

4th August 2010



Dear interested parties,

Re: Status of Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA)

There are some letters one can write with a certain amount of joy and encouragement. Not so this letter, as it shows up the cracks and frustrations continuously present in the political scene.

There are many who are curious, wondering what is happening with the CDA.

The CDA is and has always been an ‘alliance of Political Parties’.

According to the CDA Founding Statement - “The Christian Democratic Alliance is an Alliance of Political Parties that support a Biblical World View and that will retain their identities, structures and unique characteristics while being fully committed to the Alliance.”

An individual’s membership of the CDA depends totally on their membership with the political party that they are connected with. For example: a Christian Democratic Party (CDP) member is a member of the CDA, for as long as the CDP is a member of the Alliance. If the CDP is no longer a member of the Alliance, he/she could continue to be a member of the CDA by taking out membership in one of the remaining parties. That is what the CDA constitution says. It was muted that we drop everything and become one party, but that was never finalised nor agreed on by everyone, even though certain people began to run with it. The Constitution, however, as it stands presently, is our legal document.

Since the National Elections there have been some disappointments. The leader of the FD, Louis Greene, resigned and is presently working in his church. ACT, which is the party that was based in the Eastern Cape, said that they were no longer viable and were not prepared to continue as they were. The FD, although I, as the interim chairperson of the CDA, have attempted many times to get clarity on their position, do not appear to be continuing as a party. The PCP, situated in the Free State, and its members, have indicated that they are not prepared to continue as a party. They have suggested joining together with the CDP. Section 6.2.4 “Should a Political Party through which the member joined the Alliance, no longer wish to continue with, or be expelled from its association with the Alliance, the member reserves the right to join another Party in the Alliance.”

The CDP has been going for ten years and has run in many National/Provincial and Local elections under their own banner. The CDP ran in KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape, and Gauteng, and in an agreement with the New Labour Party in the Western Cape in 2004. We have built up a track record in local government in the areas where we are strong. It would be a disaster to continue as a new party (CDA) (which some people envisaged), and discard the foundation that has been so carefully laid in the CDP. All we need to do, is look at the DA (which is an offshoot of the DP), to see how not to approach an alliance formation.

As Christians we have a responsibility to be wise and careful not to run headlong into something that is fraught with disaster, just because we are enthusiastic. COPE is a good example of what happens when people rush headlong into something, without carefully laying the foundation first. This usually happens with the euphoria of enthusiasm.

Presently, the CDA is made up of the CDP, and possibly the FD (still waiting for confirmation). In the light of this the CDP has been moving forward, reaching out and preparing for the local election. We

have continued to put out press releases. Our documents and press releases state the 'CDP a member of the CDA', as many of our supporters in Gauteng need be introduced to the concept of the Alliance. It was reported to us after the National Election, that there was some confusion with many not knowing the connection, and therefore did not know who to vote for. Because of that, we are running as the 'CDP a member of the CDA' for the Local elections, in the areas where the CDP is known. We are promoting the CDA as a concept, with whomever we speak.

I trust that this will clarify the situation.

We closed the web page because there was misinformation on the page, which gave people a faulty impression. While we are waiting for FD to make up their mind, we are not pressing forward with the page, but encouraging those who are interested to go to www.cdp.org.za, the web page for the Christian Democratic Party.

There is much more that could be said, but I trust that this suffices. If there are any questions please do not hesitate to enquire at: headoffice@cdp.org.za

Yours in His Service!
Rev Theunis Botha