

Press release

Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers on December 29, 2020

Spokesperson's Office

The Council of Ministers met at the Government Palace in Dili and approved the draft Government Decree, presented by the acting Prime Minister, José Maria dos Reis, regarding the first amendment to Government Decree no. 18/2020, of 3 December on measures to implement the Declaration of the State of Emergency, made by the Decree of the President of the Republic no. 70/2020, of December 3.

Given the worsening health situation in the province of West Timor, in the Republic of Indonesia, which already has 1700 positive cases of COVID-19, the discovery of a new strain of SARS-Cov-2, even more contagious than the original, and the increase in the number of cases diagnosed in the national territory, it is necessary to adopt new measures to prevent the emergence of an outbreak of COVID-19 in the country. With this change, the rules of social distance are redefined, with all individuals resident in Timor-Leste being obliged to:

1. Maintain a distance of at least one meter from other individuals with whom they do not live in a common household, when walking on public roads or in public or private enclosures, of public access and collective use;
2. Do not gather with more than ten people, unless they all belong to the same household;
3. Do not organize or participate in events or celebrations that involve agglomerations with more than ten people, unless they all belong to the same household;
4. Use a face mask that covers the nose and mouth when they have to travel on public roads or access or remain in public or private places of public access and collective use, and also when using any public passenger transport;
5. Hand sanitize when they want to access or remain in public or private places of public access and collective use.

The draft Government Resolution, which imposes a sanitary fence in the Special Administrative Region of Oe-cusse Ambeno (RAEOA), was also approved, given the recent cases diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 in the region and in order to safeguard the public health of population of RAEOA and to prevent the occurrence of community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in the national territory. With this draft Government Resolution, the border posts existing in the RAEOA are closed and travel by land and sea between the said region and the other municipalities is prohibited until 23:59 on January 2, 2021.

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