

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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Malema judgment: CDP unhappy with reaction of opposition parties

“The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) is extremely disappointed with the stances taken by most opposition parties on the Julius Malema hate speech judgment,” says CDP leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

“We understand that the DA, given its liberal roots, regards the judgement as principally wrong, they regard freedom of expression as a supreme right with individual rights superseding minority group rights. Where Ideology however loses track of reality, especially in a country where polarisation levels are so high, it needs to be revisited. Judge Lamont went to great lengths to point out that his judgment is based on international as well as South African law. In fact, in the USA there are those who are presently being prosecuted for hate crimes, for burning a cross near the house of a black family.

“We are also concerned that the ACDP’s absence of comment on this issue, could possibly be another stumbling block in the way of future unity. Surely, a Christian party should have an opinion when the Biblical principle of love for fellow man is so openly abused. The international Christian Democratic philosophy is non racial favouring a position where individual and minority rights are in balance.”

“One only has to read the internet comments regarding the ANC’s intention to appeal against the judgement and the DA’s comment, to realise the extent of damage done by the ANC, not immediately clamping down on the singing of the song. Apart from some of the emotional responses, it is very sad to read how many people have given up all hope for the country. The ANC can not simply, by trying to rally support for the Springboks in New Zealand, undo this damage.”

“The WSC tournament in South Africa proved, as sociologists predicted, how damaging post euphoria depression or trauma can be – once people are confronted with the reality of a corruption riddled society, pothole roads, unemployment and poverty. Surely there are more responsible ways to steer the country, than attempting to keep a disgruntled section of the community on a ‘high’ by using incitement.. “

Malema-saak: CDP ongelukkig met opposisie-reaksie

“Die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) is baie ontsteld oor die standpunte wat die meeste opposisiepartye oor die Julius Malema-haatspraakuitspraak ingeneem het,” aldus die CDP-leier, ds. Theunis Botha. “Ons verstaan dat die DA, gegewe sy liberale wortels, die uitspraak as in beginsel verkeerd beskou, aangesien die vryheid van uitdrukking as ‘n prima-individuele reg beskou word en dat individuele regte ‘n hoër status as minderheidsregte het. Waar ideologie egter die werklikheidspoor byster raak, veral in n’ land waar polarisasie so hoog is, moet daarvoor herbesin word. Regter Lamont het met groot omsigtigheid aangetoon hoe sy uitspraak op die Internasionale en Suid-Afrikaanse regspraak gebaseer is. Trouens, in die VSA word ‘n groepie mense nou van haatmisdade aangekla na hulle ‘n kruis naby die huis van ‘n swart gesin verbrand het.”

“Dit is ook vir ons hartseer om te meld dat die ACDP se gebrek aan standpuntinname in hierdie saak nog ‘n struikelblok plaas in die weg van moontlike toekomstige eenheid. ‘n Christen-party moet immers ‘n standpunt hê waar die Bybelse beginsel van liefde vir die naaste so openlik verwoes word. Internasionaal is Christen-demokrasie nie-rassig en plaas individuele en minderheidsregte in balans. “n Mens hoef maar net die internetkommentare op die nuus dat die ANC appelleer teen die uitspraak en in reaksie op die DA se aankondiging te lees om te besef hoe groot die omvang is van die skade wat aangerig is omdat die ANC nie dadelik die sing van die liedjie blywend gestaak het nie. Benewens die woedende reaksie is dit hartseer om te lees hoeveel mense nou voel hulle het geen

hoop meer vir die land nie. Die ANC kan nie maar bloot deur steun vir die Springbokke in Nieu-Seeland te monster hierdie skade ongedaan maak nie.

“Die Wêreldsokkerbekertoernooi in Suid-Afrika het, soos sosioloë voorspel het, bewys hoe verwoestend post-euforiese depressie en trauma kan wees – wanneer mense weer met werklikhede soos ‘n korrupsie-deurdrenkte samelewing, paaie vol slaggate, werkloosheid en armoede gekonfronteer word. Daar moet immers meer verantwoordelike wyses wees om die land te regeer as om ‘n deel van die ontnugterde bevolking deur emosionele opsweping op ‘n bedwelmdede piek te probeer hou.”

Vier voor hof ná hul kruis brand

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San Luis Obispo – Vier Amerikaners sal in die hof moet verskyn nadat hulle ‘n 3.4 m-hoë kruis buite ‘n swart tiener se huis in Kalifornië aan die brand gesteeke het. ‘n Regter het Maandag beslis daar is genoeg bewyse om die drie mans en een vrou vir die misdaad te verhoor. Die vier sal op 28 September op aanklagte van brandstigting, sameswering en haatmisdade teregstaan. Die San Luis Obispo County Tribune het berig die kruis is op 18 Maart in ‘n parkeerterrein agter die huis waar ‘n swart gesin woon aan die brand gesteeke.

Volgens die aangeklaagdes se regsverteenvoerders is daar egter geen bewyse dat hul kliënte geweet het ‘n swart persoon woon in die huis nie. Lede van die berugte Ku Klux Klan het in die verlede kruise gebrand as ‘n vorm van intimidasie teen swart mense.

Malema hate speech ruling wrong - DA

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Johannesburg - A final Constitutional Court ruling on what constitutes hate speech is necessary, the Democratic Alliance said on Tuesday. "The SA Human Rights Commission under the then chairmanship of now Judge Jody Kollapen in 2002 wrote an opinion on the constitutionality of the Equality Act's hate speech provision, and like the DA - found it wanting," DA MP Dene Smuts said in a statement. "No utterance that could result in genocide, as in Rwanda, or in the instilling of fear and apprehension should be protected speech under the Constitution."

On Monday, Judge Colin Lamont ruled in the South Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg, sitting as the Equality Court, that the song "dubhula ibhunu" (shoot the boer) sung by ANCYL president Julius Malema constituted hate speech. Smuts said the DA thought Lamont's ruling was wrong because it extended the ban to all persons in all circumstances. This meant that the Equality Act was "ripe for challenge", she said. However, the judgment was a "well-aimed rebuke to an irresponsible young rabble-rouser who no one in their right mind believes was nostalgically intoning struggle songs", said Smuts. She said the DA found the judgment interesting and useful.

SA Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu) was "perturbed" by Lamont's ruling. "We are of the view that the liberation song, the specific words 'dubhula ibhunu' does not incite violence," spokesperson Tahir Sema said in a statement. "The judgment is unfortunate and incorrect." He said the judgment affected the entire liberation movement, not just the ANC and the ANC Youth League. Samwu would support the ANC in appealing against the ban. "This song is part of our heritage and history of our struggle," said Sema.

- SAPA