

# Makgoba, Carolus pay tribute to peace march

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By Michelle Jones

In one of the biggest marches in the city centre, 30 000 people took to the streets 20 years ago to push for peace and to protest against the killing of 23 people in demonstrations against the apartheid tricameral elections.

Yesterday, St George's Cathedral was filled in celebration and remembrance of September 13, 1989. A number of speakers addressed a crowd of about 500 and told of the events leading up to the march and the march itself, while looking at the present state of the country.

The call to march was made by then Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Tutu, in a pre-recorded message, said: "We could no longer tolerate the pervasive evils of apartheid ... so we came together in the cathedral to pray."

Thabo Makgoba, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, said: "It was a time to say, enough is enough. It was a time to say, the killing must stop. Everyone was united in their desire for freedom."

At the time, the country was under a state of emergency and permission for the march was only granted by then president FW de Klerk at the last minute.

Michael Evans was on that day "hovering in the background" of the march. He had attended as both a lawyer and an activist, not trusting that the march would go ahead peacefully without the interference of the government or police.

"I thankfully didn't need my lawyer's hat on that day," Evans said, adding that the march was a reminder of what the country and its people had been through.

Cheryl Carolus, one of the march organisers, said it was important to remember those who had died and what the march had stood for.

"I don't think many of us really, truly believed when we said 'freedom in our lifetime'."

Carolus said in the 20 years since the march, the country had achieved a lot of "phenomenal" things. But she said more could have been done.

"Maybe we had actually not known how to do this thing called democracy," she said.

City councillor Grant Pascoe echoed that sentiment as he asked what legacy had been left for the next generation.

"We need to hold our government and representatives to account (so that they) do not become arrogant.

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<http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/makgoba-carolus-pay-tribute-to-peace-march-1.458408?ot=inmsa.ArticlePrintPageLayout.ot>