MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)

16 February 2010

Regering slaan bal mis oor grondsake

"Stille diplomasie jeens Robert Mugabe se grondroof en versuim om die breë publiek in te lig oor die armoedegevolge van die uitdeel van onlewensvatbare lappies grond in 'n marginale landbouland, eerder as grondpryse moet die skuld kry vir die regering se dilemma met grondhervorming."

"Terwyl die regering steeds volhou met sy stelling dat hy lewensvatbare kleinboere wil vestig, verstrengel probleme binne die Departement van Grondsake die grondhervormingsproses en word die blaam steeds, te midde van talle bewyse tot die teendeel, op boere geplaas," aldus ds. Theunis Botha, Leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) en waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratise Alliansie (CDA).

Botha het gereageer op 'n stelling van die minister van landelike ontwikkeling en grondhervorming, Gugile Nkwinti, dat die regering nie die beginsel van vrywillige verkoper, vrywillige koper, kan bekostig nie.

"Boonop verplig die Suid-Afrikaanse grondwet die land om internasionale ooreenkomste te respekteer. Ook die Afrika-Kommissie vir Mense- en Groepregte erken eiendomsreg en dat die billike kompensasie by onteiening betaal moet word. Ons stel voor dat die regering eers 'n behoorlik grondoudit hou, omdat verskeie gesaghebbende studies toon dat die 30 % teiken van swart besit lank reeds bereik is. Die regering se weiering om so 'n oudit te hou lyk toenemend verdag."

Government ill informed on land affairs

"Silent diplomacy towards Robert Mugabe's land grab and neglecting to inform the broad public on the poverty potential in dishing out small pieces of land in a country with marginal agriculture potential, rather than the price of land, must be blamed for the government's dilemma with land reform."

"While government insists on establishing viable small farmers, and continue to ignore problems within the Department of Land Affairs, and putting the blame on farmers, the problem will not go away," says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) and acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA). "

Botha reacted to a statement by the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Gigile Nkwinti, that the country can not afford the principle of willing buyer, willing seller.

"The constitution commits the country to international treaties of which it is a co-signatory. One of these is the membership to the African Commission for Human and Group Rights, stipulating that fair compensation must be paid. We urge the government to first conduct a proper land ownership audit, as some reports indicate that the 30 percent Black ownership had been achieved some time ago. Dragging feet on this only increases suspicion that government can not be trusted."