

EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN 3517 International Court, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008 Tel: (202) 243-6500

April 1, 2020.

Dear Community member,

I write to you at a time when the world is facing an unprecedented threat in the form of COVID-19, or Coronavirus as it is commonly known.

In the last few weeks, the Coronavirus outbreak has changed the way we think, act and go about our daily lives. No nation, no ethnicity, no age group nor any person is immune to this contagion. I extend my deepest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones and pray for early recovery of all those who are affected.

While you must be exercising caution, I urge you once again to strictly follow the local public health guidelines as well as those given by the CDC and WHO on a daily basis.

At this critical moment, let me assure you that the Embassy and our Consulates General at New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston have been working hard to facilitate the community. We are in touch with the stranded Pakistanis who missed their flights due to the sudden closure of air traffic to Pakistan on March 21. We remain available to facilitate them until the flights resume. We are also thankful to all those community members who have come forward to help the stranded Pakistanis in these difficult times.

To ensure continuity of consular services, the Embassy and Consulates General remain open for essential consular services during the time of lockdown. While our offices are being kept open wherever we can, I urge community members to visit only when absolutely essential and to rely as much as possible on online services. Emergency help lines of the Embassy and Consulates General are available to provide guidance.

I have received many phone calls and inquiries from our community members with offers to assist with relief efforts including providing medical equipment for combating COVID-19 in Pakistan. I am particularly grateful to the Association of Physicians of Pakistani descent in North America (APPNA) which has been very generous and forthcoming in mobilizing resources. We can take great pride in our doctors, who are at the forefront of this battle against COVID-19. I also want to acknowledge individual community members as well as organizations across America who are arranging and/or contributing to food drives to serve their local communities and charities in Pakistan.

Pakistan remains determined to overcome the COVID-19 outbreak. Through timely measures taken by the Government, we have so far been able to limit the spread of the Coronavirus to around 2000 cases with 28 deaths.

While the Government is utilizing its limited resources to the fullest, Pakistanis within the country and from all over the world, have offered to help in whatever way they can. To channelize this philanthropic spirit, the Prime Minister has established the "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for COVID-19". Community members and organizations are encouraged to contribute generously to the Fund. Details for the donation account are as follows:

Account Title: PM Relief Fund for COVID-19

Account No.: 4162786786

IBAN: PK11NBPA0002004162786786

SWIFT Code: NBPAPKKAMBR

Bank Name: National Bank of Pakistan

Branch: Main Branch, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi, Pakistan.

As we pass through this difficult phase, my thoughts and prayers are for your continued health and safety as well as for your loved ones. Let us pray that humanity can come out of this challenge stronger and more united. I am confident that, God willing, we can defeat COVID-19 together!