

KENYA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



Our Ref:

Your Ref:

KENYA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

Waumini House, Westlands

P.O. Box 13475 - 00800, Nairobi

Tel: +254 020 4443133/4/5, / 4443906,4443917

Fax: +254 020 4442910,4441758

Email: kccb@catholicchurch.or.ke /

secgeneral@catholicchurch.or.ke

Website: www.kccb.or.ke

PRESS STATEMENT ON COVID-19 BY THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS (KCCB)

We, the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops in Kenya, send to you all Kenyans greetings and the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As per now, we have all come to terms with the great threat to life and livelihoods that has been posed by Covid-19 since the first case of the disease was reported in our Country in March 2020. We pray for God's mercy to rest the souls of all the departed Faithful due to Covid-19 in eternal peace. Further, we condole with the families of those that have lost their loved ones through this pandemic.

We have noted with great concern the recent surge in Covid-19 cases, positivity rates and mortality rates especially as reported during the month of November 2020. To this effect, the President has invited all of us to a state of personal responsibility in our operations and interactions. He has called each one of us to exercise individual responsibility to comply with the infection prevention guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health. Our great worry is the lack of compliance with these prevention guidelines by a section of the leadership of the Country and subsequently by many Kenyans.

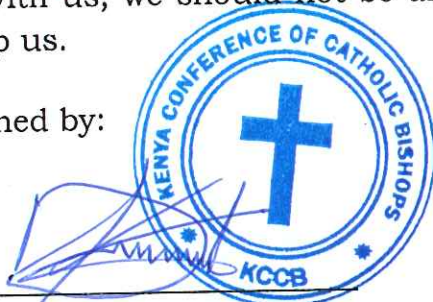
We are deeply concerned that we have recently lost many health care workers including Doctors, nurses and other cadres. These have been the force behind our many reported recoveries and have given Kenyans the much needed hope during this difficult period. We remain concerned that, despite budget availability and commitment by the Executive, resources have not been consistently provided to support the health care system to adequately respond to this pandemic, leaving health-care workers exposed and vulnerable. We cannot continue to watch the only hope of the Kenyan people go down through loss of hope and especially loss of life as we have witnessed in the past few days. As such, we ask the Government leadership to move with haste to prioritize the available resources within Government and provide the required facilitation to the health-care system to allow it to respond to the burden of this disease. With a looming Doctors' strike and disquiet among other cadres, we also ask for urgent but genuine dialogue with health-care workers' Unions so that their concerns can be meaningfully listened to and addressed.

We, the Catholic Bishops, are convinced that undertaking the right measures as guided by the health authorities and adopting these with speed, the spread of this virus can still be contained and as such wish to emphasize on every individual's responsibility to protect oneself, family and community from Covid-19. Further, we urge all individuals not to down play this pandemic even if your neighborhood has not been highlighted as hot spot of the disease or your age and general good health status not considered as risky. We also appeal to you all to remain calm because panic blurs vision and subjects judgement and action.

In addition, we express our deep appreciation and admiration towards health-care workers who have continued to work to save lives despite the challenges they are facing. We pray to God for your protection even as you have given your lives serving the sick and those most in need of mercy. May God's blessings be upon your lives and your families.

Finally, we invite all Kenyans and people of good will to continue praying for the end of this pandemic. When we trust in God, we have hope. We should not fear for God is with us; we should not be dismayed for He is our God; He will strengthen and help us.

Signed by:



(For)

Most Rev. Philip Anyolo
Chairman
Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops

Friday 20th November 2020