



Address by the eThekweni Municipality Mayor's Representative on the occasion of the Bethsaida Ministry's International Official Opening of the EJM Compassion Centre and Care Facility, at Stonebridge Phoenix, Durban, on 29 September, 2018

- Program Director
- Bethsaida Ministries International
- Pastor Emmanuel Moodley
- Members of the Church Community
- Distinguished Guest
- Ladies and gentlemen

All Protocol observed.

Good morning

We are gathered here on this memorial weekend, to salute the memory of an exceptional man, known for his foresight, strength and his noble engagements, which are far reaching.

It is therefore my pleasure, on behalf of Her Worship the Mayor of eThekweni, Councillor Zandile Gumede, and the residents of the city, to join you in paying tribute to the legacy of Dr EJ Moodley, - and to be part of the proceedings, to mark the official opening of the EJM, Compassion Centre.

Program Director, Dr Moodley was a distinguished, consummate evangelist, and an outstanding philanthropist.

A highly respected community leader. His contributions to the socio-economic development of his immediate community, the city, and indeed the world at large, are immense.

Even if one did not know him personally, or know him at all, from his achievements, it is evident, that he was an optimist with awesome managerial acumen.

Though it is a year since his transition and passing to the next realm, I would like to express my most sincere condolences to his family, to his relatives and to his associates.

The city has lost one of her most emblematic and captivating figures. For 43 long years, his powerful voice called for a shared and harmonious world environment, which will be sorely missed for a long, long time.

Program Director, the community of Phoenix, as I would imagine, is still reeling from shock after the finding of the body

of little Miguel Louw, and to be confronted so soon after, with the triple murder of a family, which took place last week. You may also be following the media, about that horrific incident this week, in Pretoria.

I am at a loss for words, at the moral decay, that is consuming our society. But we need to address it. We must talk about it. Because we need solutions to tackle moral degeneration.

Ladies and gentlemen, as government, after much research, we have come to the conclusion, that it is important to make moral regeneration, a central theme of people's conduct. And we have found, the best people, and the best places to do this, are through religious leaders, and through religious centres, which are embedded within communities.

As the religious sector you need to be the voice of the voiceless and take a stand against issues that affect the country morally and socially.

The public needs reassurance that their spiritual leaders care about their welfare, like addressing the scourge of substance abuse that is affecting the whole community.

As government, we will not win the battle against crime and re-offending of victims of crime, if the religious community, is not at the centre of what we do.

So it is my passionate plea, as you perpetuate the legacy of your founder, find new ways to help our communities out of this dark enclave. This is my message to you today, on the official opening of your Compassion Centre.

In closing, I wish the church Leadership, every success with the opening of the Compassion Centre.

For that loss which the Church and the community sustained in the passing of Dr EMJ Moodley, make this Centre ripe in years, rich in service, distinguished in many ways, emulating Dr Moodley's large benefactions, both of service and of means, to the cause of the Kingdom of God, in the world.

May his memory live on!

Thank you