

**Huge Success of a Small Country:
North Cyprus's fight against Covid-19 Pandemic
(9 May 2020)**

Today (9 May 2020), Kudret Özersay, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, sent a letter to Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation, declaring that Northern Cyprus may be the first country in the world that has not had any Covid-19 positive cases since 20 April 2020, for 19 consecutive days.

He also put forth that as of 8 May 2020, TRNC only had 108 Covid-19 positive cases; that total loss of life has been limited to 4, and that all Covid-19 positive cases in Northern Cyprus have recovered and been discharged from the hospital.

Özersay noted in the letter that this success story, which has made it possible for the country to start ending its lockdown in a phased and vigilant manner as of 4 May 2020, is the outcome of the dedication of the TRNC Government, which in the immediate aftermath of WHO's designation of Covid-19 as a pandemic and in line with the Organisation's able guidance, took serious and timely decisions/measures to stop the spread of the virus in Northern Cyprus, which were dedicatedly abided by the people in the country. He further emphasized that these decisions and measures, which allowed Northern Cyprus to overcome the imminent threat of Coronavirus with least damage, were adopted based on the changing circumstances and with the necessary flexibility to revise them accordingly without any hesitation; they were applied based on the principle of proportionality in terms of the country's conditions and last but not least without any panic and with utmost calm, which I trust must be the path to follow when such a danger strikes.

He highlighted that the rapid and phased measures, included closing down of schools, private and public sectors, except for necessary services like hospitals, pharmacies, supermarkets, petrol stations etc, implementing partial and when necessary total curfews, shutting down of borders to everyone other than TRNC citizens, isolating, quarantining and monitoring people who have been repatriated, purchasing the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) for health staff as well as other public sectors, making wearing of masks and social distancing mandatory, investing in the necessary medical equipment/supplies such as ventilators, medicines etc. and testing as much people as possible as well as doing follow ups for the contacts of those who have been tested Covid-19 positive.

Minister underlined that he will be sharing with WHO extensive information as regards the decisions and measures taken and implemented by his Government, which led Northern Cyprus to this success story in the hope that it will set a positive model for other countries and give the message that it can be done if WHO's guidelines are followed determinedly and timely.

Özersay, accentuating that this pandemic does not differentiate between different countries, different passports, good and bad people or the rich and the poor has requested from WHO, the mission of which is to serve the health interests of all the peoples of the world at large, to acknowledge, without discriminating on the basis of political expediency on such an eminent health issue, the important success of unrecognised Northern Cyprus, and publicly declare and share, as part of WHO's official data, the statistics of Northern Cyprus, in the hope that it may benefit many other countries.

This material is prepared, issued or circulated by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Washington Office, 1000 17th Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20006. This material is filed with the Department of Justice where the required registration statement is available for Public inspection. Registration does not indicate approval of the contents of this material by the United States Government.