

**MEDIA RELEASE
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15 SEPTEMBER 2010

Is SA's economic policy following its morality into the dark ages?

"Whilst one must take care not to fuel the perception that there is no life in South Africa outside the ANC, it is also a sad fact that the ANC has swallowed much of the everyday life of South Africans, not only by its mere size and broad church concept, but by eroding the constitution and civil life by extending its influence way beyond the typical boundaries of political parties." So says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party in reaction to Cosatu's proposals for the ANC's upcoming national policy conference.

"In the process South Africans are isolating themselves from the realities of the world, and the influence the world has on our everyday life. In very few parts of the world, for e.g. would it have been necessary to point out the dangers of Cosatu's economic policy document ahead of the Durban conference, especially as the Communist Party immediately supported the document. Elsewhere in the world, communism is a proven failure; here we face the real possibility that communism may dictate economic policy.

Add to this the growing threat of Malema and the youth league's noise on land grab and the nationalization of mines, and it becomes evident that the country's economic policy may well follow the country's morality into the dark ages.

"It is important that the electorate keep a keen eye on the impact that the 'broad church' has on South African democracy. There are signs that a de facto two party system is developing. The implications of this are that those voting for the ANC are disenfranchising themselves as far as their own interests are concerned, including many of those voting for the opposition DA, as many of them are not really liberal-socialist democrats. In Western Europe, often described as a post Christian society, approximately 30 % of the voters vote for Christian Democratic Parties. In South Africa, where approximately 80 % of the population claim adherence to Christianity, a very small percentage vote for parties sharing their Christian views on matters such as abortion, gambling, same-sex unions and a conservative approach in general. Including economic policies.

"The same goes for people with strong green sentiments and typical topics which underlie strong parties abroad.

"If Cosatu's proposals are accepted, South African voters will have a choice between a communist economic policy, or a free market policy. But, with the influence of the 'broad church' concept, the country may well experience a discredited, minority supported, economic policy. A conservative Christian approach of taking care of the poor, and creating opportunities for the disadvantaged, have not as yet been in play. As a result the country has stripped itself of policies which elevated Germany and other countries to the level of productive and wealthy economic entities despite very difficult post war circumstances."

Gaan die land se ekonomiese beleid sy moraliteit na die donker eeue volg?

"Terwyl 'n mens versigtig moet wees om nie die persepsie aan te blaas dat daar in Suid-Afrika geen lewe buite die ANC is nie, is dit ook 'n hartseer feit dat die ANC reeds veel van Suid-Afrikaners se daaglikse lewe ingesluk het, nie net oor die party se grootte nie maar deur die erosie van grondwetlike en burgerlike grense wat ver buite die gewone domein van politieke partye lê."

So sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) kort voor die ANC se beleidskonferensie wat volgende week plaasvind.

"In die proses isoleer Suid-Afrikaners van die wêreld se realiteite, en die invloed wat die wêreld op ons daaglikse lewe uitoefen. Dit sou byvoorbeeld in min dele van die wêreld nog nodig gewees het om op die gevare van Cosatu se ekonomiese beleidsvoorstelle te wys, veral omdat die SAKP sy

steun daaraan toegesê het. Elders ter wêreld word kommunisme as 'n mislukking aanvaar, hier loop ons egter die werklike gevaar dat kommunisme die land se ekonomiese beleid kan word. Voeg hierby die groeiende bedreiging wat Malema en die jeugliga se geraas oor grondgryp en die nasionalisering van myne inhou, en dit lyk of die land se ekonomiese beleid heel moontlik die land se moraliteit na die donker eeue kan volg.

“Dit is nodig dat die kiesers 'n skerp oog hou op die impak wat die 'broad church' op die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie uitoefen. Dit toon tekens dat 'n de facto tweepartybedeling ontwikkel wat nie net beteken dat mense wat vir die ANC stem, maar anders dink, hulself in effek ontkieser nie, maar ook baie van diegene wat vir die opposisie DA stem, maar nie die liberale demokrasie omarm nie. In Wes-Europ, wat dikwels as 'n post-Christendeel bskryf word, stem ongeveer 30 % van die kiesers vir die Christen-demokrasie. In Suid-Afrika, waar sowat 80 persent van die inwoners aandui dat hulle Christene is, stem 'n klein persentasie vir Christelike partye wat hul Christelike standpunte onderskryf, soos dié oor aborsie, dobbel, 'huwelike' van dieselfde geslag en 'n algemene konserwatiewe benadering, ook ten opsigte van ekonomiese beleid.

“Dieselfde geld vir mense wat normaalweg die Groenes of ander partye met baie spesifieke doelwitte sou ondersteun.

“As Cosatu se voorstelle aanvaar word, sal die Suid-Afrikaanse kiesers in effek uitgelewer wees aan 'n keuse tussen 'n kommunistiese ekonomiese beleid, of 'n vrye mark, maar in die konteks van die 'broad church' se invloed, kan die land kort voor lank 'n proesel kry van 'n gediskrediteerde en minderheidsgesteunde ekonomiese beleid. 'n Konserwatiewe Christelike benadering tot die versorging van minderbevoorregtes, ook deur die skep van geleenthede, was dan nooit eens ter sprake nie. In die proses stroop die land hom dan van die geleentheid om 'n model toe te pas wat deur arbeidsaamheid van Duitsland en ander lande sukseslande gemaak het, ongeag die baie moeilike na-oorlogse omstandighede.”