

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)**

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**Botswana championing democracy - CDP**

“Thabo Mbeki, a former President of South Africa, appealed to South Africans to respect the right of Zimbabweans to choose their own leaders, yet said nothing about Zimbabwean leaders’ responsibility to recognize the rights of the people to choose their leaders in a corruption-free and fair process.” So says Rev Theunis Botha, Leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

“Mbeki’s appeal follows on President Zuma’s hearty congratulations of Robert Mugabe and Zanu-PF’s landslide victory over Morgan Tsvangirai and the MDC in Zim’s recent elections. SADEC although declaring that the elections were free and peaceful, expressed reservations of how ‘fair’ the process had been.

“Now Botswana has come out as the champion for democracy in the SADEC region by calling for an audit of the results. Surely South Africa, who has consistently claimed to be running one of the most successful, if not the most successful, democracy in Africa, should have been first in raising concerns over this obviously rigged outcome.

“Is it reasonable then to ask, whether South African government’s concept of democracy and that of Robert Mugabe are one and the same thing? If this is so, does that not raise questions about the credibility of the process in our country as well?”

**Botswana kampvegter vir demokrasie**

“Thabo Mbeki, voormalige president van Suid-Afrika, het ‘n beroep op Suid-Afriknere gedoen om die mense van Zimbabwe se reg om hul eie leiers te kies te respekteer, maar het niks gesê oor die leiers van Zimbabwe se plig om die reg van die kiesers te respekteer om hul leiers in ‘n vry en regverdig verkiesing, en verkiesing vry van korrupsie te verkies nie.” so sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“Mbeki se oproep volg kort na pres. Zuma Robert Mugabe en Zanu-PF hartlik met die vergrote meerderheid geluk gewens het. Die SAOG het, hoewel die verkiesing as vry en vreedsaam verklaar is, ‘n mening oor hoe regverdig dit was voorbehou.

“Botsana het egter nou as die kampvegter vir demokrasie in die SAOG-streek na vore getree deur te vra dat die uitslae geoudit moet word. ‘n Mens sou egter verwag dat Suid-Afrika, wat gereeld hoog opgee dat dit een van die mees suksesvolle, indien nie die mees suksesvolle demokrasie in Afrika is nie, die leiding sou neem om kommer uit te spreek oor die verkiesing wat ooglopend bekonkel is.

“Sou dit onbillik wees om dan te vra of die Suid-Afrikaanse regering se begrip, en dié van Mugabe, nie een en dieselfde ding is nie? Indien nie, laat dit die vraag ontstaan oor die geloofwaardigheid van die proses in Suid-Afrika ook.”