

Address by the Head of State regarding the COVID-19

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Let's first express gratitude to the Almighty God for being alive.

Praised be the Lord, He has prevented our beautiful country, Burundi, from being hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. But as you know, even though we had managed to control this pandemic, it has reappeared due to our misbehavior.

The reason why we decided to relaunch the campaign "NDAKIRA, SINANDURA KANDI SINANDUKIZA KORONA VIRUS, which can be translated as "I recover, I will not be infected and I do not contaminate".

In a period of one month, let's us fight and defeat the pandemic.

3. With God's help, that campaign has been beneficial to us to the extent that the contamination rate in the country was reduced to zero.

It is true that we took the decision to open the borders and the airport, and it was actually a good decision, knowing that all Burundians will no longer take this pandemic lightly.

Though some of the travelers or Burundian returnees were tested positive at their arrival in Burundi, we have done our best for them to avoid contaminating others, instead we treated them.

4. Despite all those efforts, there were some despicable Burundians, who are not patriots, and who neither love themselves nor love their families.

There are some people who escaped from the hotels where they were confined, others received bribes at the borders to allow travelers to enter without being screened or confined for a period that has been set by the State.

It is because of this despicable behavior on the part of some Burundians that we lost what God had bestowed on us. We all need now to repent.

5. Thus, we have relaunched the campaign.

I strongly urge any one who suspects or with symptoms or those who have come in contact with positive cases to get tested as quick as possible.

I strongly urge all my compatriots and all Foreigners living in Burundi to get concretely involved in fighting against this pandemic. Get tested that's the best way to protect your loved ones and the whole country

6. Any person who doesn't want to fight that pandemic he needs to know that the penal code sanctions the refusal to involve in the fight against any danger that threatens the country and punishes the introduction of a deadly virus into the country.

7. I recommend to all the country's authorities to stand up and fight that pandemic.

Those who use their social positions or who receive bribes and violate the rule of confinement by bringing misfortune to the country that they will be severely punished.

8. I recommend to the security forces to consider that pandemic as a strong enemy who has attacked the country, because a part from the collateral damages, the pandemic brings about extreme famine and poverty.

9. Finally, i call upon all the population to be vigilant and to denounce to the administration or Security forces those who ignore or break the law regarding the fighting against this pandemic. No one is above the law

10. But don't forget to turn our lives to the Lord and succes will follow.

May God bless Burundi and Burundians.

Thanks.