



# KWAZULU-NATAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

50 Langalibalele Street - P.O. Box 2035 Pietermaritzburg 3200 South Africa  
Tel: +27 (0) 33 3454819 Fax: +27 (0) 33 3949965 Email: [info@kzncc.org.za](mailto:info@kzncc.org.za)

---

11 April 2020

**The Presidency**  
**President Cyril Ramaphosa**  
**Union Buildings**  
**Government Avenue**  
**Pretoria**  
**Email: [presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za](mailto:presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za)**

**Copied: Honourable KZN Premier, Sihle Zikalala**

Dear Sir, Your Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa

## **KZN Covid-19: Churches Respond – Affirming your Leadership and Pledging Our Support**

We are a broad and inclusive coalition of Churches, Christian Associations, Ecumenical Networks and Ministers' Fraternals committed to using our extensive footprint across the KwaZulu Natal Province to respond more effectively to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Lockdown and their respective impact.

Your Excellency, today, we wish to applaud and affirm your leadership and that of the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize in this time of disaster. We further express our appreciation for the work of the KZN Premier, Honourable Sihle Zikalala as well as the MEC for Health, Honourable Gugu Simelani-Zulu for meeting and updating Church Leaders on the way forward. We express our full support for your government's efforts to save lives and in the process "flatten the curve". We do this even as we stand in solidarity and mourning with the millions around KZN and the country whose very lives are threatened by both the Coronavirus and the extended lockdown.

In particular we affirm the generous and commendable example set by you, your Cabinet and the Premiers, of pledging a third of your salary to the Solidarity Fund. This is a powerful gesture of inestimable symbolic value. We gladly notify you that the Churches across the KwaZulu Natal province, are pledging R1 million to the relief emergency in our province.

As a Church united against the pandemic we are putting together Emergency Relief that will roll-out cash vouchers to 1000 vulnerable families in each of the 11 Districts over the next three months through our Church-based fundraising efforts.

Other elements of our provincial plan include; (i) Communications, Education and Awareness, (ii) Pastoral care and Support, (iii) Advocacy and support around social and economic vulnerability. All of this is undergirded by an inter-denominational space for prayer and theological reflection. Full details are available on our website [www.covid19response.co.za](http://www.covid19response.co.za).

As Church Leaders, we continue calling on all churches, Christian Associations and ecumenical organisations and networks in KZN to come on board with specific and practical support for the coordinated work taking place at Ward level through the various Church structures we are setting up.

We further support your call for those who have resources to make a similar contribution urgently. Now is the time for sacrifice, for self-sacrificing generosity, and most importantly for Corporate responsibility, care and solidarity.

We are grateful for the third dimension of your latest strategy to address COVID-19, the programme of increased social support to protect poor and vulnerable households. We need to express our anxiety and concern for the poorest and most vulnerable at this time. May we urge you to expedite that relief through the Solidarity Fund as soon as possible.

We are receiving daily calls from across all 11 Districts from desperate individuals and communities, including some who don't know where their next meal or rental payment is going to come from; from survivors who remain in abusive homes because they are afraid of starvation; from car guards, refugees and casual workers do not have any income. We endorse your call to support these, the most vulnerable urgently.

As we commemorate the death and celebrate the resurrection of Christ this weekend, we move from grief and lamentation to hope and new life for all humanity. This Crisis reminds us that we hold in tension the fear of death on the cross and the hope of the resurrection to a new life of Christ. At this time, we pray most ardently that he creates for us a new, more just dispensation for all South Africans.

Christ is risen! He is alive! The Resurrection is real!

**+ Cardinal Wilfrid Napier**, OFM, Chairperson of the KwaZulu Natal Church Leaders Group and Chairperson of the KZN Inter Religious Council.

**Dean Nkosinathi Myaka**, Chairperson of the KwaZulu Natal Christian Council

**Bishop KE Khomo**, President Interdenominational African Ministers Association in South Africa (IDAMASA)

**Bishop B Mchunu**, President Church Leaders Council of South Africa (CLCSA)

**Bishop Nathi Zondi**, Truevine Family of Churches

**Rev Sipho Sokhela**, National General Secretary South Africa YMCA.

**Daniela Gennrich**, Coordinator We Will Speak Out South Africa

**Rev Gregory Matthei**, Baptist Union of Southern Africa

**Grant John Crawford**, Senior pastor to Onelife family of churches and an Apostolic leader of New Covenant ministries International

**Rev Janice Nomvuyo Mpuqa**, Chairperson of the Thukela, Amajuba & Mzinyathi Christian Council

**Bishop BM Buthelezi**, Chairperson of the KwaZulu Region Christian Council

**Archbishop Sthembiso BB Ngcamu**, Chairperson of the Southern KwaZulu Natal Christian Council