

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

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WHAT IS REALLY BEHIND THE STRIKES?

“That there is a sinister plot behind the recent spate of strikes by public service employees, especially in the Health and Education sectors, has become more and more evident.” So says Rev Theunis Botha Leader of the Christian Democratic Party.

“This is borne out by the fact that violence and intimidation, has led to a serious threat to life on the one hand and on the other, so there is the possibility that learners will be ill prepared for their upcoming Matric exams. The intransigence of the unions and their insistence on an 8.6% salary increase, and a R1,000 housing allowance, has meant that all negotiations have effectively broken down. But clearer evidence of the fact that these strikes are about more than just salary increases, came in a statement on Carte Blanche, by what appeared to be one of the instigators of the strike, who said openly that the workers would not return to work as this is a revolution, and that they believed that only revolution will change things in South Africa.”

“This sort of attitude is a direct challenge to the present government. and a threat to our constitutional democracy and to stability in the Country. Should a statement like this have been made by a supporter of some ‘right-wing’ organization, one would imagine that it would have been labeled as ‘treason’. We cannot help but wonder what action the government is going to take against this person who publicly made these utterances. Although it would appear, that he was only mouthing what he had heard in private, from the leaders of one of the ANC’s so called alliance partners. Should the government show weakness in resolving this present stalemate, the unions will continue to test the boundaries.”

“The CDP has always expressed its opposition to strikes by those employed in essential services, and calls for legislation that will hold unions responsible for any financial implications arising from damage to property. or cleaning up after the trashing of our streets.”

Wat skuil werklik agter die stakings?

“Dat daar ‘n bedenklike plan agter die huidige vlaag staatsdiensstakings is, veral in die gesondheids- en onderwyssektore, word al hoe duideliker,” aldus ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP). Dit word onderstreep deur die geweld en intimidasie wat ernstige lewensbedreiging inhou aan die een kant, en dat matrikulante maar power voorberei gaan wees vir hul eindeksamen.”

“Die onbuigsamheid van die vakbonde en hul aandrang op ‘n 8,6 % salarisverhoging asook R1 000 huisvestingstoelaag beteken dat alle onderhandelings vir alle praktiese doeleindes tot stilstand geknars het. Maar ‘n selfs meer ontstellende bewys dat die staking oor meer as net ‘n salarisverhoging handel was op Carte Blanche te siene waar iemand, wat blykbaar ‘n aanstigter van die staking is, openlik verklaar het die werkers sal nie terugkeer werk toe nie aangesien dit ‘n rewolusie is, en dat hulle glo slegs ‘n rewolusie sal dinge in Suid-Afrika verander. Hierdie houding is ‘n regstreekse uitdaging van die regering en hou ‘n bedreiging vir die grondwetlike demokrasie in die land in. Sou dié soort uitlating deur ‘n ondersteuner van ‘n “regse instansie” gemaak gewees het, sou ‘n mens jou net kon indink hoe oor “verraad” afgegaan sou word.”

“Ons kan maar net wonder watter stappe die regering teen die persoon gaan neem wat openlik hierdie stelling gemaak het. Dit lyk of hy maar net gesê het waarvoor hy sy ore hy by die regering se alliansievennote uitgeleë het. Sou die regering nou met slap handjies optree, kan verwag word dat die vakbonde hul perke sal toets.”

“Die CDP het nog strykdeur sy teenstand uitgespreek teen stakings in noodsaaklike dienste, en ons vra dat wetgewing deurgevoer sal word wat vakbonde verantwoordelik sal hou vir die koste van skade aan eiendom of om die gemors in state na betogings op te ruim.”