



杜省中華公會

Since 1903 年創立

The Chinese Association (Gauteng)

Address: TCA Building, 11 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, 2001

Website: www.tcagp.co.za **E-mail:** info@tcagp.co.za

NPO Registration No: 032 550 NPO

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With reference to recent reports around illegal donkey killings and donkey skin trading:

The TCA and the Chinese community are extremely upset by reports of ill-treatment and abuse of donkeys. As an association we also condemn all acts of animal cruelty or criminal activity in the strongest of terms.

We also note that criminals do not come in any particular colour and if any people, irrespective of their race or country of origin, are indeed proved to be involved we urge that they be prosecuted with the full force of the law and for the law to take its course.

However, we must note that it is extremely worrying, both to the TCA and the Chinese community in South Africa, that a wave of racism, hate speech and xenophobia against all Chinese has followed. We do fully understand that there is a lot of emotion behind the recent Donkey killings but would like to remind people that even with that, there is no excuse to condemn, disrespect and threaten an entire community based on the colour of their skin or the country of origin – this is pure xenophobia and pure racism.

Hate speech in itself falls under a charge of *crimen injuria*, which is a crime under the South African common law and is an act of "unlawfully, intentionally and seriously impairing the dignity of another". It is a matter of record that the Chinese community has been a victim of *crimen injuria*. Charges against the perpetrators of hate speech have been laid and legal action against the perpetrators is underway.

It is also important to note that we as an association have no interaction whatsoever with any of these syndicates operating these illegal slaughtering of donkeys. However, we stress again that the TCA condemns in the strongest possible terms, all acts of cruelty to animals and any criminal activity and we have urged our community to report to the authorities any such activity.

The TCA