To: Shanaaz Isaacs

**The Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge Systems Bill**

**Our Submission letter.**

We the House |XÃM agree that a bill or act of this kind is necessary, but we regret to have problems with your timing. We feel that this Bill cannot be signed of as an act if the indigenous communities and tribes are not being recognized.

We feel that we are being side lined by our government because the benefits of this bill will only give money to the pockets of the government and again, it will be there property as it was the property of the apartheid or colonial government.

If this is not true then why were we not part of the recognition of the South Africa’s constitution?

Regardless of that, all of |XÃM indigenous knowledge is at the moment in government’s hands and we don’t see any paragraph or points in this bill that mention a word about giving us back our recorded indigenous knowledge and the rights to its property.

If this bill would have mention that the right of knowledge, of the plants and certain medicines would be given back to the |XÃM committees then there is true commitment by the government to its people.

2. Big companies like Phyzer and more are already using our knowledge. It is clear on the back of their products that rare plant or herbs, that was only used by indigenous people are already part of their production line and they also have the rights to it property.

Sins the colonial times the Europeans have made a list of meditational plants. They have made a lot of money for over 350 years and more, while we were being gun downed and murdered for our indigenous knowledge and lands.

**Let me put it clearer**: They did not know the lands. They did not know the plant. They did not know the animals.

For them to prosper and make money without dying of hunger and animal attack they had to have help. For them to understand the land they have to have indigenous knowledge. For them to understand the plants and seasoning they have to have indigenous knowledge. For them to understand or know the indigenous people, they have to have indigenous knowledge.

We want the rights of that knowledge back and stipulated in this bill that it must be given back to our communities.

These are the views of our communities and want our government to comply.

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Chief Sedas –Shedrick Kleinschmidt

The House of |XÃM Leader

Western Cape

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