



SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE (NACOVERC)
FREETOWN

Freetown, 3 November, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public would recall that following the lifting of the ban on places of worship, congregational proceedings have not been permitted beyond one and half hour (90 minutes). This proviso was informed in large part, by the need to recognize faith-based values as a defining feature of our social heritage; whilst also guarding against our churches, mosques and other temples becoming vectors of COVID-19 transmission.

Based on the epidemiological data, particularly for the last three (3) months, which suggests a general downward trend in COVID-19 cases in Sierra Leone; and further noting with cautious satisfaction that, the resumption of congregational worship, does not seem to have negatively impacted the epi-curve;

This is to inform that with immediate effect, religious activities in churches, mosques and temples, can now be conducted for a maximum period of 180 minutes (two and half hours).

Realizing fully that COVID-19 is not yet over, this reasonable extension from 90 minutes to 180 minutes is anchored on the firm and irrevocable guarantee provided by the Inter-Religious Council (IRC) on behalf of our Inter-Faith Communities, to strongly ensure that congregations comply with the full range of agreed health and safety guidelines which continue to be in force (including without limitation, regular hand-washing or use of alcohol-based sanitizer, temperature checks, proper use of face masks, maintaining safe distance and regular disinfection).

NaCOVERC however, wishes to register its dismay over sporting and entertainment activities taking place in several communities in the country, notwithstanding the ban on such activities. NaCOVERC is informed about club-like and wild social party-styled violations, some of which seem to be convened at secret locations to escape the scope of enforcement personnel. NaCOVERC is also alerted to plans by some people and institutions to organize trade fairs, street and beach carnivals, and other large-scale entertainment events in December. **ALL THOSE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING SECRET SOCIETIES REMAIN BANNED.**

The general public is reminded that actions in violation of the health and safety regulations in force, have the tendency of reversing the gains made in managing the outbreak. Activities especially in the Western Area will continue to be vigilantly monitored, and any compromise of such measures, including proper use of face mask, regular hand-washing and keeping safe distance, will be appropriately dealt with.

Remember, CORONA FET, NA WE ALL FET.



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Spokesperson

Visit our websites www.mic.gov.sl and www.dhse.gov.sl Dial *468# or SMS 468 for COVID self-checks, tips and updates