

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

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**Herstel godsdiensoonderrig**

“Ons verwelkom die oproepe nou dat opleiding in etiek deel van skoolleerplanne moet word om die verswelgende golf van korrupsie in die land te probeer stuit,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP). “Ons vra egter dat die konsep godsdiensvryheid so toegepas word dat diegene wat dit verkies, dan formele godsdiensoonderrig ontvang. Slegs dié wat dit self verkies of uit ongelowige huise kom, behoort dan verplig te word om die etiek-kurusse te volg. Alle Duitse staatskole moet godsdiensoonderrig aanbied juis om etiek te vestig, maar weens godsdiensvryheid word leerlinge nie verplig om dit te neem nie.

“Volgens ‘n onlangse berekening kos korrupsie die land jaarliks R657 biljoen, ongeveer dieselfde as wat die Inkomstediens jaarliks insamel. Dit is duidelik waarom die Wêreldbank korrupsie die berowing van ‘n land van sy toekoms noem, en waarom baie kommentators meen korrupsie in Suid-Afrika het endemies geword.

“Die regering moet werklik sy kop reggeskuif kry hieroor, en nie alle waghonde, soos die media en nou selfs die grondwethof, onder verdenking bring as dit sy werk behoorlik doen nie. Die regspraak is immers veronderstel om deel van die regering te wees, naamlik die regsprekende gesag naas die uitvoerende en wetgewende.”

**Reintroduce religious education**

“We welcome the calls to include training in ethics in schools as part of a strategy to curb the overwhelming levels of corruption in this country,” says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP). “We however ask that the idea of religious freedom be so interpreted that those who prefer religious education, will be given that opportunity. Only those who prefer to be excluded or those coming from non religious households, should then be required to be taught general ethics. All German public schools have to offer religious training as a means of forming ethics, but because of religious freedom, the attendance is not compulsory.

“According to recent estimates corruption costs South Africa R657 billion annually, approximately amount SARS collects annually. It is clear why the World Bank describes corruption as robbing a country of its future, and why commentators say corruption has become endemic in the country.

“Government really needs to make the required mind shift, and not attack watch dog institutions such as the media and now the constitutional court. The judiciary, after all, is part of government – the judicial branch is separate from the legislative and executive branches.”