

25 May 1996

OBJECTIONS

I object to the manner in which the public is required to raise their objections against any section of the new Constitution.

This is suppose to be a democratic elected country, but I feel that participation marketing in respect of the above has not been performed and has failed dismally.

The man on the street, most being from the unprivileged class, many being elderly have not been informed as to the requirements that must be met in order to lodge an objection/s i.e. objections must be typewritten, comprise of 25 copies, postal address of Registrar, phone number of Registrar to obtain the above information or relevant queries. Most South Africans do not know where to obtain such information and they do not have the means to comply with the requirements laid down, since many of them do not possess a typewriter, no typing ability, cannot afford to pay for phostat copies or typist, not speaking of the heavy postage costs.

The new constitution is a very important document and the acceptance thereof by the people must not be hampered with above obstacles.

I understand your problem in respect of deciphering written objections, but the above-mentioned people should somehow have the opportunity to voice their objections.

Take for instance the adjustments made tot he preamble of the constitution. The majority of South Africans are Christians and would vehemently be opposed to the adjustments. This preamble is the most important section of the whole constitution, because without HIS blessing it will mean nothing. To water down our GOD ALMIGHTY (always capital letters in the Bible) I in this fashion and not to acknowledge that HE is CREATOR OF ALL constitutes nothing less than the re-crucifixion of our LORD JESUS.

No consideration should be given to other gods, religions, unbelievers etc. because our GOD ALMIGHTY is not for sale or negotiable and as HE has stated 'You shall have no other gods before me - you shall not worship them; for I, the LORD your GOD, as a jealous GOD'.

The adjustments made as compared to the old preamble should be broadcasted (radio, television, news media, etc.) and provision should be made for the public to voice their objections thereto.

We are all going to meet our MAKER one day and I wonder what HE is going to say to some of us.

Thank you for reading by objections. I sincerely hope it is not going to die a sudden death, but will be taken into consideration.

From an ordinary housewife.

Helene Esterhuyse

Helene Esterhuyse
SILVERTON
30 May 1996

CERTIFICATION OF NEW CONSTITUTIONAL TEXT

Thank you for your submission of 25 May 1996.

I have been asked by the President of the Constitutional Court to advise you as follows:

1. The Constitutional Court is required in terms of section 71 of the Constitution to certify whether or not the constitutional text adopted by the Constitutional Assembly complies with the 34 constitutional principles set out in Schedule 4 of the Constitution.
2. The Constitutional Court cannot add to, amend or delete any of the provisions of the constitutional text drafted by the Constitutional Assembly.
3. The Court appreciates your sentiments about the difficulty that many people, and in particular those who are poor, experience by having to deal with the complicated process. However, rest assured that we do our best to ensure that every person enjoys access to the Court. This is provided for in our Rules, and the Directions issued by the President of the Constitutional Court, the latter which excuse indigent persons from the obligation to lodge 25 copies.
4. Your submission is appreciated.

MS M NIENABER