

**MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)**

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CDA again receives a letter revealing dismal conditions under which South African medical students study in Cuba

“The CDA will not budge from its efforts to address the dismal conditions under which South African medical students in Cuba have to study,” says Rev. Theunis Botha, acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance and leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

Botha reacted to yet another letter received from a student complaining about the conditions, and the South African Embassy’s response to this (letter hereunder).

“We consider all our options as to how to take the matter further.

CDA ontvang weer brief wat die toestande uitlig waaronder Suid-Afrikaanse mediese studente in Kuba studeer

“Die CDA se missie om die haglike omstandighede waaronder Suid-Afrikaanse mediese studente wat in Kuba studeer aan te spreek, sal nie gestuit word nie,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratiese Alliansie en leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

Botha het gereageer nadat nog ‘n brief van ‘n student ontvang is waarin mond uitgespoel word oor die toestande, en die neerhalende wyse waarop die Suid-Afrikaanse missie in Kuba hierop reageer (brief hieronder).

“Ons oorweeg alle opsies oor hoe om die saak verder te voer.”

I'm gona tell you something that happend in my province when the embassy visited us....he said telling one of the cuban management of the university...after he had spoken to one of the south african students, he said i know the place where this guy comes from, its a rural area where they dont even have electricity, so he was actualy saying that wer poor but claiming to be rich before cubans, thats what we thought when we heard him say that . we decided to tell one of the delegation last year around October when they were here, what he said was that what the embassy did was wrong that was the mans view, added by saying the embassy is here to promote southafrican politics not to say whatever he thinks he can say. Rev Theunis, personaly i suggest that if my government sees it difficult to take care of their students is better not to send them here anymore.i advise SA-students who are more or less informed about this programme not to come here cause no one from their government is gona take care of them here. For the change to occur in our schools, SA government should comfront the cuban authority and forget about friendship but let the cubans know that they wana see how we live, eat etc if not so cubans will keep on cheating us.

Thanks

Ek gaan u iets vertel wat in my provinsie gebeur het toe die ambassade ons besoek het...hy het aan een van die Kubaanse bestuurslede van die universiteit ... na hy met een van die Suid-Afrikaanse studente gepraat het en gesê het hy weet waar die persoon vandaan kom, dit is ‘n landelike gebied waar hulle nie elektrisiteit het nie, en dus gesinspeel het dat ons arm is maar ons voor die Kubane ryk hou. Dit is hoekom ons besluit het om een van die afvaardiging tydens hul besoek in Oktober in te lig hieroor, en te meld dat dit verkeerd is. Dit is die werk van die ambassade om Suid-Afrikaanse politiek te bevorder, en nie ‘n vry sê oor ons te hê nie. Ds. Bopersoonlik voel ek dat as my regering nie meer kans sien om na Suid-Afrikaanse studente om te sien nie, dit beter sal wees om hulle glad nie meer (na Kuba) te stuur nie. Om toestande in ons (Kubaanse) mediese skole te laat plaasvind, is dit nodig dat die Kubaanse regering gekonfronteer word en vriendskap links te laat lê, en dat hulle dit duidelik aan die Kubane stel dat hulle wil sien hoe ons leef. Indien nie sal die Kubane aanhou om ons in te loop.

Dankie