



**REPUBLIC OF NAURU
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**NATIONAL ADDRESS
His Excellency President Lionel Rouwen Aingimea, MP
Management and minimisation of the impact of Coronavirus, update
Monday, 16 March 2020**

Good Evening All

Today, I have declared a National Emergency for the management and minimisation of the impact of Coronavirus. This declaration comes into immediate effect and shall continue for 30 days unless revoked or varied. What this means is that your Government has taken the necessary heightened and strengthened measures to elevate its response to the global health crisis that is the Coronavirus.

Nauru is particularly vulnerable to the threat of the Coronavirus. The global impact indicates that should this virus enter Nauru, the results could be devastating. This is a risk your Government is not willing to take. Our first and foremost objective is to protect our people and therefore we have made the necessary decision to elevate and strengthen Governments response to capturing and containing the virus before it enters our community.

Stringent quarantine and border protection efforts have been put into place with immediate effect. This means that persons traveling to Nauru will be required to spend up to 14 days in approved transition accommodation before being allowed back into the community given a clean bill of health. If during the period of transition, a person develops symptoms, they will be transferred to a Coronavirus Isolation Facility for further testing and care. They will remain there until they are clinically cleared of the virus and it is deemed by medical professionals that they do not pose any risk to the general community.

This framework of strong and heightened actions focuses on the measures preventing the spread of the virus into the Nauruan community. This approach is not isolated to Nauru, but has been implemented by our regional neighbours including Australia and New Zealand. It is due to the contagious human transmission of the virus that these measures are aimed at reducing and controlling the number of people entering Nauru and the frequency in which people can enter Nauru.

Flights to and from Nauru will be immediately reduced to once a fortnight to and from Brisbane only. All other passenger flights will be suspended until further notice. Air freight services will continue, with strict quarantine measures to ensure we can maintain essential supplies on Nauru.

It is important that we all reconsider any travel to or from Nauru and that non-necessary or non-essential travel be either cancelled or postponed. We will not allow entry into Nauru for individuals who have tested positive for the Coronavirus, also for those who have been in direct contact with confirmed cases, or those who are coming from countries from the ban list.

It is important that everyone takes heed of the official Government information regarding Coronavirus and to avoid any rumours and fake news concerning this matter. Travel advisories and other health related information will be forthcoming and shared across the various media platforms. For the safety of our people, Government recommends that these advisories be complied with. It is also important to be aware of the travel advisories of any country to which you are expecting to travel to.

We continue to monitor and evaluate the coronavirus situation. Supplies and necessities remain uninterrupted. It is important that we not panic and that life continues as normal but with a level of vigilance and responsibility for ensuring protection against the virus. We all must do our part. Remember to implement good personal hygiene practices, keep your home and environment clean and practice social distancing such as avoiding un-necessary human contact and mass gatherings.

Your Government has set up a high level and calibre multi-stakeholder task force led by the Department of Health to deal with the day to day issues of the coronavirus pandemic. Full support and resources have been given to the taskforce to do what is necessary to ensure our protection. We continue to work with other Governments in terms of the protection and wellbeing of our citizens overseas and are constantly engaging with the World Health Organization and donor partners on securing necessary assistance aimed at combating the virus.

We must all pull together as a nation during this time of global uncertainty. To date, there still is no confirmed coronavirus case on Nauru however this should not lull us into a false sense of security. As your President, I assure you that your Government is doing all it can to protect us. We must continue to act collectively, as individuals, as families, as communities and as a nation to overcome the threat of the Coronavirus pandemic. Most importantly let us not forget to seek always God our Saviour's protection for he is our shield and our strength. Calling all faith groups to start if not already, to join our efforts to combat coronavirus.

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