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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **COVID-19: PM impressed with efforts. “But we are not there yet.”**

Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare has expressed his approval with the work invested in the country’s preparedness to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

“But we are not there yet.” He stated.

He was making the statement during his visit to the National Referral Hospital today.

According to the Prime Minister, COVID-19 provides us with an opportunity for forward thinking and forward looking in terms of the health system of the country.

“We know that our health system is not as good as it needs to be to cope with the impact of COVID-19. To better cope with COVID-19, we need to improve the health system by ensuring that our health system is better placed to deal with emerging public and curative health crises now and in the future,” he said.

The Prime Minister then took the opportunity to appeal to people to “remain calm at this difficult time.”

He acknowledged that the virus is not in the country yet.



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He further stated that the Government is focussing great effort through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and also through other Ministries, to prevent the entry of the virus into the country.

He said the Government is doing its best to prepare to deal with the virus if it does breach our shores, as best we can with the resources that are available.

“My Government is treating the pandemic very seriously and I would like to remind our good people not to spread rumours and stories that has the potential to create uncertainty in the public.”

“The risk is real, but so is my Government’s commitment to lessen that risk as best we can.”

He stated that his office will continue to maintain close oversight of the efforts that the Government is making through various ministries including Ministry of Health and Medical Services, to prepare for and deal with any entry of COVID-19 into Solomon Islands.

“The Oversight Committee has also been working tirelessly to support implementation of our preparedness and response plans without the benefit of any additional allowances.”

The Democratic Government for Advancement is fully committed on addressing this public health situation, and is fully behind the efforts to avoid and reduce the impact of the pandemic in this country.

###Ends###