



Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the
Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities.

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To: Editors/ Reporters

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**STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE
CLOSURE OF THE CHURCHES BY THE JMPD IN HILBROW AND YEOVILLE**

The CRL Rights Commission learnt about the closure of some Churches in and around Hilbrow and Yeoville. In order to get the facts about the reasons that led to this operation, the Commission engaged the SAPS at the Hilbrow Police Station as well as the Cluster Commander of the Johannesburg Municipality Police Department. The information provided to the Commission was that this operation was attributed to non-compliance with the bylaws of the City of Johannesburg.

The mandate of the CRL Rights Commission is derived from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa which guarantees freedom of religion, conscience and expression. The CRL Rights Commission is committed to protecting and promoting these rights. To advance these rights, the religious institutions and leaders are expected to operate within the confines of the law. However, the CRL Rights Commission will intervene in the event of unjustifiable closure of religious institutions that are in compliance with the law.

In that situation the CRL Rights Commission cannot intervene because violation of the bylaws of any Municipality is not acceptable and cannot be encouraged.

The Chairperson of the CRL Rights Commission appeals to all religious institutions, Churches, Mosques, Temples, Shrines and Synagogues, etc. to respect and comply with the laws of the land.

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