



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa
e-mail: nomsa_marchesi@hotmail.com
www.parliament.gov.za
www.da.org.za

NOMSA MARCHESI, MP
Shadow Minister of Basic Education
7 November 2019

House Chairperson: Committees

Per e-mail: cfrolick@parliament.gov.za

RE: URGENT STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION

Dear Cedric Frolick,

**Portfolio Committee on Basic Education stakeholder discussions on
Comprehensive Sexual Education curriculum**

I am writing to request your intervention regarding the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of Basic Education, Bongiwe Pricilla Mbinqo-Gigaba's seeming reluctance to accede to requests for an urgent meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) curriculum with relevant stakeholders. On 29 October 2019, I had requested an urgent meeting of the Portfolio Committee to discuss the new CSE curriculum with relevant stakeholders who have shown great concern with the content of the proposed CSE.

Chairperson Mbinqo-Gigaba's response on 1 November 2019 left much to be desired. The Chairperson indicated that the Department of Education had already given the Committee a detailed presentation on the matter. Various other Members from the Opposition have made similar requests to no avail.

While I am aware that the Department has already briefed the Committee, the outcry and concerns among parents and teachers alike requires a meeting of all the relevant stakeholders and not simply a briefing from the Department. It is thus essential for the Committee to allow other relevant, and concerned stakeholders, the opportunity to display their own presentations to the Committee.

The South Africa Teachers Union's (SATU) has stated that the proposed CSE is inappropriate for learners of given ages and has unacceptable content. The union also claimed that teachers will not feel comfortable teaching such content. There has also been an outcry from the religious sector, condemning the proposed content. Family Watch International has also launched an online petition to stop the CSE from being implemented and parents across the nation have reportedly stated, en masse, that they will have their children boycott Life Orientation classes if this is the content that will be covered in its curriculum.

This clearly requires an open dialogue between all the relevant stakeholders to give those who are concerned an opportunity to make presentations and to give the Department and indeed parliament to hear their concerns. Chairperson Mbinqo-Gigaba's dismissal of such a request is tantamount to the active prevention of public participation in Parliament and prevents any form of open dialogue from taking place with concerned citizens.

I therefore press upon you that you urgently communicate with our Chairperson Mbinqo-Gigaba on the importance of allowing public participation in Parliament.

I look forward to hearing your further response in this matter and thank you for your time and consideration.

Nomsa Marchesi, MP
Shadow Minister of Basic Education
Democratic Alliance