

AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ACDP)

FOLLOW-UP SUBMISSION ON SEPARATION BETWEEN STATE AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

The ACDP strongly objects to the misrepresentation of our position on the separation between state and religion, contained in the leaflets that were distributed on the 30th May, 1995 and, also appeared in different newspapers throughout the country the previous day.

The ACDP has always called for a separation between Church and State as we have it at the moment. The State should not authorise, promote or support any church or religious group. This does not mean that individuals who are members or working for the State should not have religious opinions and beliefs. The State, as an institution, has functions that are totally separate from the church or any other religious body. Therefore, the State should not be permitted to interfere with what churches and religious groups are doing, except if such religious groups are breaking the law,

The Church, as a separate institution has functions and a clear mandate that is different from that of the State. The Church as an institution, should not try to run a government, although individuals in the church should be part of the team that runs a government. Any citizen of this country, including Christian leaders, must always be in a position to be part of a government if they want to.

If the Constitutional Assembly wants to replace the word "church" in order to include all types of institutions of faith, then the ACDP would support the separation of State and Religious Institutions/Organisations. But if the CA wants to continue making statements like. "All the parties in the CA fully support the idea that there should be a separation between state and religion," then the ACDP insists on an insertion that will reflect our disagreement with that statement. With the insertion, the statement should read. "All the parties in the CA, with the exception of the ACDP, fully support the idea that there should be a separation between state and religion."

**WE STAND FOR: CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES, FREEDOM OF RELIGION, AN OPEN
MARKET ECONOMY. FAMILY VALUES. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN A FEDERAL SYSTEM.**

Please refer to transcription of debate on Secular State, dated 09/02/95, on page 23 of documentation A26, dated 5th June 1995.

On behalf of our constituency, we call upon the Constitutional Assembly to publicise our viewpoint correctly in keeping with its stated aim that "all opinions, views, and decisions are made available to the public for comment, criticism and change."

REV. K. R. MESHOE (MP)
12 June 1995