

STATEMENT BY THE MODERAMEN OF THE CAPE REGIONAL SYNOD OF THE UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The murder of Tazné Van Wyk is another tragedy that has rocked the communities of the Western Cape and South Africa at a time when the communities are still reeling from the ongoing gang violence, gender-based violence and child abuse in our townships.

Tazné was a baptised member of Goodwood congregation in Elsies River, and actively involved in Sunday School and the Church Brigade.

The Moderamen expresses its heartfelt condolences to the Van Wyk and Manual families. We also express our heartfelt sadness to the school community and the local community where she lived. The mourning is aptly expressed in the passage of scripture found in Mathews 2:18 that is a direct quote from Jeremiah 31:15.

Matthew 2:18 New International Version (NIV)

18

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.” [a]

We note with conviction that:

Children must be protected. The Bill of Rights Section 28 in our constitution states that every child has the right to basic nutrition, shelter, health care, and social services as well as the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation. The child has a right to family care or parental care. The gross atrocities committed against Tazné must be brought to book and all violations must be corrected through the rule of law. We respect these processes and encourage the state to ensure that true justice is speedily delivered in honour of our daughter but also to show to our communities that justice can prevail and we can trust in the rule of law to uphold the rights of the downtrodden and the weak.

It is also in this time of mourning and deep grief that the faith community wishes to extend a hand of comfort and reassure the families. God embraced Tazné at birth and baptism and said to her, "You belong to me" and when her life ended God took her fully into his arms and made her his own for all eternity.

Romans 8:31-39 (NIV) states that we are more than conquerors "37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[b] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 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."

Lets us walk with the family.

Let us walk with the school.

Let us walk as a community.

Let us continue to seek justice.

Let us recommit ourselves to build and establish communities of peace and security.

Let us maintain and hold onto the Rule of Law.

Let us hold onto our faith.

Let God's grace be exceedingly experienced at this time.

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