



20 October 2008

ACDP National & Parliamentary Office

Rev. Kenneth Meshoe  
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Dear Rev. Kenneth Meshoe

The following e-mail correspondence (see below) written by Rudi du Plooy of the African Christian Democratic Party constitutes a deliberate attempt to undermine the constitutional right to freedom of religion in the Republic of South Africa.

Du Plooy's deliberate fabrication of unproven and academically contested 'history' to justify open discrimination and economic sanction against the celebration of Halloween by South African citizens constitutes hate speech and defamation against members of two recognised religions who observe the celebration of Halloween, namely Druidry and Wicca.

The celebration of Halloween - October 31 (an American invention) is derived from an original Irish Celtic feast of Samhain. Samhain is celebrated in South Africa by Pagans on April 30/1 May. This sabbat celebrates the start of the new spiritual year with the veneration of the ancestors. For more information see: <http://www.paganrightsalliance.org/paganism.htm>

Whilst we do believe that Du Plooy is entitled to her personal religious beliefs, we do object to the content of and manner with which Du Plooy has attempted to undermine the support for and credibility of religious minorities in this country by inciting a boycott against the celebration of Halloween with businesses in South Africa.

We believe such a call, in the name of the ACDP, for a boycott against Halloween, based on religious intolerance and historical prejudice constitutes religious discrimination.

The South African Pagan Rights Alliance would like to determine whether or not the ACDP supports this kind of religious intolerance against minority religions from its own members?

Yours Sincerely

Mr. Damon Leff  
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Convener: South African Pagan Rights Alliance  
<http://www.paganrightsalliance.org>

The offensive E-mail

Subject: No to Halloween....

In the rapidly changing South Africa, not much seems to surprise the normal person on the street anymore. An interesting thing that is evident this year, is the concerted effort by stores and major shopping centers in towns across the country to promote Halloween.

At first glance, the whole idea of Halloween looks to be good, clean and innocent fun for the youngsters. I must admit that the hundreds of stores across the country that propagated this "festival", also see it as great fun with fire works, ghosts, witches, monsters (demons) and fancy dress parades.

The other most important thing, of course, was to make the tills ring up extra business. Before you get the idea that I am about to discourage all good Christians to boycott these stores and shopping centers, I must emphasize that I do not want to do that. What has happened is that people don't understand the meaning of Halloween.

Halloween originated for an old Druid custom set to the sacrificing of humans on Halloween night. Druids offered children in sacrifices. The trick or treat custom was created by the Druids. When they went to a home and demanded a child or virgin for sacrifice, the victim was the Druids treat.

In exchange they would leave a jack-o-lantern with a lighted candle made of human fat to prevent those inside from being killed by demons in the night. When some unfortunate being couldn't meet the demands of the Druids, then it was time for the trick. A symbolic hex was drawn on the front door. That night Satan or his demons would kill someone in that home.

Looking at the above, Halloween should not be a practice that we, as South Africans should want to get involved in. So what do we do about it?

Firstly, churches should teach on these issues. There is a lot said about five fold ministry, of which one aspect just happens to be the responsibility to teach the Body (congregation). The people in South Africa can not rely on the government to protect them or their children from issues like this. It is squarely the responsibility of the church and parents.

Secondly, the community should communicate the facts of Halloween to the stores and shopping centers that are actively promoting Halloween. Should any major store chain read this letter, it would be good to know that they will take our view seriously and refrain from promoting Halloween again. As part of a concerted Christian nucleus, we need to state that we find the celebrations of Halloween offensive.

Rudi du Plooy  
African Christian Democratic Party