



# World Council of Churches

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Rev. Dr Billy Gama  
General secretary of Blantyre Synod  
Church of Central Africa Presbyterian  
(CCAP)  
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Blantyre  
Malawi  
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Geneva, 22 March 2023

Dear Rev. Dr Billy Gama,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of life and resurrection.

We have been closely following the developments on the ground following the landfall of Cyclone Freddy that has affected Madagascar, Mozambique, and especially southern Malawi, where your synod serves.

We are deeply saddened by reports that more than 400 people have lost their lives, thousands injured, and hundreds of thousands displaced and left homeless. For many, this is not their first displacement as they were already affected by cyclones Ana and Idai in recent years, from which the households and the nation at large had not fully recovered. We note that the country was also battling a protracted cholera outbreak, and this tragedy couldn't have come at a more inopportune time.

Please accept our heartfelt sympathies and solidarity.

Your prompt call for solidarity with those affected by the disaster, and the immediate action taken by the CCAP Blantyre Synod in providing aid and opening up your churches in the affected areas to shelter those who have lost their homes, are beacons of hope in these trying times.

Your resilience and unwavering faith in the face of adversity inspire and encourage us, and we are committed to doing our part to ease the suffering caused by this calamity. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you navigate this challenging period, and we continue to stand in solidarity with you now as we have done in the past.

As expressed in our constitution, we, as a fellowship of churches, are "to express the common concern of the churches in the service of human need, the breaking down of barriers between people and the promotion of one human family in justice and peace." (WCC Constitution).

We stand with you in prayer and support and with the Malawi Council of Churches, all other churches and religious groups, civil society, the business sector, and the national and foreign governments that are rallying their efforts to provide emergency assistance in the wake of this tragedy. We are confident that the churches' diaconal actions and the support of many will go a long way to ease the acute suffering of the affected people and help rebuild their lives.

We reiterate our urgent calls for addressing the climate emergency by drastically reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and mitigating loss and damage by polluting countries to ensure that all humanity can continue to experience safe and sustainable life on our God-given mother Earth.

We pray that our Lord Jesus Christ gives you all the strength and wisdom to support the suffering and vulnerable people, and we pray that Malawi will emerge from this challenge stronger. Be assured that the entire ecumenical family holds Malawi in prayer in costly solidarity within the one body of Christ.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Pillay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerry" being more prominent than the last name "Pillay".

Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay  
General Secretary  
World Council of Churches