

SACBC STATEMENT

ON

ZULULAND UNIVERSITY EXPULSION (1985)

The administrative board of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference urges the University of Zululand, Ngoye, to reinstate 282 students recently expelled. We are deeply disturbed at the decision to expel the students, among whom are members of the catholic African Students' Association (CASA).

We have been informed by the university authorities that the decision is in keeping with an established policy of sifting out students who give little hope of succeeding and whose continued presence at the university is consequently a waste of time, effort and money.

However, the identity of many of the students expelled, including the national president of Azanian Students' Organisation (AZASO), Simphiwe Ngoduso, cannot but give rise to doubts about this explanation.

We would like to point out the possible implications of expulsion for the 282 students:

- ❖ They may not get the certificate of good conduct necessary for registration at other universities;
- ❖ Even if they are admitted to other universities they will have to repeat courses already passed;
- ❖ Due to rising unemployment, the possibility of unqualified students finding work is very bleak indeed.

We call on the university to review a decision, which may penalise a great number of students for life, depriving them of education at a tertiary level and leaving them bitter and frustrated with all that that entails. They would also be more beneficial to society with the degrees and qualifications they are keen to acquire.

We are convinced that a reconsideration of this decision is imperative and recommend it most urgently to the university authorities.