

SACBC STATEMENT ON THE MASSACRE AT BOIPATONG (19/6/92)

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference joins with all those who raise their voices in horror at the recent massacre at Boipatong. We cry with those who weep for the dead and injured. We express outrage and indignation that such barbarism is tolerated. We lament the futility of condemning violence to no avail and the frustration of calling for action, which never occurs.

We support the people of Boipatong in their demands that the culprits be found and arrested, that their property which was stolen be returned, that the involvement of the police be thoroughly investigated, that the Kwamadala hostel be closed, at least temporarily, and that the ANC, Government and Inkhata meet to address the issue as a matter of urgency.

If President De Klerk and Chief Buthelezi feel that their security forces and followers are being wrongly blamed, we urge them to visit Boipatong and listen to the families of the 47 dead and 41 injured and in the light of what they hear, take immediate action.