

KENYA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



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PRESS STATEMENT ON CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC (COVID-19)

Do not downplay spreading of the Coronavirus Pandemic

We, the Catholic Bishops of Kenya, send you all Kenyans, greetings of Lenten Season and best wishes as you go about your daily endeavors.

With twenty-eight cases of the Coronavirus confirmed in Kenya, all Kenyans ought to be in a state of preparedness to promptly respond to the guidelines provided by the Government of Kenya and other authoritative Agencies so that further spread of the infection can be contained.

In this regard, we urge Kenyans not to downplay the spread of the virus to more people and to any part of the Country. Even if your area has not been highlighted as high risk and no case has been reported, there are possibilities that the Coronavirus cases can emerge. Preventive measures may feel punitive at this stage but are necessary to save lives.

Besides, we ask all Kenyans to remain calm because panic reactions can cloud discernment on the options we need to take in preventing further the spread of the virus.

We, therefore, encourage all people of good-will and the Government to swiftly continue facilitating the Health Care Workers who are at the frontline of response by protecting and supporting them offer timely services to those in need.

Further, we express our deep appreciation and admiration towards Health Care Workers who have continued to work to save lives despite the challenges they may be facing in this noble course.

We support the Government and the Media in continuing public education and creating awareness on the symptoms of Coronavirus and insisting on the necessary precautions to be taken to prevent its spread and steps to be taken in case of any signs that one is affected.

We are all aware of the great threat to Life and livelihoods that have been caused so far by COVID-19. We ask Kenyans to be understanding with each other and collaborate with the Government to bring under control further cases of new infections.

In addition, we are convinced that undertaking the right measures as guided by the Ministry of Health and adopting these measures with speed, the spread of this virus will be contained and as such wish to emphasize on every individual's responsibility to protect oneself, family and community from the COVID-19 virus.

Finally, we invite all Kenyans of good-will to pray for the end of this global threat and ask that we all raise our prayers to God. We believe our Good Lord will hear our prayers and save and protect us all from this danger.

Signed for and on behalf of the KCCB Chairman

Yours Sincerely in Christ,



Most Rev. Philip Anyolo

Chairman of Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops

26th March 2020