



COLLABORATING POLITICAL PARTIES (CPP)

Collaborating Political Parties' (CPP) position statement on outbreak of Delta variant of the Covid-19 in Liberia.

For immediate release

Monrovia, June 23, 2021; Two years ago, our country was hit by the COVID 19 Pandemic. We pulled through reasonably well with the internal system of vigilance and the support of our international partners. We were fortunate to have been one of the countries with low numbers of confirmed cases, rate of transmission and deaths. Travel restrictions from high-infected countries as well as stringent travel standards globally combined with fewer or no flights coming to our airports were contributory.

Due to the reduction in cases, the Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) relaxed the protocols, let down the guards that were put in place to control the spread and concentrated only on testing for travels which is a global requirement. Most unfortunately, testing of passengers at the international airport, including of travelers from highly-infected countries, has been very disappointing with **increasing lack of coordination, improper screening and tracking processes, and especially, the failure to give results to “tested” incoming passengers.**

As a result, many passengers have entered Liberia from countries that are heavily hit with the new strain and deadlier kind of the virus. Today, the virus is spreading uncontrollably and we have lost many lives. Our people are still dying and hospitals are rejecting patients with other illnesses because we are incapacitated and have no rapid response testing and screening procedures to distinguish COVID from other illnesses.

As we know, bigger countries including the world powers were and are still overwhelmed by this virus. Without the resources and capacity to fight and control our population that has a high percentage of illiteracy and very low income generation, we risk losing many lives and drowning our economy even deeper. We face a true national crisis with the potential for dire consequences for our people, and our country.

We therefore recommend the following:

1. That the Government secures or work with international partners to get rapid testing and credible results at the airport and at all hospitals.

2. That hospitals institute effective triage and screening procedures to distinguish between COVID and other illnesses
3. Contact tracing and testing in high hit communities and counties should commence immediately
4. Counties that are reporting cases should be locked down to counties that do not have cases to avoid the rapid spread of the virus nationwide
5. Negotiate for more vaccines and create more vaccine centers with aggressive awareness
6. The Ministry of Information in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to craft a public relations plan and use all the community radio stations on the country for nationwide awareness
7. Travelers from countries that are highly-infected with the virus should not be allowed entry into Liberia
8. Reduce overcrowding at the airport and other public places including of work by directing that non-essential workers stay home while arrival, pick-up and departure areas be restricted for less congestion and improved coordination
9. Immediately reactivate all centers previously used for COVID with coordinated plans for monitoring and contact tracing
10. The Ministries of Health and Finance to report on the US\$75 collected from departing and arriving passengers and present a plan for the usage of the funds
11. That the legislature reviews plan from the Ministry of Health and make quick interventions for appropriation in priority areas

Finally, we call on President George M. Weah to create a National Leadership Steering Committee bringing together political, religious, traditional and community leaders, as well as leaders of the business community and private sector to provide broader national coordination, participation and a sense of shared ownership of the national crisis. This will also improve public confidence. If there is a time to come together for our country and our people, the time is now! We urge the President to show leadership.

Signed: _____
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Chairman
Collaborating Political Parties (CPP)