

THE NATAL CHURCH LEADERS' GROUP

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Dr Theuns Eloff  
c/o CODESA

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10 January 1992

Dear Theuns,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Natal Church Leaders' Group and enclose a copy of its Mission Statement for information.

The Group met with Mr John Hall on 5 December 1991 and discussed a wide range of issues relating to the National Peace Accord and the conflict in Natal.

Arising from this meeting, I was requested to contact the Management Committee to request a meeting between delegates from the Natal group to CODESA and the Natal Church Leaders' Group.

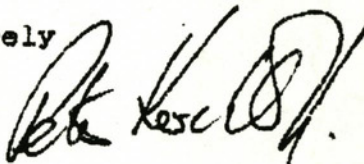
The purpose of the meeting will be to brief the church leaders on the various aspects of CODESA and how the churches will be able to facilitate the peace process in Natal.

The meeting will take place on Thursday 30 January at 16h30 at the Ecumenical Centre (20 St Andrews Street, Durban) and supper will be provided for the participants.

May I ask you to take this request to the Management Committee meeting scheduled for Monday 13 January please.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



PETER KERCHHOFF  
Secretary

## **The Natal Church Leaders Group - a mission statement**

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The Natal Church Leaders Group is an informal and autonomous association of the recognised leaders of the following churches operating in the province of Natal:

Church of the Province of Southern Africa  
Methodist Church of Southern Africa  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa  
Presbyterian Church of Africa  
Roman Catholic Church  
United Congregational Church of Southern Africa

It is hoped that the ecumenical base of the group will broaden to include other churches in the region.

The NCLG was formed on 7 May 1988 in response to the crisis in the Province arising out of the political violence that by the end of 1990 had taken over 4000 lives, destroyed immense amounts of property and turned thousands of families into refugees.

The Group meets on a regular (usually monthly) basis and its membership comprises the leaders of the above mentioned churches. In addition the NCLG is able to call on a number of advisors, facilitators and consultants to assist in its deliberations and work. Included among these are representatives of the regional Councils of Churches in Natal, the Vuleka Trust, Diakonia, PACSA, the South African Council of Churches, and Standing for the Truth Campaign. Any decisions made are by consensus and in no way inhibit the leadership of the particular churches from acting individually as they see fit.

The NCLG sees its mission as being a body through which the Church leaders can act decisively in crisis situations, through informing themselves of the issues underlying the crisis, supporting each other in collective or denominational action, and through collective attempts at mediation, peacemaking, crisis relief, solidarity with the victims of violence, and prophetic challenge.

Among the variety of interventions open to the NCLG are the following:

- \* Offers to mediate and facilitate peace talks between warring parties.
- \* Negotiating with the state and challenging it to take appropriate action to help resolve the conflict and its causes.
- \* Informing clergy and laypeople of the issues that underlie the violence so that more informed decision making may be made by Christians at every level of involvement.
- \* Training in conflict handling.
- \* Supporting each other in crisis situations.
- \* Supporting appropriate interventions by other bodies aimed at addressing the crisis.
- \* Acting through immediate responses, pastoral visits and crisis relief (usually through the Natal Crisis Fund) to bring care and hope to the victims of violence.
- \* Planning for reconstruction when the violence ends.