MEDIA RELEASE
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Zuma's religious remarks despicable

"The appalling tendency of Pres. Jacob Zuma to use religion as an instrument of intimidation to coerce people into voting for the ANC, borders on blasphemy," says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) after the SABC reported in Zulu that Zuma has said that voting for the ANC means heaven, and voting against the ANC means hell.

"Surely, after the Christian response as a result of similar remarks made in the past, where he threatened his gullible audience that the forefathers will haunt them should they not vote for the ANC, one would have imagined that he would know better by now. Unfortunately it would appear that he is either a slow learner or else determined to undermine and belittle the Christian faith."

"It is interesting to note that the government handles with kid gloves, minorities who might be offended should we pray in a council or an IEC meeting etc, but will, with impunity, say things that are unacceptable to Christians. When it comes to election time, however, it would appear that it suddenly dawns on President Zuma that almost 80% of South Africans profess Christianity and that it forms the single largest group of influence in the country. He therefore goes out of his way to do and say things that he thinks might appeal to Christians."

"A true Christian, and thus also a Christian Democrat, will never use the Lord as a tool for man. The Christian is and will always remain an instrument of God."

Zuma se godsiensopmerkings veragtelik

"Die veragtelike geneigdheid van pres. Jacob Zuma om godsdiens in te span om hulle af te pers om vir die ANC te stem, is nie net waarskynlik onregmatig nie, maar grens beslis aan godslastering," sê ds Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) na die SABC in Zoeloe berig het vdat dat Zuma gesê het dit beteken die hemel as iemand vir die ANC stem, en die hel as iemand teen die ANC stem.

"Na die grootskaalse protes uit Christengeledere na soortgelyke opmerkings in die verlede, soos toe hy 'n liggelowige gehoor gedreig het dat die voorvadergeeste hulle sal teister as hulle nie vir die ANC stem nie sou 'n mens verwag dat hy nou van beter sou weet. Ongelukkig lyk dit of hy 'n stadige leerder is os dat hy vasbeslote is om die Christelike geloof te verneder.

"Dit is interessant om daarop te let dat die regering minderheidsgelowe wat aanstoot mag neem as ons in raadsvergaderings of in die OVK-vergaderings ens bid, met groot empatie hanteer maar sal hardkoppig volhard om dinge te sê wat Christene aanstoot gee. Wanneer dit egter verkiesingstyd word, tref die werklikheid pres. Zuma dat 80 % van die inwoners die Christelike geloof aanhang en die grootste enkele invloedryke groep in die land is. Dan gaan hy uit sy pad om dinge kwyt te raak wat hy meen aanklank by Christene mag vind.

"'n Ware Christen, en dus Christen-demokraat, sal nooit God as sy instrument inspan nie. Die Christen is en sal altyd 'n werktuig van God wees."