

12.SAWSAB – 22/12.13

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To: <tmadubela@parliament.gov.za>  
Date: 2012/01/11 11:25 AM  
Subject: Comments to South African Weather Service Amendment Bill

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As a developing environmental scientist in air quality I find the intended centralisation and monopoly of air quality and meteorological information by the south african weather service distasteful.

Amendment 14 has negative impacts in the following ways:

Supressing the freedom of air quality research in South Africa done outside the weather service by universities, private institutions, organisations and companies and non governmental bodies.

Spatial ambiguity in the resolution of air quality studies over South Africa. If generalised will severely restrict both national, regional and localised air quality research projects.

Amendment of Schedule 1 to Act 8 of 2001

Amendment 15:

Prioritising the introduction of national forecasting and early warning for the general population will not facilitate any mitigation measures for vulnerable communities in need of more specific and detailed early warning information.

Amendment 16:

Gaining possession of SAAQIS through centralisation is inappropriate as it will reduce the initiatives for localised air quality research and access of local air quality data by air quality scientists.

Amendment 17:

Management and expansion of metropolitan networks will be undermined, if the focal points of the national network shift to rural areas.

Amendment 18:

Indicates a monopoly of counsel to government, severely limiting the provision of counsel from external air quality scientists.

Amendment of Schedule 2 to Act 8 of 2001

Monopoly of air quality forecasting, services, research output, research projects, consulting and the selling of air quality modelling data. This will severely affect the freedom and amount of research being done by external parties at universities, private institutions, organisations and companies and non governmental bodies.

In general there is possible negative impact on the loss of jobs due to the restriction of air quality research and the under use of capacity already generated at the local level in metropolitans for air

quality research.

Additionally there is no public evidence at present of sufficient capacity by the weather service to engage with competency, the management of national air quality and local air quality.

Present infrastructure for air quality management should be improved and expanded before such an ammendment is approved. Decentralisation of environmental data is better served for the scientific community where government red tape is one of the greatest challenges for research.

with regards  
Yerdashin Padayachi