

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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SA education in shambles

"The fact that it is reported that our school children in grades 3,6 and 9 cannot spell and count or understand what they read, should not come as a surprize to any of us." Says Rev Theunis Botha, Leader Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

"For years the ANC has, through a succession of Ministers of Education experimented with this very important building block in the lives of our children and our nation. The blame for this cannot be laid at the door of apartheid or the previous government, but should rather be seen as a legacy of OBE and bad planning by people with little or no educational knowledge or experience.

"The fact that Helen Zille endorsed Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga, indicating that she had the experience of teaching in a 'disadvantaged classroom' and implying that this now made her suitable to be the minister in charge, is an indication of just how far we have come in accepting mediocrity and comparing the bad with the good rather than the best with the excellent."

"It has long been common knowledge that learners who have the best teachers in the early grades, do best in the later years. Here is a challenge that Motshekga needs to respond to. But then where is she going to find suitable teachers? Teachers who will put the learners first and not toi-toi to the drum of the Democratic Teachers Union (DTU).

"Looking at what has been happening in education over the past almost 20 years one cannot help but think that the ANC government has an agenda not to educate our children but rather to 'dumb them down.'"

SA onderwys aan skerwe

"Die feit dat daar berig word dat skool kinders in grade 3,6 en 9 nie kan spel en tel of verstaan wat hulle lees nie, moet nie as verrassing kom vir enige van ons nie." Sê ds Theunis Botha, leier Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

"Vir jare het die ANC, deur middel van 'n reeks Ministers van Onderwys geeksperimenteer met hierdie baie belangrike bousteen in die lewens van ons kinders en ons nasie. Die blaam daar voor kan nie voor die deur van apartheid of die vorige regering gelê word nie, maar moet eerder gesien word as 'n nalatenskap van Uitkomsgebaseerde Onderwys (UGO) en swak beplanning deur mense met min of geen opvoedkundige kennis of ervaring.

"Die feit dat Helen Zille die Basiese Onderwys Minister, Angie Motshekga, verdedig het deur aantedui dat sy die ervaring van onderrig in 'n " benadeelde klaskamer " het en daar deur impliseer dat dit haar geskik maak om as minister in beheer te wees, is 'n aanduiding van hoe ons middelmatigheid al begin aan vaar het en die slegte met die goeie vergelyk eerder as die beste met die uitstekende.

"Dit is lank reeds algemene kennis dat leerders wat die beste onderwysers in die vroeë grade het, beste in die later jare doen. Hier is 'n uitdaging wat Motshekga op moet reageer. Maar waar gaan sy geskikte onderwysers vind? Onderwysers wat die leerders eerste sal stel en nie sal toi-toi op die maat van die Demokratiese Onderwysers Unie (DOU) se drom nie.

"As ons kyk na wat gebeur het in die onderwys oor die afgelope byna 20 jaar kan 'n mens nie anders as om te dink dat die ANC-regering 'n agenda het om, nie ons kinders op te voed nie, maar eerder om hulle dommer te maak."