

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

28 MAY 2014

Striking mine workers sabotage economy

“Winston Churchill said in a statement made after the battle of Britain that, ‘Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few.’ What is applicable to us at this time is exactly the opposite, ‘Never have so few caused so much damage to so many.’ It is inconceivable that the entire nation can be held to ransom by a handful of disgruntled mineworkers,” says Rev Theunis Botha, Leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

“Although workers have the right to strike, they must do so responsibly and not, as is not the case, put the economy of the entire country at risk. The CDP agrees that workers should be paid a living wage, but unrealistic pay increases are not helping the situation. The fact that union bosses are living in the lap of luxury while strikers and their families are starving is equally as reprehensible as the extravagant bonuses mine bosses pay themselves.

“With inflation in the country running rampant, the official \pm 6% proposed by the government is laughable, as ordinary people experience prices for goods and services escalating at levels nearer to 15%. The latest costs being passed on to the already overburdened tax payers and consumers, as a result of e-tolls, has become the straw that breaks the camel’s back, forcing many into ever increasing debt, while apparently the fat cats sit back and watch their offshore accounts grow.

“It is not only mine workers that are suffering, even professionals such as teachers, nurses and police men have seen their standards of living drop as a result of salary increases that are not keeping track with real inflation in the country. The ones that are suffering the most however are the pensioners.”

Stakende mynwerkers saboteer ekonomie

"Winston Churchill het in 'n verklaring ná die Slag van Brittanje gesê: 'Nooit in die geskiedenis van oorlog is so baie mense so baie aan so min verskuldig nie...' Wat nou op ons van toepassing is, is presies die teenoorgestelde, 'Nooit het so min so baie skade aan so baie berokken nie.' Dit is ondenkbaar dat die hele nasie deur 'n handvol ontevrede mynwerkers gyselaar gehou kan word," sê ds Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

"Hoewel werkers die reg het om te staak, moet hulle dit verantwoordelik doen, en nie die ekonomie van die hele land in gevaar stel nie. Die CDP is dit eens dat 'n leefbare loon betaal moet word, maar onrealisties verhogings saboteer die poging. Die feit dat vakbondbase in luukse leef, terwyl stakers en hul gesinne honger ly is net so verwerplik as die buitensporige bonusse wat mynbase aan hulself betaal.

"Met inflasie in die land wat flink styg - die amptelike syfer van + 6 % wat deur die regering voorgehou word - is lagwekkend aangesien gewone mense vlakke van nader aan 15 % in goedere en dienste ervaar. Die koste word oorgedra na die reeds oorbelaaide belastingbetalers en verbruikers, en e-tol was die laaste strooi. Dit dwing baie mense dieper in die skuld is, terwyl Blink Stefaanse agteroor sit en kyk hoe hulle buitelandse rekening aanwas.

"Dit is nie net mynwerkers wat ly nie, selfs professionele mense soos onderwysers, verpleegsters en polisieledes se lewenstandaarde krimp weens salarisverhogings wat nie met die inflasiekoers tred hou nie. Die mense wat die meeste ly is egter die pensioenarisse."