



DEAF FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



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To: Mr. D. Nkosi, Chair: PC on Trade and Industry, Parliament.

Re: Submission on certain sections of the Copyright Amendment Bill 2017

The Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA), South Africa's largest organisation represents approximately one (1) million Deaf people. DeafSA is recognised internationally by inter alia the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and supports the copyright reform process in Parliament. DeafSA supports the fair use provisions, exceptions for research and education in Sections 12 A to D of the Bill, as well as the exceptions for libraries, archives, museums and galleries in Section 19 B and C. Deaf people need all these provisions, as they are employers, employees, researchers, learners, students, educators, professionals, creators, artists, authors, etc.

DeafSA, formerly known as the South Africa National Council for the Deaf (SANCD), was founded in 1929, as a result of the need to provide services to the Deaf community on a national level. DeafSA is registered in terms of the Non-Profit Organisations Act. Since 1994 DeafSA has been embarking on the transformation process alongside many other South African organisations in this new era of democracy. One of the highlights of this transformation was the change in the name of the organisation from SANCD to DeafSA, as well as the constitutional change, which resulted in the Deaf majority members serving on all the organisation's management structures. This transformation is one of the biggest milestones in the history of DeafSA, as it meant that the philosophy of self-representation was achieved, and it enabled DeafSA to be accepted as an ordinary member of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).

DeafSA conducts its business according to the official mission statement which is quoted below: -

"To promote the interests of the Deaf and hard of hearing effectively on a national level in Southern Africa."

DeafSA co-ordinates and facilitate the process of providing all kinds of services for the purpose of integrating the one (1) million Deaf South Africans into mainstream society.

Address all correspondence to the National Director



Fundraising No: 01 100058 0007

Non-Profit Organisation No: 000 701

The Copyright Amendment Bill will empower DeafSA to expand its services to Deaf communities and in the process, increase their access to knowledge, teaching, learning and leisure materials.

Many countries have copyright exceptions for Deaf persons as well as blind and visually impaired persons. It is time South Africa afforded the same benefits to Deaf and other people with disabilities in South Africa. Currently our copyright law conflicts with our Constitution and Conventions relating to human rights and disabilities.

DeafSA would like to give a brief oral presentation at the online Parliamentary hearings on 4 or 5 August 2021 to substantiate our comments above. Please let us have details in this regard.

Thank you

