

SACBC ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD STATEMENT ON THE VIOLENCE AT DUKUDUKU, MTUBATUBA (4/11/93)

The Southern African Bishops' Conference learns with sorrow of the distressing situation at Dukuduku near Mtubatuba, Natal. This situation, which is a legacy of grave injustice of land distribution and the entanglements resulting from the homeland policy, is causing extreme hardship to many people.

While attempts are made at national level to create and sustain bilateral and multilateral negotiations in disputed matters, it is tragic that at Dukuduku such negotiations give way to violence and death – reminiscent of a policy of forced removals as an instrument of authority.

The SACBC associates itself with Bishop Michael M O'Shea, OSM and the local Church in appealing to all involved in this issue.

We ask that a moratorium be placed on the demolition of dwellings and that people be allowed to remain where they are. We call for an independent commission to be established to consider carefully and in depth all matters pertaining to this affair with a view of bringing it to a peaceful resolution.

The consumer boycott forced by supporters of those under threat of removal causes serious inconvenience to many innocent people. We ask that a moratorium be placed on the boycott.

Above all we call for restraint on the part of everyone concerned, that due respect be given to human life and dignity.

We pray that all will be guided by a spirit of wisdom and courage in seeking an end to this matter.