

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF  
CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES**

**(CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION)**

18 May 2026

The CRL Rights Commission notes with serious concern the public statement issued by Rev. Professor Musa Xulu, containing allegations against the Commission and its Chairperson relating to alleged involvement of state security structures in matters concerning Christian organisations and religious leaders.

The Commission categorically rejects any suggestion that it has participated in, authorised, encouraged or collaborated in the profiling, surveillance or targeting of any religious organisation, church leader or faith community on the basis of their religious beliefs, theological positions or opposition to any Commission process.

These allegations are extremely serious, deeply regrettable, and entirely unsubstantiated.

The CRL Rights Commission is a Chapter 9 constitutional institution established to protect and promote the rights of all cultural, religious and linguistic communities in South Africa. The Commission operates strictly within the framework of the Constitution and the law. At no stage has the Commission adopted any agenda aimed at suppressing Christianity, Pentecostal churches, charismatic churches or any other religious grouping.

The Commission further rejects the reckless attempt to create the impression that lawful constitutional processes undertaken by the CRL Rights Commission are linked to intelligence operations or national security interventions. Such claims are speculative, inflammatory and risk causing unnecessary panic, mistrust and division among religious communities and the broader South African public.

It is important to state clearly that the CRL Rights Commission has no authority over State Security structures, does not direct intelligence operations, and has not referred religious organisations or leaders for surveillance or investigation merely because they disagreed with the Commission or participated in public debate.

The Section 22 process has always sought to address legitimate concerns raised publicly regarding exploitation, abuse and commercialisation occurring within certain sectors of religious practice. The

process was intended to promote accountability, transparency, and the protection of vulnerable congregants while fully respecting constitutional rights to freedom of religion, belief, and association.

The Commission further wishes to state that, not so long ago, it experienced an information security breach which required immediate and lawful intervention. In responding to this incident, the Commission acted in accordance with the applicable legal obligations under:

- The Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013 (POPIA),
- The Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 25 of 2002 (ECTA), and
- The Cybercrimes Act 19 of 2020, particularly provisions relating to:
  - unlawful access to data (section 2),
  - unlawful interception of data (section 3),
  - unlawful interference with data or systems (section 5),
  - unlawful interference with computer data storage media or computer systems (section 6), and
  - cyber fraud, forgery, and extortion (sections 8 to 10).

These legislative instruments require decisive action where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the integrity or confidentiality of personal or institutional information has been compromised, including through unauthorised access, acquisition, disclosure, loss, hacking, or ransomware attacks. In particular, section 22(1) of POPIA imposes a clear legal duty on responsible parties to report such breaches to the relevant authorities.

It is for this reason that the Commission reported the incident to the State Security Agency, which is mandated to investigate security breaches affecting government institutions. Any failure to comply with prescribed security measures or to act on such breaches would itself constitute a security risk.

Furthermore, in matters involving official encryption, established protocols require that such breaches also be reported to the South African Communication Security Agency (SACSA). The Commission adhered to all applicable reporting channels in this regard. The responsibility to ensure that all security breaches are properly reported rests with the head of the institution.

The Commission emphasises that all security-related matters are handled with the strictest level of confidentiality in order to protect the integrity of the institution, safeguard affected individuals and prevent undue prejudice. The matter remains under investigation by the State Security Agency.

The Commission remains committed to constructive engagement with all religious formations, including those who may disagree with aspects of its work. However, disagreement cannot justify the dissemination of allegations or untruths that undermine constitutional institutions without credible evidence.

Should Rev. Prof. Xulu possess evidence of unlawful conduct by any individual or institution, he is urged to submit such evidence to the appropriate law enforcement, parliamentary or judicial authorities for proper investigation, rather than advancing such claims through public insinuation.

The CRL Rights Commission will continue to discharge its constitutional mandate impartially, independently and without fear or favour.

Issued by:

The CRL Rights Commission

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