MEDIA RELEASE
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Government must not use soccer euphoria to adopt polarising policies

"We call on government not to use the present soccer euphoria in order to extend its hooks into controversial areas. It seems as though government can not resist the temptation to 'plough in other fields' and because they are using the cover of soccer euphoria it goes almost unnoticed." says Christian Democratic Party leader, Theunis Botha. We already see too many signs that this is happening. For example, two ministers have made ominous statements on land reform – using un-audited and highly suspicious figures to beef up their claims. Gwede Mantashe has tightened his stance on continuing the unpopular policy of affirmative action. Julius Malema's latest submissions on the nationalisation of mines and banks, have been well received by ANC parliamentarians."

"We understand why Danny Jordaan has called on the media not to publish news that may adversely effect the coming Fifa-tournament. But surely, at the same time, he must also call on government not to abuse this opportunity to change policy boundaries, especially in areas which will increase polarisation after the World Cup, and in view of very worrying rumours that have come to us, once the euphoria has died down."

"Ritual slaughtering and Ancestral cleansing ceremonies at Soccer City along with other stadiums may have largely been left out of the media in order not to cause more embarrassment to the country, and Pres. Jacob Zuma's statement on Ancestor spirits haunting those who are thinking of leaving the ANC may have been swept under the carpet for the same reason, but in this era of internet and other modern communication, such incidents are not easily contained and can be circulated in a way that may be even more damaging to the country."

"If the government continues in this way, the country may well have an increase of polarisation to contend with." says Botha, who is also acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA).

Regering moenie sokkereuforie benut om polariserende beleid te implementeer nie

"Ons doen 'n beroep op die regering om nie misbruik te maak van die sokkereuforie en sy penne in ander se kleims in te slaan nie. Dit lyk of die regering nie die versoeking kan weerstaan nie, en reeds in omstrede grondgebied begin ploeg het," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP). Daar is net te veel tekens dat die regering reeds hiermee begin het. Twee ministers maak omstrede stellings oor grondhervorming, en gebruik in die proses hoogs betwiste en ongeouditeerde syfers om hul anasprake stukrag te gee, Gwede mantashe maak rug styf oor voortgesette regstellende aksie en Julius Malema se voorlegging oor die nasionalisering van banke en myne word goed deur ANC-parlementslede ontvang. "

"Ons het begrip vir Danny Jordaan se beroep op die media om nie nuus te publiseer wat skadelik vir die komende Fifa-toernooi kan wees nie, maar dan moet immers ook van die regering verwag word om nie die geleentheid aan te gryp om die beleidsgrense te verskuif na terreine war dit tot verhoogde polarisasie sal lei wanneer die euforie oorgewaai het nie."

"Gebeurtenisse soos die rituele slagting van 'n bees en voorvader-reinigingseremonies by Soccer City het dalk wat mediadekking betref grootliks in die slag gebly om sodoende verleentheid vir die land te beperk, en pres. Jacob Zuma se opmerking dat die voorvadergeeste diegene wat van die ANC dros sal jaag, is dalk grootliks onder die mat gevee, maar in hierdie era van die internet en moderne kommunikasie word sulke nuus nie maklik in die doofpot gehou nie, en doen steeds die rondte op wyses wat selfs nog meer skadelik vir die land kan wees."

"Na die sokkereuforie die wyk geneem het, kan die land heel moontlik verhoogde polarisasie beleef as die regering op sy huidige koers voortstu," sê Botha, wat ook die waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratise alliansie (CDA) is.