MEDIA RELEASE
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CDP reacts to State of the Nation Address

"Pres. Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation offered a mixed bag of a lot of detail on certain issues, less on others and total silence on some critical ones," say Christian Democratic Party (CDP) leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

"The figures mentioned on public spending, such as on infrastructure, sounds impressive, but it is only what is to be expected of an economy the size of South Africa's.

"We welcome the fact that some investment is being made in renewable green energy, but would have liked to see a greater emphasis on this important matter.

"The CDP is glad to hear that there is steady growth in the tourism industry, this in spite of the levels of crime in the country and bad service delivery. Comparing our tourism figures to those of Mexico and other typical tourism destinations, however, South Africa still has a lot of catching up to do.

"The president spoke at length on combating corruption and on crime against women and children, but was silent on the necessity for moral regeneration without which none of this is possible.

"This State of the Nation Address may well go down as one that contributed to alienating minorities. Not only were minority issues not addressed and matters such as farm murders not even mentioned, but the polarisation of communities was conveniently overlooked.

"South Africa is galloping in the wrong direction down important indexes such as the Corruption Perception Index, Freedom of the Press Index and the Failed State Index. One wonders if the President really grasps the seriousness of this matter. Only when these problems are fully realised, can they be addressed.

"All in all, a very disappointing state of the nation – if indeed it qualifies as such."

Staatsrede – CDP se reaksie

"Pres. Jacob Zuma se staatsrede 'n mengsel van baie detail, minder detail en totale swye oor kritieke sake," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

"Die syfers wat genoem is vir spandering in infrastruktuur klink indrukwekkend, maar dit is eintlik doodgewoon wat van 'n land met die grootte ekonomie soos dié van Suid-Afrika verwag word.

"Ons verwelkom egter dat daar 'n investering in hernubare, groen energie gedoen word, maar ons sou 'n groter omvang hiervan wou sien.

"Ons is baie bly dat toerisme so vinnig groei ten spyte van die vlakke van geweld en swak dienslewering in die land. As ons toerismesyfers egter met dié van Meksiko en ander tipiese toerismebestemmings vergelyk word, het Suid-Afrika egter nog veel om in te haal.

"Die president het lank uitgewei oor die bekamping van korrupsie en misdaad teen vroue en kinders, maar hy was doodstil oor morele herlewing wat dit moet onderlê. 'n Mens sou verwag dat Zuma sou uitwei oor sy onlangse misplaaste aankondiging van 'n beplande nasionale reinigingseremonie wat hy in dié verband genoem het. Daardie manier om morele herlewing te bewerkstellig mag onaanvaarbaar wees, maar dit verander nie die feit dat morele herlewing nodig is nie.

"Die staatsrede mag in die anale van die geskiedenis opgeteken staan as die een wat minderhede verder vervreem het. Nie alleen is minderheidskwessies nie aangespreek nie, maar kwessies soos plaasmoorde is nie eens genoem nie. Die polarisasie wat tussen gemeenskappe plaasvind is ook nie eens genoem nie.

"Suid-Afrika gaan flink op belangrike indekse soos die korrupsiepersepsie-indeks, die persvryheidsindeks and die indeks vir mislukte state die kreeftegang, maar dit is ook geïgnoreer. Dit laat 'n mens wonder of die president die erns van die saak besef. Slegs wanneer probleme erken word kan dit na behore aangespreek word.

"In geheel beskou is dit 'n baie teleurstellende staatsrede – as dit ook aan die vereistes voldoen om 'n staatsrede genoem te word."