



PATRON Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

EXECUTIVE TRUSTEES:

Gerrie Lubbe (+27 83 992-6067),
Sean Moodley (+27 83 659-0615)

PO Box 2195, Florida Hills, 1716 diversitysa@telkomsa.net
<http://www.desmondtutudiversitytrust.org.za>

Statement on Desecration of Mosque

It is with utter dismay that the Desmond Tutu Diversity Trust learned of the desecration of the Potchefstroom Mosque on Tuesday night 14 October 2008. According to reports, windows were broken and three pigs heads were tossed into the mosque.

Whilst the Trust is endeavoring to promote the acceptance of religious, cultural and linguistic diversity in South Africa, it regards this incident as deeply offensive and disrespectful. In a democratic South Africa there is absolutely no room for such blatant thuggery. The religious intolerance that this incident portrays is not only despicable but also potentially harmful and destructive.

We would like to express our sincere sympathy with the Muslim community of Potchefstroom in particular, and with all Muslims in South Africa. We trust that the perpetrators will be brought to book and be forced to apologize to all Muslims in our country.

We call once more on all South Africans not to feel threatened by those who are different from ourselves but to accept them as fellow compatriots. In the words of our Patron:

We acknowledge our diversity and say its richness is something to be proud of and to celebrate.

Prof Gerrie Lubbe
CEO

15 October 2008