

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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CDP reacts to government / Sanef press freedom disquiet

“The present impasse between government and the media, with the latest head on clash between government spokesperson Jimmy Manyi and Sanef, is bad news for democracy and clean governance,” says Christian Democratic Party (CDP) leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

“We stated from the outset that Manyi was the wrong man for the job, but it is also clear that Manyi’s appointment and his antics are symptomatic of larger problems. These need to be ironed out soon. No one in a democratic society believes that all will always be plain sailing between media and government. The best example is possibly the latest media fix in which Belgium’s interim premier, Yves Leterme, finds himself accused of improper conduct against a woman. Leterme is one of the most outspoken politicians for press freedom. At present heads are clashing on where the line between a politician’s privileged life, and political relevance lies.”

“We call on government and SANEF to seriously attempt to find common ground so that the freedom of the press will be firmly established through convention, for the sake of a well informed public and an unhindered ability to combat corruption.”

CDP reageer op regering / Sanef se persvryheidsongemak

Die huidige kopestamp tussen die regering en die media, met die jongste botsing tussen Sanef en regeringswoordvoerder Jimmy Manyi, is sleg vir demokrasie en die stryd teen korrupsie,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“Ons het vanuit die staanspoor gemeen Jimmy Manyi is die verkeerde aanstelling vir die pos, maar ons meen ook sy jongste manewales is simptome van ‘n groter probleem. Dit moet gou uitgestryk word. Niemand in ‘n demokrasie verkeer onder die illusie dat sake in ‘n demokrasie altyd tussen die media en die regering sal vlot nie. Die jongste voorbeeld is die media-tameletjie waarin die instaan-premier van België, Yves Leterme, hom nou bevind, en waarin hy van onbehoorlike gedrag teenoor ‘n vrou beskuldig word. Leterme is een van die mees uitgesproke politici vir persvryheid. Op die oomblik klap die skote oor waar die grens tussen ‘n politikus se gepriviligieerde lewe en die van politieke relevansie lê.”

“Ons doen ‘n beroep op SANEF en die regering om ernstig te probeer om gemeenskaplike gronde te vind sodat persvryheid behoorlik as konvensie in Suid-Afrika beslag kan kry – ter wille van ‘n goed-ingeligte publiek en ‘n ongehinderde gevegsvermoë teen korrupsie.”