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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19: PM encourages all to be responsible.

Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, MP has encouraged all citizens and residents to be responsible.

This was during his visit to the National Referral Hospital to see and obtain first-hand information on the country's preparedness to respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

"Listen to the very sound public health advice that is provided to us all by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the World Health Organisation and other relevant authorities, and remain vigilant with your personal hygiene practice," he said.

He said this is crucial to avoid being infected not only by COVID-19 if it does find its way into our country, but also to avoid many other diseases.

"Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly. This is not just to protect yourself from contracting the virus, but importantly, it is also important to protect others in the community – particularly our older citizens and those in our community who have other health conditions like diabetes, heart disease and cancer that make them more susceptible to becoming ill from the virus."

"It is important for us all to remember that the people of this country, public servants, the private sector, people working in NGOs and with the churches and everyone in our communities, must work together to do what we can to



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help each other during this uncertain time and should we become exposed to the pandemic, all our combined efforts must be focused on preventing spread of the virus.”

He further urged everyone to remember the basics. Practice good personal hygiene, wash your hands, cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, do not spit and try and avoid congregating in large numbers. Importantly also, take care of each other. COVID-19 does not choose sides and knows no borders.

He also made assurance of the Government’s commitment to do the best to prevent the entry of the COVID-19 into the country.

“We will take whatever necessary measures that are necessary to ensure the best interests of our public’s health are safeguarded, including protecting and recognizing as a matter of priority, the welfare and wellbeing of our hard working frontline personnel throughout the country,” he said.

“We are all in this war together. Never before is the old adage “United we stand, divided fall” more appropriate. If there is ever a time for us to be united that time is now.”

###Ends###