



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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**BEYOND THE KAIROS DRC LAUNCH
THANKS, AND SUGGESTIONS FROM MIKE'S DESK
SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 2020**

Greetings to all

THANKS TO THE KAIROS DRC LAUNCH PLANNING TEAM:

Thank you for your dedication commitment and contribution to the four-week Kairos DRC Launch webinar. WE had our challenges and differences and this is all part of the process.

THANKS TO OUR SPEAKERS:

Thanks again to all who gave input. All the Webinars are recorded. We have collectively generated a wealth of ideas and practical suggestions both from panellists; facilitators and attendees.

- **Rev Purity Malinga Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa – Refugees a South African church response.**
- **Rev Moss Ntla from Kairos SA and TEASA – the importance of a church led Kairos process.**
- **Rev Lunge Kinyamba – General Secretary DRC Inter-Religious Council/ DRC Council of Churches- Kairos DRC work in the Congo**
- **Reverende Thérèse Bimpa Abulukay coordinator of the network of women of faith and children of the CNRP/ Presbyterian Church and Inter-Religious Council Democratic Republic of Congo. (IRC/DRC) – works with rehabilitating child soldiers in the DRC.**
- **Kabwe Didier Mutonji – President of Congolese in the diaspora Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, RSA**
- **Bridget Diana Phillips Institute for the Healing of Memories -Community Healing Programme Co-ordinator – the need for the healing of memories for all Africans**
- **Ps Raphael Bahebwa Kabambire (Nehemiah Hope Project DRC/RSA; Sinai Pentecostal Church, Durban -the future vision of a just, peaceful; healed and prosperous DRC**

THANK YOU FOR BEING PRESENT:

- **The Honourable Minister: Republique Democratique Du Congo, A Son Excellence Monsieur Le Ministre' Raymond Tchedya Patya Ministre Délégué Des Congolais De L'etranger/Diaspora and cabinet colleagues.**

A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations

Presiding Bishop:
Rev Purity N Malinga
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General Secretary:
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General Treasurer:
Mrs Thini Ngonyama
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Lay President:
Mr James M Nkosi
e-mail: jm.nkosi94@gmail.com

- **All our attendees.**

THANK YOU TO OUR FACILITATORS:

- **Mrs Lubanja Tanganika Stella**
- **Mr Amza Brian Minga**

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAD HOPED TO BE WITH US BUT COULD NOT:

- **Dr Denis Mukwege | Nobel Prize Laurette**, - a busy surgeon and human rights activists whose life is constantly threatened
- **Daniella Gennrich** Women Speak Out
- **Dr Douglas Dziva**, CEO KZNCC – we wish him well and full recovery after his fight with COVID 19
- **Ms Nancy Heron (Facilitator) (MCSA Justice and Service Desk)** – death in the family
- **Mr. Daniel Byamungu Dunia (Facilitator)**, Congolese Diaspora, Secretary General, Africa Solidarity Network – stranded in Bujumbura trying to get home since lockdown March 2020

DOCUMENTING THE WEALTH OF INPUT:

Thank you: **Bisimwa Timothee Makanishe** for he summarises of the Kairos DRC document and starting a process of pulling all this together.

We now **need someone to sift through all the recordings; documented chats and produce a Kairos DRC Launch consolidated document.** Any volunteers or suggestions as to who could do this for us?

KZNCC Webpage:

- KZNCC has uploaded the Kairos DRC document on their webpage
- All other documents and webinar recordings have also been requested to be uploaded.

Thank you **Xola Nkabindi** for undertaking to do this.

SOMETHING EXTRA:

We have done more than we set out to do.

We factored in two extra webinars:

1. One, responding to the crisis in **Kivu Province, Kipupu and Sange (5 August)**. We issued a statement which has been sent to all media and beyond. Thank you everyone for your input and thanks to **Illa Thompson** who shaped it into being more media friendly. (Attached)
2. Secondly a small group met with representatives of the Minister of the Congolese in the Diaspora (19 August) to clarify how **repatriation** could happen. (More meetings are needed)

A LAUNCH IS A START OF NEW ERA.

In this case it is the era of Kairos DRC.

Suggested next steps:



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In my opinion the next step is to build on the ownership of the DRC Kairos by DRC Congo diaspora and internal compatriots.

DRC CONGO KAIROS DIASPORA DRIVERS:

What is needed is DRC Kairos Diaspora drivers?

Some questions needing to be considered:

- Who from the DRC diaspora community is currently driving this process?
- Who from the DRC diaspora community will drive this process?
- What shape will this take to be effective?
- What will the goals be?
- How will Kairos DRC be promoted to all DR Congo based churches in the Diaspora?
- How will Kairos DRC be promoted to all DR Congo based religious groups in the Diaspora?
- How would Kairos DRC diaspora relate to Kairos DRC internal?

I would suggest that DRC Leadership meet and work this out.

DRC CONGO KAIROS INTERNAL:

We already have Kairos DRC drivers internally through the leadership of **Rev Kinyamba** & his passionate team and **Rev Dr Joel Kuvuna**. working as a chaplain, a lecturer in some universities; working in many areas of the society and attached the ECC (Protestant Church) working with all the Protestant congregations; Dr Kuvuna has already started training pastors in the Kairos way in the DRC

KAIROS DRC EXTERNAL SOLIDARITY:

Always know that the DRC will have solidarity support from a growing group of people in South Africa and other parts of the world. Already there is growing awareness and commitment from:

- Kairos Southern Africa;
- Methodist Church of Southern Africa;
- Anglican Church of Southern Africa;
- The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa;
- KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council;
- The Institute for the healing of memories.
- Courageous Conversations South Africa (Mining focus)

WIDENING THE SOLIDARITY NETWORK- REACHING OUT:

We need to reach out to the following:

- The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) – (Mike has already been approached by ACCORD to look at online training for priests; ministers and pastors throughout Africa in peace-making and peace-building – we could start in the DRC)

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- South Africa Women Fight Back (They already work in solidarity with Panzi Hospital and rape survivors in Bukavu, DRC)
- Freedom House
- South African Council of Churches
- Fellowship of Councils of Churches of Southern Africa
- All Africa Conference of Churches (Nairobi)
- Africa Methodist Council (Ghana)
- World Council of Churches (Geneva)
- Religions for Peace South Africa.
- All African Council of Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace (Nairobi)
- Religions for Peace International (New York)
- Lawyers for Human rights
- SADC Human rights Sector
- African Union Human Rights sector
- Human Rights watch
- Religious and Human rights bodies in France and Belgian

DEVELOPING LAY-FRIENDLY KAIROS DRC MATERIAL:

Should we consider developing Bible study and theological reflection lay-friendly material based on DRC Kairos Document, for mass distribution to all Congolese and Southern Africa churches?

MY OPINION ABOUT RESOURCING IN GENERAL:

We need passionate, dedicated people to drive a vision even if there is no are little funding. This shows true commitment. Vision and pathos precede funding. Resourcing will follow enthusiastic and passionate people. Yes, we need resourcing- this does not always translate into money. Resourcing comes from a heart and pathos for what one believes in. Resourcing is also the time, effort and energy giving by people.

Already the KZNCC;

- has thus far been funding and resourcing some aspects of the DRC Kairos
- has begun to work on a funding proposal (before Lockdown), however this will need input from the drivers of DR Congolese compatriots for Kairos DRC and how this is shaped.

ONWARD AND UPWARD:

A God Healed and transformed Kivu Province for the healing and transformation of the DRC;
 A God Healed and transformed DRC for the healing and transformation of Africa;
 A God Healed and transformed Africa for the Healing and transformation of the World.
 A God Healed and transformed World for the Healing and transformation of the Cosmos.

What are your thoughts?

Peace; Grace and Unity

Warm regards and with much gratitude

Mike

22/08/2020