**Rescue family life**

**“Campaign”**

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**(As introduced in the National Assembly (proposed 75); explanatory summary of Bill published in Government Gazette No. 38243 of**

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**Amendment of section 1 of Act 2007**

1. **Section 1 of the criminal law(Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007(Act No. 32 of 2007),(hereinafter referred to as the “principal Act”), is hereby amended by the substitution for the definition of “child” of the following definition:**

**‘child’ means[-]**

1. **A person under the age of 18 years or**
2. **With reference to sections 15 and 16, person 12 years or older but under the age of 16 years,**

**Introduction:**

**In the light of the above definition (a)of a child, it reflects that we are discussing an issue of people who are at school as we speak, who supposed to be under parental guidance by means of looking to his/her parent for food, clothing and all school accessories.**

1. **With regards to the amendment bill; its clear to me that the concerned is the issue of convicting children for criminals offences when they commit such sexual activity.**
2. **We cannot deny the problem that children do commit themselves to sexual activity, hence the amendment prevents them from having criminal charges against them but maybe they were in agreement with who so ever they wanted to have sex with; someone who is less than 16 years or same age then that is against the law.**
3. Sex is a private activity, the fore it is reported by the one who saw it or suspected; if it is not rape it means it is consensual regardless of the age.

Concerns:

1. Engagement of children in sexual intercourse affects them heavily:

* Dr Freda Mckisis Bush a clinical instructor university of Mississippi
* Answers a question of what happen in the teenagers brain when they have sex
* It affects their health, level of intellect and social responsibility

These cud be the results:

* Pain and suffering from broken relationships
* Fear, confusion about romantic feelings
* Altered self-esteem
* Sense of betrayal and abandonment
* Guilt, depression and emotional rollercoaster
* Impaired ability to form healthy long-term relationships

Recommendations:

1. 17 years and below should not be allowed to consent for sexual related matters as they are not liable to sign many official documents and they cannot even vote.
2. Counselling centres should be established for any case of children engaging to such consensual sex activity to avoid them being registered on the National Register for sex offenders
3. Parents should take full responsibility for their children offences as they are the trustees of God by growing children as God wants.