



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
المجلس الأعلى الإسلامي جنوب افريقيا

واعتصموا بحبل الله جميعا ولا تفرقوا انما يخشى الله من عباده العلماء

MUSLIM SUPREME COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (MUSCOOSA)

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF SHARIA

SHARIA COURT OF APPEAL



OFFICE OF THE GRAND MUFTI
OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL STATUTORY BODY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF ISLAM AND MUSLIM AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA ACCREDITED AS CHAPTER 9 INSTITUTION OF COMMISSION FOR PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES (CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 36 (1)&(2) OF COMMISSION'S FOUNDING ACT (No..19 OF 2002)

21th April 2021- 9th-Ramaan-1442

ADDRESSED TO :

Ms Shereen Cassiem

Secretary for Parliamentary Committee

Of Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs

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Assallam aleikum Warahmatullah

Ref: Impact of Disaster Management Regulations to Islam and Muslim Community of South Africa and the way forward

Reference is made in accordance with communication received on 20th April 2021 from above parliamentary Committee secretary inviting submissions on the subject from all religious sector. On behalf of Muslim Community of South Africa, the following must be addressed with immediate effect:

1. Lifting the limit on congregations and all gatherings for prayers and release access to open grounds and city parks.

In Islam, Worshipping in congregation and praying in gatherings is fundamental and mandatory to all five mandatory prayers include the five daily prayers, two annual Eid prayers: Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Aduhiya , and funeral prayers. As Muslims we will have Eid Al-Fitr prayers soon at the end of fasting holy month of Ramadan in mid May 2021. This specifically means to lift ban on access to parks and open ground where usually perform our Eid prayers as per Municipal Council Authority authorisation.

2. Social Distance Must be totally removed to worshippers

We assume that you do not know as our leaders, but in Islam, it's mandatory to close all gaps when performing mandatory prayers in congregations. As

you have witnessed the way we stand in straight lines in our mosques, we keep a one meter distance facing the back of front line from one line to another but we cannot by all means keep a similar distance on the right and left of the person, this is contrary to Islam. Its mandatory the keep right and left distance covered standing shoulder to shoulder in mandatory prayers without fail.

3. Sanitisation with 80% alcohol

As leaders you're aware that alcohol is prohibited in Islam. How do you expect a person going for prayer in the mosque first to rub his hands with alcohol totally centrally to his or her faith, direct violation of right to worship as contemplated in the constitution of the republic of South Africa.

4. Mandatory wearing of face masks

As Muslim Community, we will be much happier if this is not made mandatory for worshipers because they have to recite their prayers loudly in congregations.

5. Entering into our Holy mosques with shoes by law enforcement agencies

such as South African Police Service personnel's in Uniform or not. This is clear violation of holiness of worshiping area as long as it's in use for worshiping, according to Islam its mandatory for any one even a president to take off his shoes before accessing that holy place of worship and must be clean the way its mandatory to clean yourself before accessing holy place Islam. it may be a Mosque, an open ground such as yard or park, can be any place as long is in use for prayers, not allowed to step a foot on that playing area with shoes. If it's temporary area, no problem to use shoes when prayers are finished. But if its permanent for worshiping like Mosques, prayers rooms, it's totally forbidden to enter that holy place with shoes at all times even if prayers are not progress. This lack of respect to Islam as faith and Muslims as believers is violation of the right of worship as contemplated in the constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Its better you contact us to help law enforcement.

6. Closure of Mosques

Some Mosques were closed because there is no way worshippers could adhere to Covid-19 Disaster Management Regulations contrary to fundamental mandatory principles of Islam mentioned above. Even though some Mosques tried to adhere to the regulations, it was in contradiction with teachings of

Islam which is still happening until today. So if you wish to engage us to discuss possible solutions, we welcome your decision.

7. Trust to attend gatherings for worshipping in mosques has dropped by almost 90% ,

Big number of people have not returned to mosques regularly as they used to do before Covid-19 Disaster Management Regulations and others wonder if they can ever return. This is the worst impact to Muslim communities, it has led to mosques become irrelevant not too important for prayers since people can perform their prayers at their homes. It will be very hard to bring back people to mosques at full capacity as they used to do.

8. Economic greatest loss

The main economic hub of Muslim Communities to operate religious services are Mosques as the main source of finance from contributions of congregants. These financial support are means to pay workers at mosques, teachers at Muslim schools, funeral services, pay council bills, etc. So if there was no gathering allowed and people perform their prayers at home, it is automatic decline in contribution financially to Mosques, and yet municipality authorities did not waive their bills despite of this horrible unexpected situation caused by Covid-19.

9. Charity to Communities Declined despite of increased Job losses

Poor people and the needy in our communities have risen because these Disaster Management Regulation for Covid-19 closed so many businesses and loss of income and employments have increased by 60%, so people who could not afford to feed their families run to a mosque to get help for food, water and electricity, rentals, etc, But since even Mosques were affected, big population of our people are struggling so much no where to turn to seek help. Helping those in need do not regard to religion or race, poor or rich, young or old, sick or healthy, as long as the person is in need.

10. Prolonged Disaster Management Regulations of Covid-19

Damage caused by these Covid-19 Disaster Management Regulations is big, but its becoming more bigger the more these regulations are prolonged and extended, at the beginning of Covid-19 Disaster Management Regulation level 5 that ordered total lockdown , during that period people became more generous in helping each other thinking it will end soon, but now another year living with the regulation turned generous people into stingy because what they to share got finished and now they are also in need like others.

most people's hope is to run to the government for help but same government is taking lead in retrenchment of its workers for example SABS TV workers, etc.

Conclusion

Disaster Management Regulations for Covid-19 has done more harm than good, it has only benefited those who make vaccines and sell them to us here in Africa, its better if Covid-19 regulations are lifted and communities go back to normality as vaccines are available, now there is no need of these Covid-19 Regulations compared to the harm they are causing to the country's economy and social foundations of communities continuously killing economy slowly into destruction that nobody can easily repair.

Suggestion for Covid-19 Damage Repair of the Economy

Wisdom is needed to embrace the change that has been brought by Covi-19 Regulations to rebuild the economy. A comprehensive roadmap is needed to utilize available resources such as loans taken from Banks at all levels must be carefully invested to create more jobs. My contribution as a man of wisdom is I have initiated an Internal Bureau of Corporations (IBECO) that focus on creating a Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in African countries, the FTZ will give an opportunity to our people to access local markets created by (IBECO) as an alternative to global market competition that occupy local markets as well as international markets. Contact me for details of full package.

Muslim Supreme Council of South Africa

MUSCOOSA

Wabillah Tawfique , In God we Trust.



Sultan Sheikh Yasin Muhammad Yaqeenu-llah allamal Yaqeen Muhammad Shuaib

Grand Mufti of South Africa, office of the grand Mufti of South Africa as Director Department of Sharia, President Muslim Supreme Council of South Africa (MUSCOOSA), Chairman Council of Sheikhs (Majlisil Ulama).