

26 February 2021

Statement

From the desk of the General Secretary, Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana

SACC STATEMENT OF THE DESTABILISATION OF THE COUNTRY

The heads of churches of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) met on Thursday, 25 February 2021, and expressed alarm and concern at the manner in which a certain sector of our society appears to sit lightly on the South African constitutional order. They respect the constitution only on terms favourable to their immediate interests. We wish to reaffirm that the law of the land, the pinnacle of which is the Constitution, should always claim its place of honour, and not be swayed by defiance and prevarication which seek to replace the rule of law.

As we read the signs of the times (Matthew 16:3), we see indications across the body politic, that there are some who stand for their short-term individual and personal interests, at the express expense of the South African nation and the institutions designed to equitably serve the interests of all South Africans over time.

We wish to make it known to all who would undermine and destabilise the South African constitutional order that this is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Nobody, but nobody is, and will be treated as above the other 60 million South Africans in the application of the law. The rule of law must be predictable and it must be even-handed and equitable. Anyone with a just cause concerning the unjust application of the law must do so within the law and not to spite the law, and thereby destabilise society.

Recently the SACC expressed "deep concern about the possible implications of the declared decision by former President Jacob Zuma not to cooperate with, and to turn his back on the processes of the Zondo Commission." We also sounded the alarm on Mr. Zuma's language of referring to the South African law, as "their law", presumably referring to those with whom he disagrees. We warned that this was laying a foundation for a movement of people who support Mr. Zuma outside the walls of the law of the land, and that this might lead to people being killed. As it now stands, Mr. Zuma's actions of refusing to come before the Zondo Commission have given other individuals license to do the same.