MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)

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Voorkom eerder stakings as om lapwerk agterna te doen
"Voorkoming is beter as genesing, en dit geld ook stakings," aldus ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

"Dit kan nou ruim gestel word dat die staking, die regering se mediamuilband-planne, en voornemens om die SAOG se tribunaal se mandaat te wysig, reeds alle kapitaal en aansien wat die land met die aanbied van die wêreldsokkertoernooi verteer het. Dit is beraam dat die landswye staking in 2006 die land in die orde van R2 miljard per dag gekos het, en daar is nie rede om te meen dat die land dié keer ligter daarvan gaan afkom nie. Die regstreekse koste van Transnet-staking vroeër vanjaar is op ongeveer R50 miljoen geskat."

"Die slegte publisiteit wat Suid-Afrika oorsee geniet, kos die land ook baie duur. Die Christian Science Monitor beskryf onder meer hoe Suid-Afrika bykans jaarliks onder stakings deurloop, en dat daar selfs 'n stakingseisoen is. Dit kan kwalik as musiek op die ore van beleggers beskryf word. Sedertdien het daar ook verskeie berigte van geweld gekom, asook stakers wat 'n ambulans met 'n siek pasiënt en hospitaalingange blokkeer. Suid-Afrika se onderwys steek reeds sleg af by sommige van sy buurstate, en teen die huidige tempo sal die land nog 'n verlore geslag voortbring."

"Op die oog af klink die eise van die stakers en hul vakbonde onredelik, maar dit moet in gedagte gehou word dat dit kom teen die agtergrond van bestuurslui wat reuse verhogings gekry het, en konstante berigte van tenderpreneurs en BEE-begunsitigdes, wat reuse bedrae inpalm. Indien dié kwessie nie aangespreek word nie, sal die land hom moet vetsmeer vir 'n jaarlikse stakingseisoen wat deur geweld gekenmerk word, asook die ontwrigting van noodsaaklike dienste. Die land kan nie die sosio-ekonomiese gevolge van hierdie onverantwoordelike optredes bekostig nie."

Rather prevent strikes than attempt to manage matters afterwards
"Prevention is better than cure, and this also applies to strikes," says Christina Democratic Party (CDP) leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

"One can no safely say that the strike, the government's media muzzle plans and intentions of altering the SADEC tribunal mandate has eaten away all capital and esteem the country may have gained from the World Soccer Cup tournament. It was estimated that the national strike in 2006 cost the country approximately R2 billion per day, and there is very little reason to believe that it would no be less. The direct cost of the Transnet strike earlier this year was estimated at R50 million."

"The bad publicity abroad the strike brings for South Africa, is also costly. The Christian Science Monitor refers to South Africa's almost annual strikes and even refers to a strike season. That would not serve as music in the years of investors. Since, there were numerous reports of violence, as well as strikers blocking the way of an ambulance with a sick patient, as well as blocking hospital entrances. South Africa's education at school level also trails that of several neighbouring countries, and at the present rate the country will again release a lost generation."

"Superficially, the demands of the strikers and their unions sound unreasonable, but it must be kept in mind that sections of management have scored massive hikes, and there are constant reports of tenderpreneurs and BEE- beneficiaries, pocketing massive amounts. If these matters are not addressed the country must be prepared for an annual strike season accompanied by violence and disruption of essential services. The country can ill afford the socio-economic consequences of these irresponsible actions."