

## STATEMENT

On

## SCHOOLS BOYCOTT

24 April 1980

I join my voice to all seeking a just and proper solution to the “Schools Boycott” question. I appeal for understanding and consultation.

It must be realised that the boycott has arisen from a legitimate feeling of injury and frustration.

The students and their parents feel that they have no real say in the affairs of the public policy, which affect them closely and personally. They are giving voice to the rejection of a system fraught with injustice. This is instanced by:

- 1) The difference in funds allocated for their education, as compared with those who have the vote;
- 2) The inequality of facilities such as maintenance and care of buildings, the provision of books and school stationery, the amenities of a school such as schools halls, playing field surfaces, etc.;
- 3) The overall inequality of education and indeed of life.

The authorities claim (no doubt rightly) that they have done much to reduce the gap e.g. by compulsory education and increased revenue for the building of schools.

But it must be recognised that much has still to be done. This should be publicly admitted.

Let the authorities not react sharply against the “boycott”, but rather listen with sympathetic ears to legitimate grievances. Let them consult with the students and their parents and all genuinely concerned with the improvement of the whole quality of education and life of every South African, as for example the Church authorities, and other public bodies.

This is the reasonable and Christian way.

**Owen Cardinal McCann**  
Archbishop of Cape Town