

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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We will not be moved

“On the 17th September 2013 in a packed hall, of over 500 people, at the Dutch Reformed Church, the residents of Valhalla in Centurion, Pretoria, sent a clear message to the Tshwane Metro: ‘we will not have you ride roughshod over our Community, and deny us our rights to bring up our children and maintain our community according to our Christian ethos’ says Rev Theunis Botha, Leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

“The Valhalla residents were objecting to the one-side decision of the Metro to donate a portion of land, designated as a park, to the Thaba-Tshwane Moslem Trust, for the erection of a Mosque (along with other functions which appears to keep on changing).

“This ward previously objected to the Demarcation Board by way of a petition, when the ANC attempted to split the Valhalla area into two and incorporate half of it into the Laudium area which has a strong Moslem community. The decision was overturned and subsequently withdrawn, and it would appear as if the Tshwane Metro is now once again attempting to introduce a new mix into the Valhalla area.

“Experience has shown, such as with the Erasmia suburb in Pretoria, that once a Mosque is established in an area, the ethos of the area is completely changed. Something the residents of Valhalla have committed themselves to withstand.

“A clear message was sent out by this community that they will fight the council’s decision and oppose it at any cost, a sentiment supported by the Christian Democratic Party.”

Ons bly onwrikbaar – CDP

“Op 17 September, in ‘n stampvol saal van die NG Kerk, het meer as 500 inwoners van Valhalla in Centurion, Pretoria, ‘n duidelike boodskap aan die Tswane-metro gestuur: ‘Ons sal nie toelaat dat daar minagting op ons gemeenskap getrap word, en ons reg om ons kinders binne die etos van ‘n Christelike gemeenskap groot te maak nie,’ sê ds Theunis Botha’ leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“Die inwoners van Valhalla het beswaar gemaak teen die eensydige besluit van die metro om ‘n stuk grond, wat as park gesoneer is, aan die Thaba-Tshwane Moslemtrust te skenk om ‘n moskee op te rig. Ander funksies word ook vir die grond geormerk, wat blykbaar gereeld verander word.

“Hierdie wyk het tevore met ‘n petisie by die Afbakeningsraad beswaar gemaak toe die ANC die Valhalla-gebied in twee wou deel, en die een deel by Laudium met sy sterk Moslem-tradisie wou inlyf. Die besluit is omgekeer en toe onttrek, maar dit lyk of die Tswane-metro nou weer probeer om sake in Valhalla om te klits.

“Ondervinding het geleer dat, as daar eers ‘n moskee in ‘n gebied opgerig word soos in Erasmia Pretoria, die etos en karakter van die gebied heeltemal verander. Dit is iets wat die inwoners van Valhalla vasbeslote is om te verhoed.

“Die gemeenskap het ‘n duidelike boodskap aan die raad gerig dat hulle die raad se besluit sal beveg en dit ten alle kostes sal teenstaan – ‘n sentiment wat die CDP deel.”