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Mauritania confirms first coronavirus case



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A woman walks through the streets in the main market area in Nouakchott on Jan 17, 2020. (Photo: AFP/John Wessels)

14 Mar 2020 07:19AM

(Updated: 14 Mar 2020 07:20AM)



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NOUAKCHOTT: Mauritania has confirmed its first case of novel coronavirus, the country's health minister said on Friday (Mar 13), adding to the [growing number of cases \(/news/world/coronavirus-spreads-to-18-african-nations--including-kenya-and-ethiopia-12536674\)](#) in West Africa.

In a televised statement, Health Minister Mohamed Nedhirou Ould Hamed said the case involved a recently returned foreigner who tested positive on Friday.

"He was immediately isolated and the state has all the means at its disposal to take care of those suffering from the virus," the minister said.

A statement from the health ministry, also released on Friday, said the man was an

"expatriate" who had flown into Mauritania from Europe on Monday.

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He isolated himself after a friend in Europe tested positive for the virus, the statement added.



Health officials discovered he was feverish on Friday morning and he was confirmed positive for coronavirus later in the evening.

The health minister also promised, in his televised address, that the government would stop charter flights coming to Mauritania from France.

The West African state of Guinea registered its first coronavirus case on Friday too.

And Senegal, which shares a border with Mauritania, registered 11 new coronavirus infections on Friday, bringing its total number to 19.

Ivory Coast, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Nigeria have all also recently registered coronavirus cases.

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Source: AFP/ec

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