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Masjid Guidelines during the Covid-19 Lockdown

24 March 2020 | Based on the guidelines issued by Jamiatul Ulama KZN

The President of the Republic of South Africa has ordered a lockdown of the entire country, which goes into effect at midnight of Thursday 26th March 2020.

Accordingly, the Eastern Cape Masjid Forum has updated its guidelines, which are provided below.

1. Guidance for Masjids

- 1.1 The Government is enforcing a total lockdown and as such, Masjids will not be able to hold congregational prayers for the general public. We therefore advise that Salaah be performed in congregation in the home or other appropriate venues.
- 1.2 Those living on the Masjid site are advised to perform Salaah in the Masjid.

2. Juma Salaah

- 2.1 We should accept that this is a total lockdown, with an unprecedented situation faced by the country. Therefore the congregational Juma Salaah for the general public will for the time being be suspended.
- 2.2 Those living on the Masjid site may choose to have Juma Salaah in the Masjid.
- 2.3 Juma Salaah can be performed at home with a minimum of four sane baaligh males (including the Imaam).
- 2.4 If one is unable to make Juma Salaah then one should instead perform Zuhr Salaah individually (not in congregation). Insha Allah one will obtain the full reward.
- 2.5 All means adopted should be done in a manner that does not promote violation of the law.

3. Athan

3.1 Athan should be called out for each Salaah without resorting to the public address system during this period. Calling it over the public address system is not a condition for its validity.

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4. Act within the Law

- 4.1 The laws applicable during lockdown will impose restrictions. However, one is still able to practice one's religious devotions whilst making some adjustments. Always respect the law and work within its framework.
- 4.2 In the fervour and desire to carry out some of the religious practices, do not fall foul of the law. This is not a time to show defiance or fake valour. It is a time of solidarity for the good of all citizens of the country. Do not be selfish and self-centred. Always seek guidance of reputable Ulama before embarking on any new endeavour.

5. Janaza Salaah

5.1 During the lockdown, these matters will be dealt with by the Burial Societies. We should make every effort to co-operate with them, which will be in the interest of all.

It must be noted that these guidelines are temporary and not implemented out of choice. These have been necessitated due to the current situation and we should oblige and conform as law-abiding citizens. We should also bear in mind that the situation is still fluid and these guidelines are subject to change.

While the Al Hidayah offices will be closed during the lockdown period, our services will continue to operate remotely as far as is possible and practical. We will endeavour to supplement the suspension of spiritual guidance from the Masjid with online offerings.



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