MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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CDP oor Internasionale persvryheidsdag

Die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) het ter viering van internasionale persvryheidsdag op 3 Mei die media in Suid-Afrika geluk gewens met hul volharding om persvryheid in Suid-Afrika te handhaaf, en so demokrasie te bestendig.

"Die media se volgehoue druk het baie daartoe bygedra dat die snoerwet baie van sy ergste draketande kwyt is, hoewel 'n groot deel van die stryd nog voorlê," sê ds Theunis Botha, leier van die CDP.

"Suid-Afrika het van 2003, toe die land die 21ste mees persvrye land ter wêreld, en die mees persvrye land op die kontinent, algaande teruggesak tot die huidige 52ste plek. Die snoerwet het die afgelope paar jaar 'n groot rol hierin gespeel.

"Persvryheid en ware demokrasie loop hand aan hand, en dié verband word ook deur Verslaggewers sonder Grense gemeet in die vorm van die media se bereidwilligheid om in beriggewing die betrokke land se politieke diversiteit weer te gee.

"Ons doen dus 'n beroep op die media om nie net genadeloos op ongerymdhede en korrupsie jag te maak nie, maar daarteen te waak dat die huidige tendens in die rigting van 'n tweepartystelsel die fokus weg van politieke diversiteit neem, en dus so ook persvryheid en die demokrasie skade te berokken."

Theunis Botha, 083 6572 482

CDP on International freedom of the press day

The Christian Democratic party (CDP) wants to congratulate the media in South Africa on the celebration of International Freedom of the Press Day, which is celebrated annually on 3 May. We thank the media for their determination in fighting for press freedom, in order to safeguard democracy in the country.

"The continued pressure of the media, has gone a long way in contributing to the secrecy bill losing many of its damaging clauses, although much of the battle still lies ahead," says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the CDP.

"South Africa gradually dropped from its 21st position on the freedom of the press index, in 2003, when it was considered to be the 'most press free country on the continent', to the current 52nd position. Over the past few years the secrecy bill played a major role in this deteriorating situation.

"Freedom of the press and democracy go hand in hand, and it is also in relation to this that Reporters without Borders measure the commitment of the media to reflect the political diversity of the country.

"The CDP, therefore, calls on the media to not only relentlessly hunt down mismanagement and corruption, but they must also not fail to reflect political diversity, especially against the back drop of the current efforts to develop a two party system. The failure of the press to do this could potentially damage both the freedom of the press and democracy."