

**SACBC ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD SECRETARY GENERAL REFUSED  
PASSPORT AND CISKEI PAYS R14 000 TO FATHER MKHATSHWA  
(2/9/87)**

Father Smangalisio Mkhathshwa, secretary general of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference was refused a passport. He was to speak at a number of venues abroad and to receive an honorary degree.

After weeks of waiting for the passport, he received a letter from the regional representative of the Department of Home Affairs who wrote that he did not see his way clear to authorise the issue of the passport. He was also refused travel documents to visit his brother-in-law, ill in Swaziland.

Reacting to the refusal, Father Mkhathshwa said: "refusal by the Pretoria regime to grant me a passport comes as no surprise. Of late there has been much church-bashing. Some priests have been accused of unpatriotic behaviour. But most off all, they are feared as enemies of apartheid.

"The government's reaction is completely irrational, as well as un-Christian. A regime that prides itself in being Christian denies church officials the right to 'go to the whole world and preach the gospel'."

On the same day Father Mkhathshwa's passport was refused, and in the matter between Father Mkhathshwa and the Minister of Police for the Republic of Ciskei in the general division of the Supreme Court of Ciskei, payment of R14 000 damages was made to Father Mkhathshwa.

All the parties indicated that for the sake of peace and to avoid costs of a long action the matter should be full and final settlement of Father Mkhathshwa's claim and to pay costs on the scale as between party and party.