MEDIA RELEASE
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ANC's Durban conference and true democracy
"The dangers of one party governments, whether de facto or de jure, are best demonstrated with the ANC's important policy conference held in Durban this week," says Christian Democratic Party (CDP) leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

"Despite all the talks of a diversity of voices to be heard in the conference, it is also clear that the country's most pressing problems will not be solved without real, functioning democracy, where opposition parties, with the aid of the media, can properly expose mismanagement and corruption, and replace it with a clean sheet. One merely needs to page through a newspaper to wonder whether the country's real challenges will be discussed and solutions sought. Challenges such as failing municipalities, according to Auditor General reports, municipalities owing water boards millions of rands, a municipality pumping raw sewerage into the Vaal at night within a World Heritage site, where commercial crime is escalating amidst inconsistent actions against corruption, to name but a few. Falling from grace seems to be a worse offence than committing crime."

"Within a de facto one party system much seems to be about talks, rather than finding creative and realistic ways to solve the country's problems. The undeniable importance of the Durban conference, is unfortunately a somewhat bizarre reflection on the failure of multi party democracy, accentuated by discussions on the freedom of expression and the media which should be indisputable instruments of a true constitutional democracy."

ANC se Durbankongres en ware demokrasie
"Die gevare van eenpartyregerings, hetsy de facto of de jure, word geïllustreer deur die ANC se belangrike beleidskonferensie wat dié week in Durban plaasvind," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demoktratiese Party (CDP).

"Ten spyte van al die gepraat oor die veelheid van stemme wat in die kongres gehoor sal word, is dit ook baie duidelik dat die land se mees akute probleme nie opgelos gaan word sonder 'n behoorlike, funksionerende demokrasie nie waar opposisiepartye, met die hulp van die media, wanbestuur en korrupsie behoorlik aan die kaak kan stel en mee kan wegdoen deur 'n skoon blaadjie om te slaan nie. 'n Mens hoe maar net deur 'n koerant te blaai om te wonder of die land se werklike probleme in Durban aan die bod gaan kom en oplossings voor gesoek gaan word. Dit sluit sake in soos die land se mislukkende munisipaliteite, aldus die verslae van die Ouditeur-generaal, munisipaliteite wat waterrade miljoene rande skuld, 'n munisipaliteit wat snags rou riool in die Vaalrivier pomp, binne-in 'n wêrelderfenisgebied, waar handelsmisdaad styg te midde van inkomsekwente optrede teen korrupsie, om maar 'n paar te noem. In die proses lyk dit of dit 'n groter oortreding is om by die partybase in onguns te verval as om misdade te pleeg. "

"Binne 'n de facto-eenpartybedeling lyk dit of baie energie gebruik word om praatjies oor praatjies te hou, maar weinig gebeur om by 'n werklike skoon blaadjie uit te kom. Die onbetwisbare belangrikheid van die Durban-kongres is ongelukkig ook 'n bisarre refleksie op die stand van veelpartydemokrasie in die land, wat boonop onderstreep word deur besprekings oor die inkorting van meningsuitdrukking en mediavryheid wat veronderstel is om onbetwiste hoekstene van 'n ware grondwetlike demokrasie te wees."