



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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Corruption Is Not Our heritage! Methodists Speak out

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa joins the many voices of faith calling for the dousing of the ravenous flames of corruption that, like a run-away wildfire, continue to ravage the very pillars of our democratic independence. So widespread is the corruption epidemic in South Africa that it needs to be dealt with decisively. Impunity in the face of brazen 'normalised' and 'acceptable' corruption means it has become rampant and institutionalised.

"We as people of faith cannot stand on the side-lines whilst the country wades through the sludge of state capture and now Covid-19 corruption! It is our role to speak truth to power and together with civil society demand honest and accountable leadership from the government. It is our role to remind them that those who lead, are accountable to God and to people they lead," said Bishop Purity Malinga, Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

As churches, our call and mission is to always be on the side of the poor and vulnerable. Corruption has a disproportionate impact on the poor and vulnerable and cripples their access to services like health, education and socio-economic justice. Corruption in South Africa has greatly eroded our trust in government and undermined social cohesion. This has led to growing poverty, inequality and discontent as resources meant for service delivery line already over-flowing pockets!

"God's heart must be bleeding, watching the politicians and their connections loot even the resources meant to save lives! In the words of the prophet Hosea, "They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the days of Gibeah. God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins". (Hosea 9:9)," said the Presiding Bishop.

Enough is enough! I call on all South African citizens especially the people called Methodists to join in meeting corruption at the gate, by speaking out and exposing corrupt practices wherever they are found and in ensuring that all the deterrence systems that are put in place to mitigate and prevent corruption are enforced. We must advocate for effective law enforcement which is essential in ensuring that offenders are prosecuted.

Corruption at all levels of society, including in the church, should not be tolerated! Corruption cannot and should not be the legacy we leave for our children!

Released on behalf of the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the MCSA, Bishop Purity Malinga

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