



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

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**Editors/Reporters**

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**MEDIA STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION WITH  
RESPECT TO THE CHALLENGES AND IMPACT OF THE CORONA VIRUS ON  
THE CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES**

The outbreak of COVID-19 has invaded human kind in a such an unprecedented manner and continues to affect nations and communities in ways never seen before, hence the World Health Organisation has declared coronavirus outbreak as a global pandemic. Further, the WHO has appealed to the nations of the world to make every effort to ensure the containment of the disease.

In response to this international appeal, the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Ramaphosa on 15 March 2020 addressed all the citizens of this country and emphasized the fact that the scale and the speed at which the virus is spreading demonstrates that indeed it is a state of disaster and that no country is immune from it and will not be spared its severe impact.

The CRL Rights Commission which has a mandate to promote and protect the rights of the Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities has also noted the impact which the disease may have on our communities. In an effort to ensure the protection and promotion of human life, the Commission appeals to all its communities to use all the prescribed precautions outlined by the President in his address to the nation as well as the guidelines provided by the various Ministers, especially Minister Mkhize during their media briefing today.

Therefore, the Chairperson of the CRL Rights Commission, Professor Mosoma appeals to all the Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities to adhere to the

safety measures and precautions especially when they have to deal with the following: funerals, weddings, unveilings, baptismal services, stokvels, holy communions, attending services at the mosques, temples, churches, synagogues and the traditional ceremonies related to the return of Amathwasa. After a thorough consideration of all the current and potential challenges posed by this virus, the Commission appeals to the Churches to adhere and embrace the call of the President with regards to small scale services not exceeding one hundred people.

In recognition of the enormity of this challenge caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, the Commission has also suspended its forthcoming plenary meeting as well as some of its outreach programmes which were currently taking place around the country.

It is important to note that it is through our joint and collective efforts as citizens of this country that we can contain and even stop the spread of this virus and in that way save many lives. For that reason, all of us should play our roles to protect our lives and those of others whether at home, at work or any other public places.

Issued by the CRL Rights Commission

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