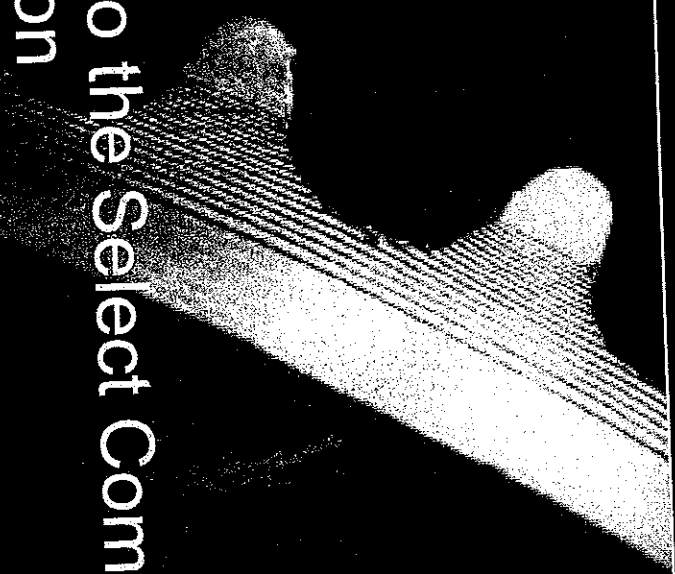




Science and Technology Laws Amendment Bill



**Briefing to the Select Committee on Education and
Recreation
Date: 31 August 2011**

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Background

- Before 2004 - Science & Technology function was part of the Dept. of Arts, Culture Science and Technology.
- 2004 - DST was established as an independent govt dept.
- Consequent amendments on Acts of public entities under the oversight of the Minister of S&T were not effected.



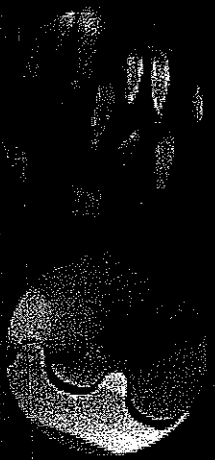
Background Cont.

- Recent macro reorganisation of government also necessitated amendments to the pieces of Legislation



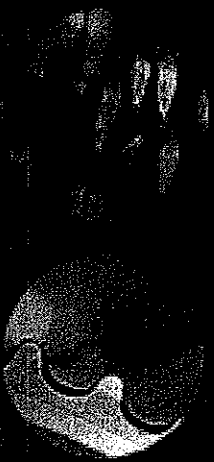
Legislative process

- **Aug 2010:** Cabinet approved draft Bill
- **Sept 2010:** Draft Bill was published for comment in *Government Gazette*
- **Oct – Nov:** Inputs incorporated into bill and bill revised – further consultation of stakeholders
- **Feb 2011:** Revised bill submitted to the SLAs for certification



Legislative process Cont

- **April 2011: Bill certified by the SLAs**
- **April 2011: Bill formally introduced to Parliament**



Consultation

Comments on the Bill were received from-

- CSIR
- AISA
- ASSaf
- WITS and
- NRF

Comments - generally dealt with technical issues.

The Bill was broadly welcomed by all stakeholders



Purpose of the Bill

- Effect technical corrections to certain definitions and references associated with the Ministry of Arts, Culture Science and Technology to eliminate possible confusion and / or enhance clarity
- Strengthen institutional oversight and governance of the public entities



Purpose of the Bill Cont

- The amendments therefore seek to eliminate possible confusion regarding-
 - definitions such as title of the Chief Executive Officer of the some public entities;
 - references to the department and the designation of the of the portfolio of the Minister;
 - effect other consequential changes that were necessitated by the recent macro reorganisation of State



Key provisions

Scientific Research Council Act- 1988

- Amends title of administrative head of the Council from President to CEO
- Provides for the procedure to be followed prior to the appointment of members of the Board to ensure consistency with other public entities (e.g appointment of a panel for shortlisting names for potential board members



Key provisions Cont

Scientific Research Council Act- 1988

- Provides for broad representativity on the Board
- Limits term of office of the Board
- Delete certain obsolete provisions and/or provisions catered for in the PFMA.



Key provisions cont.

NACI Act – 1997

- Correct reference to the dept Arts, Culture, Science & Technology & portfolio of the Minister
- Limit term of office of members of the Board
- Provides for the appointment of full-time CEO of NACI
- Set minimum period for meetings of Council per year



Key provisions cont.

NRF Act -1998

- Amends the title of administrative head of the NRF from President & CEO to CEO.
- Corrects reference to the portfolio of Minister and Minister of Higher Education and Training
- Limits term of office of the Board



Key provisions cont.

NRF Act -1998

- Set grounds for disqualification for members of the Board
- Provides for staggered appointment of members of the Board



Key provisions cont.

ASSAF Act – 2001

- Corrects reference to portfolio of Minister
- Provides for parliamentary funding of the Academy
- Provides for the process for the election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and General-Secretary of the Council



Key provisions cont.

ASSAF Act – 2001

- Provides for term of office ASSAF of the Council & for appeal on termination
- Provides for minimum period for meetings of Council per year



Key provisions cont.

AISA Act – 2001

- Corrects reference to Department and portfolio of Minister
- Changes incorrect references to “Council” instead of “Institute”
- Limits the terms of office of members of the Board



Key provisions cont

AISA Act – 2001

- Provides for minimum period for meetings of Council per year
- Provides for consultation with Minister regarding appointment of Acting CEO in appropriate cases.



Key provisions Cont

Natural Scientific Professions Act – 2003

- Corrects reference to the Constitution and portfolio of the Minister
- Provides for broad representivity on the Board
- Extends the requirement for professional qualification to state employees who are members of the Board

END

Thank You

Siyabongga

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