MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)

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CDA deplores DA's stance on government's role in morality
The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) reacted to a statement of the DA with disappointment in which the DA stated its opposition to government involvement in moral issues.

"For pragmatic reasons we are opposed to Pres, Jacob Zuma leading this action, but to claim that the rebuilding of a moral foundation conflicts with amongst others the constitution's right to freedom of speech is stretching liberalism very far," says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the CDP and acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA).

"This stance, stated by DA MP Lindiwe Mazibuko in a media release, is out of touch as existing law is concerned. The concept, ***contra bones mores*** (against public morality) is deeply rooted in our law, sometimes even deeper than the concept of ***ultra vires***. In order to perform its duties of protecting individuals and society from practises in conflict to public morality, it speaks for itself that the state must have some grasp of what these norms are. The state also does not have the authority to 'delegate' these powers to the church, amongst others, as the church is not united in norms, and there are many religions."

"The constitution itself limits certain rights, such as 'freedom of speech', for example, where these rights are in conflict with other rights such as the 'right to dignity'. The Supreme Court of Appeal recently confirmed that criminal slander remains against the law, and obviously public morality defines the limits. Statements such as this one by Mazibuko clearly demonstrates why, general opposition cooperation remains a tough nut to crack. Christian Democracy, especially strong in Europe and often in power, does not accept that government can simply ignore these matters. These countries for example, take a firm stance on matters such as child pornography, and even block internet material of this nature from their countries."

"The DA may be satisfied that South African nationhood is defined by such things as: hundreds of thousands unborn babies being killed, pornography is freely available and no one has a firm grasp of where the borders of hate speech lie. Only yesterday it was reported that the administrator of the PAC's Facebook refused to remove a contribution of one Ahmed El Saud calling for supporters to "*Kill the f***ing whites now!!!.*" The DA may choose to remain silent on this, but surely one would expect of a government to react to hate speech like this. On these grounds the CDP will not take part in opposition cooperation."

"Being vague on issues of morality may well have lead to the DA issuing two contradictory media releases on the same day a few years ago. In the first one Dianne Kohler-Barnard expressed support for the then police commissioner Jackie Selebi's recommendation that the ban on prostitution be lifted for the duration of the World Cup, whereas in a second, by the then Eastern Cape leader Athol Trollip, this was heavily opposed. "

"The CDA reaffirms its commitment to closer cooperation with those who support the expansion of Christian Democracy in South Africa. We regard this matter in such an important light that we intend discussing the DA's media release with DA leader, Helen Zille."

CDA ongelukkig oor DA se standpunt oor die staat en morele standaarde
Die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) het met teleurstelling gereageer op die DA se standpunt dat moraliteit nie die staat se saak is nie.

"Ons is self om pragmatiese redes gekant daarteen dat pres. Jacob Zuma die leiding neem in so 'n aksie, maar om te beweer dat die herstel van 'n morele grondslag indruis teen die grondwetlike reg

op onder meer spraakvryheid is om liberalisme baie ver te voer," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die CDP en waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratiese Alliansie (CDA).

"Die standpunt, soos oorgedra in 'n mediaverklaring deur die DA-LP, Lindiwe Mazibuko, tas in die duister oor geldende reg. Die begrip ***contra bones mores*** (teen die openbare sedes) is diep in ons regstelsel gevestig, soms selfs meer as die begrip ***ultra vires***. Om hierdie reg uit te oefen en te beskerm is dit van selfsprekend dat die staat 'n omlyning moet hê van wat die geldende openbare norm is. Die staat is ook nie by magte om dit aan die kerke te delegeer nie, onder meer omdat verskillende kerke en verskillende gelowe verskillende norme hieroor kan nastreef. Die grondwet self stel beperkings aan aspekte soos spraakvryheid, onder meer omdat dit inbreuk maak op ander se reg op waardigheid. Kriminele laster is volgens 'n onlangse uitspraak van die Appèlhof steeds 'n misdaad en dit is uiteraard die openbare sedes wat die begrensing bepaal."

"Dit is uitsprake soos dié van die DA wat veroorsaak dat dit baie moeilik is om te sien hoe daar algemene opposisiesamewerking kan wees. Die Christen-demokrasie – wat veral in Europa baie sterk en dikwels aan bewind is – aanvaar nie dat die staat sy skouers oor morele kwessies kan optrek nie. Hierdie lande neem byvoorbeeld sterk standpunt in teen kinderpornografie en blokkeer selfs die internet om dit uit hul lande te weer."

"Die DA mag tevrede wees daarmee dat Suid-Afrikaanse nasieskap gedefinieer word aan die hand van eienskappe soos 'n land wat vrede het daarmee dat honderde duisende ongebore babas doodgemaak word, waar pornografie vryelik beskikbaar is en niemand presies weet waar die grense van haatspraak lê nie. Net gister is berig dat die administrateur van die PAC se Facebook weier om 'n bydrae van ene Ahmed El Saud wat lui "*Kill the f***ing whites now!!!*" te verwyder. Uiteraard verwag 'n mens dat die regering op haatspraak soos daardie moet reageer. "

"Dit bly die DA se reg om te swyg hieroor maar dan moet die DA weet die Christen-demokratiese Partye staan buite enige opposisiesamewerking met daardie grondslag. Dit is hierdie soort vaaghede wat veroorsaak dat die DA enkele jare gelede op dieselfde dag mediaverklarings kon uitreik – die een deur Dianne Kohler-Barnard waarin sy die destydse polisiekommissaris Jackie Selebe se voorstel oor die wettiging van prostitusie tydens die wêreldbekersokkertoernooi steun, en een deur die destydse Oos-Kaapse leier, Athol Trollip, waarin dit heftig teengestaan word."

"Die CDA herbevestig sy verbintenis tot die saamgroepering en uitbou van die Christen-demokrasie in Suid-Afrika. Ons beoog egter om so gou as moontlik gesprek oor die DA se mediaverklaring met die DA-leier, Helen Zille, te voer."