

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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Minister se taalplan onbekook

“Die minister van Hoër Onderwys, Blade Nzimande, se voorstel oor ‘n verpligte Afrikataal op universiteit, is nie goed deurdink nie,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die CDP. Die verklaring is gesamentlik deur die partyleier, ds. Theunis Botha, en die woordvoerder vir Onderwys en Grondwetlike aangeleenthede, dr. Christo Landman, uitgeryk.”

“Indien die voorstel sou wees dat ‘n Afrikataal verpligtend op laerskoolvlak moes wees, sou dit ‘n ander situasie skep wat ernstig oorweeg kan word. Daar sou egter doodsekerheid oor die motiewe moes bestaan – dat dit nie ‘n politieke stok is nie – en dit sal klokhelder moes wees wat die regering onder ‘n Afrikataal verstaan. Is Afrikaans, ‘n inheemse taal, bv ingesluit of uitgesluit? Die voorstel is ook onvanpas teen die agtergrond dat verskeie universiteite besig is om Afrikaans uit te faseer, en die Sentrale Universiteit van Tegnologie byvoorbeeld deur Afriforum by die gelykheidshof verkla is.”

“Om ons jeug van kleins af veeltalig vaardig te maak, en respek vir mekaar se kulture en tale aan te leer, is nie ‘n nuwe gedagte nie. Hiervoor sal egter behoorlik met belangegroepes in die verskillende taalgemeenskappe oorleg gepleeg moet word om die mees geskikte vlak te bepaal, te kyk watter hulpbronne beskikbaar is, sodat dit met die regte gesindhede van almal beslag kan kry. Soos die minister dit nou aanbied, klink dit te veel na pogings om kulturele boelie om politieke motiewe te speel.”

Minister’s language plan not well thought through

“The minister of Higher Education, Blade Nzimande, ’s proposal for a compulsory African language at university level, had not been thought through properly,” says the Christian Democratic Party (CDP). The statement was jointly issued by the party leader, Rev. Theunius Botha, and the spokesperson for Education and Constitutional Affairs, Dr. Christo Landman.

“If the proposal was that the compulsory hosting of an African language should be considered at primary school level, it would have portrayed a completely different view which deserves careful consideration. It should also be quite clear what government understood by an African language. Is Afrikaans, an indigenous language, included or excluded, for example? The proposal is inappropriate against the back ground that several universities are phasing Afrikaans out. The Central University of Technology, for e.g. had been taken to the equality court by Afriforum, for example.”

“To promote multilingualism and respect for the cultures of others at a young age is not a new idea. For possible implementation, proper consultations should take place between interest groups of the different cultures to establish the best level to promote multilingualism, to establish what resources are available, and to ensure that it takes place with the appropriate attitude. The way the minister now proposes the matter, it sounds more like an attempt to culturally play the role of a political bully.”