



Cape Home Educators

Cape Town, South Africa

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Subject: Inclusion of Alternative Education Sector in Consultative Body

Dear Minister Gwarube,

I was pleased to learn from recent media reports about your intention to establish a consultative body aimed at improving education as a whole. Your inclusive approach to consider all forms of education, beyond the traditional school system, is commendable and much needed.

The alternative education sector, encompassing home education, cottage schools, online education, collaborative education, and a diversity of other modalities, plays a critical role in our society. This sector operates independently of state funding, thereby alleviating the burden on the state to accommodate hundreds of thousands of learners who cannot be integrated into the traditional school system.

However, this sector faces significant challenges due to restrictive and inappropriate regulations. These regulations marginalise the sector, making formal recognition and representation difficult. Consequently, many institutions operate under the radar, and some face unwarranted crackdowns under the guise of targeting “bogus” schools. The public hearings on the BELA Bill highlighted the urgent need for regulation that acknowledges the sector’s diversity and contributions.

Including representatives from the alternative education sector in your proposed consultative body would be a bold and visionary step. This inclusion would build on the precedent set by Minister Debbie Schaefer in 2021 when she incorporated a home educator into the Western Cape Education Council. The contributions of this member were significant and prominently featured in the council’s report to Minister David Maynier, a copy of which is attached for your reference.

I urge you to consider including representation from the alternative education sector in your consultative body. This inclusion would ensure that the diverse needs and perspectives of all educational modalities are considered, fostering a more inclusive and effective education system. Could you please indicate if this is possible and outline the process for nominating suitable representatives?

For your convenience, I have also attached a PDF version of this letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to improving education for all.

Sincerely,

Marietjie Ueckermann
Chairperson
Cape Home Educators

Attachments:
Letter to Minister Gwarube.pdf
WCEC Report 2021 - 2023.pdf