



METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CENTRAL SYNOD

To All MCSA Central Synod People

The Central Synod affirms the position of the SACC on the ongoing unrest and looting in various parts of the country. Admittedly, the government failure to respond adequately to the legacy of Apartheid on inequality, economic deprivation, & marginalization has resulted to the shocking and rapidly growing unemployment rate. Lack of political will to many challenges in our communities has angered many, as a result our people struggle with existential anger that easily gets triggered by either political differences, lack of service delivery, rearing insidious ugly head of racism and tribalism, political killings, and dehumanizing corruption. Our historical experiences of colonialism and oppression continues to play major role on the current socio-political and economic challenges the country is faced with.

For many people the only solution to get the attention of the powers that be is through violence. It is acknowledgeable to say, we have not been exposed to alternative means of resolving our challenges without indulging in violent acts. As commonly said, the only language our political leadership understands is violence. There are many ways in which violence is treated as the only solution to overcome socio-economic and political issues we are faced with. For many of our communities non-violence is not an option for an amicable resolution. However, we need to recognize the damage violence causes to our society. It does not only bring temporal solutions but it perpetuates ongoing woundedness and pain in our society. Violence takes away many lives and therefore discredits the very intention of the gospel of Christ

"I have come that they may have life and life in abundance" (John 10:10).



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We call on all Methodists within the Central Synod to be channels of peace during this time, to advocate for peaceful negotiations and engagement on issues of political difference, unemployment and inequality. We can proclaim peace and justice without participating and promoting acts of violence, damage to property, killing of people, and spreading hateful speech. We are a community that inherently promotes peace ***"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God"*** (Matthew 5:9).

We lament the loss of lives, damage to property, malls and retail stores that have been destroyed through violence and looting. Our condolences to families who have lost their loved ones during these violent acts. We shall continue to pray and negotiate for a peaceful environment where lives will be spared.

Given the current promulgated regulations that gatherings are prohibited, we call on all our members to use social media platforms to spread message of peace, hope, and justice and non-violence. The Mission Unit will circulate visual content to this effect, to be shared in various platforms like Synod organisations' Facebook pages, Instagram, WhatsApp, Telegram, Twitter etc. Let us unite and protect each from what could have long lasting, painful and regrettable consequences.

We encourage Ministers and lay leaders to be part of local communities' organisations wherein negotiations for peaceful environment are taking place. Our incarnational ministry is crucial during this time.

Rev. Ndumiso Ncombo
Synod Vice Chairperson

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