



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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Cabo Delgado Crisis of Grave Concern

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) is gravely concerned about the situation unfolding in the Cabo-Delgado Province – Mozambique. The information received from Methodist people and organisations working in the country, indicates that this conflict is likely to impact the entire Southern African region. Rampant are issues of human rights violations, human-trafficking, drug smuggling and the fight for natural resources. The attacks have severely impacted the lives of innocent people namely women, youth and children. This violence is of a brutal and violent nature in which many have been left homeless and destitute and hundreds of people murdered.

We note the health implications of the violence in the midst of a deadly pandemic such as Covid-19 and are concerned about the health services that are seriously hampered by this violence. This is likely to lead to more deaths and even greater psycho-social and mental health issues both now and in the future.

The deadly combination of poverty, unemployment, inequality, lack of development opportunities and vice especially amongst the youth has been fertile ground for radical elements to grow, leading up to the 3 year old insurgency we see now. Widespread social, economic and political problems throughout Mozambique have also been deemed to have played a huge part in the insurgency we witness today.

These attacks which have led to the deaths of hundreds of people including civilians; with hundreds of thousands more displaced into exacerbated poverty and debilitating levels of food insecurity.

THE MCSA therefore joins the religious organisations, international and regional non-governmental organisations and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) who are already working in this space in providing psycho-social, spiritual and humanitarian support.

The MCSA has held several meetings and as part of an accompaniment process the church commits to support the people of the affected Cabo Delgado province through the interventions which include:

- Monetary contributions towards providing humanitarian aid.

A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations

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- Through a process of engaging the SADC secretariat, to lobby and advocate for the insurgency crisis to be put on the SADC heads of state agenda. An advocacy strategy that will tap into interfaith collaboration and corporation is being developed.
- Important to note as well, is the fact that the insurgency is not just a Mozambique problem but one that is likely to affect the whole SADC region and the broader African continent. Closely related to the insurgency are the issues of drug smuggling and human trafficking; areas that the MCSA is already involved with and working with organisations such as International Organisation on Migration and the Counter-Trafficking in Persons.
- Inter-faith engagement especially between Muslims and Christians is integral to providing the required support for the affected communities. This will also assist in encouraging collaboration and peace-building initiatives.
- Peace and development workshops with the youth in Cabo Delgado to encourage them to become part of the solution that builds on the peace preached in both Islam and Christianity is another initiative to build sustainable outcomes.

The MCSA remains committed to the vision of ***A Christ-Healed Africa for the healing of nations.***

Rev Purity Malinga
Presiding Bishop

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