	CIPC NPC Registration 2021 / 157823 / 08	The Official Fathers 4 Justice South Africa <a href="https://www.f4j.co.za/home">https://www.f4j.co.za/home</a> Email: <a href="mailto:Info@f4j.co.za">Info@f4j.co.za</a> Cell: 066 331 8972 Chairperson Gary Da Silva
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23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

Attention Ms. Masango, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development

Department of Social Development

Dear **Ms. Masango, and members of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development**

**Department.**


**Subject: Urgent Meeting Request to Discuss Issues Affecting Fathers and Necessary Amendments to the Children's Act**

Congratulations on your reappointment as Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development.

We would like to inform you that we have addressed a formal request to both the Minister and Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development, seeking an urgent meeting regarding fathers' rights and responsibilities towards their children.

Since 2019, Fathers 4 Justice South Africa has been actively engaging with the Department of Social Development. We have consistently communicated the necessary changes to fathers' rights and responsibilities that we believe need to be made. Despite our persistent efforts over the past five years, progress has been limited. Personally, I have made representations to the portfolio committee on no fewer than eight occasions, emphasizing that our commitment to this cause is unwavering. We are here to demand that fathers' rights and responsibilities be further enshrined and acknowledged.

Recent Constitutional Court rulings, as well as feedback from the Centre for Gender Equality, have highlighted issues within sections 20 and 21 of the Children's Act. It is imperative that these sections be addressed promptly. The committee must take up its mandate regarding the

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amendment of the Children's Act with urgency. The members of the committee, many of whom have been part of our discussions from the beginning, should be well-versed in our stance and the continuity of our efforts.

Our request is clear: we demand an immediate meeting with you, the Minister, and the Deputy Minister. We seek to discuss the integration of Fathers 4 Justice South Africa and other fathers' rights movements into the process of finalizing the much-needed changes to the Children's Act. It is unacceptable for the Department of Social Development and the government to continue criticizing fathers without taking concrete steps to address the issues we have raised.

We have provided detailed proposals to the committee and have refined our requests to be more succinct since our last presentation. It is crucial for the committee to reach out to us with the urgency this matter demands. The developmental stages of a child's life, especially the first seven years, are critical. Delaying necessary changes only perpetuates the damage done to countless children across South Africa.

We look forward to your cooperation and a positive response to our request for an urgent meeting. Together, we can make the changes needed to protect and support fathers' rights and responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,



(Please advise were signed originals can be couriered to)

Gary Da Silva

Chairman

The Official Fathers 4 Justice South Africa

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