



South African Council of Churches

**CHURCH
IN ACTION**

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**Message of the South African Council of Churches
To the Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana, General Secretary
September 21, 2021**

Your Grace, your provincial administration, and all three houses of Provincial Synod gathered in various diocesan centres across the province, we greet you in the name of the Risen Christ.

I bring greetings to this great church, in the name of the churches of South Africa, and indeed the councils of churches in the various countries in this synod, Angola, eSwatini, Lesotho, Mozambique and Namibia. We congratulate the Metropolitan and those who worked tirelessly in the creation of the new Southern African Province, the Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola; Igreja Anglicana de Moçambique e Angola. We congratulate the bishops and people of the new province.

The South African Council of Churches is part of what is called the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa - FOCCISA, in which is included the Angolan Council of Christian Churches and the Christian Council of Mozambique. The General Secretaries of the two countries are delighted at this development. Rev. Tabita Paulo, General Secretary of Angola shared a testimony about the Anglican Church in her country, as one of the powerful churches in the ecumenical movement in Angola; and that Bishop André Soares is one the strongest leaders of the Council, championing the campaigns against malaria and AIDS. She says to the new province: *Bem vindo!* Welcome!

The General Secretary of Mozambique, Rev. Elias said, "Congratulations Anglican Church in this part of the continent! This is a sign that the fire of the Gospel is still strong even with the strong wind of Covid-19." Endorsing these messages from the countries of the new province, the Chair of FOCCISA, the Rev Dr Mtata, General Secretary, of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches said in his congratulations; "We send our celebration to the growth of the church of Jesus Christ for many languages and peoples. May the Spirit of Pentecost allow those speaking different languages to hear each other for the sake of the Kingdom of God."

Your Grace and the venerable Provincial Synod, it is a special joy for me to come to the ACSA synod to bring ecumenical greetings. I am reminded as I do that, that I was once a member of this synod, and in that sense, I have come home to Provincial Synod. But more poignantly Your Grace, allow me on behalf of the President and National Conference of the SACC, to recognise that this church is a 1948 founding member of the SACC. In that regard too, as SACC General Secretary, I have come too.

Also, it is this church that gave us three general secretaries - Bishop Bill Burnett, Dr Brigalia Bam and Archbishop Desmond Tutu; and a president Bishop Jo Seoka; with Archbishop

Desmond defining the nature of the public ministry of the SACC in his tenure of 1978 - 1985. Let me include the direct role of the bishop who has just been recognised by Cantuar, Bishop Luke Pato, who served the churches at the SACC and has left a lasting legacy of the South African Churches in solidarity with the churches and people of Palestine.

With this powerful ministry of the Anglican Church in the SACC, it was in keeping with that tradition Your Grace and Synod, that when I came to the SACC, I respectfully turned to the present Archbishop of Cape Town, to kindly consider becoming the inaugural chair of the National Church Leaders Forum the “Shareholder Body”; a role he played well to ensure the thinking and voice of the heads of member churches in the development of the vision of the South Africa We Pray For as the Promise of the Post-Apartheid South Africa:

- a just, reconciled, peaceful, equitable and sustainable South Africa, free of racism, tribalism, xenophobia, and gender prejudices; free from corruption and deprivation; with food and shelter for all and every child born to grow to its God-given potential.

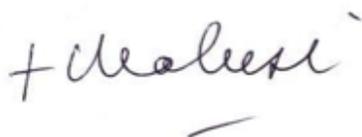
Today, as we extend best wishes to the deliberations of this COVID-time Synod, we wish to thank this church and make it known to all Synod delegates, how much the ecumenical movement appreciates what you are to this nation. For indeed South Africa has come to take for granted that the Archbishop of Cape Town and Metropolitan of ACSA, will be wired to provide able prophetic ministry to the nation. We say baie dankie, re ea leboha, thank you, enkosi, siyabonga, and muito obrigado! The words of the Lord are indeed fulfilled in the life of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa:

“From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.”

This session of Provincial Synod must please appreciate that this nation, and indeed this region of the continent, will continue to look to the leadership that this church raises for the benefit of all, in witness to the love of God given in Christ Jesus in all our circumstances.

May the amazing grace of Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all, in all your deliberations.

Amen!



Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana
General Secretary, South African Council of Churches