

Statement by South African Catholic Bishops Conference

Zimbabwe: from crisis to disaster to genocide
Monday, 26 January 2009

The appalling tragedy in Zimbabwe means that the time of talking is over. Six months of talks have resulted only in a stalemate. It is clear that the present mediation and negotiations have failed the people of Zimbabwe yet again.

Ten (10) months after the harmonised elections in March 2008, widely regarded as expressing the will of the people of Zimbabwe, President Mugabe and his Cabal cling to power illegitimately.

SADC must stop supporting and giving credibility to the illegitimate Mugabe regime with immediate effect. Failing this, SADC Leaders accept complicity in creating the conditions that have resulted in starvation, displacement, disease and death for ordinary Zimbabweans. This is nothing short of passive genocide.

We, the Catholic Bishops of Southern Africa, call on Mugabe to step down immediately. We call for the formation of a coalition interim government of National Recovery and the preparation for internationally supervised and credible presidential elections as soon as possible.

Archbishop Buti Tlhagale OMI
President of the Southern African Catholic
Bishops' Conference
in the name of the Bishops of Botswana, South
Africa and Swaziland