JCTR PRESS STATEMENT CALLING FOR EXTENSIVE MASS SCREENING AND TESTING IN THE COMMUNITIES

For Immediate Release 23rd April, 2020

Let us Stop COVID-19 from Out-running Us

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) commends Government for mass screening and testing done so far in Kafue and being conducted on Thursday April 23 in Emmazdale and Chaisa townships. JCTR also commends Government for undertaking to train health workers at private hospitals in surveillance, case management and infection prevention.

Through the Minister of Health’s daily national updates, we have learnt in the recent past that there are also some other townships and communities in Lusaka that are on the spotlight such as Marapodi, Bauleni, Matero and George townships.

JCTR is concerned that the Ministry of Health is very slow in getting its acts together to conduct mass screening and testing in these communities where some of the recent cases have been reported in order to ensure that human-to-human transmission is prevented. It is evident that in most townships, social distancing and wearing of masks are not being observed, meaning the risk of the virus being spread is high, hence the need for extensive testing. JCTR urges the Ministry of Health to proactively intensify mass screening and testing in the communities instead of just relying on alerts being received from members of the public. We believe this will help in preventing our public health system and our country from being outrun by COVID-19.

It is a shuddering possibility that there might be a lot of undetected cases out there in our communities. The Ministry of Health must act very quickly to stop the spread of the virus in its tracks.

Note: Attribute the statement to The JCTR Deputy Director, Father Alex Muyebe SJ.

For any clarifications contact the Media and Information Office of The JCTR on 0954755319 and 0977883129. Email: jctr.info@gmail.com.
Plot # 3813 Martin Mwamba Road, Olympia Park – Lusaka.
P. O. Box 37774 Lusaka – Zambia