



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA DIE APOSTOLIESE GELOOF SENDING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

(PBO no/WO nr: 930004069)

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13 August 2019

The Secretary
South African Law Reform Commission
Private Bag X668
Pretoria
0001

PVanWyk@justice.gov.za

RE: PROPOSED SINGLE MARRIAGE STATUTE.

Dear Mr Van Wyk

On the issue of how provision could be made in South Africa for the possible adoption of a single marriage statute, the AFM of SA has the following comments:

We would prefer a situation where the existing marriage law dispensation continues as it currently is. However, we can also see the possibility that the principle of simplifying or integrating the different marriage acts into one act based on the reasoning in the SALRC's document, can be a workable one that would hopefully speed up the administration involved in processing marriages.

On the other hand, many of our pastors are concerned that it might lead to an unintended or imposed equalization, forcing together a diversity of approaches and beliefs, that might be problematic for most Religious groupings in the country.

Some feel that it might lead to a situation where religious marriage officers will be compelled to solemnize unions that conflict with their beliefs and understanding of Biblical principles.

In order to really accommodate everybody, as the proposed statute is said to attempt, we propose an omnibus or umbrella marriage statute: A single act which contains different sub statutes or -chapters which reflect the current diverse set of legal requirements for and consequences of civil marriages, civil unions, customary marriages, Muslim and possibly other religious marriages. The scope of the subsections should be clearly defined and distinguishable as it currently is in the three different marriage statutes.

This would accommodate the constitutional right of freedom of expression, as well as religious freedom of all members of our diverse society. -Thus ensuring that everybody have a choice, and that no Religious grouping feels insulted or infringed.

Kind regards



Dr. HJ Weideman
GENERAL SECRETARY