

Men of honour doing the honourable

The current situation in the country of national lockdown that has been put in place by the government with its efforts to fight the spread of Covid-19 has left most disadvantaged families in a dire situation. With no means of putting bread on the table, life has been tough for such families. To help with relief to such families Men of Honour Burial Society in Zamdela is currently running a food parcel initiative that will go a long way in assisting families that has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in that area.

Men of Honour Burial Society is a social organization based in Zamdela and has 60 members. Its three core pillars are burial support, social and financial investments. According to the Secretary General of the society Stone Makhema, members were

requested to identify and motivate for families and organisations that the society can assist.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has affected our everyday lives, socially and economically there has been a decline in the well-being of our society and affected mostly are the poorest of the poor. As the society we had to find a way of making some contribution with these food parcels that we hope will make a difference to those families and organisations.

"For now about 40 food parcels will be handed over to such families and organizations" said Makhema. The society has invested R10 000.00 to join in with number of organisations that also aim in making a meaningful contributions to the community.



World Press Freedom Day

-2020 Theme: Journalism without Fear or Favour

As the [COVID-19] pandemic spreads, it has also given rise to a second pandemic of misinformation, from harmful health advice to wild conspiracy theories. The press provides the antidote: verified, scientific, fact-based news and analysis. -UN Secretary-General António Guterres

On May 3, national and local celebrations for World Press Freedom Day took place around the world, some in the form of online debates and workshops.

UNESCO is launching a global campaign on media and social media channels, with a focus on "Journalism without Fear or Favour" in an increasingly complex media landscape. On May 3rd an interactive free livestreamed event to celebrate World Press Freedom Day 2020 was hosted: "Difference Day Conference 2020." Also, on May 4th through the 6th, there will be several events including: High-level Dialogue on Press Freedom and Tackling Disinformation in the COVID-19 context, webinars, and online discussions via Facebook Live, YouTube, and Microsoft teams, amongst other digital platforms. Details are available on the UNESCO site.

The sub-themes for this year are:

- Safety of Women and Men Journalists and Media Workers
 - Independent and Professional Journalism free from Political and Commercial Influence
 - Gender Equality in All Aspect of the Media
- World Press Freedom Conference 2020 Organized annually since 1993, the Global Conference provides an opportunity to journalists, civil society representatives, national authorities, academics and the broader public to discuss emerging challenges to press freedom and journalists' safety, and to work together on identifying solutions. The Netherlands is the host for 2020. UNESCO and The Netherlands had planned to hold the Conference from 22 to 24 April at the World Forum in The Hague. It is now scheduled for 18 to 20 October at the same venue. It will be a joint celebration of World Press Freedom Day (3 May) and the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (2 November).

The decision to postpone the conference has been taken to minimize costs and risks for all involved, in the wake of the decision by the World Health Organization declaring COVID-19 a global pandemic.

The planning of the conference was well underway; with more than 1,000 registered participants and 60 confirmed sessions. The programme included the first-ever international forum of legal actors, an academic conference on the safety of journalists, a press freedom festival targeting

youth, and the award ceremony of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, among many other sessions. The most important networks of media stakeholders had already confirmed their attendance. The conference organizers invite all partners to continue their engagement with this event and will work towards ensuring the same programme with an even greater level of participation in October. More information is available on the UNESCO FAQ page.

Origin and Purpose

World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.

May 3 acts as a reminder to governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom. It is also a day of reflection among media professionals about issues of press freedom and professional ethics. It is an opportunity to:

- celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom;
- assess the state of press freedom throughout the world;
- defend the media from attacks on their independence;
- and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

JOURNALISM WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

**WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY
3 MAY 2020**

[#WorldPressFreedomDay](https://www.unesco.org/en/worldpressfreedomday)



Churches urged to respect rules

The Council of African Independent Churches (CAIC) has pleaded with churches and their congregants to be humble enough and respect the lockdown regulations as set by the government of the Republic of South Africa. This comes as President Cyril Ramaphosa has extended



CAIC General Secretary Bishop TS Ngcana

the initial period of 21 days with two more weeks until the end of April in an effort to flatten the curve of Coronavirus. The Council, which was established in 1982 and has been affiliated with the South African Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches, has a membership of 351 churches situated in various parts of the country.

CAIC General Secretary Bishop TS Ngcana said it was important for the church to listen and respect those in authority because authority was established by God. By doing so, the church will be leading as an example to all the people of the country and will also be assisting the government in its effort to ensure the good health of all its citizens.

"We have communicated thoroughly with our member churches to abide by the regulations in place to contribute to the fight against this pandemic" said the Bishop. The call of CAIC comes at the time when there have been reported cases in the media of church members and their pastors, who have been arrested while in the middle of church services. It also comes after the Covid-19 cases in Bloemfontein in the Free State emanated from a church gathering.