

THE REPUBLIC

**OF THE GAMBIA** 

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE.

Seaport Health Division, Gambia Ports Authority Complex, Banjul

2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2020.

## TO ALL ADDRESSES;

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) DISEASE SURVEILLANCE/QUARANTINE PREPAREDNESS MEASURES:

The Competent Health Authority of The Ministry of Health under the Directorate of Public Health Services hereby informs The Director GPA, Director of Harbors Department, Director of Operation and all the Shipping Agencies, security Units, seaport customs office, that the Corona virus (COVID-19) diseases surveillance and response measures are considered a public health emergency has declared by the World Health Organization.

Due to the nature of events across the globe the cooperation of all stakeholders are hereby required to prevent spread of diseases and strengthen disease surveillance. Therefore all vessels calling to Banjul Port, particularly from CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AFFECTED AREAS (REFERENCE TO THE PORTS OF CALL LIST) will be subjected to health checks prior to entry.

The port Health competent authority must therefore carry out inspection on board to ensure no public health threats exist before the boarding team is allowed entry. Hence forth all vessel will be subjected to temperature checks and health inspections. All agencies are obliged to notify the port competent health authority when stowaway's are to be disembarked at port of Banjul for disease surveillance and response services.

The measures are in line with the Epidemiology and Disease Control (EDC) strategies of The Gambia in order to avoid possible transmission of any infectious diseases particularly Corona virus. Suspected case will follow standard health procedures according to WHO upon arrival. Suspected persons will be subjected to the quarantine considerations and if required isolation measures in accordance with the **INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION OF GENEVA 2005 AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT OF THE GAMBIA 1990.** 

In the interest of Public Health I remain

Yours sincerely, Mr. Siaka Tourav Principal Public Health Officer Seaport Health Cc: The Permanent Secretary......MOH&SW