

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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Seisoen van stakings

“Die ontwikkeling van ‘n seisoen van jaarlikse stakings is baie skadelik vir die land se ekonomie wat reeds onder ernstige werkloosheid gebuk gaan,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“Dit het werklik tyd geword dat omvattend na die probleem gekyk word. Dit help dadels daar word op die gevoel van werkers wat werk het gespeel oor eise van bo-inflasie-eise, deur die lot van werkloses op te roep as die bestuur van instansies soos Eskom hemelhoë verhogings, kry wat absoluut geen raakvlak met die Reserwebank se inflasieteikens het nie. “Die land se inkomstegaping – waarskynlik die grootste meetbare ter wêreld - is net te groot om nog roekeloos daarmee om te gaan.”

“Daar is egter geen manier waarop ‘n verantwoordelike party soos die CDP die geweld en intimidasie, en selfs die vernielsug en rommelstrooiery wat dikwels met stakings en diensteproteste gepaard gaan, kan goedpraat nie. Dit, saam met die ‘normale’ geweldsmisdaad, vorm saam ‘n buitensporige gewelddadige samelewing.”

“Ons doen ‘n beroep op die regering se beplanningskommissie om ernstig na oplossings te kyk wat hierdie seisoen van stakings die hoof kan bied.”

Season of strikes

“The development of a season of annual strikes is very harmful to the country’s economy already suffering under major unemployment,” says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

“It is high time that a holistic look is taken at the problem. It serves no purpose to call on the workers to consider the plight of the unemployed when demanding higher than inflation hikes, when the management of, for e.g. Eskom, increase their salaries in a manner that bears no relation whatever to the Reserve Bank’s inflation targets. The country’s income gap – probably the largest measurable in the world – is simply too large, to recklessly continue this trend.”

“There is, however, no way that a responsible party such as the CDP can condone the vandalism, littering, violence and intimidation which is often part and parcel of strikes and service delivery protests. This, coupled with the ‘normal’ criminal violence, adds to an unacceptably violent society.

“We call on the government’s planning commission to urgently look for ways to avert the season of strikes.”