



BLACK METHODIST CONSULTATION

[A formation within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa]

CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

www.methodistbmc.yolasite.com

CHAIRPERSON

Rev Mzwandile Molo
082 835 8297
mzwandile.molo@telkomsa.net

SECRETARY

GENERAL

Mr Xhanti. T.
Mhlubulwana
082 715 0147
xhantimhlubu@gmail.com

RECORDING

SECRETARY

Ms Nokuzola
Mbangula
076 981 0864
Nokuzola.Mbangula@gmail.com

TREASURER

Ms Mandy Motaung
079 699 5828
MotaungF@dirco.gov.za

*"The MCSA Lilifa
Labazali Bethu; Lefa
Labatswadi Barona"*

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CIRCULAR 001- 04/09/2014 'INVITATION BMC LEKGOTLA 28-29 NOV 14'

Dear BMC District Executives!

Re: Invitation to the Black Methodist Consultation, Lekgotla (District Executives Strategic Analysis) on the 28th to the 29th November 2014; St Mathews Methodist Church, Kwa Thema, Springs Circuit, Johannesburg East, Gauteng Province, Highveld and Swaziland District.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

As per the resolution of the 39th BMC Connexional Convocation, we hereby officially invite you the Two (2) Days 'BMC Lekgotla' that is scheduled to take place on the **28th and 29th November 2014**, at St Mathews Methodist Church, Kwa Thema, Springs Circuit, Johannesburg East, Gauteng Province, Highveld and Swaziland District.

The targeted audience are all the BMC District Executives as well as Previous BMC Connexional Executives.

All Districts are encouraged to make meaningful efforts to attend the Lekgotla, and to arrive earliest possible on Friday Morning the 28th November 2014, it's a two (2) days full programme starting about 10:00am, Districts:

- Indicate actual number of executive members to be expected per district [*Absolute Maximum Allowed **ten to twelve (10-12)***].
- State who can **self-accommodate** and or who needs the accommodation from the hosts,
- State who needs a transport pick-up from Airport, Johannesburg Park Station and the likes, as well as their contact numbers, etc.

Please kindly respond before or on the 31st October 2014, 12:00 Noon as at the latest (purely for logistics), thus exactly two (2) months or eight weeks away from the date of this circular.

In an effort to curtail expenditure, given limited financial resources as well as the ever increasing costs of private conferencing and lodging, accommodation will be organised in the houses of St Mathews Methodist Members, Friends and Neighbours. *This is not ideal*, but could not be avoided for the already stated reasons. Let's make the best of it, by being contagious, let those families that hosts us 'be awakened to the existence of the BMC ...'

We therefore humble appeal for corporation and focus on the desired outputs of the Lekgotla. Those who fail to RSVP by the 31st October 2014, or do so later than, that set date - would be **assumed to be self-accommodating**, that's to avoid unnecessarily upsetting the hosts and all logistics.

Further Note:

- There will be no individual registration fee at the Lekgotla (it's free, **with costs to the Connexion**)
- District Executives and Previous BMC Connexional Executives are encouraged to either be subsidised for transport by own districts and or to individually sacrifice through own means driven by the cause of the Black Methodist Consultation and its values thereof.

The Conception – BMC Executives Lekgotla, ‘The BMC, amidst rapid Organisational Change ...’

The Black Methodist Consultation as a formation within the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA). Noted that in the past three decades the MCSA had gone through rapid and unprecedented changes, some of those changes owing to the existence and success of the BMC; this is particularly more noticeable in the last two decades. The game changers amongst other things were in the leadership of the Church from being led by the Whites to being almost totally led by the Blacks as well as the impact of democratisation, civil, labour movements and socio-economic development in Southern Africa.

Such dynamics could not be ignored by the BMC, that's if it is to remain effective as an organisation and or a formation that is a movement within the MCSA, and or not be held hostage by illustrious past successes.

By implication the nature of the said changes within the MCSA and Southern Africa Democratic Countries impacts the very nature of the BMC. This can be demonstrated amongst many signs by the increasing competition of Black against Black nominations for the same leadership positions within the MCSA and the consequences thereof; emergence of Black Political Parties that occupy opposition seats in parliament where Black Leadership is governing, etc. It follows therefore that the BMC must find its voice in the context of these dynamics.

The Desired Outputs of the Lekgotla

- The BMC **discerns its voice** and **organisational design** in the context of the described changes that have taken place;
- The BMC understands the **current situation** (including the met and unmet needs, current opportunities and threats in the context of rapid changes) (for example what is the current situation within the MCSA Leadership, Transformation, etc broader Ecumenical Movements and communities within which the Church exists; what is the scale of the problem of Black against Black competition, and for whom?
 - The **root causes** that contribute towards identified current problems
 - Identifying **possible solutions** to the root causes of the problems – the relevant strategies, tactics, and interventions. How do existing BMC Structure and Business relate to the underlying problems?

The BMC Lekgotla is expected not just to be diagnostic but must explore options for interventions, relationships and scenarios through Strategic Analysis in the present milieu.

Full Programme Content of the BMC Lekgotla shall be made available on or about the 09th October 2014, as well as directions to the venue.

We thank you in advance in anticipation of a favourable consideration of this invitation.

To God Be the glory, great things he had done!

Yours in Christ Service

Mr Xhanti T. Mhlubulwana

Secretary General

Rev Mzwandile Molo

Chairperson