MEDIA RELEASE
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27 January 2010

South Africans have only half Europe's life expectancy and no more time for fooling around with Aids

"The solution to the Aids pandemic hitting South Africa lies in moral regeneration, and not all kinds of artificial fixes, such as circumcision or the usage of condoms within permissive sexual behaviour." So says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) and acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA). He reacted to the news that people in Europe's average life expectancy is now almost double that of South Africa.

"People in Europe tend to reach an older age, but South Africans' average living age drops – the main difference being the impact of aids. According to the latest figures of the Dutch Statistical Bureau the average female life expectancy in the Netherlands is now 82,3 years, a gain of 3,1 years since 1980. Although males have gained on women, the average life expectancy for Dutch men are 78,3 years. Also despite the gain, Dutch women have dropped from the sixth highest European average to the twelfth position. Dutch men increased their position by one, to the fourth highest average life expectancy in Europe."

"According to figures published at the end of 2009, the average South African life expectancy has dropped to 47 years, not unlike that of war torn Afghanistan where it is 44 years. In 2006 the average South African life expectancy was indicated to be 50 years, but warnings were issued that it was going to drop. It was then reported that HIV had stripped 13 years off the average life expectancy."

"We realise that an inadequate medical care system and a lack of nutrition as a result of poverty are also playing a part, but the HIV impact can obviously not be denied," says Botha."

Europeërs se lewensverwagting nou dubbel van dié van SA, en daar is geen tyd meer om oor Vigs vlieë te vang nie

"Die oplossing vir die land se Vigs-pandemie lê in morele herlewing, en nie in allerlei stopwerk soos besnydenis en die gebruik van kondome te midde van 'n permissiewe seksuele lewenswyse nie." So sê ds. Theunis Botha, leiers van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) en waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratiese Alliansie (CDA). Botha het gereageer op die nuus dat Europeërs nou byna dubbel so 'n hoë lewensverwagting as Suid-Afrikaners het.

"Mense in Europa neig om al hoe ouer te word, maar Suid-Afrikaners se gemiddelde lewensverwagting daal – met Vigs die vernaamste verskil. Volgens die jongste syfers wat deur die Nederlandse Statistiekburo uitgereik is, is die gemiddelde lewensverwagting van Nederlandse vroue 82,3 jaar, 3,1 jaar hoër as in 1980. Al het mans bietjie op vroue ingehaal is die gemiddelde lewensverwagting vir Nederlandse mans nog 78,3 jaar. Ook, ten spyte van die hoër neiging, het Nederlandse vroue se gemiddelde lewensverwagting van die sesde hoogste na die twaalfde hoogste in Europa teruggesak. Mans het een plek opgeskuif na die vierde hoogste."

"Volgens syfers wat in 2009 gepubliseer is, is Suid-Afrikaners se lewensverwagting nou 47 jaar, ongeveer dieselfde as 'n oorlogsgeteisterde land soos Afganistan waar dit 44 jaar is. In 2006 is Suid-Afrika se gemiddelde lewensverwagting nog as 50 jaar aangedui, maar is gewaarsku dat dit nog heelwat sal daal. Toe is aangedui dat Vigs reeds 13 jaar van Suid-Afrikaners se gemiddelde lewensverwagting gestroop het."

"Ons besef dat die gesondheidstelsel hier nie in staat is on aan die verwagtinge voldoen nie en dat onvoldoende diëte 'n rol speel, maar altyddeur is MIV in spel," sê Botha.