

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)**

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**SA excels in looking deep into the glass**

“With poverty and an inability to pay for basic services amongst the biggest problems faced by South Africans, one can only wonder how South Africa, according to the World Health Organisation, was ruled under the five countries in the world where alcohol abuse is a problem,” says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

“According to earlier figures released, South Africans consume 9 litres of pure alcohol per capita. Considering that approximately half the population does not drink alcohol at all, this is a massive amount. Some years ago, it was estimated that alcohol abuse cost the country at least R9 billion per annum in terms of accidents, early deaths, hospitalisation, etc.”

“Yet, when it comes to paying for electricity and other basic services, poverty is often given as the reason that arrears occur. When the Tshwane Metro disconnected the electricity of people who did not pay, they were threatened and forced by a crowd mostly drunk, to reconnect the electricity. That does not add up.”

“This is not something South Africans can be proud of.”

**Suid-Afrika “presteer” met elmboog lig**

“Met armoede en ‘n onvermoë om vir basiese dienste te betaal onder Suid-Afrikaners se grootste probleme, is dit skokkend dat die Wêreldgesondheidsorganisasie die land nou onder die top vyf lande in die wêreld plaas waar alkoholmisbruik ‘n probleem is,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“Volgens vroeëre syfers gebruik Suid-Afrikaners per capita 9 liter skoon alkohol per jaar. As in gedagte gehou word dat ongeveer die helfte van die bevolking geen alkohol gebruik nie, is dit ‘n skokkende hoeveelheid. ‘n Paar jaar gelede is beraam dat alkoholmisbruik die land jaarliks minstens R9 miljard kos in ongelukke, vroeë sterftes hospitalisasie ens.”

“Maar as dit kom by die opdok vir elektrisiteit en ander basiese dienste, word armoede dikwels as rede vir agterstande aangegee. Toe die Tshwane-raad wanbetalers se kragverbinding ontkoppel het, is hulle deur ‘n skare wat byna almal aangeklam was gedwing om dit te herkoppel. Dit rym mos nie.”

“Suid-Afrikaners wat agter die deur staan moet hul koppe in skaamte laat sak.”