

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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CDP supports Church stance on gambling in Capital City.

“The Christian Democratic Party pledges its support to churches in Pretoria who have objected to a proposed Casino at Menlyn Maine” says Rev Theunis Botha Leader of the CDP.

“The National Party (NP) led, Pretoria City Council, was asked in 1996 to approve the establishment of a Casino in Pretoria. But because it took the objections by churches and other citizens seriously, as well as world-wide reports that showed that allowing gambling did not bring development or job creation, but actually had the opposite outcome as it adversely affected already existing businesses in the area. Many in Shoshanguve, where the present Casino is situated, have said that they are pleased that it is moving because it has negatively affected development and job creation in their area.

“The arrogance of the Mayor Kgosientso Ramagopa who allegedly said that he is going ahead with the venture no matter what the people say or feel about it, is to say the least disturbing. He is reported to have said that he is only concerned with three things; development, group integration and job creation. The question to be asked is, are these objectives going to be realized? And if so are these the only objectives to be considered when introducing such a controversial development into an area.

“What next? Are we going to see bottle stores or escort agencies or brothels being opened next to churches, calling it development, group integration and job creation? I suppose we will just have to wait and see, because if we take the Mayor’s attitude and track record when it comes to public participation into consideration, it would appear that the people will have no say in the matter.”

CDP ondersteun kerkstandpunt oor dobbel in hoofstad

“Die Christen-Demokratiese Party sê sy volle ondersteuning aan kerke in Pretoria toe wat beswaar gemaak het teen die beoogde casino in Menlyn Maine,” sê ds. Theunis Botha’ leier van die CDP.

“Die Nasionale Party, destyds in beheer van Pretoria, is in 1996 gevra om ‘n casino in Pretoria goed te keur. Omdat besware deur kerke ernstig opgeneem is, en omdat wêreldwye navorsing getoon het dat dobbel nie ontwikkeling en werkskepping na gebiede bring nie en eerder die teenoorgestelde uitwerking het omdat bestaande ondernemings skade ly, is wal gegooi. Vele in Shosaguve, waar die bestaande casino geleë is, het aangedui dat hulle bly is dat dit skuif omdat dit ontwikkeling en werkskepping in hul area negatief beïnvloed het.

“Die arrogansie van burgemeester Kgosientso Ramagopa, wat glo gesê het hy gaan deurdruk ongeag wat die mense sê of voel, is baie verontrustend. Na berig word is hy net oor drie sake begaan – ontwikkeling, integrasie van groepe en werkskepping. Maar gaan hierdie doelwitte behaal kan word? En al word dit, is dit al oorwegings om so ‘n omstrede onderneming in ‘n gebied te vestig?

“Wat gebeur volgende? Gaan ons ervaar hoe drankwinkels of gesellinklubs of bordele langs kerke geopen word en ontwikkeling, groep-integrasie en werkskepping genoem word? Ek meen ons sal maar moet wag om te sien aangesien, as die burgemeester se gesindheid en geskiedenis van openbare deelname in ag geneem word, wil dit voorkom asof die publiek nie ‘n sê is die saak gaan hê nie.”