



EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF POTCHEFSTROOM

CLLR MAPHETLE MAPHETLE

KENNETH McARTHUR ATHLETICS STADIUM ON SUNDAY

4 JUNE 2006 @ 15:00

To:

- The Organisers of the Local Global Day of Prayer
- All the Baruti's
- Councillors from Potchefstroom
- Brothers and Sisters
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

Greetings to all of you in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I need to say thank you for the invitation that was extended to my Office for me to be here today, this afternoon. It is for me not only a privilege but equally so a real joy and a delight to join hands with you and unite with the rest of the world in prayer.

Today is a very important day for Christians. It is important not only because Christians around the world is praying but it is also because today is PENTECOST SUNDAY.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

The day of Pentecost is very important for Christians. It is as important as the birth-, life-, death-, resurrection-, ascension- and the return of Jesus Christ. The day of Pentecost reminds us of the promise of the Holy Spirit that Jesus made to his disciples and the fact that it has become a reality.

It reminds us that God is a living God and that he has acted in history and that he continues to act through his church.

As Burgemeester van Potchefstroom wil ek graag baie dankie se aan die Organiseerders vir die poging wat hulle aangewend het vanmiddag om Potchefstroomers in gebed met die res van die wereld te laat verenig. Dit lyk vir my hulle het in hul doel geslaag. As die mense van Potchefstroom wil ons nie n klein eiland op sy eie wees nie want ons is deel van die familie van nasies in die hele wereld. Indien daar iets gebeur in die wereld en ons kan daaraan deelneem dan moet ons dit doen.

Program Aankondiger: Dit lyk vir my dat hulle dit nie net reggekry het om Potchefstroomers met die res van die wereld te laat bid nie, maar ook het hulle Potchefstroomers van verskillende denominasies en van verskillende woongebiede bymekaar uitgebring.

Potchefstroom has an unfortunate reputation to many people inside and outside the City of being both small and conservative (*verkramp*). I am not so much concerned about the small but what concerns me more as Executive Mayor is the conservative or *verkramp*te part.

On the other hand I wish they could see us now as Potchefstroomers, how black, and white are holding hands together and are praying. What I see in front of me is a token of hope for the future of a non-racial and a non-sexist Potchefstroom. It is my desire as the Executive Mayor of Potchefstroom that we will each work hard at removing the terrible demon of racism, sexism and bigotry.

I need to immediately add Programme Director, that as Christians you need to guard against coming together in this way only once a year. It must not be because someone somewhere said you must come together and out of obligation you meet in this way once a year. As the church you must come together often, willingly, and freely.

Remember Programme Director it is to the church that we must look for a good example on these matters. The scriptures teach us that the church is neither white or black but both. We are instructed from the

scriptures that the church is neither poor nor rich but both. And further that the church is neither African or European but both.

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER

Programme Director: I am reliably informed that you started with the Day of Prayer only for South Africans. It was then broadened to include the whole of Africa and now it has spread to the rest of the world. This is further testimony to the fact that once again South Africa is taking the lead in the rest of the world.

It is also important from the standpoint of missions. History as we know it tells us that the Europeans came and brought us the gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, we are not merely the mission field anymore but we have become missionaries ourselves and they have now become the mission field.

Programme Director I am also here as the representative of government to say thanks to you, the church for always praying for us, your leaders in government and for the prosperity of the city. We know that if the city prospers then the church will also prosper.

We need you to pray that all the evils that we have in our city are uprooted and banished. Without you we will not win the fight against HIV/AIDS. Without you we will not win the fight against poverty and the violence against women and children. Without you it will be merely impossible to rebuild this city into a wonderful and prosperous city. Thank you for being a committed and loyal partner in the struggle to help create a better life for all.

We will ask for your advice on many issues but then you need to demonstrate to us that you are the right place to come to by having your own house in order. We would not like to talk to a white or black church, but we would want to simply talk to the representatives of the church.

Programme Director: We as government need the churches to supply us with good residents. A community is only as good as the people that live

in it. If the people complain of too much crime, fraud, corruption and so many other evils than we will look at you and say “help us” because you know how to remove these things. Put differently, you know Someone who can remove these things.

As we go home today let us keep on praying and pray without ceasing for the leaders of your city as well as for the people.

I thank you.