



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
Office of the Democratic Alliance
Hon. P. E. Van Vuuren, MPL
(Shadow MEC for Education and Office of the Premier)



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17 October 2018

Mr Mtirara
The Director: Special Programmes Unit
Head Office
Department of Education
Zwelitsha
Eastern Cape

Dear Sir

RE: YOUR REQUEST FOR IDENTIFIED LGBTI LEARNERS FROM SCHOOLS TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP

The Democratic Alliance has seen your request to schools within the Province to avail the names of learners belonging to the LGBTI group (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender and Intersex) to attend a workshop on 30 October 2018 at Mpekweni Beach Hotel Resort, as an infringement on the privacy of the lifestyles of learners.

The identification of learners belonging to the LGBTI is discriminatory, unconstitutional and may lead to verbal, mental and even physical abuse against this group of learners by those who do not take kindly to their affiliation or allegiance.

The Democratic Alliance condemns this request from the Special Programmes Unit to have the learners identified that belongs to the LGBTI group in order to hold a workshops to raise awareness, and for their rights, morals and integrity to be respected, in the strongest sense of the word.

The Democratic Alliance has no problem with the holding of the workshop for advocacy purposes in order for others to have a better understanding of the diverse nature of lifestyles amongst us, and how best to deal with it.

It would have been proper to have invited representatives from Learner Representative Councils from schools within the districts.

The Democratic Alliance hereby requests the Special Unit within the Department of Education in the Eastern Cape to withdraw their human rights infringed invitation and to replace it with an invite to the Learner Representative Councils of schools.

The learners from these schools can then have sessions with their co learners as to the rights of learners belonging to the LGBTI group.

The LGBTI group does not discriminate amongst each other. They play within the rules. Your invitation should be directed at those that have no or limited knowledge of the lifestyles of this group and how to react to the feelings, morality and integrity of this LGBTI group.

Your invitation is erroneously directed to those that understand and respect their lifestyles and you are preaching to the converted.

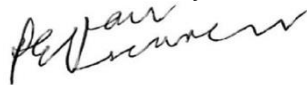
It is highly illegal, irregular, irresponsible and discriminatory to create a data base for LGBTI learners - this request for names to be forwarded should be stopped immediately and District offices must be instructed not to continue with the creation of these illegal and discriminatory data bases.

Your consideration in revisiting and reviewing your invitation will be much appreciated.

I look forward to your response within 7 days.

I thank you

Yours sincerely



Edmund van Vuuren, MPL

MEMBER OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY.