



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA DIE APOSTOLIESE GELOOF SENDING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

(PBO no/WO nr: 930004069)

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STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM (NLF) OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA ON 17 MARCH 2020, REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC.

On Sunday 15 March 2020, the State President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa announced drastic measures to curb the spread of the Coronavirus in South Africa. These extra ordinary measures were elaborated on by various Government Ministers on 16 March 2020.

The National Leadership Forum (NLF) of the AFM of SA considered the impact of the State President's statement on our church activities.

This new development requires that certain adjustments be made on various church activities. These include our Sunday and mid-week church services, conferences, seminars, weddings and funerals to name just a few. Our liturgical practices such as serving of the Lord's Communion, Water baptism, Dedication of children and praying for the sick will also be affected.

The view of the NLF is that these adjustments should not compromise our faith and our witness. We must avail ourselves as channels of Hope, healing and education to all God's people.

In this regard, the NLF resolved as follows:

1. MEETINGS:

1.1 All AFM structures are instructed by the NLF to comply with the 100-member per site restriction for all meetings, including but not limited to:

- Sunday Meetings:
- Midweek Meetings:
- Department and Interest group meetings:
- All Conferences, Seminars, Empowerments and Workshops:

1.2 That innovative possibilities be explored, including but not limited to the following: Multiple services, Meeting in small groups, Streaming of services.

2. LITURGICAL PRACTICES:

2.1 Liturgical services suspended until further notice:

- Water baptism.
- The Lord's Communion.

2.2 Liturgical services to be done without physical contact:

- Dedication of babies. (Parents hold their own baby and Pastor stretch out his/her hand)
- Prayer for the sick. (The person praying must just pray with hand/s stretched out.)
- Weddings.
- Funerals.

3. HYGIENE:

- Regular washing of hands with soap and water, or disinfectant, and clean cell phones and work surfaces with disinfectant.
- Church buildings, -offices and other facilities should provide disinfectant/ running soapy water for people to clean or wash their hands.
- Chairs and other equipment like microphones and music instruments should be regularly wiped clean preferably with disinfectant/ soap and water.
- Touching stair railings and doorknobs should be avoided as far as possible.
- Toilets and rest rooms should also be regularly cleaned and provided with disinfectant or running soapy water.
- People who are coughing and sneezing, should cover their mouth and nose with their elbow, a cloth, tissue or a mask.

4. SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

- Social distancing of 1.5 meters where possible.
- Handshaking, hugging and kissing should be replaced by waving, nodding or smiling.
- Avoid touching your face.

5. PRAYER:

- We call on all our people to have a time of prayer in small groups at church, in their homes or through chain prayers from 21 March to 3 May 2020.
- In our prayers we should include those who are in incubation, all medical practitioners who are at the coal face of this pandemic. People with chronic illnesses and other medical conditions that have compromised their immune system. Let us also include our communities who lack basic needs such as water and sanitation. Finally let us pray for wisdom and capacity for our Government in dealing with this challenge.

6. MATTER TO BE TAKEN UP WITH GOVERNMENT:

- Our leadership has been requested to find clarity on the restriction of gatherings to 100 members, as this poses several compliance challenges.

7. EVENTS TO BE SUSPENDED, CANCELLED OR RESCHEDULED:

- Kindly take note that all AFM Good Friday and Easter Conferences are cancelled for this year.
- The outstanding NOB Regional visits are suspended, pending further updates.
- If the spread of Covid-19 is not contained by the end of April 2020, all National Departments' Conferences will have to be rescheduled or cancelled.
- We also urge that local Children's ministry classes be suspended until the end of April 2020.

8. A CALL TO OUR MEMBERS:

- We are calling upon all AFM health, medical and other professionals to avail themselves mainly for purposes of education.
- Let us be willing to share whatever we can with those who are in dire need, this is what we are urged to do all the time, but specifically in the current situation. Hebrews.13:16 "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
- Please continue to support your local congregation and its departments financially during this period.

9. S.A. GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

- WhatsApp: 060 012 3456
- Phone: 0800 029 999
- Global updates: www.worldometers.info
www.pharmaceutical-technology.com

10. UPDATES:

- The National Office Bearers will update the church from time to time on developments regarding this matter.

11. HOPE:

Whatever happens, we should not shy away from leading and we should be sure, to point out that this too will pass. We are people of Hope, we have Hope and we have Faith in Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ



**PASTOR MG MAHLOBO
PRESIDENT**



**HENRI WEIDEMAN
GENERAL SECRETARY**