



Pretoria, 25 March 2020

Dear Fellow Swiss Citizens,

It is my concern as the Ambassador of Switzerland to South Africa to contact you personally during these difficult times and share my solidarity. The numerous inquiries by email and phone, which the Swiss representations in Pretoria and Cape Town have received in the past few days, show me that many of you, fairly, are worried. This is currently the case for many people in all parts of the world as humanity is facing an enormous challenge in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The nationwide lockdown declared by President Cyril Ramaphosa (from March 27 until April 16, 2020) has a decisive impact on all of us. I am aware of this. The swift but necessary measures taken by the government aim to contain the transmission of the virus and keep the pandemic under control as much as possible. Extraordinary measures are necessary to combat this crisis and I appreciate the efforts taken by the South African government.

During the lockdown, please ensure that self-protection measures remain intact. Take responsibility and protect yourself, your family and your fellow citizens through the conformity with regulations concerning hygiene and respecting physical distancing.

My appeal to you is to abide to the announced measures during the lockdown and follow the instructions of the South African authorities. You can make a very important contribution to overcoming this public health crisis.

During the lockdown, the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Cape Town are still there for you, albeit to a limited extent. I advise you to follow us on social media and consult our website for relevant information.

Thank you very much for your patience during this difficult time and I wish you all good health and lots of strength.

The Ambassador of Switzerland

Nicolas Brühl