	CIPC NPC Registration 2021 / 157823 / 08	Fathers 4 Justice South Africa https://www.f4j.co.za/home [REDACTED] Chairman Gary Da Silva
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27 January 2024

Attention Ms. Matsie Angelina Motshekga and the Portfolio Committee

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Dear Ms Matsie Angelina Motshekga and Portfolio Committee


FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE BELA BILL BY THE OFFICIAL FATHERS 4 JUSTICE SOUTH AFRICA

We write to express our urgent concerns regarding the illegal, and unconstitutional changes to certain policies and practices within the Department of Basic Education (DBE) as envisaged in the poorly informed, and drafted BELA BILL that we believe are detrimental to the well-being and rights of both children and parents. Our organization, Fathers 4 Justice South Africa, firmly opposes the following issues and demands immediate action:

1. **Gender Identity Confusion:** The DBE must adhere to well-established scientific, biological, and medical facts that recognize only two genders - male and female. The promotion of woke gender theories and LGBTQ concepts in textbooks is causing psychological, emotional, and physical harm to children. We demand an immediate cessation of such practices.
2. **Preservation of Traditional Facilities:** All sports, toilet ablutions, and shower or change rooms must remain specific to the gender of the child. No child of the opposite gender should be allowed in these spaces to avoid confusion.
3. **Parental Authority on School Choice:** The decision on which school and the type of education a child receives must be left to the sole discretion of the parents. No interference from the DBE should infringe upon this fundamental parental right and responsibilities.
4. **Transparency in Policy Changes:** Any proposed policy changes by the minister must be made public, allowing parents the opportunity to provide input through appropriate legislative channels. Transparency and adherence to proper protocols are non-negotiable.
5. **Non-Victimization Based on Vaccination Status:** No child should be victimized by the DBE based on their vaccination status. The DBE has no authority over how parents choose to raise their children in this regard.

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6. **Teachers and the DBE usurping and interfering in medical procedures of pregnant girls.** The only responsibility that teachers, the Minister, and DBE have regarding pregnant schoolgirls is should the teacher/ school/ DBE become aware that a girl is pregnant is to immediately inform the parents.
Maybe if the DBE and the minister focused on proper, scientific, biological fact and age-appropriate education we would not have this issue in the first instance.
Teachers, the Minister, and the DBE have zero authority in interfering in the rights and responsibilities of the parents and what is in the best interest of their child. We already anticipate that the intention of the minister is to usurp medical responsibility and wellbeing of the child of the parents, through dictatorial, authoritarian means last seen in second world war Nazi concentration camps. It is plainly evident that this is the first step of the minister and DBE of wanting to force gender confused children to have the medically, biologically scientifically unproven, child abusing, psychological destroying, chemical obliterating, suicide causing, child abusive reassignment surgery. Teachers, the Minister, and the DBE simply, and absolutely do not have this type of right or authority over a child's medical, psychological, and physical health. this is exclusively and only reserved for the rights and responsibilities of the parents. The DBE is simply focused on all the wrong aspects of the mental, psychological, physical health and wellbeing of the child that beggar's comprehension and belief. The only deduction that a parent can make is that the DBE and the Minister has nefarious intent too horrendous to imagine or comprehend.
7. **Language Choice:** The language choice of the school must be determined by the parents and the governing parent body. The DBE must not interfere in this matter.
8. **Religious, Cultural, and Traditional Rights:** The right to religious, cultural, or traditional, freedom choice and observance as enshrined in our constitution within schools must be protected, guided by the parents and the governing parent body.
9. **No Oversight of Parent or Governing Body:** The DBE should have no oversight over parents or governing bodies. Disputes should be resolved through the court system.
10. **Curriculum Choice:** The curriculum choice of the school must be left to the discretion of the parents and the governing parent body. One-size-fits-all policies are inappropriate, do not meet the multitude of ways children assimilate and learn various subjects and the DBE should not dictate curriculum choices.
11. **Minimum Pass Rate and Focus on STEM Subjects:** The minimum pass rate should be raised to 70%, with an immediate and specific focus on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and advanced technologies like Nano and AI technology. A focus on literacy in business, economics, banking and financial wear with all of the highest standard must immediately be implemented.
12. **Teacher Qualifications and Training:** Teachers must hold a doctorate in their chosen subject field with a minimum pass rate of 90%. Current teachers should be given a 5-year grace period to obtain a doctorate, and new teachers should automatically be trained at this level.

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WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE ABOVE WE FURTHER REITERATE OR EMPHASISE OUR RESPONSE REGARDING THE FOLLOWING:


Section 41: We strongly condemn the broad additional unsupervised powers given to the Minister of Education without oversight. The collapse of the education system under the ANC government demands a focus on genuine improvements rather than granting unchecked authority to the Minister. The proposed changes, including the potential power to enforce medical decisions, are unacceptable and must be cancelled immediately.

13. **Section 37:** We categorically reject Section 37 in its entirety due to its association with the failed Marxist ANC education system. The attempt to force private and home schools to adopt the Woke socialist CAPS SYSTEM is deeply troubling. These changes risk overtly sexualizing and grooming our children and imposing unscientific, age-inappropriate content on them. This goes against cultural, religious, personal, and traditional beliefs and is unconstitutional.
14. **Section 27:** Similar concerns are raised regarding Section 27, particularly the proposed closures and amalgamations of small private schools into larger ones. The potential closure of over 1000 schools in KwaZulu-Natal exacerbates the already failing education system, leaving our students and their future economic potential in jeopardy. We urge the government to reconsider these detrimental changes.
15. **Gender-Based Rejections:** The rejection of 50% of parents based solely on gender is discriminatory and unacceptable. F4J SA has made numerous attempts to engage with the Minister on these matters, but our concerns have been consistently ignored. We demand immediate and meaningful engagement on these issues.

WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO POINT 15, WE ROUNDLY CONDEMN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REGARDING ITS OPENLY HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARDS FATHERS. WE ATTACH OUR ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MINISTER ON THE 16TH OF FEBRUARY 2023. WE NOTE WITH UTTER DISMAY THAT THE MINISTER HAS FAILED TO NOTE LET ALONE RESPOND IN ANY FORMAL WAY TO OUR ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Challenges Faced by Fathers:

1. Children are enrolled or moved to a school without the father's knowledge or consent.
2. Fathers are excluded from the enrolment process, being absent during their child's school admission.
3. Fathers are held financially responsible for school fees that are imposed without knowledge or their consent.
4. Fathers are not receiving school reports and are often excluded from important educational and developmental updates of their children.

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5. Fathers are unilaterally banned from attending school events, classes, and other activities based solely on the mothers whim and instruction.
6. Fathers are not informed about their child's educational accomplishments, learning difficulties, or attendance issues.
7. Fathers are excluded from communication channels like WhatsApp groups that provide information on homework, projects, sports, and other school activities.
8. Fathers are unreasonably banned from participating in their child's education based on the mother's instruction alone.
9. False or non-existent restraining or DV orders are used to deny fathers' rights to contact and involvement in their child's education.

Expectations from the Honourable Minister: 10. Biological fathers must be physically present at their child's school enrolment without exception.


11. If a father is absent during enrolment, he is not liable for school fees unless he has physically signed enrolment forms, acknowledging responsibility for fees.
12. Fathers must have automatic and direct recourse against the school if falsely accused of non-payment, provided they were not physically present during enrolment.
13. Fathers must be automatically advised and allowed direct physical involvement in their child's education, including access to school premises, teachers, psychologists, and participation in various school activities.
14. In cases where the mother denies involvement, the school must present a court order specifying the reasons for denying the father direct involvement in the child's education.
15. If the mother and her lawyer fail to provide immediate documentation, the father's rights of contact and involvement must be automatically and immediately restored without delay.

Additional Requests and Engagements: 16. All schools, both public and private, should immediately implement points 10 through 15.

17. Schools should immediately refrain from acting as judges and executioners, respecting the legal, constitutional, and contact rights of fathers to their children. The Department of Education should advise schools accordingly and immediately.
18. We request direct engagement and consultation with the Minister, other fathers, and parents' rights movements to address these concerns.

Conclusion:

The changes proposed in the BELA bill are misguided, based on a woke agenda, and fail to address the genuine needs, wants, and desires of the public, more specifically those of the parents and children. They lack a foundation in scientific, biological, or logical fact that forces discrimination

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against parents and children’s, religious, cultural, and traditional practices. We roundly and wholeheartedly reject these changes, and we insist that the Minister cease and desist from implementing them immediately.

We urge the DBE to concentrate on genuine improvements to the education system, address the high dropout rates, and elevate the quality of education provided to our children.

We insist that the Minister of Education takes immediate and decisive action to transform our education system into a world-class model that stands as a beacon of excellence globally. It is not merely an expectation; it is a demand that our education system becomes the epitome of quality, surpassing all others and serving as an inspiration for education systems worldwide. Anything short of this ambitious goal is deemed unacceptable. The future progress and prosperity of our children and nation hinge crucially on achieving this transformation.

We expect a prompt and comprehensive response to these concerns and a commitment to rectify the issues highlighted. The well-being of our children and the future of our education system are currently under direct and present threat, and the further marginalising and discriminating against our most precious of resources, namely our children.

Please advise as to when this meeting will be scheduled as a matter of EXTREME urgency.

Kind Regards

Gary Da Silva

National Chairperson South Africa

The Official Fathers 4 Justice South Africa

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