

Message from the Pro Grand Master

Dear Brethren and Companions, These are difficult and testing times for us all. First, I wanted to thank each and every one of you for your patience and understanding during this challenging and worrying period.

Coronavirus is going to be with us for some considerable time, and I am certain you are as disappointed as I am that we have, reluctantly, suspended all Masonic activity. I trust that you will agree that it was the right course of action at the right time.

I appreciate the enormous disruption that this will cause all of us, and also the hole left in our lives by the withdrawal of something we hold enormously dear. To those of you who have been Masons for but a few months, this may seem a little strange, but to those like me, who have been 'bitten by the bug', we cannot help but feel bewilderment and sadness at how quickly something so important has been taken away from us, albeit temporarily.

For the next few months we may not see as much of each other as we have recently; we may be spread throughout the country, or indeed the world and we may have things asked of us which sit outside the ordinary compass of our experience. From a personal point of view, being over 70 and diabetic I am taking the "lock down" seriously, as I am sure all brethren in the same situation will. There are, of course, a great many in this position and it is not easy with no, even vague, end date in sight. My real sympathies are with those who live alone. I am lucky, I have a wife, as well as our children all of whom are most supportive and our daughter is arranging our shopping needs, where they can't be delivered. I do hope that many of our brethren are in the same boat and over and above that, we all have our large and active masonic community to rely on. We are luckier than most.

My youngest son is adamant that the best way forward is to try to have some form of structure in our day, as that is what we have been used to most of our lives, albeit in a very different format. I suspect that, in the current times, the structure will take on a rather strange appearance. We live in a reasonably isolated area and can walk for over an hour without seeing anyone, therefore I think the dog is going to get a great deal fitter (and could even become a better ritualist!); my office might become and stay tidy and I can catch up with all those things I have been putting off for far too long. This won't take up 3 months or whatever time is required, but I am sure other activities will develop as time goes by. Anything to keep mind and body active. Of course, at some point in the future, life will return again to normal.

I have already mentioned trying to keep a structure in our



lives. Freemasonry is a very well-structured institution. Currently that structure has been disturbed, but rest assured that, whilst The Book of Constitutions is pretty rigid on some subjects, ways will be found to ensure that we get Lodges and Chapters back onto the right format as quickly as possible after the resumption. This difficult period will run its course, and move into history and our Lodges and Chapters will begin to meet again. Candidates will experience the wonder of the initiation ceremony, Bro Treasurers will again chase their profligate Brethren for dues, Grand Officers will, more's the pity, sit 'tutting' on the back rows over some ceremonial sleight, imagined or actual, and the rhythm of our masonic lives will once again return to normal.

Over the last few years we have been trying to stress that Freemasonry must remain

relevant to society and I have never been in doubt that this has been the case in many ways. However, it has never been more relevant than it is right now. What we do in the next few months, will be written into our Lodge and Chapter histories and will test us, as an organisation and as people perhaps more than anything in our lifetimes. I think it is fair to say that I cannot remember a more testing time for the organisation, for society and for the country. We need to step up and do our part, as we have in difficult times past, to help those, our less fortunate Brethren, their families and the communities from which we are drawn.

That is why, we have, today, released a joint statement with the MCF, the Freemasons' Charity, committing to help those in need. Up and down the country, in Provinces large and small, Freemasons are coming together to help those who find themselves at life's lowest ebb. I encourage those of you who feel able to safely commit both time and effort to think on how you might play a very small part in this worthy National effort. There are many great ideas already out there, and we will be sharing these and how successful they are as things develop.

We will need your dedication, flexibility and patience over the coming weeks and months to help each other through these turbulent times. Freemasonry has weathered many storms in its centuries-long history. It will weather this one too, and we will emerge ready for the challenges of, I suspect, a very different world.

Look after yourselves, brethren, and I trust we can get back to normality in the not too distant future. I wish you and your families good health and happiness, and more than your fair share of luck.

RW Bro Peter Lowndes

Message from our District Grand Master

As we are approaching the end of the stipulated lockdown period, our future is going to be one of gradual implementation in order to retain what we were accustomed to. During the initial period, we have seen and witnessed panic, frustration, desperation, hunger, sadness, unemployment and the reduction in social gatherings, encompassing a need to do unto others as you would wish them do to unto you.

I, therefore, wish to express my gratitude to the people of the world in general and to the Brethren and families in the District of KwaZulu-Natal in particular for the sacrifices each one has had to endure that has been necessary in an attempt overcome the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Coinciding with this period of isolation, it would be incorrect to say that, because there has been no Masonic Meetings, there is no Freemasonry. This would, and is, a devastating statement which is overruled by the dissemination of information from the United Grand Lodge of England, communication from the District Grand Lodge followed by the WhatsApp chirps and charity drives to the needy, culminating in Brethren wanting to return to their respective Temples, instilling that sense of belonging to our wonderful Fraternity.

This Coronavirus will have a detrimental effect on the District and Lodge Charities, including the Masonic Services monthly hamper distribution. These entities rely on the income from personal donations, Lodge finances and Alms collection at meetings. It is also envisaged that certain Brethren will not be able to fulfil their obligation as to Annual Dues, hence, Lodges are seriously to consider affording assistance in order to pour the healing balm of consolation into the bosom of the afflicted.

Within the District there are Brethren who receive monthly grants and Brethren who are requesting grants. Monies emanates from the District Charity



Fund which is supported by the Grand Charity Fund. However, with escalating cost consideration might necessitate in the reduction of recipients which is contrary to our teachings or principles, Charity.

The Wesley Francis Memorial Education Fund, which is Inter-Constitutional, requires support to improve the education level of the accepted. To this end, the District is considering to embark on two charity events per year one of which will be an annual event with every Lodge contributing towards or supporting the charitable event.

To the Widow Son's, we must extend our grateful and appreciated thanks for all you do for the community, thereby, making it a better place today than it was yesterday. Well done!

The District extends the congratulation and appreciation to Worshipful Brother R.T. Potter, President of the Board, for overseeing the additional three cottages at the Russell Mews Masonic Complex. The respective units have been allocated with other on a waiting list.

The 245th Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge is under consideration and entirely depends on the situation within the country. We wait with anticipated breath to hear the South African President's recommendation address. If negative, refer to the procedure document dated 10th April 2020.

The Brethren of the District await in anticipation in meeting you one and all socially or within your Masonic Temple, but in the meantime, act wisely, keep a gentle eye on the vulnerable, cheerfully reassuring the anxious and the despondent whilst we steadfastly face the inevitable uncertainties within our respective lives; but above all, may the Great Architect bless and guide us in our endeavours.

RW Bro Anthony Strong



D.I.M.S. Lodge Master proclaimed for 2nd Term

The first Installation of the District's Masonic year 2020 was held on the 28th of January 2020 at which WBro Bernie Davenport was proclaimed WM of the Durban Installed Masters Lodge No 9642 for a second year.

WBro Davenport was first installed as Master of the Lodge on the 29th of January 2019, one year ago to the date.

The Lodge membership is made up of Past Masters (currently standing at 19 members) and as such offers assistance to other Lodges in the District to carry out, on their behalf, Ceremonies of Passing & Raising.

During 2019, the Lodge conducted three Ceremonies of Passing: Bro A. Lotter on behalf of Inanda Lodge (30th April); Bro J Carslow on behalf of Duguza Lodge (30th July) and Bro Ramasar on behalf of Port Natal Lodge (29th October).

Presenting his interim report, WBro Davenport reported that the Lodge's financial situation was very good and thanked the outgoing Treasurer, WBro Ian Pace for the impeccable work he put in in maintaining the Lodge's books and accounts.

A sum of R5000.00 was donated to Masonic Services in May Last year. The Lodge donated R500.00 to a severely disabled ex-serviceman by the name of Cameron Wilson to allow him take part in an annual fishing competition at Irene. A sum of R13 000.00 is now being donated to District Grand Charity.

The Lodge has an ongoing project with Highway



Above: The Master and his Wardens, ready for the another memorable D.I.M.S. Lodge evening

Hospice to regenerate the Memorial part of the garden.

Visits were made to various Lodges in the District, and assistance was given at some of these visits to fill offices for various ceremonies. The Master and several brethren also visited Sister Constitution ceremonies at Scottish and Irish Lodges.

WBro Davenport indicated that his second term will revolve around Visiting and, as there are only 3 usable meetings, more emphasis will be placed on assisting Lodge's with workings within their Lodge.

In concluding his interim report, WBro Davenport thanked the officers and brethren of the D.I.M.S. Lodge for the support they have given him during his first year as Master and is looking forward to an even better year in 2020.



News from the District Grand Almoner

WBro Patrick Marot Macquet

Grants from District and Grand Masonic Charity Foundation

During the past year (2019/2020), the DG Almoner contacted and visited most recipients of District grants.

“We started with 15 recipients and had to stop one for non-compliance; one who requested help up to December and one death. We now have only 12 recipients”, states WBro Macquet.

The District has now been assisting those 12 recipients to the value of R209 420 for the last 12 months.

“We also received another amount of R.44, 200 for 1 recipient from Grand Charity”.

The total amount distributed for the last year was R.253 620.

“A few Lodges also support brethren and widows directly for which I thank and congratulate them”, says WBro Macquet. “We are still receiving request for grants from brethren, but after reviewing their request, we had to turn down some of them for different reasons”.

Sick Brethren

The sick in hospital and at home were regularly visited and also assisted those in distress.



“We do keep in contact telephonically with them” says WBro Macquet. “Unfortunately we lost 11 of our Brethren who were called to the Grand Lodge above.”

Cottages & Flats

Scottburgh Surfer's Paradise:

Only one of the four flats is being rented out and the others are now occupied by two widows and one brethren.

Hayfields Russell Mens:

All the six cottages and three flats are currently occupied by five widows and four brethren and there are names on the waiting list. We have an additional 3 new units which are already booked and just waiting to be finished.

“I would like to thanks the members of my committee and the Chain Officers and everyone who help for their tireless support and also all the Lodge Almoner for keeping in touch with me”, states a grateful WBro Macquet.

“In conclusion, we should strive for self-sufficiency and would like to see Lodges which we support in form of grant to be more generous so that we can help more brethren in distress”.

Daily messages of support & encouragement from a brother appreciated during these challenging times

Encouragement is one of the most common ways through which individuals express support for one another. Words of encouragement work like energy pills: they can give us the strength we need to overcome the obstacles that lay between us and the light at the end of the tunnel.

Since the start of the nation-wide lockdown on the 19th of March 2020, **WBro Jurek Krajewski** has been doing exactly that, by posting messages of support and encouragement on various Masonry social media, including the KZN Freemasonry Whatsapp group. In uncertain and stressful times like these, heartfelt messages like those provided by Bro Jurek are welcome and inspirational.

Thank you, Bro Jurek for the taking the time to share these motivational messages with us!



DGL of KZN announces contingency measures for Lodges during Lockdown

RW Bro A Strong, DGM

As the coronavirus (Covid-19) continues to spread worldwide, the lockdown measures instituted by the South African Government was extended from the 16th April 2020 to the 30st April 2020 after which a further evaluation will be made and communicated. This, unfortunately, is the beginning of a very difficult and trying period with encountered challenges to be successfully accomplished.

This has and is having a serious impacted on our families, our Brethren and Lodges, therefore, the undermentioned measures must be instituted to preserve our Order whilst at the same time endeavouring to retain our membership:

1. Regular Lodge meetings

- ◇ The Lodge Secretary must issue a summons for the Regular Meeting and that it is circulated to the District Chain Officers, District Grand Secretary and the Lodges Secretaries.
- ◇ The Brethren will give notice that they cannot attend with non-responders being deemed to have given notice to the same effect.
- ◇ The Lodge Secretary then deems the Lodge Meeting to be abandoned and writes the minutes to the effect with the recommended wording 'The Regular Meeting of the Lodge No on the was duly called in accordance with the attached summons. Owing to the incidence of the Coronavirus Pandemic the required quorum to open the Lodge could not be assembled and the meeting was abandoned'.
- ◇ The Treasure to submit the financial report including accounts for payment to the Secretary for inclusion in the minutes together with all correspondence.
- ◇ At the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge the Minutes of the abandoned Meeting to be approved by those present and duly signed by the Master.
- ◇ The Treasure to arrange for a Charity collection, the proceeds forwarded to the District Charity



Fund. This amount to be recorded within the minutes.

2. Installations Meetings

The Lodge Secretary must issue a summons appertaining to the Installation Meeting and follow the abovementioned procedure. Full details to be given as to whether it will be a Proclamation or an Installation of Brother or Worshipful Brother

If the Master is remaining in the Chair, a proclamation will be made at the first Regular Meeting after the abandoned meeting including the Investiture of Officer. This procedure is back dated to the initial Installation date indicating that all officers have served in the office for a full term of one year.

◇ If the Master is to relinquish the Chair to a successor, unfortunately due to circumstances, must remain in the Chair for another year as Master of the Lodge. If a Master has already served a two year term dispensation will be given for a third term.

◇ The reasoning for the above-mentioned two items is that a Master must serve a term of office of one year.

◇ The Lodges which are effected is Southern Cross, Ikwezi and Duguza at this point in time. Refer to the Installation

date schedule should the lockdown continue.

3. Annual Communication

In the event that the Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge of KwaZulu-Natal being cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the possibility exists, the procedure will be as follows.

◇ The Notice for the 245th Communication of the District Grand Lodge to be circulated to the respective Lodges including the Sister Constitutions.

As there is no specific Rule that how many Brethren have to be present to convene a Communication meeting guidance will be taken from the Craft Regulations. Minimum of five Brethren must be present to open the Lodge.



- ◇ A Chains Meeting will then be convened to:
- i) Read the notice for the 245th Annual Communication and approve the minutes of the 244th Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge;
 - ii) As the District Grand Treasurer is remaining in office those present will approve the election and declare Worshipful Brother duly elected. Similar procedure for the District Grand Auditor. Both Offices back dated to the Communication date;
 - iii) Reports from the various committees will be approved and entered in the minutes. Reports to be circulated to all Lodges for communication to the Brethren;
 - iv) The Assistant District Grand Master, designate, cannot be approved at the Chains Meeting. The Installation will be performed within a nominated Lodge with the presentation, obligation and investiture with the Chain of Office. The term of office will be back dated to the communication date;
 - v) The list of the Active District Officers which includes those remaining in Office together with the newly appointed Officers will be read and approved but back dated to the Communication date;
 - vi) Past Rank will follow the abovementioned procedure;
 - vii) Relevant sections of the District Grand Masters Report will be discussed with the report circulated to all Lodges for communication to the Brethren;
 - viii) Discuss any other relevant business.
- Other meetings that are going to be effected are:**
- ⇒ GLSA Communication
 - ⇒ Chains Meeting convened by the Scottish Constitution.
- Brethren, this is the envisaged plan but is subject to change depending on the present situation within Our Country. The District has a number of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Freemason and the message to them is do not loose heart but endeavour to make a daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge by reading masonic literature, the internet for the United Grand Lodge of England Solomon programs or by making contact with your Proposer and Secunder. Keep in touch for we need you as the future of Freemasonry in KwaZulu Natal.
- Finally, I ask you one and all to keep a close watch on our elderly Brethren, their families and widows who are vulnerable to this Coronavirus Pandemic with particular reference to those living alone. Continue with the witnessed Charity efforts which is the foundation of our Fraternity.

Questions and answers pertaining to Royal Arch Masonry

Courtesy of United Grand Lodge of England

- Question:** My Chapter elected its Principals for the ensuing year, but was not able to install them before the First Grand Principal, in his capacity as Grand Master, suspended all meetings; can they be installed once the suspension is lifted?
- Answer:** Yes. The Royal Arch Regulations are much more flexible in this respect, and Regulation 48 provides that any Principal not installed on the regular date shall be installed at the next Convocation of the Chapter at which he may be present. The next Convocation could be an emergency convocation (for which no dispensation is required provided that it is held at the Chapter's regular place of meeting, Regulation 59).
- Question:** I am currently Third Principal Elect of my Chapter (for the first time). If I cannot be installed on the regular date will I be eligible in a year's time to progress to Second Principal?
- Answer:** Yes, provided that a year will have elapsed since you were elected as Third Principal and have been installed before the next election is held. Even if you cannot satisfy the latter condition, the Grand Superintendent has power under Regulation 50 to grant a dispensation.
- Question:** It has not been, or will not be possible to elect my Chapter's Principals for next year in accordance with its by-laws, and the Installation is due to take place before the suspension ends. Can Principals be elected and installed after the suspension is over?
- Answer:** Yes. The Royal Arch Regulations make no provision for failure to elect Principals and therefore under Regulation 73 the Book of Constitutions applies. Rule 106 provides that the situation is dealt with in the same way as if the Master Elect had died etc., which in turn refers you back to Regulation 54, which allows Principals to be elected (of which notice must be given on the summons); and they can be installed forthwith.

Masonry after lockdown

WBro David Zavad, DG Mentor

Brethren, I believe that after lockdown, and we are allowed to leave the confines of our homes, whenever that is, we need to be thinking out of the box with regards our meetings in the early non-lockdown stages.

There will inevitably be restrictions on meetings of more than 10/20/30 people at one place or whatever the Government decides to implement. Also, there may be a reluctance of some brethren to attend meetings in a closed Lodge room.

Therefore, I am challenging all brethren to think out-of-the-box about holding meetings for the first few months after lockdown.

Here are some of my ideas. Please let me know your thoughts and some suggestions you may have:

1. Possibly to meet outside our usual Lodge Rooms, to do administration before engaging on some outdoor activity, bearing in mind to keep up social distancing at all times, in line with then current Government rules.
2. Such activities could be tendering to the gardens of Old age home, orphanages, or other community places; food distribution and caring for those in need.
3. Cleaning of our Lodge rooms/buildings and surrounds, or any activity as the brethren are interested in, and on a day/weekend other than the



usual Lodge night, whatever suits the majority of the members, as I am sure dispensations to change venues, and dates will be available under the circumstances

4. Utilise various IT virtual meeting platforms, such as Zoom* meetings or similar (see page 12 of this newsletter)
5. If brethren do not have access to Zoom or the like, to hold conference calls on cell phones – to keep in touch, and discuss future plans.

Editor's Note: Superb suggestions from our DG Mentor! In line with point 3, WBro (Dr) Frans Roodt strongly recommends the extensive cleaning of the and the improvement of ventilation within our Lodge rooms.



<https://zoom.us/>

* Zoom is a cloud-based video conferencing service you can use to virtually meet with others - either by video or audio-only or both, all while conducting live chats - and it lets you record those sessions to view later. Over half of Fortune 500 companies reportedly used Zoom in 2019. When people are talking about Zoom, you'll usually hear the following phrases: Zoom Meeting and Zoom Room. A Zoom Meeting refers to a video conferencing meeting that's hosted using Zoom. You can join these meetings via a [webcam](#) or phone.

Group video conferences can host up to 500 participants (if you purchase the "large meeting" add-on). The free plan, however, allows you to host video conferences of up to 40 minutes and up to 100 participants.



WIDOWS SONS

EAST COAST CHAPTER



Donation to Little Lambs

Little Lambs, situated in Kloof, Durban, is NON PROFIT ORGANISATION a crisis/transition home for abandoned or abused babies and children.

On the 22 March 2020, Justine Royce (Wife of Bro Brain, our Charity Officer), spotted a plea by Little Lambs in Kloof for Baby formula, as they were on the last tin. It was put onto Tylers Swords Whatsapp group, and it was agreed to donate a few tins of Formula to them. Widows Sons then made a 2nd delivery of baby formula on the 17th April, during the Covid 19 Lockdown.



Do Something For Someone Who Can Never Repay You!

With Lockdown in full swing in South Africa, the poor are absolutely under attack in this dark time we are faced with at the moment.

one phone call took us to a home in Seaview where people have been living for quiet some time under difficult times with just on 90 people living on one property (35 children) the Widows Sons together with Wbro Pace and Bro Carslow done weekly donations of Food and some medical donations to help these people make ends meet, with only some of these residents finding temporary work they in turn handed over their full wage packet to help feed each other. Their appreciation was truly evident and one only wishes we could help more .



A new District Grand Master for the Scots in KZN

Bro Dave Hauptfleisch, DDGM, S.C.



RW Bro Peter F Sutherland, Immediate PDGM; MW Grand Master Mason Bro W Ramsay McGhee and the new DGM, RW Kenneth B Tucker

The 30th October 2019 saw the coming to a conclusion of the happy and successful term of office of the former District Grand Master, Scottish Constitution in KwaZulu-Natal, Bro Peter F. Sutherland when his Patent from the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason expired.

The very next day, the 31st of October 2019, marked the commencement, in accordance with his Patent, of the term of office of his successor, Bro Kenneth B Tucker as District Grand Master of this Province. Bro Tucker consequently officially assumed the responsibilities, duties, obligations and privileges of that venerable office on that day, although his formal Installation had not yet been effected.

The Grand Master Mason was due to be in South Africa in February and March this year for a series of official functions and it was thought opportune to delay Bro Tucker's Installation until then, and at the same time to combine it with the bi-annual District Grand Lodge Communication, usually held in April, on 14 March.

So, after much preparation and everything that goes with such an occasion, the 14th March 2020 finally arrived. The Masonic Temple in Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg was filled to capacity early on the day when

some 130 souls arrived from all over the Province, and elsewhere, to witness this important event. It was also unique in the sense that this was the first occasion for the Installation of the District Grand Master of the Scottish Constitution to be held at the Hayfields Temple.

The guests of honour, in addition to the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Bro W Ramsay McGhee, accompanied by the Grand Treasurer, Bro Jim Bell, included, notably, several members of Lodge Roodepoort Caledonian No. 865, S.C. (Bro Tucker's Mother Lodge); the District Grand Master, Central South Africa, Bro Jimmy Kerr, and Brethren; the District Grand Master and Brethren of the Eastern Province; the District Grand Master and Brethren of the Western Province; the District and Provincial Grand Masters of our Sister Constitutions in Natal with their senior Office-bearers, as well as several of Bro Tucker's personal Masonic friends and colleagues. The fantastic support by Scottish Masons of Lodges from near and far throughout the Province was most encouraging for the to-be Installed District Grand Master.

The formal Installation of Bro Kenneth Buick Tucker as District Grand Master of KwaZulu-Natal, S.C., while admittedly following a prescribed format, was conducted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master,

ably assisted by the Grand Treasurer, Bro Jim Bell in a most impressive ceremony. One could do well to attempt to emulate Bro McGhee in the quality and standard of his enunciation and presentation which made quite an impression on many of those present!

The Grand Master Mason, assisted by Bro Bell, thereupon proceeded with the Installation in an equally impressive ceremony of Bro Tucker's Commissioned Office-bearers, namely, Bro Dave Hauptfleisch as Depute District Grand Master; Bros Robert Ramshaw and Mike Wooldridge as Substitute District Grand Masters and Bros Eric Schemel and Nic Chianese as District Grand Chaplains.



The DGM, RW Bro KB Tucker surrounded by distinguished brethren from the Scottish and Sister Constitutions



Then came the long-awaited Festive Board which took the form of a sit-down luncheon at the Maritzburg Golf Club. A truly awesome and sumptuous affair where we could relax after the day of stress for all of us, not the least for the newly-installed District Grand Master. On reflection, it was a wise decision to host the event at that venue rather than at the Masonic Hall in Assegai Road! And needless to say, the staff of the Club did themselves proud. All in all, a perfect ending to a most successful day!

Congratulations and thank you to all who were involved!



Virtual meetings during the Covid-19 lockdown

Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

The two Lodges that have taken the initiative to hold 'virtual fraternal fellowship meetings' are **St. John's Lodge No.492** and **Waladli Lodge No. 9887** – both situated in Antigua. Even the District Grand Master, Clement Bird, took part in the virtual meeting of St. John's Lodge No. 492.

Star of the East Lodge No. 880 in Zakynthos, Greece, held one of its regular virtual meetings on Wednesday 15th April; however, this was a meeting with a difference. Greece, this week sees the celebration of the Orthodox Easter Week and the Lodge had arranged for all the past Masters to record a special Easter Greeting video message that would be shared by the Brethren during the virtual meeting; however, the meeting was opened with a special video message from none other than our Assistant Grand Master, Sir David Wootton. As someone who has visited the Lodge on a number of occasions, Sir David kindly agreed to record his message that, along with one from Lister Park of District Support, was extremely well-received by the virtually-assembled Brethren.

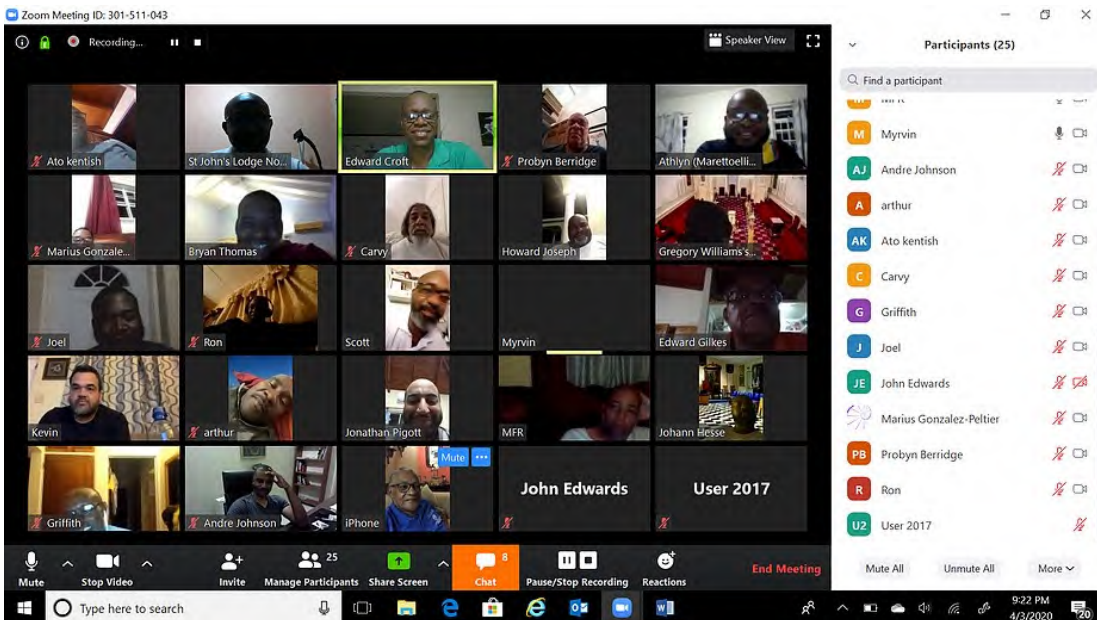


Hey! Worshipfull Your Secretary says, "enable your web-camera to join in on your web-lodge."

South America, Southern Division

Belgrano Lodge No. 3466 is holding virtual meetings and taking part in the #TimetoToast nine o'clock Twitter initiative.

Many other Districts are using a variety of online video conferencing software to maintain Masonic relations alive in their respective Districts and finding the content on **Solomon** extremely useful to aid discussions and take part in the various quizzes on offer.



District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

With the lockdown firmly in place, many of the Lodges in the District are utilising Zoom to hold virtual meetings to maintain Masonic relations and ensure the well-being of the more vulnerable Brethren is continuously being monitored.

Something to think about doing in our District? It may be some time until we will meet again in our Lodges!

Source: The District *bUGLE* - 17/04/2020



What is COVID-19?

Human Coronaviruses are common throughout the world. There are many different coronaviruses identified in animals but only a small number of these can cause disease in humans.

On 7 January 2020, ‘Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2’ (SARS-CoV-2) was confirmed as the causative agent of ‘Coronavirus Disease 2019’ or COVID-19. The majority of the case-patients initially identified were dealers and vendors at a seafood, poultry and live wildlife market in China. Since then, the virus has spread to more than 100 countries, including South Africa.

Who is most at risk?

Currently, travellers to areas where there is ongoing sustained transmission of COVID-19 including Mainland China (all provinces), Hong Kong, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Italy and the Islamic Republic of Iran are at greatest risk of infection.

Furthermore, the elderly, individuals with co-morbidities and healthcare workers have been found to be at a higher risk of death.

How is it transmitted?

While the first cases probably involved exposure to an animal source, the virus now seems to be spreading from person-to-person.

The spread of the disease is thought to happen mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. Thus far, the majority of cases have occurred in people with close physical contact to cases and healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Current symptoms reported for patients with COVID-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or fever.

The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is still not fully clear. Reported illnesses have ranged from infected people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying.

How is COVID-19 treated?

Treatment is supportive (providing oxygen for patients with shortness of breath or treating a fever, for example). To date, there is no specific antiviral treatment available. Antibiotics do not treat viral infections. However, antibiotics may be required if a bacterial secondary infection develops.

How can you prevent infection?

The following can provide protection against infection from Coronaviruses and many other viruses that are more common in

South Africa:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay at home when you are sick and try and keep a distance from others at home.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a flexed elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What we are doing in South Africa?

On 23 March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a new measure to combat the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus in South Africa – a three-week nationwide lockdown with severe restrictions on travel and movement, supported by the South African National Defence Force – from midnight on Thursday, 26 March, to midnight on Thursday, 16 April. This lockdown was extended another 14 days until 30 April 2020.

In essence, this meant people would only be allowed to leave their homes to buy food, seek medical help or under other extreme circumstances.

The lockdown follows government regulations that limited public gatherings, travel from high-risk countries and the sale of alcohol. In addition, borders were closed to reduce the rate of infection from those travelling into South Africa from other countries. A quarantine was also enforced on inbound travellers and returning citizens.

Latest measures

On **Wednesday, 1 April 2020**, Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize, launched 60 new mobile laboratories to boost the country’s capacity to test for COVID-19.

The sampling and testing units, procured by the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), will be deployed nationwide to all priority districts and metros.

10,000 community health care workers will be deployed across the country for door-to-door household screening. Each province has been requested to start working on this strategy by deploying provincial community healthcare workers, with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, to undertake a house-to-house programme of “no-touch” screening for Covid-19 symptoms and to refer symptomatic people to clinics for testing.

On **23 April 2020**, the President announced gradual lockdown easing measures from the 1st of May 2020 (see page 14 of this newsletter). The details of these measures will be made public via the media.

COVID-19

Online Resource & News Portal
SAcoronavirus.co.za



health
Department of Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Source: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/information-about-the-virus>

Information verified by WBro (Dr) FCA Roodt

Up-date on Corona Virus in South Africa

National Covid-19 lockdown to be gradually eased

On 23 April 2020, the President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, announced that beyond Thursday 30 April 2020, a gradual and phased recovery of economic activity would begin. In this regard, a risk-adjusted strategy will be implemented through which the Government will take a deliberate and cautious approach to the easing of current lockdown restrictions. This approach is necessary as there is still much that is unknown about the rate and manner of the spread of the Coronavirus within our population.

“The action we take now must therefore be measured and incremental”, the President stated. “This approach is guided by the advice from scientists who have advised that an abrupt and uncontrolled lifting of restrictions could cause a massive resurgence in infections”.

The President also reiterated that “we cannot take action today that we will deeply regret tomorrow”. Therefore, a rushed re-opening that could risk a spread must be avoided, which could lead to another hard lockdown, as has happened in other countries.

The Government has, subsequently, have developed a 5 Level approach that determines the measures that should be in place based on the direction of the pandemic in our country. To ensure that the response to the pandemic can be as precise and targeted as possible, there will be a national level and separate levels for each province, district and metro in the country. Changes in alert levels will be announced in the media.

The 5 levels of lockdown

Here's what life will look like under each of South Africa's five levels of Covid-19 restrictions.



Level 5: life under lockdown

Level 5 is the hard lockdown South Africa has come to know:
Only essentials may be bought, and only essentials may be made.

Level 4: essentials, and a little bit extra

You'll be able to buy even non-essential stuff from stores already open to sell food – but not booze.

Postal delivery will resume.

E-hailing and taxis will be allowed at any time, but with limits on how many passengers each may carry.

Industries to reopen include: agriculture (including wine-making), open-cast mining, and all financial and professional services.

Level 3: takeaways, booze, and clothes

Some domestic air travel will return, but with limited flights per day – and authorisation required to travel.

You'll be able to buy takeaway food and order from Uber Eats and Mr D.

Online stores will be allowed to sell and deliver.

Clothing stores will be open – and you will be able to buy hardware even if you aren't a plumber.

Booze will be on sale again, albeit during restricted hours.

Also back on sale: stationery, cellphones and computers, and books.

Industries to reopen include: carmakers, chemicals, and Transnet.

Level 2: you can fly, and domestic workers return

Domestic workers will be allowed to return to work, and informal waste-pickers will be allowed on the street.

You'll be able to fly without an excuse, albeit only within South Africa.

All retail, manufacturing, and construction will be allowed, with no capacity limits for miners.

Also back: all government services, and installation and maintenance workers.

Level 1: 'restrictions' on international travel

Besides hygiene requirements for public transport, the only limitation at Level 1 would be unspecified "restrictions on international travel".

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Summary of alert levels

ALERT LEVEL 5	ALERT LEVEL 4	ALERT LEVEL 3	ALERT LEVEL 2	ALERT LEVEL 1
OBJECTIVE				
Drastic measures to contain the spread of the virus and save lives.	Extreme precautions to limit community transmission and outbreaks, while allowing some activity to resume.	Restrictions on many activities, including at workplaces and socially, to address a high risk of transmission.	Physical distancing and restrictions on leisure and social activities to prevent a resurgence of the virus.	Most normal activity can resume, with precautions and health guidelines followed at all times. Population prepared for an increase in alert levels if necessary.

WHATSAPP SUPPORT
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0800 029 999
sacoronavirus.co.za



Charge After Coronavirus

Courtesy of WBro John Watson
Provincial Grand Almoner, West Wales

Brethren, as you have passed through the month of your lock-in, let me congratulate you on being a sensible member of our ancient and honourable institution. Ancient no doubt it is, as having subsisted from time when we used to meet, and honourable it must be acknowledged to be, as by a natural tendency it con-duces to make safe those who are obedient to its guideline. Indeed, no institution can boast a more solid foundation than that on which Freemasonry rests - the practice of every safe and social distancing. And to so high an eminence has its credit been ad-vanced that every day Grand Officers them-selves, have not thought it derogatory to their dignity to exchange the black shoe for the carpet slipper, have supported our situation and not joined in our assemblies.

As a Freemason, let me recommend to your most serious contemplation the Volume of Government Guidance, charging you to consider it as the unerring standard of truth and safety, to regulate your actions by the information it contains. Therein you will be taught the important duties you owe to your wife, to your neighbour, and to yourself. To your wife, by never mentioning her choice of evening television remembering that before coronavirus that was her company for at least three nights a week, and by looking up to Her in this emergency for comfort and support. To your neighbour, keeping your distance and not returning his gardening tools you borrowed two months ago in case you may be passing on the virus, by helping him without detriment to your own health, and by doing to him as in similar cases you would wish he would do to you. And to yourself, by such a course of discipline as may best conduce to the preservation of your safety and sanity thereby enabling you to once again at some time be of service to the Brethren and Freemasonry.

As a member of the Province, I am to enjoin you to be exemplary in the discharge of your safety duties, by never exiting your house without due cause or by any act that may have a tendency to risk the health of a Brother, by paying due obedience to the guidance of any authority which has for a time become the place of your residence or afford you its protection, and above all, by never losing sight of the allegiance due to the Grand Lodge of your native land, ever remembering that its daily updates shows their in-dissoluble attachment towards you since your initiation.

As an individual, let me recommend the practice of every domestic' as well as public safety: let Prudence direct you, Temperance sustain you, Brethren sup-port you, and common sense be the guide of all your actions. Be especially careful to maintain your health in its fullest splendour, which you have already amply illustrated by sobriety and temperance.

Still, as a Freemason, there are other excellences of character to which your attention may be peculiarly and forcibly directed: the foremost of these is safety. Safety consists in an inviolable adherence to the guidance you have received never improperly to expose yourself to any of those risks which have now been, or may at any future period be, entrusted to you to keep, and cautiously to avoid all occasions which may inadvertently lead you so to do. Your understanding must be exemplified by a strict observance of the Guidance of UGLE, by ad-hering to the directions of the document, by never attempting to evade or otherwise evading the issues raised, and by refraining from recommending anyone to a disregard of them. Your compliance must be proved by a strict observance of our directions, by prompt attention to all coughs and temperatures, by modest and correct demeanour in the virtual lodge, by abstaining from every topic of negativity.

And as a last general recommendation, let me exhort you to dedicate yourself to such measures as may at once enable you to survive, so as to be useful to man-kind, and not just an ornament to the human race; to study more especially those television short information films as may be shown before your favourite soap opera, and without neglecting the ordinary duties around the house, to endeavour to make a daily advancement towards that glorious day when we all meet again.

From the very commendable attention you appear to have given to this charge, I am led to hope you will duly appreciate the value of safety, and indelibly imprint on your heart the sacred dictates of patience, of sensibility, and of survival.



The 245th Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge of KwaZulu-Natal scheduled for the 13th June 2020 has been cancelled

As we approach the end of the initial lockdown period the South African Government has reduced the country's lockdown level from five to four with certain phasing in of the present restrictions. Unfortunately Public gatherings still remains in lockdown until this Pandemic reflects signs of improvement.

This regulation has greatly impacted on our Masonic commitments and engagements within the District and the Lodges. It is, therefore, for these reasons that the **245th Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge of KwaZulu Natal** scheduled for the **13th June 2020** has been **cancelled**. Following much deliberation this decision was concluded knowing that it is in the best interest and welfare of Brethren and their families.

To formulize the proceedings a Chains Meeting will be arranged

whereupon the proceedings of the abovementioned Annual Communication will be ratified as detailed within procedure dated the 10th April 2020.

The members of District Grand Lodge look forward to meeting you all again when the current life challenges have been overcome, therefore, extend our best wishes to keep healthy and remain safe where ever you maybe within our successful, committed and enthusiastic District.

*Right Worshipful Brother A. Strong
District Grand Master KwaZulu-Natal
26 April 2020*

A possible reason for the disappearance of a number of Masons after Lockdown

