



COCC
Council of Charismatic Churches
A COLLECTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BODY OF BELIEVERS

DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL RECOMMENDATION

Hon. Chairperson and honourable members of the COGTA portfolio committee, I would like to appreciate the opportunity granted to us as the COCC so that we can contribute to the amendment of this Bill.

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Endorsement Of Disaster Management Amendment Bill
3. National Disaster Management Advisory Forum
4. Conclusion

1. INTRODUCTION

It is with gratitude for us as COCC and the religious sector for parliament to consider amending this Act from its current form after we have suffered a lot in how it was implemented by the executive in this Covid 19 season. We have witnessed a lot of brutality and injustices levelled unfairly against our sector in how it was implemented in its current form (as we extensively alluded in our previous June 15 and 17, 2021 submissions to this portfolio committee.

2. ENDORSEMENT OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

2.1 In the current form of the DMA, we felt like the executive was wielding unlimited power which silenced the voice of the people and their representatives in parliament which is against the spirit and foundations of the Constitution as alluded by the preamble: "*We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to - ...lay the foundations for a democratic and open society based on the will of the people and where every citizen is equally protected by the law* (The Constitution,1996).





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2.2 Having read this Private Member's Bill by Hon. Groenewald, we would like to endorse the amendments that are proposed therein because they speak to what we raised in the previous submissions regarding the role of parliament as the voice of citizens granted with the responsibility to keep the executive accountable according to Section 42(3) of the Constitution.

2.3 This will be a victory to the religious sector and other sectors at large who felt aggrieved by how DMA was handled through issuing of, in many instances, irrational Lockdown Regulations.

3. NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY FORUM

3.1 In addition to proposed amendments cited in the proposed Amendment Bill, COCC would like to propose that Section 5 of the Act which speaks to the establishment of the National Disaster Management Advisory Forum (i.e., Ministerial Advisory Committee) be looked at as well.

3.2 We feel that most of the brutalities and injustices that were levelled against the religious sector were as a result of the lack of proper representation of the religious sector in the National Disaster Management Advisory Forum (MAC). We believe that had the religious sector been properly represented, government would have been able at that level to make better decisions regarding regulations affecting the religious sector.

3.3 This committee heard a submission by the Minister when we raised the question of lack of consultation in the light of Section 6 of the DMA and her response being that in Section 27 there is no consultation. This gave the impression that if the NCCC did consult, it was just a favour instead of our Constitutional right as citizens.

4. CONCLUSION

We once more appreciate this opportunity and hope that the committee will consider





these two proposals by COCC.

Thank you

Compiled by Lucas Nkosi – Deputy Chairperson, on behalf of the Council of Charismatic Churches

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