



Media Statement

The Prime Minister Hon. James Marape, MP announced that the National Executive Council, NEC has approved for the recalling of the Parliament on 2nd April 2020.

This is to comply with the requirement of the National Constitution, where Parliament is convene immediately or at any time before the expiry of the National Emergency.

The State of Emergency has been declared and currently is in existence from 23rd March 2020 for 14 days.

The special sitting of the Parliament on 2nd April 2020 is to fulfil the above requirement as well allow for Parliament to:-

- (a) Debate the declaration of a national emergency;
- (b) Be informed of the interim measures including the Emergency regulation and the call-out;
- (c) Pass the necessary emergency laws; and
- (d) Where necessary, consider and endorse the extension of the national emergency, given that Parliament may be recalled near the end of the 14 days.

The Government will introduce the following proposed bills to be enacted as Emergency Laws:

- (a) Proposed Emergency (General Provisions) Bill 2020
- (b) Proposed Emergency (defence Force) (COVID-19) Bill 2020

These bills when enacted will give legal effect to the State of Emergency regulations, appointment of the Police Commissioner as the controller and use of the Defence Force (call – out) to assist the SOE Controller during the SOE period.

The Prime Minister reiterate that the declaration of State of Emergency is absolutely necessary given the dangers of the COVID -19 pandemic, which is largely communicable by movement of people.

We need the cooperation of everyone, every citizen, young or old at this critical time. I also call on our leaders, including the opposition to come together. It is NOT a time to play politics. This pandemic is beyond boundaries of politics.

Common sense must prevail.

By working together, by respecting each other and with our prayers, we can overcome this virus, which is attacking the world.



HON JAMES MARAPE, MP
Prime Minister