



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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We stand in Prayerful Solidarity with the People of Eswatini

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa stands in solidarity with the people of the Kingdom of Eswatini during this time of great upheaval engulfing the nation. The MCSA supports the call made by the Eswatini Council of Churches for urgent talks to resolve what has notably become a violent impasse with reported human rights violations and regrettable loss of life. We support their call for multi-stakeholder engagement which will include political parties that are calling for democratic reforms, regional bodies such as Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA) and SADC. The region and all heads of state must come together at this time and speak with one voice against the atrocities taking place in Eswatini, as reported by media and call for peaceful resolution to the current crisis!

The loss of life that continues to take place during this crisis is of great concern. An estimated number of 47 people have allegedly been killed and the MCSA mourns with those families that have lost their loved ones. The silence of the Monarchy while “abantfu beNkhosi” are being killed is too loud to ignore. We welcome the Eswatini Council of Churches’ offer to facilitate and mediate peaceful dialogue between a coalition of political parties in the Kingdom known as the Political Party Assembly (PPA) and the government. The councils call for an open dialogue process free from intimidation and oppression not just of the proffered issues, but of the system of governance as a whole to see if it still serves the interests of all Emaswati is a step in the right direction.

The Kingdom of Eswatini, like most countries is also facing a Covid-19 third wave within a context of an already weakened economy, loss of livelihoods, high youth unemployment and a stretched to breaking health system. All leaders of countries are engaged in issues of strengthen the economy and vaccination to save lives and livelihoods of people they lead. We urge the SADC leadership to prioritize finding peaceful resolution of the conflicts in the region – the conflicts that take away the attention from saving lives and livelihoods of the people of the region.

In solidarity with the churches and people of Eswatini and in support of the call made by Foccisa and the SACC, and in solidarity with the people of Mozambique the Presiding Bishop calls all Methodist people to join ecumenically in observing **Thursday 8th July** as a day of Prayer for the Kingdom of Eswatini as well as to continue praying for the people of Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique. We believe in God who intervenes in response to prayers.

A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations

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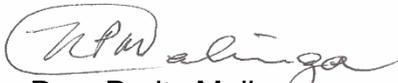
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In the midst of all the troubles we face, we continue to reimagine healing and transformation for all the countries of the Connexion, for the continent of Africa and for the world, holding steadfast to the hope we have in God's everlasting love.

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39



Rev. Purity Malinga
Presiding Bishop

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