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TO :
The Deputy Director General
Department of Education
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PRETORIA, 0001
Fax: (012) 312 5309
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Dear ms. Govender

The Association for Homeschooling represents parents who provide education to their children within the family. The Association has taken note of draft regulations pertaining to conducting, administration and management of assessment for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) as published in Government Gazette nr. 31092 and assessed the impact of these regulations on homeschooling children and parents.

The regulations state that children cannot register for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination without having been registered as a full time student at a school or any other registered institution for grade 10, 11 and 12. The implication of this is that children who receive home education up to grade 12 level, cannot obtain an NSC.

This infringes on the constitutional rights of children for the following reasons:

1. These regulations will make it impossible for home-schooled children (as well as adults) to get an NSC. Without an NSC, children will not get access to tertiary education institutions, which infringes on their right to further education.
2. Without an NSC, home-schooled children will also not be able to get jobs that require an NSC, therefore these regulations infringes on their right to freedom of trade, occupation and profession.
3. It has been reported by South African Human Rights Commission that violence at schools is at a state of crisis. If these regulations force parents to send their children to places with high levels of violence, it infringes on the children's right to freedom and security as well as their right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation.

This infringes on the constitutional rights of parents for the following reasons:

1. The transfer of their values is a religious duty to many parents. If these regulations force parents to send their children to institutions where conflicting values are transferred to their children, it infringes on their freedom of religion and belief as well as the freedom of expression of the parents.

The Association for Homeschooling cannot support regulations that takes away the right of home schooled children to receive further education and earn a decent living, and that forces them in an environment where they will be victims of violence and be confused with values that differ from what they have learned at home.

Yours sincerely

Bouwe van der Eems
(Chairman : Association for Homeschooling)