



# BMC

## Black Methodist Consultation

*A formation within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa*



CONNEXIONAL  
OFFICE  
2017/18 - 19/20  
T2

16 March 2020

CIRCULAR 026\_16/03/2020 MCSA COVID - 19 RESPONSE [CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC]

**CHAIRPERSON**

Rev Mzwandile Molo  
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BMC Synod Executives, Ex-Officio's, Connexional Think Tanks and Task Teams as well as All BMC Members (*Mawesele Amahle Amnyama*)!

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**SECRETARY**

**GENERAL**

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**RE: MCSA COVID - 19 RESPONSE [CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC]; BMC MEMBERS TAKING ON AGENCY**

Warm Christian greetings to you all dearest BMC Synod Executives, Ex-Officio's, Forebears and All Members

BMC notes and receives well the MCSA response to the Corona Virus Pandemic (Covid – 19). Over and above the decisions made by the MCSA in its response per attachment. The BMC need to think carefully and creatively on how the Corona Virus affects Black people in particular especially the poorest of the poor, the underserved by Public Health Services and all the marginalised within our communities.

**All BMC members are called upon to take-on individual and collective agency by consider the following X10 Point Pragmatic Plan:**

1. **BMC members are to Help Black people in our communities to understand the scientific facts about the virus as an airborne communicable disease** that can affect any person and distinguish between facts and misconceptions (myths) *e.g. The assumptions that this virus does not affect black people **it's for whites only** (for now there are no scientific facts to backup this claim, ... it's regarded as false/fake news ... read about the 1918 Influenza Virus that wiped through death about 300, 000 – 500, 000 in Southern Africa and about 50million worldwide ...;*
2. **BMC Help our people understand the depth of the challenge**, thus **encourage all people to adhere to the Medical Health Expert advice** as narrated in the MCSA Covid – 19 Response attached;

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**RECORDING SECRETARY**

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*“The MCSA Lilifa Labazali Bethu; Lefa Labatswadi Barona”*

<https://blackmethodistconsultation.org>

- a. **BMC Member Africa and the World is facing a Public Health Threat** that can be equated to the 1918 Influenza Virus that wiped out millions of people worldwide;
  - b. Corona Virus is not only a Public Health Threat to individual lives but it's a threat to the health of the population** starting with families, then immediate communities, nations, etc.
  - c. Corona Virus is an airborne communicable disease (its transmitted through the air, is a droplets infection like Tuberculosis, Influenza, ... Its Viral not bacterial like TB and or fungal thus as a Virus it cannot be simply treated using antibiotics because it's a virus;**
  - d. It's a serious Public Health Threat especially to the poor and the vulnerable of our communities;**
3. **BMC Help our people implement and or practice all the recommendations of self – protection, regular washing of hands with soap and water for 20seconds giving attention to individual figures, social distancing, no hands-shake, e.g.**
    - a. **Those feeling sick should stay at home and not go to gathering e.g. Church even if people are less than 100; ... If Unavoidable e.g. Family Funeral;**
    - b. **Those feeling sick should wear N95 Respirator Masks and Not Surgical Masks [Ask your Professional Health Service Provider or Practitioner or Clinician the difference]**
  4. **BMC be ready to help with the most vulnerable e.g. Elderly and or Senior Citizens; TB-HIV Coinfected and All Immuno-compromised; Malnourished Population; etc.** especially in townships and villages where some of the recommendations might present a challenge e.g. washing of hands and the need for running water which might not be available in those areas ... **year on year drought remains a reality!;**
  5. **BMC Help our people to access critical updated high priority information** e.g. key hospitals that are identified as hospitals for the isolation and treatment of those infected by the virus;
  6. **BMC Identify and Collaborate and Coordinate Local Medical Health Teams,** Medical Doctors, Professional Nurses, Social Workers, Allied Health Workers to teach at Local Churches, Class Meetings, Small Groups, Fellowship Groups on prevention, hand washing, cough triage and cough etiquette ... could even do demonstrations on hand washing;
  7. **BMC Help our people who depend on public transport** and the associated risks at commuter interchanges and how to relate to those wearing masks and not stigmatize;

8. **BMC Work with other churches locally per areas to coordinate a Christian loving and solidarity programs** that can deal with outbreaks in their given areas;
9. **BMC Find expressions of faith, hope and courage in these limited worship times and keep our people in prayer and worship** even if in different times where less than 50 people and **make sure that in some ways the classes become centres of church life that spiritually nurture, generate hope and build communities and our homes.**
10. **BMC be available as Christians to those who need us the most!**

To God Be the glory, great things He had done!

Yours in Christ Service



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**Mr Xhanti T. Mhlubulwana**

**Secretary General**



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**Rev Mzwandile Molo**

**Chairperson**