

**Reflecting on the challenges facing South Africa in 2009/2010**  
**Statement from the National Church Leaders' Consultation**  
**Held at Southern Sun O R Tambo International Airport Hotel, Johannesburg**  
**29 June 2009**

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From the National Church Leaders' Consultation held on 29 June 2009 in Johannesburg, with cognisance to the challenges facing our country and being committed to contributing to a moral, just and caring South Africa, the following statement is issued:

- Noting that we live in a time when poverty is disproportionate to wealth, where violence and crime are rife, we are presented with a window of opportunity to prioritise the churches' programmes for poverty eradication, education and health for all. We re-commit ourselves to our mandate of serving the poor and disadvantaged.
- Realising also that in this new dispensation, opportunities are present for the churches to influence policy and give moral direction to the nation. The disbanding of the SABC Board, for instance, presents an opportunity for the churches to influence the formation of a new board.
- We as the churches want to be seen to be on the side of a moral, just and caring society rather than be "for or against" government.
- Regarding the National Religious Leaders' Forum (NRLF) and the Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM) the church leaders have committed to establishing the roles and efficacy of these bodies.
- We will continue to explore synergies that enable us to act together and to partner with government in social delivery programmes and look forward to a meeting with the newly elected President Jacob Zuma.
- Guided by the imperatives of our faith we therefore need to engage the ruling party on their document "The RDP of the Soul" in order to clarify its intent and understanding.

We acknowledge and take seriously our duty to guide the nation in matters that affect the lives of our citizens. As church leaders we undertake to deliberate and act on these and other important issues.