



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION
MINISTÈRE DE LA COMMUNICATION

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE

SENSITIZING THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY ON THE STEPPING UP OF THE NATIONAL RESPONSE AGAINST COVID-19 THROUGH VACCINATION

**JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE
MINCOM - MINSANTÉ**

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

OF

H. E. RENÉ EMMANUEL SADI
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION
GOVERNMENT'S SPOKESPERSON

YAOUNDÉ, 14 APRIL 2021

- **Mr Minister of Public Health;**
- **Mr Resident Representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO);**
- **Madam Director of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);**
- **Madam President of the Scientific Council of Public Health Emergencies (CSUSP);**
- **Madam President of the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (NITAG);**
- **Distinguished Experts;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Distinguished Media Professionals;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As you all know, the Coronavirus pandemic is still a major crisis and a great threat for all the countries in the world, and especially for Cameroon.

This concern has increased in recent times with the advent of a new wave of infections in our country, the resurgence of positive cases, as well as the increase in the number of deaths caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Faced with this situation, the Government, under the high impetus of the PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, His Excellency Paul BIYA, has been putting in huge efforts to curb the spread of the virus and mitigate its negative effects on the population.

Such efforts include:

- the purchase of personal protective equipment for health personnel involved in the response;**
- the provision of heavy equipment, such as ambulances, scanners and substantial medical imaging equipment;**
- the upgrading of the technical facilities of health centres.**

It should however be noted that the measures taken by the Government at the central level take into account the decentralization of the response throughout the national territory.

This means that in both the major cities and the hinterland, the deployment of various actors in the response chain benefits from optimal supervision by the public authorities.

However, in spite of all the measures taken, here as elsewhere in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage, requiring both State decision-makers and the scientific community to keep mobilizing on a large scale to effectively counter the harm caused by COVID-19.

Against this backdrop, the vaccine appears, by all accounts, as the most essential and consistent response to preserve the lives of the populations.

This is why the Government of the Republic has, for some time now, made the necessary arrangements to acquire vaccines to enable Cameroonians who so desire to benefit from them.

Needless to point out that this decision of the Highest Authority of the State is based on the assurances of the national scientific community, as to the reliability of the said vaccines, and stems from a sovereign obligation, the one incumbent on the PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, His Excellency Paul BIYA, to leave no stone unturned to protect the lives of his compatriots.

This joint press conference is an opportunity for the Government to inform the public about all the measures taken to date by the public authorities.

It takes place between two major events.

Firstly, the reception on 11 April 2021, by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Joseph DION NGUTE, of a donation from the People's Republic of China, of two hundred thousand (200,000) doses of Sinopharm vaccine.

Secondly, the announced arrival in Cameroon, of the AstraZeneca vaccine order on 17 April 2021.

This means that the stepping up of the national response against COVID-19, through the administration of vaccines to the population, is a responsible decision to preserve the lives of Cameroonians.

As symbolic as it is, and in view of the public health emergency, the reception of the donation from Cameroon's great friend, the People's Republic of China, was immediately followed by the launch of the vaccination of health personnel.

To set the pace for this nationwide operation, the Minister of Public Health, Mr MANAOUNDA Malachie, who is present here today and whom I am pleased to welcome once again in this Auditorium Conference Hall of the Ministry of Communication, as you have seen in the images, was the first to receive his dose of vaccine.

The presence of the Minister of Public Health at this press conference, accompanied by some of his experts, will enable him, as usual, to give an overview of the situation and to provide all the necessary details concerning vaccination against COVID-19 in Cameroon.

There is no doubt that he will answer the various questions raised by the fight against the coronavirus in our country, at a time when we are aware that by April 13, 2021, Cameroon recorded a total of 61,731 positive cases and 919 deaths. It should be underscored that, the figures which I have just presented to you will eventually be updated at the end of the next meetings which are held on a regular basis by incident managers at national, regional and local level.

To conclude, I would like once again to welcome you all to this joint press conference.
Thank you for your kind attention./.

The Minister of Communication,
Government's Spokesperson,

(s) René Emmanuel SADI