

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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Zuma embarrasses Obama and South Africa

“By using his meeting with visiting Pres. Barack Obama as an occasion to say that former Pres. Nelson Mandela had often told him that he was satisfied and even positive with the way Zuma and the ANC were ruling the country, the president insulted Obama, the South African nation and even Mandela himself,” says Christian Democratic Party (CDP) leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

“Obama is on an official visit, representing the American people, not only the Democratic Party. The least one could expect of our president, when meeting with Obama, was to rise above party politics and for once be a statesman representing all South Africans.

“For Zuma to use the critically ill Mandela for cheap politicking is deplorable, and is in any case devoid of credibility. After all a year ago emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, ‘had Madiba been fully aware of what is going on around him, he would have been very sad’.

“At the latest graduation ceremony of the Free State University, the chancellor, Dr. Khotso Mokhele, urged the students to use their freedom of speech to speak out about the deterioration we are observing all around us.

“Zuma knows well that he can now attribute anything he wishes to Mandela, and that it cannot be challenged. Making these claims does a disservice to the Mandela legacy which is recognized by people all over the world. Zuma must also not insult Obama by trying to ‘use’ him as an election tool.”

Zuma skep verleentheid vir Obama en SA

“Deur die ontmoeting met die besoekende Pres. Barack Obama te gebruik om te sê dat oud-pres. Nelson Mandela gereeld aan hom gesê het dat hy tevrede, en selfs in sy skik is met hoe Zuma en die ANC die land regeer, het Zuma, Obama, alle Suid-Afrikners en Mandela self beledig,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“Obama is op ‘n amptelike besoek aan Suid-Afrika en verteenwoordig die Amerikaanse nasie, nie net die Demokratiese Party nie. Die minste wat ‘n mens van Zuma kon verwag was om bo die partypolitiek uit te styg, en om darem een keer in sy lewe ‘n staatsman te wees en om almal in Suid Afrika te verteenwoordig.

“Om die kritiek-sieke Mandela as goedkoop politieke instrument te gebruik is betreuringswaardig, en is in ieder geval gestroop van geloofwaardigheid. ‘n Jaar gelede het emeritus aartsbiskop Desmond Tutu reeds gesê dat as Mandela ten volle bewus sou wees van wat om hom aangaan, sou hy baie hartseer gewees het.

“Tydens die jongste gradeplegtigheid by Kopsies het die kanselier, dr. Khotso Mokhele, die studente aangemoedig om hul spraakvryheid te gebruik om te praat oor die algemene verval om ons.

“Zuma weet baie goed dat hy nou enige woorde in die mond van Mandela kan lê, en dat dit nie weersprek kan word nie. Maar om absurde aansprake te maak doen ‘n onreg aan die nalatenskap wat mense dwars oor die wêreld van Mandela koester. “Zuma moet ook Obama nie beledig deur hom as verkiesingfoefie te probeer inspan nie.”