

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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CDP on Cope's proposed unity talks

"We agree with a more united opposition front to the ANC but not at the expense of the most basic principles of democracy," says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) reacting to Cope's call for unity talks on 25 November.

"The ANC and the most important opposition parties are ideologically very similar, with for e.g. both the ANC and the DA supporting the Freedom Charter. The CDP, on the other hand, strongly opposes the nationalisation of banks and mines, and is clear in its opposition to land grab.

"The de facto two party system of the USA is often used as an example of what should be done in South Africa, but it is seldom said that elected representatives are not bound by caucus decisions as is the case in South Africa.

"If the talks for greater unity are open for discussions on how the Christian Democratic ideology will have a guaranteed impact, we will consider participation, even if only as observers."

CDP reageer op Cope se beoogde eenheidsgesprek

"Ons stem saam met die gedagte van 'n meer verenigde front teen die ANC maar nie ten koste van die opoffering van die mees fundamentele beginsels van demokrasie nie," sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) in reaksie op Cope se oproep op eenheidsgesprekke op 25 November.

"Die ANC en die mees belangrike opposisiepartye is ideologies baie na-aan mekaar, en beide die ANC en die DA hang bv. Die Vryheidsmanifes aan. Die CDP, daarenteen, is sterk gekant teen die nasionalisering van banke en myne, en wil niks van grondgryp weet nie.

"Die de facto tweepartystelsel in die VSA word dikwels as 'n positiewe voorbeeld vir Suid-Afrika voorgelê, maar dan word nagelaat om te meld dat verkose verteenwoordigers in die VSA nie soos hier kerkgebonde is nie.

"As die gesprekke vir groter eenheid oop is vir bespreking oor hoe die Christen-demokrasie 'n gewaarborgde impak kan hê, sal ons deelname oorweeg al is dit ook net as waarnemers."