



Soweto Ministers Fraternal

Working collectively to serve our communities

036 522 NPO

598 Ncwana Street | Dube | Soweto | 1800
PO Box 718 | Glenvista | 2058

Tel: 087 943 8100
Fax: 086 502 3213

Email: info@sowetoministers.org.za
Website: www.sowetoministers.org.za

11 February 2020

STATEMENT – SOWETO FLOODS AND THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE AFTERMATH

On the 8th of February 2020 Soweto once again experienced torrential rains that led to floods that ravaged our township and left three people dead and scores destitute. Properties together with some irreplaceable household contents were also swept away. While the Soweto Ministers Fraternal sympathizes with the affected communities we are now ceased with the following question: How long will this state of affairs continue to go on? Can the church in Soweto do more during and in the aftermath of such natural disasters to assist our people?

It our assertion that our government both nationally and locally have demonstrated a lack of knowledge, skill and expertise in dealing with this problem at a level of prevention and in coming up with proper disaster relief strategies in the aftermath of any disaster affecting our people. While we concede that there is a lot that our government can do, we also need to ask ourselves what role can we as a church play.

The South African 1985 Kairos Document Challenge to the church: A theological comment on the political crisis in South Africa states the following: “the answer must be sought in the type of faith and spirituality that has dominated Church life for centuries. As we all know, spirituality has tended to be another-worldly affair that has very little, if anything at all, to do with affairs of this world. Social and political matters were seen as worldly affairs that have nothing to do with the spiritual concerns of the Church. Moreover, spirituality has also been understood to be purely private and individualistic. Public affairs and social problems were thought to be beyond the sphere of spirituality. And finally, the spirituality we inherit tends to rely upon God to intervene in his own good time to put right what is wrong in the world. That leaves very little for human beings to do except to pray for God’s intervention. It is precisely this kind of spirituality that, when faced with the present crisis in South Africa – leaves so many Christians and the Church leaders in a state of near paralysis.

This statement is still true today; our Church is in a state of near paralysis in their response to different social challenges that experienced by our people. The Church needs to do more than sending condolences and messages of sympathy, it is time that as Churches in Soweto we become more ecumenical in our approach to social issues we cannot continue to try to solve Soweto’s overwhelming issues in silos. The church needs to do more!

Pr Siphon Mahlangu

President of the Soweto Ministers Fraternal

President: Pastor S. Mahlangu | **Vice President:** Apostle B. Mhlanga
General Secretary: Reverend M. Moathodi | **General Treasurer:** Pastor M. Mbatha | **PRO:** Reverend C. Mahanjana
Additional Members: Apostle M. Mlambo | Pastor M. Gololo | Pastor T. Setilo | Pastor D. Mbele