

Pastoral Letter on the Zimbabwe Political Landscape - an Ecumenical Discernment

We, the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council (KZNCC) as an Ecumenical body in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) note and affirm the liberation of the people of Zimbabwe over the four decades. We further commend the leadership of former President Robert Gabriel Mugabe and all the veterans and stalwarts of the struggle that were part of the process of liberating the country.

We affirm the contributions implored by various faith groupings in Zimbabwe and the SADC region. It is on this back drop that we write the Pastoral as a Province and a neighbouring geographical area. The South African Council of Churches (SACC) has over the decades supported the struggles of most of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional peoples including Zimbabwe. KZNCC informed by this historical background that it sends this letter of Pastoral support and discernment to the citizens of Zimbabwe.

We fully commend and support participatory civil society driven processes. The political landscape has changed in Zimbabwe and we commend the peaceful manner in which processes unfolded. We pray that God will further bless the leadership and the peoples of Zimbabwe. We hope for a democratic, economic and socio political social cohesion process unfolding toward the re-ignition of stability and prosperity in Zimbabwe and of course SADC region and the rest of Africa.

We call on all Church leaders ordained and laity to continue to pray for the country. That, our eminent leaders may call for a time of meaningful reflective retreats by individual members, families, households, congregations and various structures of all Churches. We further beseech God to bless, protect and give wisdom to all peoples in the diaspora in various countries both in other African countries and the world over. As we endeavor to read into the signs of the times moving forward; that the Prophetic voice of centuries may continue to be heard and that God may raise Prophets that will act towards life giving biblical imperatives in Zimbabwe, SADC and the rest of Africa and the world.

KZNCC and the eminent leaders of Churches pray not only for the people of Zimbabwe residing in the province only but of all that are spread in our country and other continents as they continue to be part of economic stability in South Africa. At the dawn of a new dispensation towards the advent of the 2018 elections in Zimbabwe, that all need to pray for peaceful, free, fair and credible elections and results that will be accepted by all its citizens, SADC and all African citizens.

We highly recommend that the SACC in collaboration with its Provincial offices may contemplate sending a well-trained team of observers; pre - on election and post-election days. That it will be commendable of the KZNCC member Churches to hold a Provincial day of prayer prior the Zimbabwean elections led by our eminent leaders and our co-stakeholders. We also call on Zimbabwean Council of Churches to humbly pray for the 2019 South African elections, that negotiations be held with SACC and provinces to contemplate sending a delegation of observers to South Africa as well.

In conclusion: We beseech God to bless Zimbabwe and its citizens and those in the diaspora.

PRAYER FOR OUR NATIONS

(Identification Repentance)

Lord, we humbly come before you in repentance. Your Word says, "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Lord, we are the people called by your name. We are Christians and like so many others today, we come before you in repentance for the sins of our nations. At present the very souls of our nations are grievously ill. But Lord, we believe your love and compassion is greater than the darkness of injustices, inequality, greed and corruption that surrounds us.

We commit ourselves to be change agents in our communities and in our countries. Use us Lord to bring Light where there is darkness. We commit to living your Word by loving our neighbors and to ensuring that justice flows like a river. This we ask in the name of your Son our Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!!!

- GOD BLESS AFRICA
- GUARD OUR CHILDREN
- GUIDE OUR LEADERS

FOR JESUS CHRIST SAKE WE PRAY!