

**OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT F.W. DE KLERK, KING GOODWILL
ZWELITHINI, DR NELSON MANDELA AND CHIEF MINISTER
MAGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI ON THE ONGOING POLITICAL VIOLENCE
IN OUR LAND (7/4/94)**

Tomorrow you will be meeting primarily to seek a solution to the present impasse with regard to a generally acceptable political dispensation for KwaZulu-Natal. The outcome of your meeting will have far reaching implications not only for KwaZulu-Natal but also for our country as a whole, for the Southern African region and even the whole continent. The responsibility that rests on your shoulders is awesome.

Your task is to seek a solution that is not dedicated by narrow personal or group self-interest. Yours is the task of seeking a solution that will be for the common good of all South Africans including the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

As leaders not only within the Christian community but also within civil society, we believe that South Africans have earned the right to free and fair elections. We do not believe that it is in the interests of our country and its peoples that the elections be postponed. Certainly, people have the right to refrain from participating but nobody has the right to hinder those who wish to vote. We ask you to condemn any attempt to disrupt the elections.

We assure you of our own personal prayers for the success of your meeting. We call upon all South Africans to pray that you will be given that wisdom and prudence that will enable you to achieve a solution that will lead us all along a road of peace and prosperity and turn us away from violence and bloodshed.

We wish to use this historic occasion of your combined meeting to challenge you to denounce publicly and jointly all forms of violence as a means to achieve political objectives. We urge you to state your belief in the sacredness of life and the need for it to be respected at all costs. Your followers must not only see you displaying political tolerance among your-selves but must hear you calling unequivocally for political tolerance and respect for divergent opinions among all your respective followers. We urge you to consider very carefully the positions you take up publicly because you cannot easily wash your hands of the consequent actions of those who look to you for leadership. We earnestly appeal to you not to let tomorrow's opportunity go by without addressing these issues.

Yours sincerely,

W.F. Napier, OFM

SACBC

Chairperson: Church Leaders' Meeting

K. Mgojo

President: South African Council of Churches

S. Mogoba

Presiding Bishop: Methodist Church of South Africa