

25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### **UPCSA MESSAGE ON THE AFRICA DAY: 25 MAY 2021**

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) joins the international and ecumenical communities in commemorating the 2021 Africa Day. Fifty-eight (58) years ago, the great African leaders established the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which later became the African Union (AU) with the following aims<sup>1</sup>:

- To co-ordinate and intensify the co-operation of African states in order to achieve a better life for the people of Africa.
- To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of African states.
- To eradicate all forms of colonialism and white minority rule.

The other aims<sup>2</sup> included the following:

- Ensure that all Africans enjoyed human rights.
- Raise the living standards of all Africans.
- Settle arguments and disputes between members – not through fighting but rather peaceful and diplomatic negotiation.

The UPCSA, guided by its vision, “To be a reconciled community of Christians exercising a prophetic witness to Christ”, supports and commends all the efforts made to ensure that the people of Africa and the peoples of the world do enjoy lasting peace and security. While we reckon that not much has been achieved in realizing the aims, as delineated above, we need to join hands in working towards the success of the AU’s Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, which is described as follows:

Agenda 2063 is Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future. It is the continent’s strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.<sup>3</sup>

This year’s Africa Day follows the Pentecost Sunday. We pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to be agents of peace, justice, and righteousness in the continent. The church must be the change that it wants to see in the society. We pray that the Holy Spirit must come down and Africa must be saved and liberated spiritually, economically, socially, environmentally, and otherwise. Let us arise and be counted in delivering that liberation. *Nkosi sikelela i-Afrika* (God bless Africa).

Yours in Christ.



Rev Dr Lungile Mpetsheni  
**GENERAL SECRETARY UPCSA**

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation\\_of\\_African\\_Unity#Aims](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_African_Unity#Aims) visited on 24 May 2021

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview> visited on 24 May 2021