



## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (ELCSA)

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*Growing Together in Christ*

### Office of the Presiding Bishop

25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

RE: PASTORAL LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF ESWATINI

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA) would like to join the rest of the world in mourning the demise of Mr Thulani Maseko, a renowned Human Rights Lawyer and Activist from the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The news of his gruesome assassination on 21.01.2023 came as a shock to all of us. It is our hope and prayer that his assassination will not dampen Human Rights Activism in Eswatini and adjacent communities, but will bring about a revival that will spur all peace loving Emaswati on to further deepen the quest to achieve the ideals of democracy, freedom, peace, justice, and equal rights for all Emaswati, which Mr Thulani Maseko stood for and upheld until the end.

These ideals shall ultimately prevail over all forms of injustice that is being meted out to innocent people like Mr Thulani Maseko by evil forces. We believe that these ideals will ultimately bring about a better life for all Emaswati and therefore worth pursuing.

We wish to express our heartfelt condolences to his wife Tanele, his Children, the whole of Maseko family and the peace-loving Nation of Emaswati. The word of God says in 2 Corinthians 4:8 -9, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed".

ELCSA, together with the Ecumenical Movement condemns the assassination of Mr Thulani Maseko in strongest terms and calls on all stakeholders in Eswatini to fast track the national dialogue that seeks to find lasting solutions for Eswatini challenges.

We pray that during this period of Epiphany, all may be influenced by the Prince of Peace in seeking justice, peace and reconciliation for the people of Eswatini. ELCSA commits to stand in solidarity with the people of Eswatini through prayer and courageous acts of love.

We pray that God protects and keep all peace loving Emaswati safe.

**Bishop Nkosinathi Myaka**  
ELCSA Presiding Bishop