



Ambassador

EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

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Amb.01/2020

3rd April 2020

Dear Members of the Pakistani Community,

Asalam-o-Aleikum!

The outbreak of corona virus has presented mankind with a sudden, acute and unique challenge, and all of our lives have been affected by it. At this difficult time, as Representative of the Pakistan Government in Morocco I would like to assure you all, that we here at the Mission stand by you, and are committed to assist you in case you require our help. It is important for our community to remain calm, disciplined and patient as we face this difficult situation together.

2. Happily, our diaspora in Morocco is well settled, and there is a very small number of stranded Pakistani visitors with whom the Mission is in regular contact. Moroccan authorities have also given special attention to the few Pakistani students studying here. Despite the lockdown, we have undertaken a consular visit of the sole Pakistani requiring one. Nevertheless, I would request all of you to immediately inform the Mission in case you learn of any citizen in distress.

3. We would also urge you to comply with all local government instructions and rules in respect of the lockdown, restrictions on movement, public gatherings etc. It is equally important for all of you to ensure the health and safety of your families, friends, colleagues and others in your community by implementing the best practices in terms of hygiene, use of masks, sanitizers and all other preventive measures.

4. Some of you may, in addition to our stranded compatriots, may be keen to travel back to Pakistan. As you are aware all flight operations in

Morocco are currently suspended, and the state of emergency is to remain in force till 20th of April, 2020 -so in a best case scenario no travel should be anticipated prior to that. Even as discussion of reopening Pak Airspace continues, it needs to be understood that travel would only be possible once Moroccan authorities also allow flights to arrive and depart from the Kingdom.

5. Back home, the Government is doing its utmost to grapple with this unique and enormous challenge. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, a herculean collective effort is being undertaken, and every effort is being made to shelter the population and economy from adverse fallout. Mercifully, the number of patients appears to be under control, and thus far the spread of this virus has not been as speedy as in some more unfortunate countries.

6. Here I would like to share with you that the Government is doing its utmost to balance the need for restrictions with the need to allow necessary movement for unavoidable purposes. The safety aspect is being considered along with the need to ensure that each and every home, especially in the poorer segments of society is able to access basic food and nourishment.

7. Despite financial constraints, huge amounts have been dedicated to upgrade medical facilities. Equally importantly, significant steps have been taken to shore up the economy and a mega relief package has been initiated to alleviate the difficulties being faced by the most vulnerable in society.

8. In order to reach out to every household in far flung areas, a volunteer 'Tiger Force' is being raised as a special initiative of the Prime Minister. They will assist state representatives with relief activities at this hour of need. This outbreak is a common challenge and requires a collective response. Back home we have seen the nation come together, as doctors, paramedics, nurses, healthcare and sanitary staff are working shoulder to shoulder with the police, army and other administrative agencies.

9. Similarly, a special fund has been created to accept donations to assist our more needy brethren. The Title of Account is as under:

Account Title: Prime Minister's COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund-2020
Name of Bank: National Bank of Pakistan
Account No: 4162786786
IBAN: PK11NBPA0002004162786786
Swift Code: NBPAPKKAMBR
Name of Branch: Main Branch, 1.1. Chundrigar Road, Karachi
Postal Code: 74500

10. We would request those able and desirous to contribute generously in response to this appeal. Further Account and transfer instructions may be found at nbp.com.pk/COVIDFUND.

11. Finally permit me to conclude by saying that you, the members of the overseas Pakistani community are never far from the thoughts of our leadership. Our Missions constantly receive instructions from the Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary, emphasizing that we must leave no stone unturned in order to assist you. Our engagement with you and updates are similarly communicated back home, directly to the top leadership of the Foreign Ministry who remain concerned for your continued well-being.

12. We here at the Mission remain at your disposal to assist anyone who may require any particular assistance. Please feel free to reach out to us in case of any concerns, queries or if you have anything to share.

13. Details of Emergency Contact Persons are again listed: Mr. Junaid 0667-788186, Mr. Mounir 0663-558392.

14. With my best wishes for your continued good health and safety.

I remain, yours sincerely,



(Hamid Asghar Khan)

Ambassador

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**All Members of the Pakistani
Community living in or visiting
The Kingdom of Morocco**