

ADMINISTRATION : HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SENDING OF FACSIMILE MESSAGE

*REASONABLE USE PART B. 1. 1. 1.*

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- 1. Use black ink and block letters only.
- 2. Messages must be approved by persons with the rank of senior officer or higher.
- 3. To send confidential messages use personal codes.

TO : THE SECRETARY  
 DEPARTMENT/COMPONENT: CODESA WORKING GROUP 2  
 WORLD TRADING CENTRE  
 KEMPTON PARK

FOR THE USE OF TYPISTS ONLY  
 DATE TRANSMITTED: 1992-03-02  
 FACSIMILE REFERENCE No.: 062 03/02

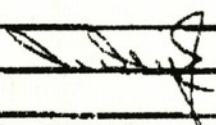
**MESSAGE**

DEAR SIR/MADAM

The following three (3) fax pages contain a proposal motivation on a Single Ministry for children in South Africa.

These proposals were formulated by our Standing Committee on Child and Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of Mrs V. Estevaso.

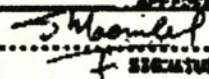
Yours faithfully

  
 C. VAN WYK  
 SECRETARY

**SERIES**

REFERENCE No.: 9/1/3/6/1  
 INITIALS AND SURNAME: MR C. VAN WYK  
 DEPARTMENT/COMPONENT: HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE - DURBAN  
 BOOK No.: 406 EXTENSION: 276 DATE: 2.3.92

**APPROVED**

  
 J. Moolenaar (Senior Social Wk)  
 SIGNATURE  
 f. Saperow  
 NAME  
 2/3/1992  
 DATE





REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**STREEKWELSYNSRAAD  
REGIONAL WELFARE BOARD  
DURBAN AND NATAL**

Verwysing  
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SUBMISSION FOR (GROUP 2) CODESA

FROM: THE REGIONAL WELFARE BOARD: DURBAN AND NATAL

We propose that the principle of a Single Ministry for children should be enshrined in the new Constitution.

To achieve this goal the principle should be addressed in the Negotiating Process for a new Constitution. This is considered to be relevant to the Brief of Working Group 2 of CODESA.

There are many key issues and problems relating to children which can be addressed by a Ministry which exclusively deals with children and which is based on democratic principles.

A rift has developed over time between "the have's and have not's" based on political ideology and strategy in South Africa. Poverty has become rampant and cannot be abstracted from the broader political economy in the country.

There are communities which are severely underdeveloped with respect to Housing, economic opportunities, educational and social facilities.

The residential environment of various townships are in general not viable.

Inter alia, problems have been identified as:

- Lack of housing or housing which does not meet health and decency standards - both seen as a major problem. There is an increase in informal settlements.
- Lack of day care and community facilities.
- High incidence of children born out of wedlock.
- Family and community violence, political unrest.
- Alcoholism and drug abuse.

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- School drop-outs, illiteracy, poor educational facilities.
- Unemployment which is rife, low subsistence levels, poverty and poor economic development, high infection rate, migratory labour.
- Backlog in Health and Welfare Services, ideology regarding funding - (residual model) and fragmented structures.
- Disorganisation of family life, high divorce rate and high number of children involved in divorces, second and "serial marriages", child abuse (sexual and physical abuse, abandonment, emotional and physical neglect) altered family roles, street children.
- Lack of electricity and water, lack of rural development.
- Psychological problems: MRS M.J. VISSER (H.S.R.C.) who undertook Research involving 1700, 10 and 11 year olds found that about 33% of "White", "Asian" and "Coloured" Primary School children show symptoms of depression while seven (7) percent have suicide tendencies. Mrs Visser states that "urbanisation", family disintegration, the negative situation in the country, poverty and child abuse contribute to psychological problems among young children. We are sure that research which would include all communities would reveal alarming findings, especially as political unrest in the townships must have a backlash on the holistic well-being of children.

So far the needs and rights of children have been relegated to a lower level. There are far too many structures responsible for holistic care for children and these have not been democratically constituted. For example, there has been racial fragmentation of Welfare Services as a result of State Policy. There exists a wasteful duplication of services with a basic inequality in the allocation of funds and services provided along racial lines. The discriminatory laws have dictated that children do not have equal rights.

The disparities have created many constraints to the development and functioning of children and have created environments which are stressful to them. The provision of services and funding to remedy this will be of enormous extent and massive intensity.



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Unless a Single Ministry is responsible for services, Funding, Research and Co-ordination of these regarding children, their holistic care will not be enhanced.

We must be efficient, effective and democratic in caring for our children.  
"Humanity walks in the footprints of children".

In conclusion, children's rights must be a National Issue.

Future politics should be aligned to the United Nations' Convention of the Rights of Children.

Of note is that a Special Campaign for Children's Rights is taking place this year. It is justifiably expressed that "Children's Rights are the concern of all South Africans", and that children should be placed on the "National Agenda".

We express our appreciation to CODESA: Working Group 2 considering this Submission.

*Con. Wyt*

SECRETARY