

12.SAWSAB -22/12.9

From: GERHARD VAN NIEKERK <[REDACTED]>  
To: "tmdubela@parliament.gov.za" <tmdubela@parliament.gov.za>  
Date: 2012/01/05 10:41 PM  
Subject: Strengthening of the work of the Weather Service through the South African Weather Service Amendment Bill, 2011

Dear Madam

It is with great disgust that I came to read about this bill. To me it seems like another attempt at hiding the truth from the general public. I have always followed certain websites such as SAWDOS (South African Weather and Disaster Observation Services) and have found them to be more accurate and up to date than SAWS as they have local weather observation equipment in most areas. The SAWS only has sensory in ceretain areas. I do fire fighting on mountains and weather plays a critical component. It is healthy for a country to have a way to compare weather predictions to find a suitable answer.

This bill seems to be an attempt by a "money making company" to get rid of its competitors and should be a case for the Competition commission of South Africa. As I have read through this Bill it seems like the state wishes to control the flow of information and open the doors to have you pay for every piece of critical weather information. Is this even legal I ask, or this part of the protection of information act. Is everyone now getting on this bandwagon? This Bill will be difficult to police except for online publications and this is what I use mostly.

I do not trust the SAWS to even able to predict tomorrows temperatures correctly. I follow the news and it is consistantly wrong in my area. Now they wish to be the sole providers of weather information. Is this so no one else may prove them wrong as usual?

I am sure my email will probably not even be read, but lets hope that common sense still prevails in our beloved South Africa.

Kind regards

Gerhard van Niekerk