

André R Hermans

Committee Secretary: PC Trade and Industry

Tel: (021) 403 3776

Fax: 0866527753

Cell: 0837098482

email: ahermans@parliament.gov.za

27 June 2017

Submission on the Copyright Bill

1. Preamble

The blindness sector represented by the SA National Council for the Blind and (over 100 member organisations) SA Disability Alliance (representing seventeen National Disable People's Organisation (DPO), Disability Service Organisations, Parent's Organisations and Professional Bodies) have been advocating for the past decade for exceptions and limitations in the Copyright Act to enable full and equal access to published works by persons with disability.

In South Africa less than zero point five percent (0.5%) of published works were available in an accessible format. These were largely produced by the NGO sector. The lack of access to published works resulted in very low levels of literacy and resulted in the "book famine".

The coming into force of the Marrakesh Treaty on 30 September 2016 and to date with twenty nine countries ratifying Marrakesh Treaty will provide hope of empowering blind and partially sighted persons and persons with print disability access to knowledge and information.

The presentation of the Copyright Bill to Parliament is acknowledged and the sector looks forward to the enactment of the Copyright Bill and the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.

2. Comments

2.1 Definition

The definition of "person with disability" and "accessibility" is in line with international and national best practice.

...../2

- 2.2 The exceptions and limitations in Section 19D incorporates the principles of:-
- Inclusion of persons with disability
 - Reproduction in accessible formats
 - Cross border exchange (importation and exportation)
- 2.3 The Copyright Bill contains the principles of the Marrakesh Treaty.

3. National and International Instrument

We urge Parliament to enact the Copyright Bill and to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty without delay.

4. Endorsement

The submission is endorsed by

African Union of the Blind – Africa Marrakesh Treaty Committee

SA National Council for the Blind

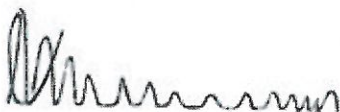
Blind SA

SA National Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted

SA Disability Alliance

5. Oral Presentation

We will avail ourselves to making an oral presentation in motivation for exception and limitations as well as for the enactment of the Copyright Bill and the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.



Jace Nair

Chairperson: SANCB Subcommittee on the Copyright Bill and Marrakesh Treaty
Africa Marrakesh Treaty Committee