MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)

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Budget with sting in the tail - CDA

"A budget with a sting in the tail", this is how Rev Theunis Botha Leader of the CDP and acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA) described Pravin Gordhan's first budget.

"The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) realises that government is obviously restricted by available revenue, the need for increased expenditure to stimulate the economy and ensuring that we do not fall into a debt payment trap. We are also concerned with the impact the hiked fuel levy will have on the economy, as it influences everything from food production to transport to and from work. With greater manoeuvrability one would hope that the government would stimulate the economy through the private sector – the so called productive sector - more directly, rather than via an over sized unproductive bureaucracy."

"Eventually one would like to see government's role limited to supplying the required security net in which the economy can thrive, instead of being a large, clumsy participant. We welcome the increased spending on health and education, but we stress that the solution to problems does not lie in throwing money at the problem as the ANC often does, but through sound management."

"An increase of 25,5 cents per litre in the fuel levy and indications that government has already accepted as unavoidable a larger than 30% per annum increase in electricity prices will make a considerable dent in everybody's pocket. Once the inflation impact on income has been absorbed one will find that the tax relief may yet have some 'tax by stealth' implications."

Begroting met angel in die stert

"'n Begroting met gif in die angel" so het ds Theunis Botha, leier van die CDP en waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-demokratiese Alliansie (CDA) gereageer op Pravin Gordhan se eerste begroting. .

"Die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) besef dat die regering min beweegruimte het in 'n nou band tussen beskikbare inkomste, die nodigheid vir verhoogde uitgawes om die ekonomie te stimuleer terwyl te verhoed dat ons nie in 'n rente-lokval gelei word nie. Ons is ook besorg oor die impak van die verhoogde brandstofbelasting op die ekonomie omdat dié verhoging alles van voedselproduksie tot pendel affekteer. Wanner daar weer meer bewegingsruimte kom, vertrou ons dat die regering die ekonomie tot 'n groter mate deur die produktiewe privaatsektor sal stimuleer, eerder as via die buitensporige groot onproduktiewe burokrasie."

"Uiteindelik sal 'n mens wil sien dat die staat sy rol hoofsaaklik beperk tot die verskaffing van die nodige veiligheidsnet waarbinne die ekonomie kan floreer, eerder as om 'n groot lomp rolspeler te wees. Ons verwelkom die verhoogde toekenning aan gesondheid en onderwys, maar maan tog dat probleme nie opgelos word deur geld soos bossies uit te deel soos die regering blykbaar glo nie, maar deur behoorlike bestuur daarvan."

"'n Verhoging van 25,5 sent per liter in die brandstofheffing en boonop aanduidings dat die regering 'n verhoging van meer as dertig persent per jaar in elektrisiteitstariewe as gegewe aanvaar, sal 'n duik in almal se sakke laat. Wanneer die inflasieimpak op inkomste verreken is, kan die publiek vind dat die belastingverligting veel meer van 'n kruipende belastingelement bevat as wat op die oog af blyk."