



# Jesus Project Projek

Posbus/P O Box 977, Rant en Dal, 1751 Tel: (011) 665-2516  
e-mail/e-pos: emb@mweb.co.za

Gratis/Free

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## Ope brief aan SABC

**U** is 'n onontbeerlike vennoot in die kommunikasiegebeure in Suid Afrika. Geen huishouding kan homself sonder 'n radio en selfs TV indink nie. Ons kinders is inderdaad gelukkig om midde 'n ongekende kennisontplofing groot te word. Die SABC hou ons samelewing in voeling met die jongste ontwikkelinge.

Christene is baie dankbaar vir die fenomenale rol wat die SABC speel. Ons gee graag erkenning aan vele uitstaande programme. Ons is uiteraard veral dankbaar vir die tyd wat aan godsdienstige uitsendings afgestaan word. Christene het egter

sentimente en oortuigings wat nie sondermeer prysgegee kan word nie.

Die wyse waarop die stem van gelowiges oor 'n lang tyd deur die SABC en die UKKSA (uitsaaiklagtekommissie van Suid Afrika) ignoreer word ontstig en ontstel redelike mense. Waarom voortgaan met 'n praktyk wat gelowiges dwars in die krop steek.

'n Eenvoudige prosedure nl. om die misbruik van die Naam van die Here uit te redigeer, alternatiewelik minstens vooraf inligting te gee dat dit die geval is, kan met min moeite deur die SABC gedoen word.

Die misbruik van die Naam van die

Here is vir alle geloofsgemeenskappe onaanvaarbaar. Dit maak seer en ondergrawe die opvoeding wat gelowige ouers aan hul kinders probeer gee. Suider-Afrikaanse realiteite maak die aanhoudende afbreek van godsdienstige waardes onverstaanbaar. (Sien hoofberig op bladsy 4)

Dit is teen hierdie agtergrond dat die geloofsgemeenskap gerugsteun deur talle hoofstroomkerke en verskeie prominente persoonlikhede 'n dringende versoek tot die SABC rig. . . **Stop die misbruik van die Naam van God, dit is die regte ding om te doen. U moet ons hoor.**



## SABC responds . . .

**D**r Izak Burger, president of the AFM prof Hennie Stander, editor of Maksiman, and rev. Jannie Pelser, organizer of the Jesus Project, paid the SABC a visit during November 2002. Issues were discussed in a very positive atmosphere. When the official response from the SABC materialized almost three months later, there was however little cause for celebration.

Dear Rev Pelser

**RE: SABC RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS ON BLASPHEMY**

Following your meeting with Mr Tango Lamani in November last year, the SABC has given consideration to your proposals.

Regarding the SABC's position in this matter, our Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression, and of the media, for South Africans. The censorship laws of the past, in terms of which scenes were cut from films, words excised or blanked out, and books and other publications banned, have been abolished. At the behest of the State the old censorship bodies (the Publications Control Board, the Publications Appeal Board, and the later Directorate of Publications) decided what people were and were not allowed to read, which films they could not see, and what they were permitted to hear

and see on radio and television. These Draconian laws and the bodies that enforced them were abolished.

In place of censorship, there is now a new approach: the more bad language is used in a film or programme, the more risqué or violent it is, the later it is broadcast – accompanied by clear warnings about the content. There is, however, no provision in the law that empowers the SABC to cut anything at all out of programmes.

The SABC no longer has the right to act as the nation's conscience by removing bad language and everything it may arbitrarily deem inappropriate for people to watch or listen to. Everyone now has the freedom to decide for themselves whether they want to watch a programme or to switch off, after receiving clear and sufficient information about the content, in accordance with their own persuasions and system of values. The SABC does not take

these decisions for the public any longer, and in fact may not do so. It therefore does not have the right, either, to cut or block expressions such as "Oh my God!", "Good Lord!", "Jesus Christ!" etc, as that would be illegal censorship.

The Christian community, and individuals, have been informed over the years that the L warning symbol for bad language includes profanity. The SABC, M-Net and e-tv have

workshopped the issue together with the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (BCCSA), the Film and Publications Board (FPB), and the Independent

Communications Authority (ICASA). The consensus was that the number of symbols used should be limited in order to avoid confusion; that a B symbol would be inappropriate, *since we do not broadcast blasphemous programming(!!!!!)*; that

broadcasters could use a P for 'prejudice', which would include religious and other controversial themes, if they considered it appropriate; and that the L should include profanity, as people who objected to expressions such as "Oh my God!" were most likely to be offended by other bad language as well.

Finally, I must point out that although the SABC complies with ICASA's local content quotas, local production is extremely expensive, the SABC is heavily dependent on overseas markets for TV material, particularly America and Britain, which are the most prolific producers. Unfortunately profanity is such a common form of expression in those countries that to exclude programmes in which it occurs would be very problematic. Our only option is to warn viewers about the language in programmes, and leave them to exercise their freedom of choice.

We respect your views and we trust that you will appreciate the SABC's position and accept our explanation.

Yours sincerely  
**LARA KANTOR**  
GENERAL MANAGER:  
POLICY AND  
REGULATORY AFFAIRS



Hierdie CD is 'n wenner, sien bladsy 2 en 5

**'A disappointing response'**

page 5