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

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**CDA clears stance on polygamy**

"We note with dismay how our words are being twisted regarding Pres. Jacob Zuma's polygamy. We made it quite clear at the time that we were not at loggerheads with the Zulu culture. But when accommodating culture is used as leverage to alter clearly defined religious principles, we certainly object." So says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) and acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA).

"If the Bible, and especially the New Testament, is clear on a matter, it is not for man to change the Lord's Word to suit his culture. There is ample space for cultural expression within the limits of what can be accommodated. There are however practices, such as human sacrifice and involvement with 'departed spirits' so called, which is clearly out of bounds according to the Bible.

"In that sense, Pres. Zuma is incorrect by stating that the Lord will not frown on cultural practices. Our concerns were with certain practices of non-Christian origin which are done under the *pretext* of being involved as Christians.

"Present voodoo rituals in Haiti where they call up the dead and blame Protestants for criticizing them are also wrong. Irrespective of claims, that they are accepted by the Roman Catholic Church.

"We repeat, knowing that we will again be maliciously misinterpreted, that our stance on Zuma's polygamy is based on his claim of being a Christian and also being an honorary pastor, and was not based on a moral judgment of the Zulu culture. This is our fixed point of view as also stated at length on Litnet, and not a way of wriggling out of being criticised

**CDA klaar standpunt oor poligamie op**

"Ons merk ongelukkig op dat ons woorde oor pres. Jacob Zuma se poligamie verdraai word. Ons het dit baie duidelik gemaak dat ons nie met die president koppe stamp oor die Zoeloe-kultuur nie, maar oor waar kultuur as hefboom gebruik word om 'n duidelik gedefinieerde en omlynde godsdiens aan te pas." So sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) en waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratiese Alliansie (CDA).

"As die Bybel, en in die besonder die Nuwe Testament, duidelik oor 'n saak is, is dit nie in ons hande om die Woord van die Here aan te pas om by ons kultuur te pas nie. Daar is meer as voldoende ruimte vir kulturele uitlewing binne die perke wat gestel word. Praktyke soos menslike offerandes en die oproep van dooies is duidelik buite hierdie Bybelse perke.

"In daardie opsig is pres. Zuma verkeerd as hy sê dat die Here nie die een kultuur voor 'n ander sal stel nie. Ons besware was egter dat mense aan sekere praktyke en rituele deelneem wat duidelik 'n nie-Christelike herkoms het, en dan aanspraak maak dat hulle Christene is, of as Christene daaraan meedoen.

"Die huidige voedoe-rituele in Haïti om die dooies uit hul grafte te roep en om Protestantisme te blameer, en dan, te beweer dit word wel binne die Rooms-Katolieke kerk aanvaar, is ook verkeerd.
"Ons herhaal, selfs al weet ons dat ons weer kwaadwillig verkeerd sal vertolk word, dat ons standpunt oor Zuma se poligamie gebaseer is op sy aanspraak dat hy 'n Christen en ook 'n ere-pastoor is, en nie weens 'n veroordeling van die Zoeloe-kultuur nie. Dit is ons vaste standpunt, soos ook destyds in detail in 'n artikel op Litnet uiteengesit, en nie ons reaksie op kritiek nie."