

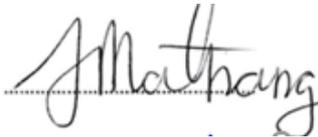
**STATEMENT by the National Executive Committee  
of the South Africa YMCA.**

**March 26, 2020**

In view of the lockdown caused BY COVID-19 and its impact on the normal business and everyday work of the SAYMCA, the National Executive Committee met online on 27<sup>th</sup> March. In recognition of the adverse financial impact on people's lives and its potential to cripple YMCA towards advancing its mission, the NEC have resolved the following:

- Even at this difficult time, an atmosphere be created for YMCA staff and Volunteers to be encouraged to assume a positive mindset about the possibilities of the future
- Local Associations (LAs) be encouraged to find ways to keep YMCA work going remotely and to put in place support and online monitoring systems that will sustain operations. National Staff will be working on a daily basis from their homes, as per the requirement of the State's declaration of a disaster. Staff have been provided with the necessary resources towards carrying out daily activities, in a way that ensures ongoing coordination of the activities that can still take place using digital tools.
- Ensure that the national office continues with its function of supporting local YMCAs and implementing activities towards achieving the set 2020 goals of the South Africa YMCA.
- LA General Secretaries are encouraged to approach relevant government bodies, e.g. Social development and welfare, exploring options of partnering with them for use of our facilities, while seeking to creatively leverage government resources in such efforts. It is cautioned that such efforts should ensure legal support to safeguard the SAYMCA from being exposed to any disadvantages in the long term.
- The LAs reach out to explore possible collaboration with churches and other organisations, as the KZN YMCA has done with KZN Church Leaders Group as they seek to play a meaningful role in the fight against Covid-19. A positive side effect of this partnering will allow the YMCA to increase its visibility to the public eye.

- Student YMCAs be encouraged to explore ways to utilise their facilities in partnership with the universities and to take advantage of other emerging opportunities within the academic world that are geared towards relief and advancing the struggle against the spread of Covid-19.
- As the SAYMCA, we do not view this crisis as a temporary problem that incapacitates the movement but begin to creatively develop ongoing plans to operate within the current environment, as well as develop relevant means of expressing the SAYMCA mission within the current situation.
- Local YMCAs ensure online reporting to World Alliance regarding developments of work in coping within the Covid-19 environment, as well as challenges experienced. This reporting will be coordinated through communication channels established by the National Staff Leadership Team (NLST) and national office.

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**Ruby Mathang**  
**National President**  
**SA YMCA**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sipho Sokhela', written over a horizontal solid line.

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**Sipho Sokhela**  
**National General Secretary**  
**SA YMCA**