

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

**3 November 2009**

**SABC's bail out through tax money an unhealthy practice - CDA**

"Before government could even consider using additional taxes to replace TV licenses, irrespective of the fact it may be one percent, it should regain credibility and operate as a real public broadcaster, not a government mouthpiece.

"With the ANC dominated parliament and the president doing the board appointments, there is a dangerously thin line between the public and the ruling political party. Therefore, several safeguards should be in place where tax payers' money is at stake, says Rev Theunis Botha, Leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) a member of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA).

"As it is, tax payers have been penalized to the tune of R200 million in the form of bailouts allocated during the mid term budget. The need for these bailouts arose through no fault of the tax payers, but rather through appointments done by the government.

"This follows only months after acting news editor Phil Molefe suggested that the SABC needs to regain credibility. South Africa has also, over the years, slipped back considerably on the press freedom index, with countries such as Mali, Ghana and Namibia now occupying better positions. Internationally, a free press is regarded as an integral part of democracy – even described as the fourth leg of democracy.

"As it is, tax payers in South Africa are forking out hard earned money to keep incompetently run state parastatals afloat as they pay board members and senior management enormous salaries and bonuses. Had these been well earned merit bonuses one could have had some appreciation for it, but far too often, they seem to be dished out as add-ons to salaries, irrespective of the performance of the beneficiaries who are already over paid."

**Belastingbetalersgeld om SABC kop bo water te laat bly 'n ongesonde praktyk - CDA**

"Alvorens die regering selfs net kan oorweeg om bykomende belasting te gebruik om TV-lisensies mee te vervang, ongeag of dit net een persent sal wees, moet die SABC sy geloofwaardigheid as openbare uitsaaier herstel, en nie as 'n bykomende tentakel van die regerende party beoordeel word nie.

"Met die ANC-oorheersde parlement en die president wat die raadsaanstellings doen, word die lyn tussen openbare uitsaaier en die politieke party gevaarlik dun gerek, en verskeie waarborge moet ingebou word wanneer belastingbetalersgeld in die spel kom, " sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP), 'n lidparty van die Christen-demokratiese Alliansie (CDA).

"Soos sake nou staan is belastingbetalers pas in die mid-termynbegroting met R200 miljoen "beboet" om die spartelende SABC aan die dryf te hou. Die behoefte aan staatsfondse was nie die belastingbetalers se skuld nie, maar was die gevolg van aanstellings wat deur die regering gedoen is. "Dit volg slegs maande na die waarnemende nuushoof, Phil Molefe, aangedui het dat dit dalk nodig is dat die SABC sy geloofwaardigheid herstel (berig hieronder). Suid-Afrika het die afgelope klompie jare ook beduidend op die persvryheidsindeks teruggesak, en lande soos Mali, Ghana en Namibië beklee nou beter posisies op die indeks. Internasionaal word persvryheid as 'n onlosmaaklike deel van demokrasie beskou, en word selfs as die vierde been van die demokrasie beskryf.

"Suid-Afrikaners word reeds erg gemelk om van hul hardverdiende geldjies afskeid te neem om semi-staatsinstellings, wat baie onbevoeg bestuur word, solvent te hou sodat raadslede en senior bestuur enorme salarisse en bonusse betaal kan word. Dié bonusse het skynbaar niks met prestasie uit te waaie nie, en dien gewoon as krismisbonusse vir reeds oorbetalde mense."