



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

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UPCSA MESSAGE ON THE PASSING AWAY OF PRESIDENT KENNETH DAVID KAUNDA

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) joins the people of Zambia in mourning the passing away of the first President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Kenneth David Kaunda on Thursday, 17 June 2021. With his death, the sun set, not just for Zambia, but for the people of Africa, as he has been the remnant of that generation of leaders who courageously liberated the peoples of Africa from their colonial masters. He was the true pan Africanist leader who zealously sacrificed so much for the liberation of Africa. He was vehemently opposed to colonialism, racism, and apartheid.

During the tenure of President Kaunda, Zambia became a home away from home for those who ran away from the oppressive regimes in their respective countries. This was informed by his belief, as he averred: "The moment you have protected an individual, you have protected society." He did this because he was the lover of humanity and the lover of God, having taken the love of God from his father who was a missionary preacher.

President Kaunda was a proponent of peace and justice in Zambia and throughout Africa. He stated, "The inability of those in power to still the voices of their own consciences is the great force leading to change." He galvanised the people of Zambia under the slogan: "One Zambia one nation", thus managing to build national cohesion in a country that has 72 ethnic groups. He condemned violence in the strongest terms. For that reason, he resisted the temptation to want to cling to power at all costs, but willingly relinquished power when he lost the elections in 1991. He is known to have avowed:

Some people draw a comforting distinction between force and violence. I refuse to cloud the issue by such word-play. The power which establishes a state is violence; the power which maintains it is violence; the power which eventually overthrows it is violence. Call an elephant a rabbit only if it gives you comfort to feel that you are about to be trampled to death by a rabbit.

The passing away of such a great hero and legend does not call us to mourn only, but to also stand up for all the good things he stood for. Let us assert ourselves against all forms of injustices, inequalities, discrimination, and marginalisation. Africa needs us to stand for peace, justice, total emancipation of all of humanity and the return of the land to its owners.

We convey our deepest condolences to the Kaunda family, the people of Zambia and the United Church of Zambia – of which he was a founding and a staunch member.

Yours in Christ.

Rev Dr Lungile Mpetsheni
GENERAL SECRETARY UPCSA