

Tyhileka madubela - Strengthening of the work of the Weather Service through the SouthAfrican Weather Service Amendment Bill, 2011

From: Mark Seftel
To:
Date: 2012/01/12 10:00 AM
Subject: Strengthening of the work of the Weather Service through the SouthAfrican Weather Service Amendment Bill, 2011

Dear Ms Tyhileka Madubela,

Below please find my written submission.

I am a provider of news and weather information.

I am going to restrict my submission to those terms which may make the SA Weather Service and its partnership with WIS a monopoly of basic weather forecasts. By this I mean 1-7 days forecasts of temperatures, wind speeds, wave heights and direction, sun rise and sun set times, moon rise and moon set times, probability of participation, snow and or particular weather conditions for any location inside South Africa. This information is currently available from multiple sources both locally and internationally of varying quality and cost.

It is not in the interests of South Africans to be limited to one source of this information. There are several international services which specific interest groups vastly prefer as they find it more accurate or relevant than weather information made available currently by SAWS and or WIS. For example the Norwegian weather service <http://www.yr.no/> is a favorite among many interest groups including farmers who run there lives based on this information. Golfers use www.golfweather.com and wind sport enthusiasts use <http://www.windguru.cz/int/>. Other sources of local weather include: Weather underground <http://www.wunderground.com/> and the weather channel <http://www.weather.com/>. Even a lay person can see by simply going to the respective websites and then going to see <http://www.weathersa.co.za> that the current service does not offer features that other services might, and if nothing else that choice in itself is a virtue and perhaps even a right which should not be restricted.

Its not clear if the amendments proposed would restrict the use of such services. But I request that the people who are drafting the amendments ensure that this is not the effect and by so doing remove consumer choice and create a monopoly which will stifle creativity and innovation in this important area. This for the sake of our civil liberty which is enshrined in our Constitution.

Regards,

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