

NUTRITION CORPORATION OF LESOTHO LIMITED

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trading as

L PHEPENG-LESOTHO

(formerly KUPUGANI-LESOTHO)

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Bill of Rights Workgroup
Codesa
Work Trade Centre
KEMPTON PARK

2nd March 1992

Dear Sir

Ref: An "UBUNTU CHARTER" TO SUPPLEMENT A BILL OF HUMAN RIGHTS
(SIMILAR TO THE "PANCASILA CODE" IN INDONESIA)

May I suggest a simple "UBUNTU (HUMANNESS) CHARTER" to cover some non-judiciable elements of an ideal Bill of Rights - featuring them as a short supplementary list of principles for a caring society, to be promulgated in the new South Africa?. Together with the judiciable rights, these ideals of responsible human behaviour in a multi-cultural, non-racial society would convert the final document into a CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

I saw the principle used to good effect as the "Pancasila (Reconciliation) Code" when I worked for the United Nations in the very diverse country of Indonesia.

UBUNTU (HUMANNESS) CHARTER

1. HONOUR A COMMON HUMANITY: Identify and give honour to the common dignity and immeasurable value of all people as human beings created in the image of God, whatever their race, culture, gender, politics, religion, condition or legal status. Respect others as you would respect yourself.

2. PROMOTE A CARING SOCIETY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:

Help build a caring society in which honest labour, creativity, efficiency, charity and both socially - beneficial and ecologically-viable investment flourish - not only for the benefit of oneself and one's own family, but also to generate affirmative action opportunities for the unemployed, homeless, hungry and other dispossessed to provide for their own basic needs.

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3. ENCOURAGE TOLERANCE AND UNITY IN DIVERSITY:

Recognize differences of human viewpoint as opportunities for learning and, whilst allowing for partial separation on matters of conscience, promote tolerance by seeking for areas of common cause and joint venture in the midst of conflicting diversity.

4. WORK ON RESOLVING DIFFERENCES:

Separate censure of an offensive action from disrespect for the humanity of the alleged offender - make the offensive issue the common enemy of all efforts to resolve differences and not the person of the opponent.

5. FAVOUR ARBITRATION OVER CONFRONTATION:

Maintain human solidarity and dignity in unresolved conflict situations by calling in responsible third parties to arbitrate in negotiation before clashes of viewpoint escalate into public confrontation, litigation and violence.

In Indonesia, a list of principles similar to these were advertised everywhere one went, and were used as a reference point for peer pressure to inspire students and various sections of the community to think just a bit more responsibly about their fellow human-beings!

Wishing you every success with your deliberations - and thanking you for your embodiment of some of the Ubuntu principles above.

Yours Sincerely

James H. Anderson

James H. Anderson, B.Sc., M.Sc. (Iphepeng Projects, International Co-ordinator and Part-time Consultant to the United Nations on Food and Nutrition Planning)

P.S. Our company, and an associated charity in Cape Town, is working on setting up a mainly church based, non-formal education network that can be used for disseminating public service information (and democratic community feedback) at grassroots level. A map is attached. I would be happy to appear before a CODESA workgroup to make a presentation on the proposed strategy, which is also similar to some successful initiatives I have witnessed in other lands.

