



**Submission to the Portfolio Committee on Arts and Culture:
South African Language Practitioners' Council Bill [B14-2013]**

Submission by

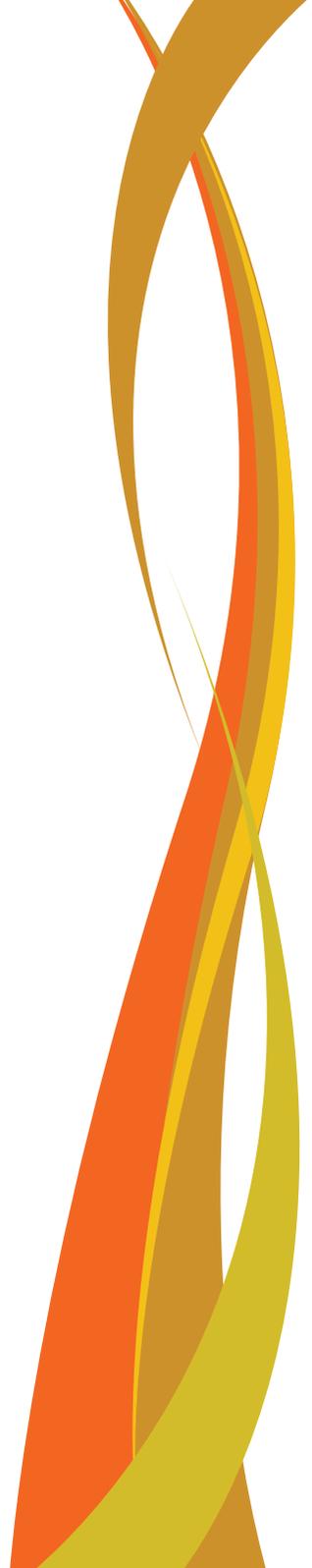
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Background

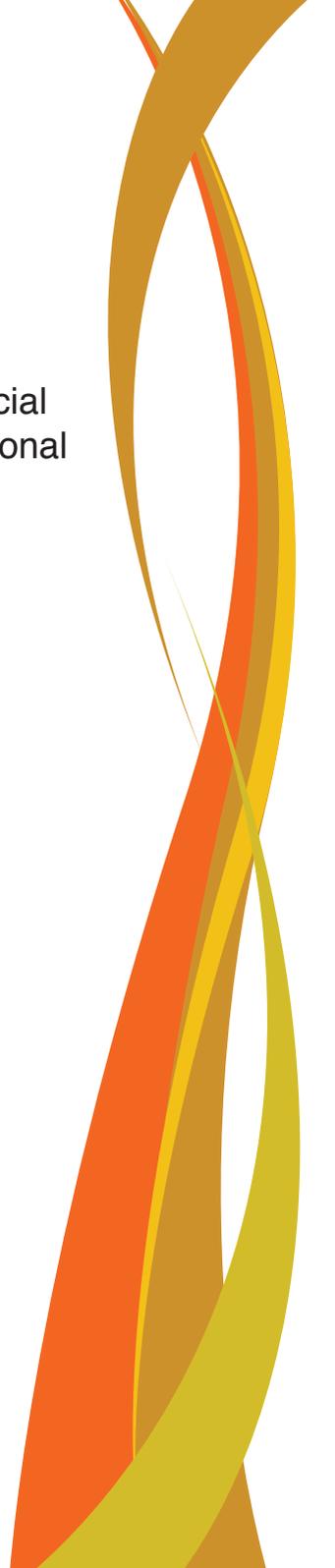
- ▶ Language activist and practitioner with over 20 years experience
- ▶ Former member of PanSALB
- ▶ Former commissioner in the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities
- ▶ Involved in the research process and the development of the initial South African Language Practitioner's Council Bill
- ▶ Benchmarked on international standards – Europe study tour – Consultative conference with national and international experts
- ▶ Language practitioners' regulation and professionalisation



Why support the Bill

Submission strongly support the SALPC Bill because it gives effects:

- ▶ Constitutional mandate of creating the conditions for the development and use of all the official languages. Create one of the mechanisms and structures for the implementation of the National Language Policy Framework (NLPF)
- ▶ Establishment of a formal professional language council
- ▶ Regulating and professionalising the language services and industry
- ▶ Raising the status of the profession and safeguarding the quality of language services
- ▶ Safeguarding the quality of language services
- ▶ Gives support to the Use of Official Languages Act No 12 of 2012 – language units will require employment of professional language practitioners and the professionalization of those that are already employed
- ▶ Protecting members of the public who use language services
- ▶ Employment of professional language practitioners and the professionalisation of those that are already in employment



What should objectives include

Environment, processes and mechanisms for the development and professionalisation of the language service industry

3(1) to read as 'provide and encourage the provision of opportunities for persons, especially from the indigenous languages (and not disadvantaged communities)

Application of the Act

- ▶ Apply to language practitioners in both public and private sector
- ▶ Encouraging and incentivising the private sector to adopt multilingualism in their business pursuits participate in the process of language practice skills development and training
- ▶ Both freelance and fulltime language practitioners, spoken and sign languages
- ▶ Indigenous and foreign languages.

Typos:

- ▶ Ch 1 – Definitions under Department – delete ó' responsible..
- ▶ Ch 4 clause 4(1)(b) 'than



General

- ▶ SALPC Bill, there is a separation of the role of the CEO and the registrar
- ▶ The CEO and the registrar should be one person/designation.
- ▶ One central point or focus for registration
- ▶ Registrar who will also be the CEO so as to simplify things and avoid the confusion and conflict of roles and responsibilities
- ▶ Simple structure for the Council – establish one central point of responsibility and accountability
- ▶ Code of Conduct/Ethics should be developed and determined by Minister
- ▶ Clause 19(5) under chapter 5 that suggests that the Minister should determine the Code of Conduct contradicts clause 3 in chapter 2, states that the Objects of the Council are to ‘develop, implement, revise and amend a Code of Ethics
- ▶ That chapter 6 clause 20 should give power to the Council to prescribe standards, procedures
- ▶ Assessing whether an applicant for accreditation meets the requirements
- ▶ Language service industry in the developmental phase and does not need complex structure such as the legal fraternity and the health professions



Other recommendations

- ▶ Promote the formal and informal learning of different languages
- ▶ Increase the pool of people proficient in different languages that could be available for training as language practitioners
- ▶ Council needs to encourage the private sector to develop and adopt multilingual policies for business purposes to attach economic value to the learning of languages as well as the language practice professions
- ▶ Practice of multilingualism

