

PRESS STATEMENT

HOPE ABOVE ALL

Solidarity and Compassion in the Fight Against COVID-19 Global Pandemic

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On behalf of the East African Community - Inter-Religious Council (EAC-IRC), we applaud the governments of East Africa for the timely response to curb the spread of COVID-19 global pandemic. The strategies undertaken by the different governments are the step towards containing the spread of the virus.

We recognize that most countries are grappling with the effects of the virus; with total lock downs on borders and companies, decline in the stock market, limited supplies in health facilities and the appalling number of deaths and infections. This situation causes a ripple effect to the East African region.

As the secretariat of the EAC-IRC, and religious leaders within East Africa, we wish to empathize with families whose members are afflicted by the pandemic, especially the vulnerable groups like persons with disabilities, the elder persons, the sick, the care-givers and the destitute. We understand what they are going through and continue to pray for God's grace and providence.

In all this, we call upon the East African heads of state to establish a common goal to avert effects arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in the face of the shut-down during this planting season as farmers are not able to access seeds, pesticides and other implements, hence low productivity and hunger. We also call upon the East African heads of state to ensure that similar emergency approaches and measures to boost the economy are harmonized in all the countries to avoid anxiety and frustration caused by this catastrophe.

Furthermore, we appeal to the health ministries in East Africa work towards synchronizing their efforts to curb the spread of the virus through establishing shared platforms to respond to COVID-19. This will go a long way to enable health experts and researchers enter into a collaborative framework to a coordinated response to avoid contradiction in strategy.

In addition, we call upon the religious leadership to mobilize and sensitize their faithful for behaviour change and guidance in regard to the pandemic.

Finally, we appeal to the religious leaders to continue to lift All Nations of the world to the Lord where our help comes from (Gen. 22:18). We do this in belief that nothing is impossible with God, while at the same time, through the knowledge and wisdom He has given us, take all precautionary measures to protect ourselves and other people around us.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY!


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