MEDIA RELEASE
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Christian Democratic Party confronts ANC's Chaplain General's remarks

"Rev. Vukile Mehana, ANC Chaplain General's attempt to divert the Christian response, to the planned ANC centenary rituals, to an attack on Christian fundamentalism, and claiming that tolerance to idolatry is a Christian characteristic is most unfortunate." So says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

"One should not confuse love for one's neighbour with love for the neighbour's religion. Satanism, for example, is also considered a religion these days. Christ's final commandment was that Christians should go into all the world and make disciples of all nations – which prohibits bowing down to the idols. God loves man but hates the sins of men, and commanded that man should be converted and sin no more.

"All over the world fundamentalism is coming under attack for real or perceived intolerance, but surely, expressing opposition to the planned rituals has nothing to do with fundamentalism. In fact, during the past two years criticism of Pres. Jacob Zuma and other ANC office bearers for quasi-religious remarks came from churches which can hardly be described as fundamentalist, such as the United Reformed Church, the Dutch Reform Church and even the South African Council of Churches.

"Rev. Mahana's outburst seems rather more like an attempted cover-up for bad advice to the President and office bearers, on religious matters, which has been 'haunting' the ANC for more than a year now.

"The term, 'broad church' which is often applied to the ANC appears to mean something totally different to Mehana – the ANC is NOT a church and should therefore not attempt to reinvent religion in such a way as to accommodate all beliefs. Interfaith religion may be a fashion, but does not find its roots in the Bible."

Christen-Demokratiese Party pak ANC se kapelaan-generaal oor opmerkings

"Eerw Vukile Mehana, Kapelaan-generaal van die ANC, se pogings om Christene se reaksie op die beplande ANC-eufeesrituele as 'n aanval op Christen-fundamentalisme probeer klee, en daarop aanspraak maak dat verdraagsaamheid teenoor afgodery 'n Christelike kenmerk is, is onaanvaarbaar." So sê. ds. Thenunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

" 'n Mens moet nie die opdrag van liefde vir die naaste verwar met liefde vir die naaste se godsdiens nie. Satanisme word ook deesdae as 'n godsdiens beskou. Jesus se finale opdrag was dat Christene oor die hele wêreld van al die nasies dissipels moet maak – en dit sluit immers uit dat Christene voor afgode buig. God het die mens lief, maar haat sy sonde, en Hy het opdrag gegee dat die mens hom moet bekeer en nie langer moet sondig nie.

"Dwars oor die wêreld kom fundamentalisme oor gewaande of werklike onverdraagsaamheid onder skoot, maar die uitspraak oor die beplande rituele kan tog op geen manier op die brood van fundamentalisme gesmeer word nie. In teendeel, oor die afgelope twee jaar het die kritiek op pres. Jacob Zuma en sy ringkoppe oor kwasi-gosdienstige uitsprake van kerke gekom wat hoegenaamd nie as fundamentalisties beskryf kan word nie – soos die VGK, die NGK en selfs die Suid-Afrikaanse Raad van Kerke.

"Eerw. Mahana se uitbarsting klink meer soos 'n poging om swak godsdiensadvies aan Zuma en ander die afgelope meer as 'n jaar toe te smeer – advies wat gereeld by die ANC kom 'spook' het. Die term 'broad church' wat gereeld aan die ANC gekoppel word, het niks met 'n kerk te make nie, en die ANC moet daarom ook nie probeer om godsdiens te herontwerp sodat dit alle oortuigings kan insluit nie. Intergeloof mag 'n mode wees maar vind nie die grondslae in die Bybel nie."