

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

12 FEBRUARY 2014 (2)

No reason to rejoice on SA's improved position on Freedom of the Press Index – CDP

“South Africa has improved its position on the Freedom of the Press Index with ten positions, but the reality is that the current 42nd position is still way behind Namibia's 22nd position,” says Christian Democratic Party (CDP) leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

“One also needs to take into account that the reason given by Reporters without Borders for the improvement was based on the fact that ‘Pres. Jacob Zuma refused to sign the information bill.’ That position can change at any time. Further, the global position on freedom of the press index deteriorated, meaning that a country maintaining its status quo would in all probability improve its standing on the index. It also seems as though certain serious incidents, such as the SABC's order to edit the booing of Zuma at the Mandela memorial service came after the cut off date for the establishment of the country on the index.

“We thus call on Zuma to seriously consider withdrawing the information bill in its entirety so as to avoid further damaging the country's image.”

Geen rede om te jubel oor SA se verbeterde posisie op die presvryheidsindeks – CDP

“Suid-Afrika se verbeterde posisie van tien plekke op die persvryheidsindeks tot die 42ste plek moet teen die agtergrond beskou word dat dié posisie nie waffers is nie, en ver agter Namibië se 22ste plek is,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“'n Mens moet ook in gedagte hou dat die rede wat Verslaggewers Sonder Grense vir die verbetering aangee, is ‘pres. Jacob Zuma se weiering om die snoerwet te teken,’ 'n posisie wat enige oomblik kan verander. Voorts het die wêreldwye stand van persvryheid agteruit gegaan, en 'n land wat sy stand van persvryheid in stand kon hou, se posisie op die indeks sou dus in alle waarskynlikheid outomaties ‘verbeter’ het. Voots lyk dit of ernstige voorvalle, soos die wegredigering van Zuma se uitjouery by die Mandela-gedenkdien, na die afsnydatums plaasgevind het en lande se posisies op die indeks reeds bepaal was.

“Ons doen dus 'n beroep op Zuma om ernstig te oorweeg om die snoerwet in die snippermandjie te smyt en so te verhinder dat die land se beeld verder geskaad word.”