

### Additional extraordinary measures are adopted to confront the COVID-19 disease

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A decree was published in the Official Federal Gazette last night in which the President of the Republic declares various extraordinary actions that the Ministry of Health can implement immediately in all regions of the country that are affected by the COVID-19 disease.

Among the extraordinary actions to implement, the Ministry of Health is empowered to utilize, as auxiliary elements in controlling the disease, all the medical and charitable resources of the public, social and private sectors existing in and around the affected regions. The content of the decree seems to indicate that the Ministry may immediately implement it in the region or regions of the country it considers are affected by the disease, without need for any additional administrative decree.

Similarly, the Ministry is authorized to directly purchase all types of medical and other kinds of goods, in the amounts it considers necessary to confront the contingency without need for a bidding process. It is also permitted to import and authorize third parties to import such goods without exhausting any administrative procedure, which will allow private entities to effectively assist in getting access to the materials necessary to confront the contingency.

Finally, the Ministry of Health is authorized to adopt the measures necessary to prevent price speculation and hoarding of the essential products mentioned above, and to adopt any other measures that may be necessary to confront the contingency.

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