

Tyhileka madubela - Severe weather and warning bill

From: Bryn De Kocks
To:
Date: 2012/01/07 04:01 PM
Subject: Severe weather and warning bill

To whom it may concern,

I recently heard of a bill to be tabled in parliament this month that may have an affect on a personal website of mine, and as such I have questions regarding the bill that I will need addressed.

The SA Weather Service amendment bill includes the ban of the general public or other meteorological agencies issuing severe weather warnings. I will need to have an understanding of what it is that constitutes a warning.

I run a South African weather related site (www.stormchasing.co.za) where I provide articles based on my opinion of what the weather may be doing. At no stage in my articles do I claim that my information is official and in fact I provide links to the South African Weather Service at the top of my page, linking to the official warnings.

There may be times when I will say that I see the potential for severe weather in X amount of days, and what I aim to find out is if this bill is seeking to stop the spread of misinformation, or if this bill is going to just be censorship to people like myself who have no aim of issuing so-called 'warnings' but that are interested in discussing the details of forthcoming weather events.

Is this bill going to be the same as that which is an effect in the United States, where only the NWS can issue 'severe warnings', but anyone is able to discuss the potential for severe weather?

I truly hope that this bill serves more purpose than to gain a monopoly over weather information and that it holds logical merit and does not merely censor sites like mine and a couple others who are involved in the weather community as a hobby.

In essence, I need verification that the information that I issue on my site will still be within the law, should the bill in question come into effect.

Regards
Bryn De Kocks
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