

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

5 MAY 2011

Verwoerd bust

“To what extent will the DA go to secure black votes for the upcoming elections? One can only hope that they will not stoop to levels of exploiting racial tensions, widely experienced in South Africa,” says Christian Democratic Party (CDP) leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

“We understand that the removal of a Hendrik Verwoerd bust from the DA run Midvaal municipality is a sensitive matter, but the DA also steered clear from expressing opinions on the Julius Malema hate speech trial, and also did not react, at least at national level, to the latest farm murders. They however found it necessary to nationally react to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease, apparently indicating, that money and the lives of animals are more important than those of commercial farmers.”

“If this is the way the DA is canvassing for Black votes, what in the end will the difference be between an ANC and DA run government? Will the interests of Christians and the Afrikaners, for instance, be addressed any better than under the ANC?”

“We always gave Helen Zille the benefit of the doubt regarding her leanings towards ANC dogma, such as her involvement with the UDF affiliated Black Sash, and the UDF’s adoption of the ANC’s Freedom Charter, as something of the past. We do not expect the DA not to concentrate on the Black vote, but surely it cannot be at the cost of selling out the legitimate rights of an important part of its constituency. We refuse to believe, based on opinion polls, that the majority of black people need to be canvassed by imitating Julius Malema’s radicalism. Opportunism was never a friend of principle.”

Verwoerd-standbeeld

“Tot watter uiterstes sal die DA gaan om swart stemme vir die komende verkiesing te werf? ‘n Mens kan maar net hoop dat die DA nie so laag sal daal as om die rasse-spanning wat wyd in die land voorkom uit te buit nie,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“Ons verstaan dat die verwydering van dr. Hendrik Verwoerd se standbeeld in die DA-beheerde munisipaliteit ‘n sensitiewe kwessie is, maar die DA het ook wyd gehou met menings uitspraak oor die Julius Malema-haatspraakverhoor, en het ook nie – in elk geval op nasionale vlak – op die jongste plaasmoorde gereageer nie. Die party het dit wel nodig gevind om op die uitbreek van bek-en-klouseer te reageer, byna asof geld en dierelwens meer werd is as dié van kommersiële boere.”

“As dit die grondslag is waarop die DA swart stemme werf, wat sal die uiteindelijke verskil tussen ‘n ANC- en ‘n DA-regering wees? Sal Christene en Afrikaners, byvoorbeeld, se belange enigsins beter gedien word as onder die ANC?”

“Ons het Helen Zille nog altyd die voordeel van die twyfel gegee dat sy nou anders dink as toe sy via die UDF-geaffilieerde Black Sash-lid was van ‘n organisasie wat die ANC se Freedom Charter aanvaar het. Ons verwag nie at die DA die swart kiesers aan hul lot moet oorlaat nie, maar die werwing kan tog nie wees ten koste van die regmatige belange van ‘n belangrike deel van sy steunbasis nie. Ons weier om te aanvaar, gebaseer op meningspeilings, dat die meerderheid swart mense se steun gewerf moet word deur Julius Malama se radikalisme en onverdraagsaamheid na te doen. Opportunisme was nog nooit ‘n vriend van beginsels nie.”