

Portfolio Committee – Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Public hearings 15/16 October 2013
MARINE LIVING RESOURCES AMENDMENT BILL [B30-2013]

Gerald Cloete

Stompneus, Sandy Point Steenberg's Cove Development Agency is an affiliate of the South African Fishers Community Forum representing youth in fishing in the West Coast region. This group consists of youth which include females and the disabled.

INTRODUCTION

I was sent with a clear mandate to this historical event and that mandate was to ensure the development of our coastal human capital and the development of our coastal areas. This honourable members of parliament and guests is to ensure that tomorrow is better than today: that the impoverished under developed youth of today is the developed and empowered grown ups of tomorrow.

This week marks an historical and a watershed moment in the history of our country and for the developmental agenda that we as a country is following. However, it is also at this point that formal recognition needs to be given to the Honourable minister Joemat- Patterson and her capable and accommodative staff of DAFF.

The reason for the praises for the minister and her department is based on the formal recognition for small scale fishers and the introduction of cooperatives as a form of ownership of rights. Simply saying, recognising fishing communities not only as a form of cheap labour for big industries but as a true role player in the sector and allowing coastal communities to be owners of rights. This comes from a minister whom has her lineage owed to her political affiliation of the governing party whom has one goal that of creating better communities through fisheries. That which has been a dream for many is finally becoming a reality.

We as a formal youth organisation support the amendment bill on the basis that the cooperative structure is based on the principle to encompass the whole community to benefit from the sea. To ensure a ripple effect that will send and touch the whole community in order to achieve sustainable growth in these impoverished communities.

COMPARATIVE VIEW

We entrusting the minister and her officials with our confidence in supporting this bill to ensure that we continue in addressing failures and mistakes of the past. We also acknowledge the fact that criticism comes because she is delivering on governments developmental mandate. We want to say to those doom prophets that we are part and parcel of the changes that the minister is bringing in this sector and does not necessarily believe what is covered in the media. We have given the ministry a mandate to ensure that true development is achieved and today we on the doorstep of the changes we want to see.

This bill also shows that we need to continue to entrust the minister to bring about these fundamental changes in the fishing sector. We cannot allow a situation where this portfolio be delegated to provinces as it will undo this progress that we achieving now, we cannot sit with a potty potty business in this sector.

South Africa is part of Africa and over the years we have fought against structural adjustment plans from the IMF and the World Bank which was in the form of economic colonialisation and cried for African solutions for Africa's problems. As an organisation we know that the road we on is not a smooth road, it is a road that we constructing as we continuing and will find solutions as we progress. So please Vietnam is Vietnam this is South Africa, we have our own unique factors that is playing out here. We cannot be guided by the very same people that has masterminded this mess that we sitting with now and still have the audacity to act as so called experts in fishing sector and in our small scale sector that is only getting formal recognition with the passing of this bill. Not now or ever again.

HOLISTIC APPROACH

The passing of this bill is of paramount importance to all present here and to thousands of people out there. As an organisation we move from the premise that this bill will ensure that you as a small scale fisher are not secluded only to small scale but that you can graduate into the commercial sector. The absence of big industry is very significant and one can only assume that they don't feel threatened by the small scale sector or the passing of this bill. I do however want DAFF to make a note of this that this legislation will give us the power and voices to influence and formulate policy as enshrined in our constitutional democracy. As an organisation we also want to make sure that DAFF will not take a tunnel view on this matter as this is just the first step in taking back power in the fishing industry. Thus encouraging DAFF to instil a holistic approach in the dealings with this sector.

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

As a organisation we believe that true economic transformation cant be achieved only through legislation but through radical policies and procedures. We are further of the intention that this amendment bill will be the first step in rewriting the history as we will come to know it from now on. We see this bill as a catalyst for the redistribution of fishing rights.

According to stats heard in this house it is believed that the fishing industry is 70% transformed, yet again very manipulative. As we know how the big industry quickly call on "rent a black" to get them some level of BEE. So lets argue that the industry is 70% transformed. Than the question remains why is it that 30% of the industry is still rights holders, why are they still stuck in the old government? They could only get away with this if they have some kind of protection. I therefore urge this house that we can not mince our words when it comes to transformation, we cannot have only partial transformation we need radical and total transformation in order to ensure a better tomorrow.

CONCLUSION

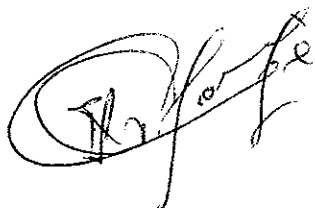
In conclusion, as a duly mandated representative of a youth organisation:

- **We want to ensure that this bill will ensure a better tomorrow**

- That we will support this government and the minister to continue with this developmental approach
- That we will use this legislation to ensure further advances in the fishing industry and not be secluded to only small scale and excluded from the commercial sector
- That through this we entering a new phase in the development of coastal communities
- That this bill is a catalyst for true economic transformation and the first step to redistribution.

Chairperson and honourable members of the house, we as the Stompneus, Sandy Pnt, Steenberg's Cove Development Agency an affiliate of SA Fishing Communities Forum supports this bill and call on you to finalise the passing.

Thank you for the opportunity!!!!



GERALD CLOETE
Chairperson SA Fishing Communities Forum