

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

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**Violent crime down – commercial crime increases sharply**

“We welcome the fact that murder has dropped in South Africa by 8,6 % and that the number of people murdered has dropped to under 17 000. We have also taken note that the Medical Research Council as a rule, challenges the murder figures supplied by the SAPS. However, these figures are also more or less reflected in the drop in several other instances of violent crime, such as attempted murder (6,1%), transito robberies (7,3 %), bank robberies (8,8 %) and sexual crimes (4,4 %).” So says the leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP), Rev. Theunis Botha.

“South Africa recently added the ‘title’ of the world’s murder capital to the existing one of rape capital, and it is heartening that there were drops in these categories. The increase in the number of cases of commercial crime in a corruption plagued country, is a matter of serious concern. Over the past five years it has increased from approximately 54 000 cases, to approximately 85 000 cases. At the present rate the number would double by next year. i.e. over a six year period.”

“As far as stock theft is concerned, it remains a matter of concern that the figures of the SAPS and those of the Agricultural census, differ by so much. Not only is there little resemblance between provinces worst hit by this crime, but the totals are also very different. According to the 2007 agricultural census, farmers in the country lost almost R1bn through stock theft, whilst the SAPS indicated less than 30 000 animals were stolen. This means the average value of each animal stolen was more than R30 000. This seems rather stiff considering that the animals stolen include sheep, goats and poultry. With the latest statistics the total has risen to more than 32 000 animals.”

“A matter of concern is the fact that drug and alcohol related crimes increased. These are usually associated with declining socio economic conditions, an increase in the income gap, and the collapse of morality. If this is not soon turned around, the problem will almost certainly manifest in the violent crimes categories. Comparing the number of drunken driving arrests in the provinces, such as Limpopo (42 per 100 000), Mpumalanga (59 per 100 000) and the Free State (57), it still seems as though there is inadequate law enforcement in provinces rather than per capita more sober drivers. Not only is the per capita number of drunken driving arrests markedly fewer than in the Western Cape (292 per 100 000), but the number of road deaths in provinces with fewer drunken driving arrests also do not support the notion of fewer drunken drivers. This means that more law enforcement in some provinces will further inflate the number of alcohol and drug related crimes.”

**Geweldsmisdaad neem af, handelsmisdaad skerp op - CDP**

“Ons verwelkom dit dat moorde in Suid-Afrika met 8,6 % afgeneem het en dat die aantal vermoordes tot onder 17 000 gedaal het. Ons hou egter in gedagte dat die Mediese Navorsingsraad gereeld met hul syfers verskil van dié van die SAPD. Dit blyk egter dat die afnames ook ooreenstem met afnames in ander kategorieë van geweldsmisdaad, soos poging tot moord (6,1 %), transitoroofdogte (7,3 %), bankrowe (8,8 %) en seksuele misdaad (4,4 %),” aldus die leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party, ds. Theunis Botha.

“Suid-Afrika het onlangs die ‘titel’ van die wêreld se moord-hoofsetel by sy bestaande van verkragtingshoofsetel gevoeg, en dit is verblydend dat daar dalings in hierdie kategorieë was. Die toename in handelsmisdaad is egter kommerwekkend. In bykans vyf jaar het handelsmisdaad in hierdie korrupsiegeteisterde land van sowat 54 000 tot 85 000 gevalle toegeneem. Teen die huidige tempo sal handelsmisdaad teen volgende jaar met 100 % oor ses jaar toegeneem het.”

“Wat veediefstal betref, bly ons bekommerd dat die syfers van die SAPD en en dié van die landbousensus soveel verskil. Nie alleen is daar weinig verband tussen die provinsies wat volgens die twee stelle statistiek die ergste deurloop nie, maar die totale maak min sin. Volgens die landbousensus van 2007 het boere bykans ‘n R1 miljard weens veediestal verloor, maar die SAPD

het aangedui dat slegs sowat 30 000 diere gesteel is. Dit geen 'n gemiddelde prys per dier van sowat R30 000. Dit klink baie onwaarskynlik as in gedagte geneem word dat die vee wat gesteel word ook skape, bokke en selfs pluimvee insluit. "Met die jongste statistiek het die aantal diere wat gesteel is na meer as 32 000 toegeneem."

"Dit is kommerwekkend dat dwelm- en alkohol-verwante misdaad toegeneem het. Dit hou gewoonlik verband met verswakkende sosio-ekonomiese omstandighede, vergrotings van die inkomstegaping en 'n afwatering van moraliteit. Indien die situasie nie omgekeer word nie, sal dit spoedig weer opwaartse druk op die geweldsmisdaadsyfers plaas."

"Uit 'n vergelyking tussen die aantal dronkbestuur-arrestasies in provinsies wil dit steeds voorkom asof die relatiewe lae, per capita-voorkoms in provinsies soos Limpopo (42 per 100 000), Mpumalanga (59 per 100 000) en die Vrystaat (57 per 100 000) meer met lae intensiteit wetstoepassing as soberder bestuurders verband hou. Nie net is die per capita-arrestasies baie minder as veral dié in die Wes-Kaap (292 per 100 00) nie, maar die aantal padsterftes in die provinsies met minder dronkbestuur-arrestasies dui ook nie op minder dronkbestuurders nie. Dit beteken dat strengere wetstoepassing in sommige provinsies die aantal alkohol- en dwelmverwante misdaadgevälle merkbaar sal laat toeneem.