

# PLEA TO THE N.G. KERK IN S.AFRICA FROM THE NYANGA BUSH PEOPLE

We the people of Nyanga Bush, profess our Christianity and belief in God. We see you members of the N.G. Kerk as being part of this Christian family sharing in the common fatherhood of God. This makes us all brothers and sisters in this family.

During these times we have suffered greatly through actions undertaken by members of your church who profess the same faith we do and whom you support. We have been forcefully separated as families, we women forced to live apart from our husbands. We were even separated from our children during the number of deportations we were subjected to recently. We are being forced to live in places where we find no work or food and have witnessed the death of our children through starvation. We find our return to such places impossible. It is now in our utter desperation and suffering that we implore you in the name of God to:—

- Stop the continued separation of our families
- Stop the humiliation we suffer as a consequence of constant hounding like animals and criminals
- Prevent our removal to areas of starvation
- Enable us to live out our united family lives in a Christian way in areas of our choice.

We pray that you will hear our plea and put an end to our suffering through the guidance of those responsible who share in your membership. We pray too that soon we may all be able to live as one loving Christian family free from oppression and fear; and for your courage and strength to make this a reality.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,  
Nyanga bush people

This petition was handed to the Rev. C. H. Latsky of the Dutch Reformed Church in Rondebosch, on 11-10-81. He told the Cape Times that it was handed to him in good faith and after "a very nice meeting with the group", he had passed their message on to the Rev G S Moller, Moderator of the Cape Synod of the DRC.

Mr Moller said: "We have two congregations in Nyanga and Guguletu. We have an agreement with their ministers and church boards that we will provide money, food and clothing should these be needed.

"After the Crossroads evictions, our doors were open for aid for those evicted, and our liaison committee discussed the squatter problem with government officials.

"Ideally we should not have a squatter situation and we are working towards the provision of houses, schools and health services.

"But it cannot be done overnight. It is a hard fact that families are being divided, and my sympathies are with them. But personally, I cannot see how influx control can be stopped without chaos in the Western Cape."

Mr Moller said he had criticized the recent eviction of squatters in wet winter weather in the church's newsletter.

The country, he said, was faced with a vast unemployment problem which could not be solved overnight.

"To imagine that we can go to the government and ask them to stop the squatting problem is an oversimplification. The Church is not the State and the State is not the Church.

"Money is needed to provide housing, schools, hospitals. It does not just rest with the Afrikaans people. They only control 13 percent of the money and trade. The English and the Jews control 87 percent."

(from the **Cape Times**, 12-10-81).