

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

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**CDP welcomes ANC members' abstaining**

"The CDP would like to congratulate those members of the ANC who had the courage to stand up for their convictions by recusing themselves, or not attending the meeting, or openly abstaining from voting for the Protection of State Information Bill in parliament," said Rev Theunis Botha, Leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

"The ANC said that it "smacks of ill-discipline" but in fact it took a great deal of courage because these members will most likely be penalized and punished for what they have done. "They have shown the same determination that many in history have displayed during times of persecution, when men and women have been prepared to stand against the ill-considered opinions of the majority because their conscience would not let them go down the same pathway. One of the most valued rights that any one of us has, is the right to say no.

"The South African political system, unfortunately has many flaws. One of the more serious is the caucus pressure on our politicians which forces them to keep quiet and not to stand for their democratic right to freedom of choice."

**CDP verwelkom optrede van skeibrekers**

"Die CDP wens diegene in die ANC geluk wat die moed gehad het nie vir die Wetsonwerp op die Beskerming van Staatsinligting te stem nie, hetsy deur nie teenwoordig te wees nie, die vergadering te verlaat of om buite stemming te bly." So sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

"Die ANC sê dit het die klank van swak dissipline, maar in werklikheid het dit baie moed geverg omdat daar in alle waarskynlikheid dissiplinêr teen die lede opgetree sal word. "Hulle het dieselfde vasbeslotenheid aan die dag gelê as diegene in die geskiedenis wat bereid was om volgens hul gewete, maar teen die bedenlike optrede van die meerderheid, rug styf te maak. Een van ons mees gekoesterde regte is die reg om 'nee' te kan sê.

"Die Suid-Afrikaanse politieke stelsel het ongelukkig baie leemtes. Een van die ernstigste leemtes is die kookusdruk wat mense verhinder om hul demokratiese reg op keuses uit te oefen."