

Brazzaville, Congo, March 21 (Infosplusgabon) - The Congolese National Assembly and Senate are heading to the court determine whether they can continue to sit in violation of the government's ban on holding meetings or rallies of more than 50 people because of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

This is because while the Senate has 72 elected officials, the quorum for the National Assembly with 151 members is 76.

The president of the Senate, Pierre Ngolo and that of the National Assembly, Isidore Mvouba, who met on Saturday in Brazzaville, decided to seize the high court in this constitutional matter before announcing internal measures.

Congo on 18 March confirmed its third coronavirus case and the government has announced a series of measures, including banning meetings or rallies of more than 50 people.

"At the end of their exchanges, the offices of the two Houses of Parliament agreed to adapt the functioning of their institutions to the measures taken by the government," they said in a statement made public by the second secretary of the National Assembly, Joseph Kignoumbi Kia Mboungou.

In the meantime, the National Assembly intends to continue its normal operation with the support of the presidents of parliamentary groups and committees.

There are also plans to suspend the plenary sessions until 17 April in the two Chambers.

Since the opening of the eighth ordinary administrative session in the Senate and the National Assembly, on 1 February, the two Houses have held only one plenary session, while the session is scheduled to close on 10 April.

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