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**MEDIA STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION  
CONDEMNING THE PRACTICES OF PROPHET LETHEBO**

**21 NOVEMBER 2016**

The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities has learnt with shock and repugnance about the practices of Prophet Lethebo who is alleged to use a multi-insect spray doom to “exorcise demons” from his congregants.

These kinds of practices were among the reasons why the CRL Rights Commission had to undertake a study to investigate the commercialisation of religion and the abuse of the people’s beliefs systems.

As part of this study, the commission had to call a number of Pastors, Prophets, Priests, Religious leaders, Jewish, Hindu, Muslims, African Traditional Religion, Rastafari, and Bahai etc.

The Objectives of the study amongst others was to:

- Investigate and understand further issues surrounding the commercialization of religion,
- Identify the causes underlying the commercialization of religion,
- Understand the deep societal thinking that makes some members of our society vulnerable and gullible with respect to views expressed and actions during religious ceremonies.
- Assess the religious framework and its relevance to deal with the prevailing religious challenges and finally formulate recommendations that address the status quo with respect to commercialized religion.

The CRL Rights Commission encourages everyone whose rights and beliefs have been violated to report such to the Commission.

As a Commission, we categorically state that no one should be subjected to conditions that are detrimental to their health and wellbeing.

The Chairperson of the Commission, Mrs Thoko Mkhwanazi-Xaluva strongly condemns these actions and practices by some of these religious leaders but assures the public that ultimately the recommendations contained in the report will go a long way to address these kinds of issues

Furthermore, the CRL Rights Commission urges the religious leaders to ensure to give their inputs and responses to the report so that the proposed legislation on the peer review mechanism can be expedited before anything horrible might happen to anyone.

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