

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE DEADLY DANGERS OF CULTS: A CASE OF MALINDI CULT PASTOR MACKENZIE'S GRAVES

NAIROBI, Kenya – We continue to receive the shocking news of dozens of graves, exhumed by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) detectives, of members of a cult who have died in saddening circumstances. The graves have been discovered in Pastor Mackenzie's land, which is located in the village of Shakahola, Malindi sub-county in the southern part of Kenya.

Pastor Mackenzie, leader of Good News International Church, was arrested on 14th April 2023, and investigations still continue. The reports so far reveal that some of the deceased members were fasting, following the pastor's instructions in order to meet Jesus. Mackenzie himself has been on a hunger strike since he was taken custody.

Kenya's Constitution supports freedom of religion and the expression of religious views. However, such bizarre incidences show why there is a need to be vigilant against religious and non-religious ideas that harm people's lives, not only spiritually but also physically.

In the spirit of mutual accountability, we wish to make the following proposals:

1. We appeal to Christians everywhere that as they seek to honor their leaders, they should develop a discerning spirit by testing the teachings of their leaders with the whole counsel of God's Word and with the lifestyle of Jesus Christ.
2. We encourage individuals who think they are in a cult or know one, to report to the appropriate authorities or to the Kenyan media.
3. We direct those who want to learn more, to reach out or read more about cults. We recommend the *Africa Center for Apologetics Research* website (www.acfar.org) as a starting point.
4. We call for the creation of an Interministerial Group for Monitoring & Combating Cultic Groups (IGMCC) which can be spearheaded by the national church's mechanisms such as the Evangelical Alliance of Churches of Kenya and National Council of Churches of Kenya, with appropriate government support.

In a continent that pays such high regard for leaders, political and spiritual, Africans must not let the regard for authority be an excuse for political and spiritual manipulation. Apologetics Kenya as a Christian ministry will continue to equip believers and engage skeptics to develop their discernment against false ideologies that can be fatal, as this case reveals.

We pray that God's peace and comfort will be with the family members of those who have lost loved ones through this horrific ordeal and that the governing authorities will administer justice in its right proportions.



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