



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA DIE APOSTOLIESE GELOOF SENDING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

(PBO no/WO nr: 930004069)

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2 June 2021

The Chairperson and Honourable Members of the Committee
COGTA Parliamentary Portfolio Committee
c/o The Secretary Ms Shereen Cassiem

scassiem@parliament.gov.za

Honourable Chairperson and Members

RE: INVITATION FOR COMMENTS ON THE IMPACT OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS ON THE RELIGIOUS SECTOR.

In response to Parliament's call for comments on the aforementioned; herewith the submission from The Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa (AFM of SA).

1. Sections 9 (3); 15(1); 18 and 31 of the 1996 South African Constitution, read together suppose that the limitation of religious freedoms in the context of National Disaster Management should be reasonable, rational, justifiable and proportional.
2. Some of the unintended consequences that may flow from a blanket limitation of liberties introduced by lockdown, is an unreasonable and disproportional targeting of the religious sector.
3. In this regard we feel that there should be an exclusion of limitations on pastoral, counselling and grief assistance, thus recognizing religious organizations and workers as "Essential Services."
4. There should also be an exclusion of limitations against the administrative functions of religious organizations during disaster management.

The Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa respect and uphold the rule of law, as well as the need to guard and serve the "greater good" of all South Africans. We however feel strongly

that the protection of the lives and lively hoods of our nation should always include the right to Spiritual and emotional nurturing and the expression of our religious freedom.

God Bless

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Weideman', with a stylized initial 'H'.

HENRI WEIDEMAN
GENERAL SECRETARY