

COMMENT ON THE REPEAL OF THE POPULATION REGISTRATION ACT (18/6/91)

The repeal of the Population Registration Act is most welcome and high time, according to Archbishop Denis Hurley, Chairman of the Commission for Justice and Peace at the SACBC in an interview in Pretoria.

But is apartheid over?

‘Legislation that has caused the most appalling hurt, degradation and violation of human rights has been scrapped certainly, but looking at the four pillars of apartheid, as I see it, only the population Registration Act has crumbled, discrimination in education and land legislation remain somewhat unresolved, and of course the big one is the constitution.

We must all be helpful – I hate to be pessimistic – but when and how negotiations will start is difficult. The two major stumbling blocks are the release of the prisoners and the return of exiles. This delay cannot go on for too long, the people must see that there is progress and the government should now give its whole attention to removing these obstacles.

Is apartheid over? I would say we still have some distance to go’.

Issued by: Archbishop Deenis E Hurley OMI