

National Church Leaders' Consultation The Fourth Consultation

CONSULTATION STATEMENT

18 January 2010, 15h00 – 19 January 2010, 14h00
Lanzerac Hotel and Spa, Stellenbosch

The Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, reflecting on the basis of church unity and calling, reminded the leaders that in their engagement with government and other socio-economic development players, they should not forget who they are and their identity in Christ. Using a play on Jesus' question to the disciples, 'Who do you say that I am?' he challenged the leaders to answer the questions, 'Who are we as the church leaders?' and 'Have we grasped who Christ really is today and now?'

The gathering of leader's pledged to seek 'togetherness' as they work towards establishing oneness, and stated:

- The need for visionary leadership.
- The need for the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The need for a common identity.
- The need for a common cause.

Recognising their position as the moral compass of the state and their standing obligation to represent the poor and disenfranchised, the leaders committed themselves to do the following:

- Build relationships across ecumenical lines around the theme '*Who is Christ for us?*'
- Build a credible and united ecumenical face in the country so that they can be the example of reconciliation and working together.
- Stand firm, united in Jesus Christ – facilitating networks and deepening relationships.
- Bridge the gaps of traditional differences and lend expression to the fact that they are one in Christ.
- Amalgamate their specific positions of influence – making them a force to be reckoned with in South Africa and beyond.
- Endorse the need for a broader and more inclusive ecumenical vision in SA, which encompasses all identified ecumenical bodies who confess the triune God and Jesus Christ as perfect in His humanity and divinity.
- Call on all ecumenical bodies in SA to appoint and mandate three members from their respective executives to represent them in talks to explore the possibilities of establishing a united Christian witness in SA. The Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, was mandated to facilitate this process.
- Join with organisations such as 'Stop Human Trafficking' to stop the scourge that is slowly taking over the country, and may be exacerbated by the World Cup.
- Begin to use the pulpit to build awareness of the causes and consequences of human trafficking. Human dignity is a faith issue.

- Through lobbying and advocacy, influence policy formation and implementation around the issue of human trafficking.
- Partner and work with government on literacy projects, and at the same time try to set up a meeting with President Zuma to chart the way forward in other mutual areas of cooperation.
- Look beyond 2010 and prepare for Census 2011.
- Give feedback and follow up on old issues before picking up new ones.
- Write a communiqué to lend spiritual impetus to the World Cup just before it begins.

A statement was produced in response to the devastation in Haiti and the church leaders committed themselves to assist the victims both in prayer and in kind. An appeal was raised for President Zuma to drive an African response at the upcoming African Union Summit.

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