

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)**

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**ANC's centenary: CDP withholds even protocol-congratulatory message because of rituals**

The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) said in a statement that the ANC is taking South Africa on a very dangerous path and decided to withhold congratulating the ANC with its centenary, even as a matter of protocol-courtesy due to the animistic ritual planned ahead of the celebrations.

"We fully support calls by Christian groups and warn the ANC not to go ahead with these practices.

"The ANC came under severe criticism – also from main stream churches – for continued quasi-religious remarks and practices" says CDP leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

"Zuma recently said churches should join the ANC in celebrating its centenary, as the church had been a part of the ANC from the outset. How can the planned animistic rituals be reconciled with this statement, even when considering the broad diversity-net some churches are now casting in order to embrace as wide a spectrum of ideas as possible?

"The CDP respects cultural diversity, but when such practices fly in the face of the Christian faith, and especially when dressed up as a Christian practice, we say: No more!

"We call on all Christian churches and organisations to take a firm stand, and not to back down until the ANC reverses its decision and apologizes to all Christians in the country."

**ANC se eeufees: CDP weerhou selfs protokol-gelukwensing weens rituele**

Die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) sê in 'n verklaring dat die ANC Suid-Afrika op 'n baie gevaarlike pad neem, en het besluit om nie die ANC met sy eeufees geluk te wens nie, nie eens as 'n protokol-beleefdheidsblyk nie, weens die beplande animistiese rituele wat vir die aanvang van die fees beplan word.

"Ons het besluit om die oproepe van Christengroepe op die ANC om nie daarmee voort te gaan nie, ten volle te ondersteun. Die ANC het reeds onder skerp kritiek van die hoofstroomkerke gekom deur met kwasi-godsdienstige uitsprake te volhard," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die CDP.

"Onlangs nog het Zuma gesê kerke behoort die eeufees saam met die ANC te vier omdat kerke vanuit die staanspoor deel van die ANC was. Maar hoe kan die beplande animistiese rituele daarmee vereenselwig word, selfs teen die agtergrond van die breë diversiteitsnet wat sommige kerke nou werp om so 'n wye spektrum van idees as moontlik te omarm?

"Die CDP respekteer kulturele diversiteit, maar as sulke rituele lynreg teen die Christelike indruis – veral as dit as sogenaamde Christelike gebruike opgetooi word - roep ons halt.

"Ons doen 'n beroep op Christelike kerke en hul organisasies ferm standpunt hieroor in te neem, en nie die aftog te blaas sonder dat die ANC aan alle Christene in die land verskoning gevra het nie."