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30 January 2024

ATTENTION: Ms Noluthando Skaka

Dear Mr ME Nchabeleng, Chairperson: SC on Education and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture

RE: Biblical Comment on the Basic Laws Amendment Bill.

This government has been appointed by God to govern the people of South Africa (Rom. 13:4). The current government is therefore required to adhere to God's commandments. Now, God has commanded that parents are the only authority that must take the responsibility to educate their children (Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6) and not the government.

The government's responsibility is to punish evildoers (Rom. 13:4). What that means, is that the government must punish parents who are abusing children. The neglect of parents to teach their children to read at a government specified level, or the neglect of parents to teach their children a government specified level or category of general knowledge, doesn't constitute evildoing.

Therefore, any proposed Bill on education must at least return to biblical standards, and not be more tyrannical by assuming more powers than God has prescribed.

This Amendment Bill, on different levels, are handing more power to the government to educate children than God has ordained. This is overreaching on the power which God has given the government. It is called tyranny.

Examples which are of specific concern in the Amendment Bill and which, at least, should not be in the amendment Bill, are:

- Section 4 requires children from Grade R age to go to school.
  - There should not be a required age, the parent must decide.
- Section 5 requires the Head of Department to approve the admission and language policy of a public school.
  - Parents may get together and choose a governing body to manage the education of children, hence it is even in this Bill called a public school and not a state school.
  - The parents, and therefore the governing body, must be able to determine the admission and language policy, and also the syllabus at a public school.
- Section 35 requires that parents who choose to educate their child at home need to apply to the Head of Department to register their child for home education.
  - No such application must be necessary.
  - God has already given the right, the freedom, the responsibility to parents to choose which ever way they want to educate their children in the fear of Him
- Section 39 gives power to the government to manage learner pregnancy
  - The parent must manage learner pregnancy, and never may anyone (including a young girl) kill a baby in the womb.

It could be out of ignorance or outright rebellion that this Amendment Bill is proposing to give more powers to the government with regards to education of children than what God has given. In any case, it is God in Psalm 2 who calls all government officials who are misusing and misapplying their God-given power to repentance:

*Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. (Ps. 2:12)*

In the name of King Jesus

J Oosthuizen

Director

Alliance for Biblical Freedoms