

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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CDP concerned on government remarks on constitutional change

“Reacting to a statement made by Minister Gugile Nkwiti of Rural Development and Land Reform, that government is prepared to alter the constitution, the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) is of the opinion that it is high time for the ANC to come clean on its commitment to the constitutional principles negotiated at Kempton Park, so that, South Africans will once and for all know whether the agreement still has any validity in its constitutional thinking.”

“Should the ANC summon the required majorities stipulated by the constitution, it may bring about changes and we do not challenge that right, said Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the CDP. “As the CDP is not enamoured with this constitution, which is regarded as one of the most liberal in the world, there are in fact quite a number of changes it would like to make to it. Our problem lies with changes that fly in the face of the negotiated principles agreed upon. Article II of the Constitution requires that the constitution must include ‘universally accepted fundamental rights.’ ‘Universal accepted’ cannot be interpreted through the spectacles of Mugabe, Chavez, Castro or the likes.”

“Judging by comments made by Pres. Zuma lately and many other ANC office bearers, regarding the courts, the judiciary, the independence of the judicial arm of government and even the constitution itself, as well as frequent, obviously unconstitutional stipulations, in Bills and Green Papers, we are very concerned for the future of those principles, enshrined in the Constitution, which are the founding principles of the post 1994 South Africa.”

CDP onthuts oor regeringsopmerkings oor veranderinge aan grondwet

“In reaksie op ‘n stelling van minister Gugile Nkwiti van landelike ontwikkeling en grondhervorming dat die regering bereid is om die grondwet te verander, glo die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) dit is baie laat in die dag dat die ANC eens en vir altyd oop kaarte speel oor sy verbintenis tot die grondwetlike beginsels wat by Kemptonpark onderhandel is, sodat alle Suid-Afrikaners klarigheid kan kry oor of die skikking nog in grondwetlike vertolking in ag geneem moet word. Indien die ANC die nodige spesiale meerderhede kan monster kan hulle die grondwet verander en ons ontken nie die reg nie,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die CDP.

Die CDP is nie onbuigbaar oor die grondwet nie, wat as een van die mees liberale ter wêreld beskryf word, en sou self graag ‘n hele paar veranderings wou aanbring. Ons probleem is met veranderings wat indruis teen die beginsels waarop na onderhandelings ooreengekom is. Artikel II bepaal byvoorbeeld dat die grondwet ‘n handves van regte moet insluit wat aan ‘universeel aanvaarde’ beginsels moet voldoen. Wat ‘universeel aanvaarde’ behels kan nie deur die bril van Mugabe, Chavez, Castro of hul geesgenote bepaal word nie.

“Word die onlangse opmerkings van pres. Jacob Zuma en ander senior ANC-ampsdraers oor sake soos die howe, die regspraak, die onafhanklikheid van die regbank en die grondwet self in ag geneem, asook die gereelde opduik van duidelik ongrondwetlike bepalings in wetsontwerpe en groenskrifte is ons bekommerd oor die toekoms van die grondwetlike beginsels, wat die grondslae vir die post-1994 Suid-Afrika vorm.”