

**PASTORAL LETTER OF NATAL CHURCH LEADERS ON THE NATAL
PEACE TALKS (AUGUST 1989)**

Dear people of God,

We greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to join with us in sustained prayer for the success of the peace talks which have begun between INKATHA and the UDF and COSATU.

These talks are aimed at bringing about an end to the violence and conflict which have left our beloved Province of Natal so bruised and broken. We praise God for this bold initiative, and we warmly commend both sides for their readiness and desire to be involved. May they have the grace to persevere even if difficulties or disagreements arise in the process.

The loss of life through the violence has been grievous, and our hearts go out to those who are bereaved or who have suffered injury or loss of property. We are aware of the long-term healing of hurts and fears that will be needed even after peace has been restored. As Church leaders we commit ourselves to be agents, wherever possible, in this process of healing and restoration. We take our stand on the deep reconciliation, which Jesus has accomplished through His blood shed on the cross. "For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility." (Ephesians 2:14).

We ask for daily prayers for the peace talks, both publicly, within the life of our Churches. In this way all will be united with God's heart of love, peace and truth, and new hope will be released into the lives of our people.

Yours fraternally in Christ,

Signed:
BISHOP JOHN BORMAN,
Natal Coastal District, Methodist Church

THE REVD. BHEKI DLUDLA,
Natal Region, United Congregational Church

ARCHBISHOP DENIS HURLEY,
Catholic Archdiocese of Durban

BISHOP DOMINIC KHUMALO,
Catholic Archdiocese of Durban

THE REVD ROBIN MARSHALL,
Presbytery of Durban, Presbyterian Church

BISHOP KHOZA MGOJO,
Pietermaritzburg West District, Methodist Church

BISHOP ALFRED MKHIZE,
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BISHOP PAUL THEMBA MNGOMA,
Catholic Diocese of Marianhill

BISHOP STANLEY MOGOBA
Presiding Bishop, Methodist Church

BISHOP MICHAEL NUTTALL,
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