Central Party Meeting, dated 30 April 2020.
- With reference to the Notice from the Central Party Office, No. 21/CPM, dated 1 May 2020.

The Prime Minister's Office would like to inform you that: COVID-19 pandemic is a global disaster spreading across the whole world in a very short time and poses a great danger to many countries, the outbreak have claimed life of few hundred thousand people and more new cases confirmed in each hours. It is unpredictable that when this virus will be die down or when we will be able to contain its spreading. The virus has contributed to economic and social hardship in countries across the world. After the implementation of the PM's Order No.06/PM, dated 29 March 2020, and other relevant legislation and guideline of the National Taskforce, almost 1 month, we have been able to contain and control the virus and no new cases reported and almost half of the patients are recovered; these outcomes are highly valued by international organisations and other countries and praised the country for having the early response in place.

However, we cannot rest on this outcome as it is just our initial achievement, we are facing the new round of outbreak and new challenges ahead of us as the situation around the world is changing the whole complexity. Also, the pandemic outbreak have posed a severe impact on socio-economic, people's life and wellbeing, as well as national security.

Therefore, to continue implement the measures to prevent, contain, control and response to COVID-19 in this stage and to minimise the impact on socio-economic development, enable conditions for people to return to their normal livings step by step, whilst maintaining social order, safety and security, and national stability.

With reference to the report of the Taskforce Committee to GOL and Politburo -Central Party, GOL has agreed and provided directive to measures as follows:

1. Ministries, ministry equivalence, local administration at all levels, relevant sectors, civil servants, police, military, population of all ethnics shall continue the controls and implement precautionary measures to prevent, contain, control and respond to COVID-19. They shall take ownership to implement and take leadership to control all important measures as their priority, and act upon to take leadership as in war;
2. Citizens, employees, civil servants, police, military, foreigners and alienated citizens living in Lao PDR shall continue to take precautionary measures strictly by maintaining social distancing of 1 metre and frequently wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizers, wear a mask, take temperature test and clean the areas as advised by the Taskforce Committee;
3. The Taskforce Committee, local administration at all levels, relevant sectors shall widely and clearly disseminate information to the general public about the danger of getting the virus and provide details of the precautionary measures through simple instructions in various media platforms. The action shall include a halt to stop sharing fake news, defamation, rumours and other untrue news;
4. Agree to lift up some measures to minimise the impacts to the economy and society, create conditions for communities to live a normal life step by step, and still maintain social distancing of 1 metre, frequently wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizers, wear a mask, take temperature test and clean the areas. The following measures shall be lifted:
 - 4.1 Allow GOL offices, companies' offices to open and have staff on roster to come to office as normal. Any office that can work through electronic means or online platforms shall continue to do so as appropriate;
 - 4.2 Citizens, employees, civil servants, police, military, foreigners and alienated citizens living in Lao PDR shall be allowed to travel in Vientiane Capital and other provinces as necessary. They shall continue to strictly follow the precautionary measures;
 - 4.3 Allow official meetings and workshops and still maintain social distancing of 1 metre, frequently wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizers, wear a mask and take temperature test, and clean the area as advised by the Taskforce;
 - 4.4 Allow non-contactable physical exercises and sports such as walking, running, biking, golfing, aerobic dancing, and still maintain social distancing and other measures;
 - 4.5 Allow the opening of venues such as restaurants, food stalls, grocery shops, barber, salon, fresh markets, shopping malls, wholesale shops, supermarkets, café shops, repair shops, car wash, drinking water factories, ice making factories and still maintain social distancing and other measures;
 - 4.6 Factories and large project that meet the criteria and measures outlined in the Notice No.031/Taskforce can be open. The National and Provincial Taskforce Committees shall issue a memo and agreement to certify the inspection of the large projects that have large number of workforce. Any projects and factories that are approved by provincial administration shall continue to inspect and monitor their measures;

- 4.7 The Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of National Defence and Ministry of Public Security shall prepare the start of schools for Y5, Grade 4 and Grade 7 and schools with the administration of the Ministry of National Defence and Ministry of Public Security shall open on 18 May 2020 and still maintain social distancing of 1 metre, frequently wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizers, wear a mask and take temperature test. Other school years, colleges and universities shall be continued to close until further notice;
 - 4.8 Allow foreigners who come to work, to perform other tasks and study in Laos to leave Laos at their discretion. Lao students and workers who are going to return to study or work in foreign countries shall continue to do so upon the measures of the host nations.
5. Agree to continue some measures in the Prime Minister's Order No.06/PM, dated 29 March 2020 as follows:
 - 5.1 No movement of people between provinces unless necessary circumstances such as official duties, students, business persons, illness, death, general freight, patient transfer shall be allowed with official letter;
 - 5.2 Close all night clubs, beer shops, movie theatres, karaoke, spas and massage, casino, night markets, sports and fitness clubs, contactable indoor and outdoor sports such as footballs, volleyballs, basketballs, marathons, boxing, chicken fights, petanque and all other sport activities that have spectators and many players more than 10 people which cannot maintain social distancing of 1 metre;
 - 5.3 Do not hold social gatherings, events, functions or parties that have more than 10 people and cannot maintain social distancing of 1 metre at risk of infection;
 - 5.4 Close traditional, local and international checkpoints check points for human traffic except those who have been allowed by the Taskforce Committee and transportation of goods;
 - 5.5 Temporary cease issuance of visas for those who travel from countries with infected cases except experts, technical and foreign expats that are necessary for important and necessary projects but will have to undergo COVID-19 tests and perform self-quarantine for 14 days in facilities as outlined in the Notice No.507/PMO, dated 24 April 2020. The Taskforce Committee shall issue the detailed and comprehensive guidelines on this.
6. Implementing methods
 - 6.1 Some measures are temporarily lifted, if any province that has a report of new cases, that province must be in lockdown and strictly implement the measures which are specifically from the Provincial Taskforce Committee; if more than 2 provinces report new cases, the measures from PM' Order No.06/PM shall be reinforced again;

- 6.2 Ministries, sectors and local administration at all levels shall review their legislation to align with the measures that are lifted and shall develop accordingly for consistent implementation;
- 6.3 Ministries, sectors and local administration at all levels shall pay attention to the implementation of this Notice and strictly monitor and inspect implementation in order to avoid the recurrence of new COVID-19 cases after the measures are lifted;
- 6.4 Public security and defence, Taskforce Committees, sectors, local administration and civil organisations shall take ownership to monitor, to ensure security and maintain social order and strictly implement the measures in this Notice. In the event of violations, the public security officers and relevant authorities shall strictly implement punishment in accordance with the laws and regulations;
- 6.5 The above measures shall take effect from 4 to 17 May 2020, during actual implementation, there will be a review, assessment and amendment as appropriate. In the event of further changes, GOL shall inform periodically.

Therefore, this Notice provides for your information and implementation accordingly.

Minister

[signed and sealed]

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