

Inter-Religious Council of Uganda



Religions for Peace

MEMO FROM THE IRCU SECRETARY GENERAL OFFICE TO MEMBERS OF IRCU FAMILY ON THE RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SPREAD

The Chairpersons and Members, IRCU Council of Presidents
The Chairperson and members, IRCU Board
The Secretary Generals/CEOs Institutionalized Religious Bodies

I send you warm greeting from IRCU Secretariat!

I have been following the worrying rate at which our senior religious leaders are succumbing to the COVID- 19 pandemic. It is likely that this might have to do with the responsibilities associated with their day-to-day pastoral activities.

I am of the view that we do some serious intentional review of the possible avenues that COVID-19 might be spreading through our set up, processes, practices and rituals. Some of the areas that we might need to look at include:

1. Public address systems, ensuring that they are sanitized after every person.
2. Sharing mobile phones.
3. Pay attention to those who want to assist us, to carry our articles, like bags, bibles or the Quran when we visit different centers for functions
4. Our official attires, as they may pick and carry the virus
5. Spaces where people gather to worship or even where meals are served after worship... ensuring there is sufficient ventilation and programmed sanitizing.
6. Rituals surrounding baptisms, weddings, Holy Eucharist, funerals - examine how different aspects of the ritual might expose us to the virus.
7. Vehicles – ensuring adequate air circulation and that those who seek lifts have masks and keep them on throughout the journey. Daily sanitization is also advised.

8. Daily sanitization of our premises and homes because we often have many people who visit, but we also might carry the virus from where we have been.
9. Without intending to embarrass, lets be clear about gaps we see in the practice of the SOPs among those around us.
10. Let us take every opportunity to exercise leadership by reminding our audiences about the SOPs and their role in halting the spread of the virus.
11. As was the case with HIV/AIDS, let us be bold to holt, change or offer strict guidelines regarding religious practices that have the potential to increase the spread of the virus.

We all have a responsibility towards each other, so please accept the above reminders in that spirit.

I wish you all a blessed festival season.



Joshua Kitakule
Secretary General
INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA

Tuesday, December 22, 2020