



A NATIONAL CALL FOR THE CELEBRATION AND APPRECIATION OF OUR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

On Wednesday 24 September 2008, we will celebrate Heritage Day in South Africa. From Mitchell's Plain to Musina and from Umlazi to Uppington, we will again remember that our heritage is that of a rich cultural diversity.

However, events that took place earlier this year, prompt us to ask whether we have really come to peace with our national characteristics and our various different cultures. Do we respect those whose mother tongues differ from our own? Do we accept those who observe different customs and beliefs? Do we allow for a protocol of respect that could be different from our own?

Under no circumstances should we return to the dark years of intolerance and suspicion towards those who are different or allow our differences to become separating structures.

We need to say and show that we do not feel threatened by those who are different. We need to say and show that it is OK to be different.

The *Desmond Tutu Diversity Trust* herewith calls on you to join it in celebrating Heritage Day. In particular, we call on you to ask for renewed appreciation from your constituents for our God-given diversity during the week-end of 19 to 21 September 2008.

It is our sincere hope that this call will soon give birth to the celebration of an annual Diversity Day.

Sincerely yours

Prof GJA Lubbe
CEO

2 September 2008

ANNEXURE I

SUGGESTIONS

Here are some suggestions for practical ways of celebrating our rich diversity:

1. Learn to greet in three different languages spoken in South Africa.
2. Try to cook a dish of a culture different from your own. Perhaps you can ask someone from another culture for a recipe.
3. Design a liturgy around the theme of cultural diversity.
4. Let your choir sing songs or hymns in a language different from the one you usually use.
5. Become acquainted with someone from a different culture in your street, neighbourhood or town.
6. Use some, or all, of the quotes below to make large, colourful posters to be displayed on your community's premises.

ANNEXURE II

Quotes on Diversity from Archbishop Desmond Tutu

1. Let us celebrate our diversity and give hope to a world filled with hostility towards those who are different.
2. Our country is dedicated to forgiveness and reconciliation, a celebration of our rich diversity in colour, creed and culture.
3. We acknowledge our diversity and say its richness is something to be proud of and to celebrate.
4. We celebrate our diversity in a three-in-one national anthem, a multi coloured flag and eleven languages!
5. Let us celebrate our diversity so that we can indeed show that we are the rainbow people of god.
6. As a unified community, we will become a beacon of light on the african continent and in the world at large.
7. We need to recapture *ubuntu* which says that a person can be a person only through other persons.
8. The only way we can survive is together, black and white; the only way we can be truly human is together, black and white.