MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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CDP oor intelligente openbare diskoers

"Ons stem met minister Trevor Manuel saam dat daar 'n meer intelligente openbare diskoers moet wees, en die rol wat die media hierin kan speel," aldus ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) "Ons het egter 'n paar voorbehoude:

- Wetlike voorskrifte oor die samestelling van personeelkorpse by die media moet laat vaar word om die media in staat te stel om die hoogste moontlike vlak van professionaliteit te bereik en so ook hul inkomste te verbeter om hierdie kapasiteit mee te befonds.
- Die politici moet wys dat uitsprake teen korrupsie en wanadministrasie meer is as net lippediens, waardeur die konflikvlak beduidend sal versag.
- Die vereiste intellektuele vermoë om kwessies te hanteer sal uitbly solank die media op enige manier geïnhibeer bly – en dit is skadelik vir die demokrasie. Ons glo bitter min kiesers trek kruisies by partye wat hul beginsels verteenwoordig – 'n klap in die gesig van die kiesers en die media wat hulle behoorlik ingelig behoort te hou."

CDP on more intelligent public debate

"We agree with minister Trevor Manuel that the public debate should be more intelligent, and the media should play an important role," says Christian Democratic Part (CDP) leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

"We have a few preconditions, however:

- Legislative measures prescribing the composition of those employed by newspapers should be scrapped to enable the media to reach the highest levels of professionalism and so improve their income which will enable them to fund themselves
- Politicians should ensure that they do not only give lip service to fighting corruption and maladministration this will in itself decrease the conflict potential considerably.
- The levels of intellectual capacity required will not be met as long as the media is inhibited in any way- which impacts negatively on democracy. We believe that very few voters actually vote for parties representing their principles – a slap in the face for the electorate and the media, whose responsibility it is to keep them properly informed."