

This representation is addressed to yourselves on behalf of the various **Organisations and Senior Scholars of the broader Muslim community** identified in Annexure “A” hereto.

20 April 2020

The Honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa

President of the Republic of South Africa Email:

abram@presidency.gov.za; presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za

The Honourable Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Email:

MmaphakaT@ndmc.gov.za; info@cogta.gov.za zodwam@cogta.gov.za

Dear Sir / Madam

RE: REQUEST FOR RELAXATION OF THE LOCKDOWN REGULATIONS TO ALLOW ACCESS TO MOSQUES

We acknowledge and appreciate that government has embarked on numerous measures, with good intent, to reduce the rate of transmission of the corona virus. We are grateful for all the positive contributions towards this cause, both in South Africa and the rest of the world. We seek Our Creator’s Mercy and assistance at all times for relief from this crisis.

The original regulations as published on 18th March 2020 did not demand the closure of mosques and other places of worship. They merely imposed a restriction on all gatherings by limiting the congregation per gathering to a maximum of 100 people. We had no objection to such limitation and engaged all means to ensure that such regulations were adhered to.

The subsequent amendments to the regulations resulted in the complete closure of religious centres until 30 April 2020. This effectively means that mosques are required to remain inaccessible until at least the first week of the month of Ramadan (Muslim fasting month), assuming that the lockdown would not be further extended. Such state of affairs would have an extremely disruptive and prejudicial effect on the wider Muslim community.

Furthermore, in as much as Muslims are obliged to abstain from food and drink from dawn to sunset each day, the need for daily feeding and food distribution schemes to alleviate the plight of the disadvantaged takes on a heightened significance in Ramadan. This is further facilitated through a network of mosques throughout the country. Worship in Mosques in general, and during this month in particular, is a vital discipline indispensable to Islam and Muslims.

The complete denial of access to places of worship, which are considered by the faithful to be sanctuaries of peace, blessing and mercy, is bound to have a deleterious effect on the holistic well-being of the broader community. The attachment to places of worship is by no means an indication of extremism; in fact, the more devout worshippers make a substantially more meaningful contribution to society in general.

Furthermore, Prophetic traditions exhort Muslims to offer prayer and no precedent can be found where Muslims abstained from their respective places of Worship in totality. It is the opinion of some of the companions of the Messenger -peace be upon Him-, that prayer in congregation is obligatory and its discard is forbidden. According to many other theologians, a person is never absolved of the obligation of prayer in any circumstances, no matter how constrained he maybe. Any person advocating absolution from this obligation is clearly misdirected.

There has been a relaxation of the lock down regulations in a host of industries, e.g. tradesmen such as electricians, plumbers, hardware, essential goods and pharmaceuticals etc. The rigour of the regulations has however been maintained unrelentingly in relation to places of worship. There appears to be no sustainable basis for a blanket refusal of the relaxation of the lockdown laws in respect of places of worship subject to strict and necessary measures and controls.

It is our considered view that the multiplicity of services in respect of which exemption has been granted on the basis that they qualify as “essential “are by no means more compelling than the **essentiality** of access to places of worship, particularly in these challenging times, with due precaution. The healing power of prayer to a people in distress should never be underestimated.

The Muslim community, in particular, regards prayer in mosques and related places of worship to be an extremely essential aspect of their lives. Their lives fundamentally revolve around the fulfilment of the injunction of their faith to pray in a particular setting.

With the foregoing in mind, we urge you to consider this respectful submission for relaxation of the lockdown regulations as to allow the Muslim community access to their respective places of worship.

We are neither dismissive nor disrespectful of the state’s efforts in combatting the virus. We reiterate the willingness to implement all means to minimize any risk of contamination by necessary control measures. We are committed to the spirit of responsible and disciplined enforcement of any control measures that may be prescribed.

This submission and representation emanate from the parties identified in the document annexed hereto as Annexure "A".

ANNEXURE A

1. Maulana Abdul Hameed Ishaq, Principal: Dar-ul-Uloom Azaadville
2. Mufti Muhammad Saeed Motara, Head Mufti: Dar-ul-Uloom Azaadville
3. Maulana Fazl-ur-Rahman Azmi, Shaykh-ul-Hadith: Dar-ul-Uloom Azaadville
4. Maulana Shabbir Saloojee Saheb, Principal: Dar-ul-Uloom Zakariyya
5. Mufti Rada-ul-Haq, Shaykh-ul-Hadith & Mufti: Dar-ul-Uloom Zakariyya
6. Mufti Muhammad Ali Bhopali, Senior Ustadh: Dar-ul-Uloom Zakariyya
7. Maulana Yunus Daya, Marlboro
8. Madrasah Ta'leemuddeen Isipingo beach, Mufti Ebrahim Salejee 0319029818
9. Maulana Hasan Dockrat, Principal: Dar-ul-Uloom Madrasatus Saadiqeen, Robertsham
10. Mufti EMH Salejee, Principal of Siratul Haq, Estcourt
11. Mufti Yacoob Vally, Principal: Miftaah-ul-Falaah, Port Shepstone
12. Maulana Abbas ibn Adam Nadwi, Senior Ustadh of Hadith: Dar-ul-Uloom Zakariyya
13. Mufti Abdul Khaaliq Bhoola Maktabatur Rabia, Crosby
14. White River Jumu'ah Masjid Maulana Muhammed Gardee +27 82 266 1551
15. Maulana Moosa Akoodee, Actonville, Benoni
16. Madrasah Inaamiyyah
Camperdown- KZN
Maulana Zakaria Desai
031 785 4737

17. Mufti Muhammad Ishaq
Teacher of Islamic sciences
Actonville, Benoni
0848786078

18. Mufti Bilaal Saber
Imaam Masjid Bilaal
Teacher of Islamic sciences
Actonville, Benoni
0814864914

19. Mufti Ebrahim Pandor
Teacher of Islamic sciences
Actonville, Benoni
0742148475

20. Maulana Haamid Chalakta
Teacher of Islamic sciences
Actonville, Benoni
0670174471

21. Maulana Muhammad Seedat
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0724019540

22. Mufti Abdullah Munshi
Teacher of Islamic sciences
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0747177362

23. Maulana Tahseen Kardame
Teacher of Islamic sciences
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0614642046

24. Maulana Ataullah Fazleilahi
Quran Teacher
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0727415797

25. Maulana Buraydah Ebrahim
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26. Mufti Muhammad Ameen Qasim
Teacher of Islamic sciences
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27. Maulana Mubeen Munshie
Teacher of Islamic sciences
Benoni
0832271743
28. Maulana Dawood Seedat,
Madrassah Isha'atul Haq
Khalifah of Maulana Yunus Patel
0606786280
29. Maulana Omar Mia
Skeerpoort
073 213 5252
30. Maulana Yusuf Sader
Darul Khair
Ladysmith
0737500030
31. Baitul Ikram Trust
Qari Saleem Sheik
0729786749
32. Isipingo Beach top Masjid
Hoosen moola
0827575252
33. Umlazi V section
Hafez Hoosen
0746523770
34. Clare Estate
Maulana Muhammad Kajee
0837817544

35. Broad street musalla
Abdullah Sanele
0719740293
36. Red fern
Phoenix
Moulana abdullah
0766094865
37. High Stone Musalla
Maulana Ismail Adamjee
0731278614
38. Verulam Jami Masjid
Maulana Dawood Vahed
0845490706
39. Tongaat Masjid Railway street
Maulana Muhammad Padia
0815822204
40. Shakaskraal Masjid
Maulana Zakariyya
0659862183
41. Musallah Dawood
CINDERELLA PARK, PMB
Yusuf Desai
0732281786
42. Muhammed Omarjee
Imam Quwwatul Islam Masjid and Madrasah-Ginger Road
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43. Carletonville masjid
Muhammad Anwar
082 732 7186
44. Fochville Musallah
Shuaib Patel
082 714 4252

45. Madrasah Kaashiful Uloom Carletonville
Mufti Mas'ud Nanabhay
084 764 9304
46. Westonaria Musallah
Uzair Saloojee
073 479 0460
47. MMJ (MADIBENG MUSLIM JAMAAT)
Mufti Ahmed Sayanvala
0817229218
48. MADRASSAH DARUL HAMD BRITS
Maulana MOHAMMAD SAYANVALA
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48. MABOLOKA ISLAMIC CENTRE
(MABOLOKA NORTH WEST)
Maulana Jaabir
0725303025
49. Warrenton Masjid
Warrenton
Northern Cape
Hafiz Mohsin Nanabhay
0845812219
50. Maulana Yaseen Cassim
Ustadh of Shariah (Teacher of Islamic Religious Education for underprivileged students)
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51. Maulana Arshad Cassim
Ustadh of Shariah (Teacher of Islamic Religious Education – Potchefstroom, North West.)
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52. Maulana Kholvadia
Carletonville
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53. Maulana Idrees Bey
Carletonville
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54. Maulana Bilaal Cassim
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Gauteng
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55. Maulana Mohammed Nanabhay
Mayfair
Gauteng
Principal-Madrasah Baitun Noor
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56. Sabalalisa Iqiniso Dawah Academy- Estcourt - KZN
Maulana Riaz Ahmed Bhayla
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The Institution has 12 affiliate centres.
0832628024
57. Siraatul Haq Islamic School and Madrasah
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Mufti EMH Salejee
0363525325
58. Maulana Ridwaan Gani
Imaam Masjid Abi Zhar.R.A
Lenasia
Gauteng
0725435241
59. Maulana Muhammed Sujee
Imaam Masjid Abi Zhar R.A
Lenasia
Gauteng
0826206660
60. Mufti Hussain Nosarka
Ustaad Madressa Ihya-id-Deen
Lenasia
Gauteng
0731245400

61. Maulana Taahir Kotwal
Supervisor- Masjid Ta'lim ud Deen
Rietvlei
Gauteng
074 907 0227

62. Maulana Ayaaz Angamia
Homestead Park
Gauteng
081 270 5179

63. Maulana Zubair Moola
Imaam Masjid Baitul Hamd
Lenasia Gauteng
0798837547

64. Maulana Ismail Takolia
Lenasia
Gauteng
0725028033

65. Imaam Hussain
Toekomsrus Muslim Association
Gauteng
0844009971

66. Maulana Eesa Badat
Imam Saberie Masjid Lenasia

67. Hafiz Salih Muhammad
Masjide Uthmaan R.A.
Komatipoort

68. Machadodorp Muslim Jamaat
Ismail Jeewa
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69. Maulana Mohamed Sarang
Masjid Abdullah Bin Masood RA
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70. Maulana Ahmed Patel
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New Modder - Benoni
0844126826

71. Maulana Huzaifa Patel
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72. Maulana Yaqoob Pandor
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73. Maulana Yusuf Kara
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74. Maulana Abdul Hamid Lambat
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75. Sheikh Abdullah Sheikh
Teacher of Islamic Sciences
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0630229979

76. Maulana Ismail Pandor
Teaching Islamic sciences
Madressa Jaami ul Uloom, Newtown

77. Maulana Shuaib Sulaiman Nanabhay.
Khateeb in Potchefstroom town Mosque
Khateeb in Mohadin Mosque, Potchefstroom
0836578605

78. Maulana Imran Suleman
Al Qaasim Islamic Centre
Lenasia

79. Maulana Ishaq Ebrahim
KMSZ Islamic Centre
072 182-9084

80. Maulana Adnan Patel
Johannesburg
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81. Maulana Abu Bakr Behra
Johannesburg
0814990305

82. Maulana Imraan Muhammad
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Yours Faithfully



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