

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

**16 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Doen heeltetal weg met snoerwet – CDP**

Terwyl daar in afwagting van pres. Jacob Zuma se memorandum nog bespiegel word oor of Zuma net twee artikels van die berigte snoerwet terugverwys het, of die hele wetsontwerp, doen die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) 'n beroep op die president om die hele wetsontwerp terug te stuur vir herbesinning.

“Die CDP se standpunt is dat die begroning van die wetsontwerp fundamenteel so verkeerd in Luthulihuis uitgebroei is dat dit selfs na al die wysigings steeds op die ashoop hoort,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die CDP.

“Dit kan nie hervorm word nie, dit kan net vernietig word. Die land het reeds baie skade gelei – in 2009 wat Suid-Afrika nog 33ste op die persvryheidsindeks, en beklee nou die 53ste posisie sonder dat die dokument nog op die wetboek is.

“Ons besef dat ander faktore, soos die gebrek aan politieke diversiteit wat in baie van die media weerspieël word ook die land se posisie op die indeks rysmier – 'n proses wat sal voortduur solank die neiging tot 'n tweepartybedeling voortduur omdat dit talle kiesers in effek ontkieser.

“Maar min, indien enige saak het so 'n groot rol gespeel om die land se posisie so te rysmier as die regering se hardkoppigheid om hierdie dokument op die wetboek te kry.”

**Completely do away with info bill – CDP**

“While the country awaits Pres. Jacob Zuma’s memorandum, and it is anybody’s guess whether he has referred the entire information bill back to parliament, or only two sections thereof, the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) calls for the complete withdrawal of the legislation.

“The CDP’s believes that the fundamentals on which Luthuli House first launched the legislation is so questionable, that it should, despite any amendments, still be sent to the shredders,” says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the CDP.

“This legislation cannot be reformed, it should only be abolished. The country’s image has already been damaged as a result of this bill. In 2009 the country occupied the 33<sup>rd</sup> position on the freedom of the press index, this year, however, it is 53<sup>rd</sup> position – and this before it has even been signed into law.

“We realise that there are other factors, such as the lack of the portrayal of political diversity in some of the media that also undermines the position on the index. This situation will continue as long as the concept of a two party state contributes, to many being disenfranchised.

“But nothing has done so much damage to the country as the government’s insistence to pigheadedly proceed with this legislation.”