

ANNEX 1

DECISION No.243, dated 24.3.2020

ON THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF NATURAL DISASTER

Pursuant to Articles 100, 170, 174, point 1, and 175, point 2, of the Constitution, and the letter "ç" of Article 18, point 1 of Article 19, and point 1 of Article 39, Law No.45/2019, "On Civil Protection", on the proposal of the Minister of Health and Social Protection and the Minister of State for Reconstruction, the Council of Ministers

DECIDED

1. Declaration of the state of natural disaster throughout the Republic of Albania due to the epidemic caused by COVID-19.
2. Limitation of the rights guaranteed by Articles 37, 38, 41, points 4, 49 and 51 of the Constitution to the extent considered necessary to achieve the protection of the health of citizens.
3. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Civil Emergencies (KNEC), established by Decision No.750, dated 27.11.2019, of the Council of Ministers, "On the declaration of the state of natural disaster in Durres, Lezha and Tirana", as amended, is the highest body for coordinating the actions of state institutions and private entities, as well as the financial and material resources to cope with the natural disaster due to the epidemic caused by COVID-19, up to 30 (thirty) days from entry in force of this decision. The Minister of State for Reconstruction is also appointed as a member of the Inter-Ministerial Committee.
4. Representatives of various public authorities, business,experts/professionals in the field of medicine and public health and representatives of civil society or NGO leaders shall attend the meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, at the request of the Chair, with subject of activity to public health and humanitarian aid.
5. The Institute of Public Health is assigned the role of the KNEC Technical Secretariat, for natural disaster issues declared due to the epidemic caused by COVID-19.
6. Extraordinary measures shall be taken to cope and mitigate the consequences of natural disaster, as follows:
 - 6.1. Public institutions:
 - a) to implement plans of organizational and administrative measures to cope with the state of natural disaster;
 - b) to use the financial resources provided for in the annual budget and to reassess their annual budget in accordance with unforeseen additional expenditure incurred;
 - c) to make available human and logistical resources;
 - ç) to assign the state facilities under their administration responsibility, which can be made available for housing the evacuated population;
 - d) to restrict access to public places which are widely frequented;
 - dh) to stop gatherings, manifestations and strikes;
 - e) to limit the activities to the necessary minimum for all public bodies;
 - ë) to quarantine all persons confirmed or suspected of being affected by COVID-19;
 - f) to establish and secure staffed quarantine zones, which shall be provided with all preventive measures to avoid infection;
 - g) to guarantee conditions and qualified staff for specialized treatment in quarantine centers;
 - gj) to equip all staff of hospital and health centers with the necessary material basis for avoiding infection.

6.2. Operational structures of the civil protection system:

- a) to establish and implement special measures to ensure and increase the safety of citizens in disaster-affected areas;
- b) to activate and organize the quarantine procedure for the endangered population;
- c) to organize unilateral controls of dwellings and private facilities for the identification and treatment of persons affected by the virus;
- ç) to restrict free movement within or outside the State in accordance with the needs dictated by the natural disaster;
- d) to limit the organization of strikes;
- dh) to limit the development of economic activities for private entities in accordance with the needs dictated by the natural disaster;
- e) to provide first aid to those peoples affected by the virus and to transport them to hospital centers or quarantine infrastructure;
- ë) to organize the required procedures for conducting funeral services.

6.3. Private entities:

- a) to comply with procedures and measures of quarantine;
- b) to provide information on data that assist civil protection institutions and structures to cope with the disaster;
- c) to involve in specific tasks, in accordance with the preparation, skills and need to help overcome the state of natural disaster;
- ç) to close or temporarily limit their activity;
- d) to not collect road toll charges for vehicles engaged in coping with the natural disaster.

6.4. Citizens:

- a) to comply with the orders, measures and instructions of the civil protection authorities, and follow the required procedures, in particular for quarantine and suspension of activities;
- b) to provide information on data that assist public institutions and civil protection structures to cope with the disaster;
- c) to involve in specific tasks, in accordance with the preparation, skills and need to help overcome the state of natural disaster.

7. All rights and freedoms restricted by acts, pursuant to Law No.15/2016, "On the prevention and fighting of infections and infectious diseases", as amended, and Normative Act No.3, dated 15.3.2020, of the Council of Ministers, "On special administrative measures taken during the period of infection caused by COVID-19", as amended, shall remain in force.

8. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Civil Emergencies and all state and public institutions are in charged with the implementation of this decision.

This Decision shall enter into force immediately and is published in the Official Gazzete.

PRIME MINISTER

Edi Rama

Signed, Sealed