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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **PM Sogavare visits National Referral Hospital.**

Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, MP today pays a courtesy visit to the National Referral Hospital.

In his statement during the visit, the Prime Minister stated that the purpose of the visit was primarily to see and obtain first-hand information on “our country’s preparedness to respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic”.

He also said the visit is also to reassure the people of Solomon Islands, that the Government and its institutions are doing everything in their power to prevent the entry of COVID-19 into Solomon Islands.

“The Government’s main strategy is prevention.”

“If we can keep the virus at bay, or at least delay its arrival in our country, we can minimise the effect that Corona virus can potentially have on our country,” the Prime Minister stated.

The Prime Minister further took the opportunity to thank the medical workers and other frontline workers for their commitment and efforts.

“Your courage in the face of this global pandemic is inspiring. Your selfless commitment in putting your lives on the line is the ultimate manifestation of a true patriot. The Government and the people of Solomon Islands is, and will always be grateful to you.” The Prime Minister stated.



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Prime Minister Sogavare also extends his gratitude to the families of the frontline workers as well.

“Most of us take the support and encouragement provided by your families for granted. I cannot begin to imagine the challenges that you and your families have been through. These are trying times and I know that in such times our families can be a source of motivation, strength and inspiration,” he said.

To date, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Solomon Islands. Of the 13-suspected cases that have been tested, all 13 have no detection of the virus.

###Ends###