

Minutes of Urgent Meeting of Muslim Religious and Civil Society organizations

at 3.30 pm 15th July 2020 at DMRCA

21 Muslim Religious and civil society organizations including ACJU and Shariah Council met at 4.30 p.m. on 15/07/2020 at the Auditorium of Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs under the chairmanship of Mr.Sabry Haleemdeen, Chairman of Wakf Board. Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs and members of Wakf Board were also present.

The participants appraised the current developments of the Covid-19 Pandemic. There were proposals to close the Mosques as a temporary measure while the majority was of the opinion that the Mosques should be kept open subject to strict adherence to health measures and the directives of the Wakf Board. Further, the participants endorsed that the Wakf Board may consult the Health Ministry and take appropriate steps including restricting number of worshippers or closing the mosques, when and where required.

Accordingly all religious and civil society representatives agreed to create enough awareness and educate on the importance of the following measures;

1. Strict adherence of 01 meter social distancing. Each Mosque must keep the total number of worshippers at a time below 1/3 of this total capacity. For instance if the total capacity of the mosques is 150 worshippers, only 50 worshippers can pray at a time. In other words if the floor area of the Mosque is 450 square feet, only a maximum of 50 worshippers can pray. Trustees can utilize all Thakkiyas, Zaviyas and non Jummah Mosques in order to accommodate more worshippers for Jummah, with permission of the Wakf Board.
2. All Mosques shall submit a compliance form to Wakf Board. The compliance form can be downloaded from our Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs website.
3. Worshippers must wear a face mask at all times.
4. Worshippers must come with their Musallah. Alternatively, Mosques shall provide papers to be used as mats or sanitize after every prayer. Worshippers who have no

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Musallah should not be allowed to join the normal prayer area. Instead a separate area to be allocated for such worshippers so the frequent sanitization can be done easily.

5. Praying on carpets must be avoided. If it is necessary, it shall be allowed only with Musallah.
6. Worshippers must come with wudhoo from home or workplace. Who cannot do, may pray at home or workplace.
7. Jummah should be limited to 20 minutes including prayers.
8. Mosques must register all visitors to the Mosques. Visitors may bring their name, Address, NIC no and Mobile number written in a piece of paper and drop at the box arranged for the purpose.
9. Worshippers must disperse without gathering and starting discussions inside or outside of the Mosque, in a manner that there is no contact between persons.
10. To close Mosques in areas indentified with Covid-19 positive persons from Kandakadu Cluster.
11. All Mosques shall announce before and after every prayer that people including worshippers follow the guidance strictly.
12. All Mosques should use the Jummah to create awareness on the new developments and the possibility of closure of Mosques if situation worsens.
13. Mosque should make arrangements for temperature measurements.
14. Hand wash at the entrance is mandatory.
15. Patients, Travelers and children must avoid Jummah prayers.
16. The Mosques that follow the health measures and Wakf Board directive perfectly must be given publicity in order to create awareness on such good practices.
17. All Muslims are encouraged strictly to avoid shaking hands or hugs during this pandemic

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18. Ulamas shall lead this awareness campaign and be exemplary for others.

19. Worshippers who do not cooperate with the mosques in this regard should be reported to Police.

20. Therefore, all organizations present agreed to use their network to give maximum publicity to this decision. Every organization should send a voice or video clip in this regard.



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