

**MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)**

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SA drops on freedom of the press index

“It does not surprise the CDP that the ANC’s media plan has now caused the country to drop five positions to the 38th place on Reporters without Border’s (RWB) press freedom index. Only a few years ago South Africa was in the 22nd position and was the country where there was the most press freedom on the continent.” The leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP), Rev. Theunis Botha, reacted to the latest press freedom index released today.

“Since Reporters without Borders slammed the ANC for its media plans, it was already clear that SA’s position was going to take a knock. Attacks on journalists during the Soccer World Cup and Julius Malema’s handling of a BBC journalist, Jonah Fischer, during a media conference, also contributed to South Africa’s declining position, according to RWB.”

“Since the country’s position on the index adversely affects the country’s position on other indexes such as the corruption perception index and investment confidence index, we call on the ANC to immediately scrap its media plans. It is better to address maladministration and corruption rather than attempting to cover it up.”

SA val op persvryheidsindeks

“Dit verbaas die CDP nie dat die ANC se mediaplanne nou daartoe bygedra dat Suid-Afrika vyf plekke op Verslaggewers sonder Grense (VSG) se internasionale persvryheidsindeks teruggeval het nie. Suid-Afrika beklee nou die 38ste plek, na die land enkele jare gelede nog die 22ste posisie beklee het, en die mees persvrye land in Afrika was.” Die leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP), ds. Theunis Botha het gereageer op die jongste persvryheidsindeks wat pas bekend gestel is.

“Na Verslaggewer sonder Grense die ANC gestriem het oor sy mediaplanne, was dit reeds duidelik dat die land ‘n knou sou kry. Aanvalle op joernaliste tydens die Wêreldbeker-sokkertoernooi, en Julius Malema se hantering van ‘n BBC-joernalis, Jonah Fischer, tydens ‘n mediakonferensie het ook die land skade berokken, aldus VSG).”

“Omdat ‘n land se posisie op hierdie indeks ook die land se posisie op ander indekse, soos die korrupsie-persepsieindeks en die beleggersvertroue-indeks beïnvloed, doen ons ‘n beroep op die regering om sy mediaplanne te laat vaar. Dit is beter om wanadministrasie en korrupsie self aan te spreek eerder as om dit te probeer toesmeer.”