MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)

4 OCTOBER 2010

UV-rektor sê rassespanning soos vulkaan: CDP reageer
"Dit sal meningsvormers loon om kennis te neem van prof. Jonathan Jansen, rektor van die UV, se opmerking in die Ahmed Katharda-gedenklesing dat rassespanning in Suid-Afrika soos 'n vulkaan is wat enige oomblik tot uitbarsting kan kom," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

"Vanuit 'n Chisten-demokratiese perspektief is dit onwys om soveel vertroue op 'n sekulêre grondwet te plaas, asof die grondwet self alles sal laat regkom. Die wyse waarop mense daarmee omgaan, en waar die mense hul inspirasie vandaan kry, speel 'n veel groter rol."

"Jansen is onlangs nog deur die Nederlandse koerant Trouw as oud-president Nelson Mandela se opvolger as versoeningsikon voorgehou. Jansen se eie omstrede stappe soos planne om met die universiteitslogo weg te doen en waar hy die oorsake vir spanning net aan die een kant soek, tersyde gelaat, is hy tog reg dat mense se optrede sake vertroebel. Op die oomblik veroorsaak die debat self, waarin die oorsake van die probleme gesoek word ook spanning – aan die een kant is daar die verontwaardiging oor ABSA se transformasiedruk op SARU, pleknaamveranderinge, die behandeling wat die Springboklogo kry, radikale grondhervormingspraatjies en aan die ander kant mense wat juis vir hierdie rasgedrewe aksies in die bres tree as teenvoeter vir apartheid, waarvan die laaste wet in die 80gerjare geskrap is. Hoekom mense glo dat rassisme deur rassisme bekamp kan word, is onverstaanbaar. "

"Menseverhoudings kan nie deur wette gereguleer word nie. Die menslike faktor moet self verantwoordelikheid dra, en dit verg 'n goeie gebalanseerde benadering om te verhinder dat die saak nie tot die vlak van uitbarsting gedryf word nie."

UFS vice-chancellor says racial tension is like volcano: CDP reacts
"Opinion formers may do well to take note of Prof. Jonathan Jansen, vice-chancellor of the Free State University's, opinion expressed in the Ahmed Kathrada lecture, that racial tension in South Africa is like a volcano that can erupt at any moment," says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

"From a Christian democratic perspective we believe it is unwise to place so much trust in a secular constitution, as though this will ensure that everything will turn out for the best. The way people respond to the constitution, and where people find their inspiration, plays a much larger role. "

"Jansen was recently named by the Dutch newspaper Trouw as former President Nelson Mandela's successor as the country's reconciliation icon. Setting aside Jansen's own controversial steps such as plans to do away with the University's logo and where he addresses root causes only from one side, he is never the less correct in saying that people's actions are to be blamed. At present the debate on which causes the problems is as polarising as the root causes themselves – on the other hand there are topics such as ABSA's racial transformation pressure on SARU, place name changes, the way the Springbok logo is treated and the tone of land reform statements, whilst on the other hand there are people arguing in favour of these racist actions to address apartheid legacy. The last apart legislation had been scrapped in the 80's. It is inconceivable that people can believe that racism can be eradicated through racism. "

"Interpersonal relations can not be built by law. The human factor must shoulder responsibility, and this requires a balanced approach to prevent the matter reaching the point of eruption."