

MANAGEMENT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) EMERGENCY

DIRECTIVES TO GHANA ECK COMMUNITY

Both the Government of Ghana and ECKANKAR Spiritual Centre (ESC) have issued policy directives to ensure maximum protection against the spreading CORONAVIRUS disease. Both policy directives focus on strict observance of personal hygiene, and limitation of movement and physical contact or gatherings to the barest minimum. Consequently, these directives have a far-reaching impact on the activities of the ECK Community in Ghana.

ECKANKAR Ghana is making available to all chelas a copy of the *ESC Policy Directives* contained in a letter emailed to all chelas worldwide who have provided ESC with their personal email addresses – a copy is attached to this circular to all local areas.

In view of these developments, RESA convened a Joint Emergency Session of the Board of Trustees and Management Team, which directed that all Local Area Management Teams and all chelas are to adhere to the ESC guidance and function as follows:

1. Observance of personal hygiene is of the utmost importance. For ECKists this period constitutes a test of self-discipline, self-responsibility and trust in the protection of the Mahanta; there is the need to do the Spiritual Exercises of ECK faithfully.
2. Suspension of every ECK event through **May 31, 2020** – ECK events include ECK Light and Sound Service, Vahana Programmes, Management and Chela Meetings, Satsang and Book Discussion Classes, Youth activities, ECK Celebrations of Life, Choir and other Creative Artists Practices, etc.
3. Maximum use of available communication technologies (like phone calls, SMS and WhatsApp messaging) for the continued smooth functioning of the Society.
4. Encouragement of chelas to visit the ECKANKAR website, www.eckankar.org and signup for direct ESC updates.
5. ECK Spiritual Aide (ESA) and ECK initiation sessions are excluded from this freeze because they are not group activities. Chelas may request for ESA sessions and Initiations through their Local Directors or directly with available ECK Initiators and ECK Spiritual Aides.
6. Closure of the Temple of ECK Accra, except for minimum essential services provided by a skeletal staff on Wednesdays only in Finance Office, Book Room, Administration, and Mail Office.
7. All ECK Centres will remain closed to Seekers during this period of suspension of ECK activities. A notice of the closure should be placed at the entrance and a phone contact provided. Where an ECK Centre is manned, arrangement could be made for an ECKist who wishes to enter the ECK Centre for individual silent contemplation.

Other Implications of Suspension of ECK Events

8. *Translations and ECK Memorial Services*: Encouragement of families to arrange burials/cremations and request for ECK Memorial Service when the suspension is lifted.
9. *Liberia ECK Regional Seminar*: Postponement to January 29 – 31, 2021. Chelas concerned to be contacted about options regarding (1) Pre-registration Donations: an outright donation; hold it against the new date; or request for a refund. (2) Deposits for Hotel Reservations to be held

- against the new date, or refund. (3) Airline tickets – exploring negotiation of possible extension, etc. Please note that there will be no ECK Regional Seminar in Ghana in January 2021.
10. *2020 ECK African Seminar (EAS)* in Togo (August): RESA for Togo is evaluating the situation to make a decision fairly soon (on retaining the August date, re-scheduling or cancelling the 2020 EAS).
 11. *Local Area DOE* and other activities on the Regional Programme – Local Directors are to consult and make a decision early, and communicate with National on re-scheduling or cancellation.
 12. The *ECK Neighbor Training* on the National Programme is rescheduled for June 13, 2020.
 13. *Chela donations: Second Quarterly Fundraising* is postponed to July 12, 2020. Special donations towards that Fundraising, as well as **Gratitude Donations** can be made directly from the mobile wallets of chelas into ECKANKAR's Bank Account or Mobile Money Merchant Account. Finance Office is also opening a G-Money Account with GCB to make donations easy across the country. The Eckankar Ghana Mobile Money Merchant Account is: **024 626 0827**

Further Updates

14. Encouragement of chelas to study and comply with the Ghana Government and ESC directives, in order to stop this global COVID-19 crisis.
15. Further updates issued by the Government of Ghana and ESC will be communicated promptly to all chelas.

With love of ECK,
RESA