

Communiqué 4

Working Group on the Non-Profit Organisation Amendment Bill, 2021

16 November 2021

This Communiqué follows Communiqué 3 sent on 9 November 2021, regarding the meeting of 10 November 2021 called by the Department of Social Development to address the concerns raised by our Working Group regarding the NPO Amendment Bill and our request for an extension to the deadline for comments by civil society organisations.

Comments on the Meeting

The meeting was attended by approximately 39 people. Representatives from the Department of Social Development included Mr Peter Netshipale, Deputy Director General (Integrated Development), Ms Mpho Mngxitama, Chief Director, NPO Registration and Compliance and Mr. Luyanda Ngonyama, Director for Compliance Monitoring. Ms Mpho Mngxitama facilitated the discussion. The tone of the meeting was constructive and the outcome was favourable.

Resolutions of the Meeting

1. The Department of Social Development agreed with civil society organisations that the deadline for comments on the NPO Amendment Bill was unreasonable and that the Department will submit a request to Cabinet for:

- a. an extension for comments on the NPO Amendment Bill, noting civil society organisations' preference for the drafting of a White Paper (Policy Document) before any legislative changes are made to the Act.
 - b. condonation by Cabinet for comments on the Bill received by end of February 2022.
2. The DSD and civil society organisations present at the meeting will encourage civil society organisations that have not submitted their comments to do so by February 2022.
3. The DSD will set a date for a follow-up meeting with Civil Society Organisations on the process for developing the White Paper (policy framework) on the NPO Act and proposed legislative changes.

NOTE:

- It is important that all Civil Society Organisations continue to review the NPO Amendment Bill and submit comments to the DSD.
- We will continue to brief the sector on any correspondence received from the DSD.
- We will welcome receiving a copy of submissions sent to the DSD.