



# The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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## From the Presiding Bishops Office: A Response to Mrs Nandi Mlombi's Utterances on Facebook

The MCSA would like to categorically condemn and refute the inaccurate statements made by Mrs Nandi Mlombi, the wife of one of our ministers, Rev Zole Mlombi on her Facebook profile this morning where she maligns several individuals in the Methodist Church, including Bishop Faith Whitby.

Firstly, Mrs Mlombi suggests that being at the foot of station (without an appointment) is (a) punishment for 'immoral behaviour'. There is no such (regulation) in the MCSA. Being without an appointment is not punitive and ministers often find themselves without an appointment for various reasons. The process of the appointment of Ministers within the MCSA is clearly laid out in our regulations, and this includes a District Committee which reviews all appointments annually and recommends these to the Connexional Executive. It is to be noted that this process, at various times, given different contexts, leaves some ministers without an appointment. The MCSA understands that this broadly affects the families of Ministers negatively. However, there is no intention to be insensitive, lacking in empathy and to cause pain. It is apparent that volatile and challenging situations which ensue from such processes can only be resolved through constructive dialogue and we rather encourage Mrs Mlombi to pursue this route.

Secondly, Mrs Mlombi insinuates that ministers found guilty of misconduct such as adultery and theft have been let off not to face the consequences of their actions. This is mischievous, malicious and deliberately misleading. Mrs Mlombi has the right, as a member of the MCSA supported by the precepts laid out in the Methodist Book of Order, to lay a complaint against any such ministers using the correct channels which avoid baseless sensationalism aimed at tarnishing the image of the Methodist Church of which, ironically, she is a member. These types of sweeping, emotive and unsubstantiated claims designed to whip up negative views about the church and its senior leadership will not go unchallenged.

Finally, Mrs Mlombi's unfortunate vitriolic tirade against Bishop Faith Whitby is uncalled for, disrespectful and abusive. Whilst the church understands the frustration that the family is experiencing at this time, we cannot condone the offensive language directed towards Bishop

*A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations*

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Whitby or anyone else involved in the administrative processes of the church that she clearly seems to dispute.

We call on all members of the MCSA to exercise restraint when expressing their frustrations on social media and to refrain from making unverified and disparaging statements which go against the values we all stand for. What we say to and about each other on social media affects the integrity of the Methodist Church as a whole. We encourage everyone with a grievance against the church to follow the prescribed processes spelt out in the Laws and Disciplines to seek redress. In all our interactions, may we all live by our Methodist Rule of life:

**Do no harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God.**

**Released on behalf of the Presiding Bishop's Office: Bishop Purity Malinga**

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