

PRESS RELEASE

MEETING WITH HIS HOLINESS POPE TAWADROS II OF THE COPTIC CHURCH 20 MARCH 2024

Ambassador NJ Mashimbye had earlier this afternoon had the privilege of meeting with His Holiness Pope Tawadros II at the historic Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church.

The meeting served as an opportunity to extend heartfelt condolences and solidarity following the tragic passing of three Egyptian Coptic monks within a Coptic monastery in South Africa.

Expressing deep sorrow, the Ambassador conveyed sincere condolences on behalf of South Africa to His Holiness Pope Tawadros II and the entire Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church community.

The shocking news deeply impacted the Embassy, highlighting the importance of swift and thorough investigation by the South African Police Service and other law enforcement agencies.

Despite the tragic incident, His Excellency, commended the diligent efforts of law enforcement authorities, acknowledging the swift arrests of suspects who remain in custody pending further legal proceedings. Emphasizing the importance of maintaining the positive contributions of the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church in South Africa, Mashimbye underscored its pivotal role in fostering peace and social cohesion within the nation.

He, reaffirmed South Africa's unwavering support for the people and the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, particularly during this period of mourning. Recognizing the significant impact of the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church on the country's pursuit of a peaceful and democratic future, He further expressed gratitude to His Holiness Pope Tawadros II for his enduring commitment to the well-being of all South Africans.

In conclusion, His Excellency, extended gratitude to His Holiness Pope Tawadros II for graciously receiving the delegation, offering prayers for solace, strength, and courage during this difficult time of great loss.