

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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Arms deal welcomed

"The Christian Democratic party (CDP) welcomes the announcement by Pres. Jacob Zuma that he is soon to appoint a commission of enquiry to bring final closure on the arms deal controversy that has been dragging on for far too long," says CDP leader, Rev. Theunis Botha. "We will however reserve our final comment for when the names of the members of the commission, and terms of reference is announced. We do not want to celebrate and then later find that this is yet again a cover up action to derail the process en route to the hearing in the constitutional court, in November. The timing of the announcement is suspicious."

"The country can well do without this albatross around its neck, and we look forward to the appointment, and the actual functioning of the commission."

Wapenondersoek verwelkom

"Die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) verwelkom die aankondiging deur pres. Jacob Zuma dat 'n kommissie van ondersoek aangewys gaan word om die wapenskandaal finaal te ontbloot," sê ds. Theunis Botha leier van die CDP. "Ons weerhou ons egter van 'n finale uitspraak hieroor tot die aanstelling werklikheid geword het, en ons sien wie aangewys is en wat die kommissie se verwysingsraamwerk gaan wees. Ons wil nie nou bly word en dit blyk later dat die kommissie se aanwysing 'n poging is om die proses wat na die grondwethof onderweg is en in November aan die beurt kom, te dwarsboom nie. Die tydsberekening van hierdie aankondiging is verdag."

"Die land kan goed klaarkom sonder die wapenskandaal wat soos 'n albatros om die nek bly hang, en ons sien uit na die aanstelling van die kommissie, en wanneer die kommissie werklik aan die werk gespring het."

Zuma appoints inquiry into arms deal

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Johannesburg - A new commission of inquiry to investigate allegations of wrongdoing in the arms deal is to be appointed, President [Jacob Zuma](#)'s office said on Thursday.

"The president will soon announce the terms of reference and the composition of the commission, including the time frames," Zuma's spokesperson [Mac Maharaj](#) said. Zuma had requested Justice and Constitutional Development Minister [Jeff Radebe](#) to take the necessary steps to put this decision into effect, he said. In 2009, legal proceedings were instituted in the Western Cape High Court asking the court to direct the president to appoint an independent judicial commission of inquiry into allegations of wrongdoing, or to require him to reconsider his refusal to do so.

Public interest

It later transpired that the Western Cape High Court was the wrong forum to hear the matter. An application was then brought in the Constitutional Court. The matter was set down for hearing on November 17. Maharaj said Zuma assumed office when the matter was already pending in the courts of law. "He had previously taken a view that since the matter was the subject of litigation in a court of law, he should allow the legal process to take its course," Maharaj said. "However, he has since taken into account the various developments around this matter and also the fact that closure on this subject will be in the public interest."

- SAPA