

**MEDIA RELEASE  
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)**

**3 February 2010 (2)**

**Shocking conditions of South African medical students in Cuba revealed**

Shocking conditions such as leaking roofs and poor meals are revealed in a desperate letter sent to the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) by a South African medical student in Cuba.

Having to eat "eggs for breakfast, lunch and dinner" is said to be the result of South Africa's delay in paying over funds to the institution for tuition, says the student who wishes to remain anonymous. Despite living quarters and the dining hall frequently being flooded, nobody from the South African delegation in Cuba has turned up since 2005 for an inspection in loco.

"We are appalled by the conditions described by this student. This is no way to treat the children of poor parents, or anybody else for that matter," says a shocked Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the CDP and acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA).

"It seems as though the South African government shows very little concern for its citizens abroad, especially in countries with 'friendly' governments such as Zimbabwe and Cuba. The Government is too frequently taken to court to ensure it protects its citizens abroad, or even establish their constitutional right during a national election to cast their votes."

**Skokkende toestande van Suid-Afrikaanse mediese studente in Kuba kom aan die lig**

Skokkende toestande soos lekkende dakke en swak maaltye kom in 'n desperate brief aan die lig wat deur 'n Suid-Afrikaanse mediese student in Kuba aan die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) gestuur is.

Baie van die probleme, soos om "eiers in die oggend, in die middag en saans te eet" word toegeskryf daaraan dat Suid-Afrika nog nie die fondse vir hul verblyf en studies oorbetaal het nie, aldus die student wat verkies om naamloos te bly. En al word die slaapkamers en eetkamer gereeld weens lekkende dakke tydens reënbuie oorstrom, het nog niemand van die Suid-Afrikaanse missie in Kuba die studente sedert 2005 besoek nie.

"Ons is ontsteld oor die toestande wat die student beskryf. Dit is nie die manier waarop met die kinders van arm ouers, of enigeen anders, te behandel nie," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die CDP en waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratiese Alliansie (CDA)

"Dit kom voor asof die Suid-Afrikaanse regering baie stadig uit die blokke is om sy burgers in die buiteland by te staan, veral waar dit om 'vriendskaplike' regerings soos dié van Zimbabwe en Kuba handel. Die regering word te gereeld voor die hof gesleep om sy burgers in die buiteland te beskerm, en selfs om aan hulle hul grondwetlike stemreg te besorg."