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Verkiesingshof plaas groot onus op OVK

"Die uitspraak van die verkiesingshof wat tot die uitstel van tussenverkiesings in ses Tlokwe-wyke gelei het, plaas die onus vierkantig op die OVK om geloofwaardigheid te herstel dat aanstaande jaar se algemene verkiesing werklik vry en regverdig sal verloop," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

"Die gebeure in Potchefstroom staan in 'n groter konteks; soos die uitdeel van kospakkies en huise op belastingbetalerskoste, wat duidelik die ANC bevorder, omstredenheid oor die samesstelling van die nuwe SAUK-raad wat deur die ANC teen die wense van ander partye opgedwing word, en veral Suid-Afrika se groot haas om Mugabe met sy verkiesingsoorwinning geluk te wens nog voor die waarnemers oor die ongelyke speelveld, wat dit beslis nie was nie, kon beslis.

"Trouens, Suid-Afrika, gevolg deur die SAOG, verwag van die wêreld om 'n gekonkelde verkiesing te aanvaar en geteikende sanksies teen Mugabe en sy kornuite op te hef.

"Dit staan verder in die konteks van magskonsentrasie deur die ANC, ook van instellings wat ingevolge die grondwet onafhanklik en vry van politieke invloed moet wees. In weerwil van 'n uitspraak van die grondwetlike hof probeer die regering die plasing van die Valke onder die minister van polisie as 'onafhanklik' in die Hooggeregshof in Kaapstad verdedig. Dieselfde minister wat die veldtog om plaasmoorde, wat tot verhouding, drie keer meer as moorde onder die gewone publiek en twee keer meer onder polisielede, tot prioriteitsmisdaad te verklaar, as 'n goedkoop verkiesingsfoefie afmaak.

"Die onus is nou op die OVK nie net om die gebeure in eie geledere in Potchefstroom behoorlik en deursigtig te ondersoek nie, maar om die hele OVK onder die loep te neem om werklike onafhanklikheid en eerbaarheid te verseker. Liewer nou die ontleedmes diep inspan, as om na die algemene verkiesing met 'n geloofwaardigheidskrisis opgesaal te sit.

"Die CDP wil positief en entoesiasties aan die algemene verkiesing deelneem, maar dan moet die OVK sy bona fides behoorlik bewys."

Election court places large onus on IEC - CDP

"The ruling by the electoral court, which resulted in the postponement of by-elections in six Tlokwe wards, places the ball squarely in the court of the IEC to ensure that next year's general elections will be credible and truly free and fair," says the leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP), Rev. Theunis Botha.

"The events in Potchefstroom must be seen within a broader context: such as the distribution of food parcels and the handing over of houses at the expense of tax payers, which clearly favours the ANC; the controversy on the composition of the new SABC Board, pushed through by the ANC, despite objections by other parties; and especially the great haste of South Africa to recognise Mugabe's election victory, even before judgment could be made on the fairness of the elections – which, obviously it was not. In fact, South Africa, followed by SADEC, urged the outside world to recognise the crooked elections and lift targeted sanctions against Mugabe and his cronies.

"It also stands in the context of the ANC seeking to exert its authority over those institutions which according to the constitution should be truly independent and free of political influence.

"Despite a judgement of the Constitutional Court, government is now attempting to argue in court that placing the Hawks under the control of the minister of police ensures 'independence.' The same minister who said the attempts to have farm murders being declared as priority crimes is a cheap political ploy – whilst in fact the ratio of farm attacks are three times that of the country's average murder rate, and twice that of police officers being murdered.

"The onus is now on the IEC not only to investigate the Tlokwe matter seriously and transparently, but to take a serious look at the entire IEC to ensure real and true independence. Rather cut deep now, than to have a credibility crisis after the elections.

"The CDP wants to positively and enthusiastically participate in next year's general elections, but first the IEC needs to prove its bona fides."