South Africa will impose a State of Emergency for 21 days starting midnight Thursday 26 March 2020.

2. The number of positive cases of COVID 19 is increasing exponentially through local transmission now. The number of positive cases has increased overnight from 402 to 709. Hence, the nation-wide lockdown would help curtail the rate of transmission across the country. The Minister of Health is urging people to stay put where they are and to avoid moving around, in particular to villages before the lockdown.

3. The South African Government has also informed that the nation-wide lockdown will be accompanied by a public health management programme which will significantly increase screening, testing, contact tracing and medical management.

4. DIRCO has informed of a number of additional measures to be implemented with immediate effect to strengthen prevention measures, including, but not limited to the following:

   - International travellers who arrived in South Africa after 9 March 2020 from high-risk countries will be confined to their hotels until they have completed a 14-day period of quarantine;
   - South African citizens and residents and residents arriving from high-risk countries will be automatically be placed under quarantine for 14 days;
   - Non-South Africans arriving on flights from high-risk countries prohibited earlier will be turned back;
   - Missions wishing to evacuate their nationals from South Africa through flights have to inform DIRCO in writing with detailed information on the passengers, flight plans, relief crew members (crews arriving on these flights will not be allowed to disembark); and
Movement of commercial goods, medical supplies and essential equipment will be allowed at designated ports of entry.

5. The expired visas of all foreigners who are currently stranded in South Africa, will be extended till July 2020. All affected Mauritians in South Africa have been informed accordingly.

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