

## **Prayer for women of Philipines**

### **KwaMashu C- Section**

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**Programme Director,**

**Chairperson – Mrs Hadebe,**

**Abefundisi,**

**Abazalwane,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Siyanibingelela egameni likaJesu. Sibonge iNkosi isigcinile yasivusa kulolusuku lanamuhla siphephile.**

Let me take this opportunity and greet you all. We are grateful to be invited into this occasion to pray for the people of Philipines especially women and children. It is important that we pray for other countries because we are part of the world and we are not an island.

Our aspiration as is to live in a peaceful and stable world as envisaged by the Freedom Charter. This prayer is important to all of us after some shocking incidents in Umlazi. The events of Umlazi G-Section whereby a gang shot and killed four members of one family and raped a woman. These gangsters started by shooting about eight people in a nearby tarven and three of those people are critical including the tarven owner. We need to pray and pray for our people and citizens as well.

Sixty three years ago, peaceful and freedom loving people of South Africa met in Kliptown to create a vision for a post-apartheid free and democratic South Africa. They called it the FREEDOM CHARTER. It declared as follows:

“We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know:

- that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people;
- that our people have been robbed of their birth right to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;
- that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;
- that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birth right without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief.”

Bazalwane,

This event of prayer takes place in a month of March, a month dedicated to human rights because we remember events of Sharpsville and Langa massacre. March is filled with never ending poignant stories of sacrifice, courage and triumph over adversity. It is the month associated with bravery and the fight for human rights.

We commend you for praying and we urge to continue to pray and preach the word of peace. We must never ever have events of Soshanguve happening in this province. We need you to pray for peace.

Programme Director,

Coming back to Philippines, and more specifically Mindanao, the second largest and southernmost major island, rich in natural resources and minerals, is being plundered by trans- and multi-national companies carrying out extractive operations with impunity for the human rights violations they commit.

Women of Lumad communities are taking the lead in organizing resistance and defending their communities, while confronting numerous gender-specific challenges in carrying out human rights advocacy against collusion of private businesses and government interests. We as South Africans we must pray with those women like how the world stood with us during apartheid.

In conclusion,

Let me close by saying that when we pray and say "our father who art in heaven," and end by saying that thy will be done on earth - we mean peace. God's will for humanity is that they leave in faith, love and peace. We must maintain peace in homes and families. We must maintain peace in our taxi ranks and communities. There must be everlasting peace in our nation.

In our Holy Bible, on the book of Philippians chapter 4 verse 6 to 7, Apostle Paul says, "**In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.**"

With those few words, I thank you.