

UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN S.A. (URCSA)



Cape Regional Synod MODERAMEN

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URCSA CAPE STATEMENT ON THE LOOTING AND VIOLENCE

We have reached another Kairos moment in our country as uncontrolled looting, thuggery, destruction, and violence took place amidst the devastating third wave of the global covid pandemic. WE are aware that the current DESTRUCTION is fuelled by systemic looting and corruption, WHICH OVER DECADES, dismantled our socio-economic systems, eroded the basic tenets - decency, equality, respect, the rule of law, of our democracy, AND DESTROYED the moral fibre of our society.

Underlying these dark days, we are reminded of the apartheid era, that caused so much pain and suffering. Today it is sinister provocateurs who have failed to complete their looting, who now stand in the wings to oversee the further impoverishment of our nation by the instigation of rampant hooliganism. we believe there must be different levels of interventions to bring this terrible destruction to an end through short-, medium- and longer-term solutions.

We firstly condemn in the strongest possible ways what has been happening in different parts of our country. We are taking a stand against any form of injustice and exploitation, grounded in our Biblical beliefs, and inspired by our Confession of Belhar. We are committed to defend our democracy and the Constitution of our land as we continue to embrace the vision of a just and peaceful society free from injustice, oppression, exploitation, and violence as manifestation of the Kingdom of God.

We secondly support the efforts by the State to end the chaos, thuggery, violence, and destruction. We commit ourselves to remain vigilant while we work with all role players to stem the tide, and we call on all our members and congregations to do the same.

We thirdly call on the government and all the organs of the State to work harder to bring about a better life for all our people, especially the poor, vulnerable and marginalised.

We also call on all political leaders to refrain from irresponsible and inflammatory speeches and messages that only have short-term party-political gains as objective, and work towards the rebuilding of our land and its people.

At the same time, we are reminded of the CORONA PANDEMIC that continues to ravage our country, crippling the health of the nation, decimating whole communities, families, and congregations. It provokes the strangest reactions, reactions that are instigated by the magnitude of the uncertainty and insecurities surrounding our nation.

The FRAGILITY of the nation can only be stabilised when THE CONSCIENCE of the nation is restored, and this only be done when the DIGNITY of its people is restored. This calls for our individual and collective commitment to undertake this mammoth task.

We will continue TO PRAY without ceasing and WORK toward a society where no person will go to bed hungry, where every child and young person will grow up to reach their full potential, where JUSTICE and PEACE kiss (cf. Ps 85:10), and where HUMAN DIGNITY will be restored and respected.

May all of us find inner peace that is beyond superficial understanding.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE. We are a people of HOPE.

Rev Dr Llewellyn LM MacMaster

on behalf of the Moderamen and Synodical Commission (SC),
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