STATEMENT TO THE COUNTRY

The Methodist Church of Peru, which has been active in missionary and pastoral work since 1877 through its accompaniment of various sectors of the population, expresses its deep concern about the difficult political situation the country finds itself in. The presidential vacancy that was decided by the Congress of the Republic last Monday has come at a time when we are in the midst of the most serious health, economic and social crisis of the last 100 years.

Faced with what happened at the Congress of the Republic, many of our citizens have expressed their objection and protests have been organised in various regions of the country to call for democracy, governance and justice and to reject corruption robustly.

The current social and political situation is characterised by great uncertainty among the population, as well as economic instability and social unrest. Consequently, there is a worrying paralysis of activities and policies for the current health and humanitarian crisis, for education, production and employment. This affects the living conditions of the population, particularly the most vulnerable sectors including women, children, young people, people with disabilities and the elderly.

As a church facing this situation, we reaffirm our call to respect the Constitution, the defence of democratic institutions and the fight against corruption.

For the sake of the governability of our country and on the eve of the celebration of the Bicentennial of the Republic, we urge the corresponding authorities to guarantee the transparent conduct of the general elections next April and in the transition of government in July 2021.

We urge the authorities to put first above all else the common good and defend the well-being of our people as the supreme value of society and the State, as well as the right to life, with justice, equality, equity and peace, above all individual interest and desire for power.

In the spirit of the scriptures, we exhort those who govern us to, “...Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place.” (Jeremiah 22:3)

To our fellow citizens, we exhort them with the evangelical message to consider the awareness and responsibility that corresponds to all of us: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”(Romans 12:2). To believers and people of good will, we ask that you “...seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jeremiah 29:7)

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