

C O M M I S S I O N
FOR THE PROMOTION & PROTECTION
OF THE RIGHTS OF CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS
& LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES

Private Bag X 90 000, HOUGHTON, 2041
No. 158 Jan Smuts Avenue, 1st Floor, West Wing, Rosebank, Johannesburg
Tel: +27 11 537 7600 Fax: +27 11 880 3495

CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEDIA STATEMENT

EMBARGO : IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM : THE OFFICE OF THE C.E.O ADV.PS. MOREROA

TO : NEWS EDITORS / PR WIRES

DATE : 01 AUGUST 2011

**SUBJECT : CELEBRATING SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN'S MONTH 2011: THEME:
WORKING TOGETHER TO ENHANCE WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES TO ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT**

The CRL Rights Commission joins the rest of the South African Cultural, Religious and Language Communities in honouring this 55th year anniversary of the South African women's anti-pass march to the Union Buildings in 1956.

This is a historic march that marked a turning point in the role of women in the struggle for freedom, democracy, and religious tolerance, unity in diversity, ubuntu and social justice in South Africa.

The 9th August 1956 marks the day when women from all races and walks of life marched to the Union Buildings in protest against oppressive apartheid pass laws. Recalling one of the fiery speech to the crowd in 1956 by Mme Dora Tamana member of the African National Congress Women's League and a founding member of the Federation of South African Women who declared that:

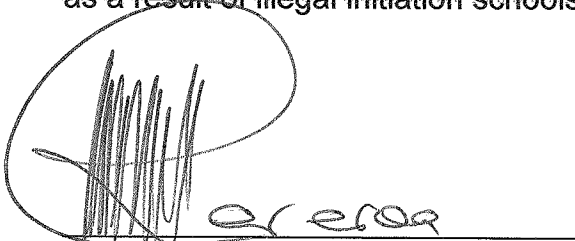
We, women, will never carry these passes. This is something that touches my heart. I appeal to you young Africans to come forward and fight. These passes make the road even narrower for us. We have seen unemployment, lack of accommodation and families broken because of passes. We have seen it with our men. Who will look after our children when we go to jail for a small technical offence -- not having a pass?

The CRL Rights Commission support and observes the Women's Month 2011 under the theme "*Working together to enhance women's opportunities to economic empowerment*". The Commission takes this moment to salute and honour all grandmothers, mothers and sisters who dedicated their lives for the emancipation of women from the then Apartheid South Africa.

The theme for 2011 is befitting the vision of the national government on rural development and job creation and the CRL Rights Commission would like to see

those benefits and opportunities been directed to the marginalized and vulnerable women communities in terms of Agricultural co-operatives and skill development.

The Commission is concerned with the plight of rural and indigenous women, working in the farming areas where they are constantly denied an access to their respective burial grounds in the country especially in the Mpumalanga Province. The Commission further condemns the kidnapping of young female learners under the guise of ukuthwala custom and the unabated deaths of young males in the country as a result of illegal initiation schools in the Eastern Cape Province.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of vertical lines followed by a cursive name, enclosed in a hand-drawn oval.

Adv PS Moreroa

Chief Executive Officer

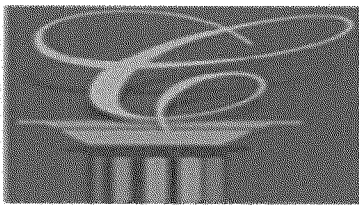
CRL Rights Commission

01 August 2011

For any other enquiries regarding this statement please contact:

Ms Botle Letsebe
Marketing and Communications Officer
Mobile: 079 238 1485
(011) 537 7625

Issued by: Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural,
Religious and Linguistic Communities
01 August 2011



C O M M I S S I O N
FOR THE PROMOTION & PROTECTION
OF THE RIGHTS OF CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS
& LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES

No. 158 Jan Smuts Avenue, 1st Floor, West Wing, Rosebank, Johannesburg
Tel: +27 11 537 7600 Fax: +27 11 880 3495

EMBARGO : IMMEDIATE RELEASE (URGENT)

FROM : OFFICE OF THE CEO. ADV. P.S. MOREROA
TO : NEWS EDITORS / PR WIRES
DATE : 03 AUGUST 2011

SUBJECT : CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION RAMADAN MESSAGE

The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities wishes the Muslim Religious Communities well over this fasting period. The Muslim community in South Africa marked the start of the holy month of Ramadan on Sunday, 31 July.

During the time of Ramadan, Muslim Religious Communities all over the world abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs during the daylight hours. As a time to purify the soul, refocus attention on the Creator, and practice self-sacrifice, Ramadan is much more than just not eating and drinking. Muslims are called upon to use this month to re-evaluate their lives in light of Islamic guidance.

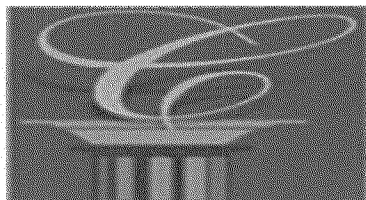
It is also a time when the Muslim communities reach out to the poor and lend them a helping hand. These are lessons all South African Cultural and Religious Communities can learn from and follow, it is in recognising our unity in diversity that our strength as a country lies. The CRL Commission wishes them well on all their religious gatherings all over the country.

Issued by the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities

Yours sincerely;


Adv. P S Moreroa
Chief Executive Officer
CRL Rights Commission

For more information contact:
Botle Letsebe
Marketing and Communications Officer
011 537 7625 / 079 238 1485



C · O · M · M · I · S · S · I · O · N
FOR THE PROMOTION & PROTECTION
OF THE RIGHTS OF CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS
& LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES

Private Bag X 90 000, HOUGHTON, 2041

No. 158 Jan Smuts Avenue, 1st Floor, West Wing, Rosebank, Johannesburg

Tel: +27 11 537 7600

Fax: +27 11 880 3495

Embargo: Immediate Media Release

From: Office of the CEO: Adv PS Moreroa

To : News editors / Content Producers

Date: 04 August 2011

SUBJECT: CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION CONCERN ON UPROAR OVER BURIAL PLANS BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

The Times news paper article dated 03 August 2011 entitled, 'Uproar over burial plans' at page 7 bears reference. The CRL Rights Commission has noted the righteous anger by the Kwazulu- Natal traditional and community leaders against the eThekweni municipality on its recent proposal to ban burials on Sundays, to fine late-comer mourners and the recycling of graves. The Commission appreciates efforts undertaken by the eThekweni municipality to address the lack of burial space but would like to advise the Municipality to do more consultations with the affected communities before any by-laws are implemented.

The Commission would like to reiterate that various cultural and religious communities including the respected National and Provincial Traditional Leaders regard burial grounds and graves as sacred sites and as places that reflect their cultural, spiritual, religious significance that identify them. There are those communities that believe that burial spaces are a bridge and a link to their ancestors.

The Commission has been handling numerous complaints nationally on the lack of burial spaces, destruction of historical and ancestral graves and threats of developmental projects on various burial grounds. Furthermore the Commission's Public Education and Advocacy unit recently visited the eThekweni local municipality to engage with all relevant stakeholders and it was commonly agreed in that meeting that:

- The issue of re-use of graves will affect mainly the Jewish, African, and Muslim communities;

- The Orthodox Jewish community does not allow any interference with their graves, while the reformed Jewish Community is likely to be flexible on the matter;
- Certain African communities view burial sites as sacred and therefore must be respected at all time and
- Re-use of graves for burial purposes has always been accepted in some communities if members of the same community/clan are buried together.

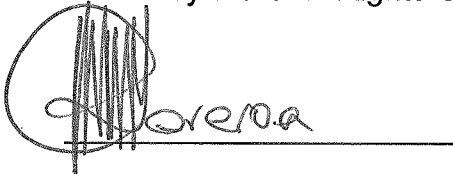
Based on the above concerns and challenges, the CRL Rights Commission would like to request various national, provincial government departments and local municipalities to broadly take into account cultural and religious rights of communities before they embark on any activity that will affect cultural and religious rights.

The Commission is deeply concerned that heritage and environment legislations or regulations are ignored by various municipalities and would encourage that all Municipalities when dealing with alternative cemeteries/burial sites should be able to stand Constitutional test when coming to cultural and religious rights of communities. This means that any limitation of community rights must satisfy the factors outlined in section 36 of the Constitution of 1996.

The Commission therefore urges all local municipalities in the Kwazulu- Natal Province and other affected Provinces to broadly conduct open community and traditional leadership consultation with regard to the various cultural and religious practices of burial methods, days, significance of ancestral communication, and the recycling of graves.

For media interviews, please contact the Communication Officer: Ms Botle Letsebe on 011 537 7600 ext 7625

Issued by the CRL Rights Commission



Adv P.S Moreroa

Chief Executive Officer

CRL Rights Commission

Date: 04 /08/2011