MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)

11 OCTOBER 2010

Kommer oor Afrikaans as regstaal – CDP

"'n Aanslag teen Afrikaans of enige van die ander amptelike tale, is nie net 'n aanslag teen die gebruikers van daardie tale nie, maar teen die grondwet self," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP). Botha het gereageer op kommer deur regter Willem van der Merwe, adjunk-regterpresident van Noord- en Suid-Gauteng dat Afrikaans binnekort as regstaal onthoof kan word. "Pansat het jare gelede reeds bevind dat die regering self die grootste oortreder van die grondwetlike taalvoorskrifte is. Sedertdien was die taalkwessie al verskeie kere in die hof. Die ironie is dat die Suid-Afrikaanse regspraak nog grootliks op die Romeins-Hollandse gevestig is."

"Om die grondwetlike taalregte te ondermyn, laat groot vraagtekens ontstaan oor die regering se verbintenis tot ander grondwetlike beginsels soos eiendomsreg en uitdrukkingsvryheid. Al hoe meer waarnemers spreek ook kommer uit oor die neiging van die regering om meer en meer sake te klassifiseer, en inligting wat die bevolking se regte raak, van die kiesers te weerhou.

"'n Regerende party is veronderstel om in algemene belang te regeer, en dit is laat in die dag as die verhouding tussen die regerende party en die bevolking as een van vyandskap beskryf moet word."

Concern about Afrikaans as judicial language

"An onslaught against Afrikaans, or for that matter any of the official languages, as judicial language, is not only an onslaught against those mother tongue speakers, but against the constitution," says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP). Botha reacted to concerns by Justice Willem van der Merwe, deputy Justice President for South and North Gauteng, that Afrikaans may soon be decapitated as judicial language. "Pansat has already, found government itself to be the biggest contravener of the constitution's language prescriptions. Since then, the language issue has been in and out of the courts on various occasions. Ironically, the South African judicial framework is based on Roman Dutch Law."

"If government undermines constitutionally enshrined language rights, the alarm bells toll on government's commitment to any other constitutional principles, such as property ownership and freedom of expression. More and more observers are expressing concerns on government's tendency to withhold information affecting the rights of the public, by classifying it."

'A governing party is supposed to rule in the general interest, and it is very disconcerning when a government acts as though it is the enemy of the populace."