



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

METHODIST CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

PBO Reg No. 18/11/13/690

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 August 2017

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) strongly condemns Pastor Paseka "Mboro" Motsoeneng's alleged death threats, harassment and intimidation directed at Ms Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xalavu, the chairperson of the Commission for The Promotion and Protection of The Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Rights Commission).

We, as the churches, do not condone the unwarranted, aggressive actions and words unbecoming of a so-called 'Man of God' which have caused Xalavu to fear for her life and compelled her to open a criminal case against Motsoeneng. Although we do not agree with all the recommendations of the CRL, we are in full agreement with the notion that all harmful 'religious practices' should be condemned and prosecuted. There are more well-thought-out and productive ways for religious leaders to engage with the CRL Commission on our differences around the recommendations; engagement that does not compromise or bring into disrepute the integrity of the Church or its individual leaders.

Motsoeneng has in the past raised the ire of various religious communities and politicians by performing despicable acts in the name of 'miracles', which have been deemed to violate the basic human rights of his followers. He should rightfully be held to account for his wayward behaviour. Vicious posturing and unfettered grandstanding through cynical biblical manipulation and a distortion of God's Word with regards to vulnerable congregants should not be allowed free licence.

The Chapter 9 Institutions and its office bearers therein, as mandated to act, are invoked to perform their constitutional duties with regards to the protection of the citizens of the Republic. It is time for Mr. Motsoeneng to be arraigned for his questionable conduct.

**Released by The Methodist Church of Southern Africa on behalf of the office of
Bishop Zipho Siwa, Presiding Bishop**

For more information contact

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