

SACBC ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD STATEMENT

ON

THE *NEW NATION* (30/1/91)

It is a well-known fact that the *New Nation* newspaper was founded on a resolution taken by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference in 1983 and is a project of the Conference.

The Conference felt that there was a need for the establishment of an alternative newspaper that would reflect the daily struggles of the people in their quest for freedom and justice. The Conference felt that these struggles were not adequately reflected in the mainstream media. The newspaper would be owned by the Conference through its Catholic Bishops' Publishing Company to provide some protection for the newspaper against the then severe media censorship and restrictions of the government.

The *New Nation* has certainly achieved much of what it was founded to do and continues to do so.

Given the changing conditions in our country, the Conference now feels that the conditions that threatened the existence of the *New Nation* no longer prevail. This has necessitated a review of our partnership.

The Conference believes that a situation now exists that should enable the *New Nation* to become a project independent of the SACBC. To this end the SACBC and the Management of the *New Nation* have agreed to the establishment of an independent company, under a new board of directors, which will assume ownership of the *New Nation*.

This new arrangement will however not effect the funding of the *New Nation* through the European Community's Special Programme.