Accra, Ghana, April 17 (Infosplusgabon) - Ghana's President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has extended the initial one-month ban on public gatherings, including religious activities and schools, to contain the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, by an additional two weeks.

The Director of Communications at the Presidency, Eugene Arhin, said on Sunday that the extension takes effect from Monday.

The president last Thursday extended the two-week partial lockdown of three cities - Accra, Kumasi and Tema - and a couple of townships - Kasoa and Ashaiman - identified as hotspots of the virus by another one week.

Ghana's positive coronavirus (COVID-19) count is 408 with eight deaths.

President Akufo-Addo on 15 March placed a ban on all public gatherings including conferences, workshops, funerals, festivals, political rallies, church activities and other related events throughout the country as part of measures to stop the spread of coronavirus.

The President said that private burials were permitted although mourners must not exceed 25.

Schools have been shut down across the country and all borders are closed. Markets are open, but social distancing is a huge problem with security officers and local authorities having a tough time controlling crowds that flock there.

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