



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA DIE APOSTOLIESE GELOOF SENDING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

(PBO no/WO nr: 930004069)

NATIONAL OFFICE – NASIONALE KANTOOR

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TO ALL PASTORS, ASSEMBLY GOVERNING BOARD SECRETARIES/ ADMINISTRATORS, GOVERNING BODIES, REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS:

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Please take note of the following information received regarding the amended regulation on meetings as per the Government Gazette (Volume 673) published on Wednesday:

"The amended Regulation 21 came out in the afternoon of 14 July 2021 that permit "gatherings at community engagements" (which are not defined), "hosted by (amongst others) ... religious leaders, to deal with emergency matters that impact on the management, treatment and prevention of the Covid-19 pandemic, subject to a limitation of 50 persons, or less if the relevant space is too small..." - up to a maximum of 50 people (or 50% of capacity in smaller venues), subject to the adherence to all health protocols, such as masks, sanitization and social distancing.

THE PROBLEM: On the face of it, the Regulations permit religious communities to meet. The problem is that the same Regulations still prohibit "social gatherings" and "faith-based gatherings" (and make it a criminal offence to convene / attend the same).

THE OPPORTUNITY: In terms of the new Regulations, there IS potentially an opportunity for religious communities to meet - as long as the meeting deals with emergency matters that impact on Covid-19. (Note that this is quite different to what was discussed at the President's meeting with religious leaders on 13 July 2021, which discussed the need for churches to be able to meet to bring a sense of peace and calm amidst the current violence and looting across SA. -We are still awaiting the answer to that request.)

Practically therefore, as long as the meeting is not a religious gathering in the normal course, but a gathering of a religious community, hosted by a religious leader, on emergency matters that impact on Covid-19 (e.g. informing congregants of the 3rd wave, the risks of Covid-19, the vaccine roll-out program, and the necessity of health and social distancing protocols - even if followed by prayer etc.), it should be permissible in terms of the Regulations. Religious leaders are advised to proceed wisely however, so as to ensure that any meeting does fall within the “emergency” - rather than religious gathering (which remains prohibited) -category.

NOTE: It remains to be seen if Government will amend the above Regulations yet again, to clarify the current uncertainties and seeming contradictions.”

The National Office Bearers appeal to our pastors and assembly leaders to engage with local community leaders, Community Policing Forums, and local ministers’ forums to discuss strategies of safeguarding and protecting their community structures from possible damages and looting.

We also remind you of our call to intercede for South Africa from 12-25 July 2021.

“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.” Ps.46:1-2 (NLT)

Please be ensured of our continuous prayers.

Kind regards

On behalf of the National Office Bearers.



Dr. Henri Weideman
GENERAL SECRETARY