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Godsdiensbeoefening by skole

Die SAOU het die afgelope ruk verskeie navrae ontvang na aanleiding van 'n gerug dat die reëls vir godsdiensbeoefening in skole kwansuis gewysig het en dat daar 'n verbod daarop is.

Daar kan gerapporteer word dat geen wysigings plaasgevind het nie en dat dit steeds in terme van Art 15 (2) van die Grondwet van die RSA, 1996 en Art 7 van die SA Skolewet, 1996 mag geskied.

Dit is egter belangrik om opnuut daarop te let dat godsdiensbeoefening onderhewig is aan die volgende voorskrifte:

- Dit moet ingevolge die Grondwet van die RSA plaasvind, nl:
  - Die reëls soos bepaal deur die toepaslike gesag;
  - Op 'n billike grondslag; en
  - Bywoning vry en vrywillig is.
- Die SA Skolewet bepaal dat die beheerliggaam reëls in dié verband moet uitvaardig, nl:
  - Beoefening geskied op 'n billike wyse; en
  - Bywoning deur leerders en personeellede is vry en vrywillig.
  - Nota: Dit is belangrik dat alle gelowe/oortuigings op 'n redelike, gelyke en billike basis hanteer word en dat daar nie enige gronde vir diskriminasie gevestig word nie.

Soos bekend is die SAOU 'n *amicus curiae* (vriend van die Hof) in die saak in die Konstitusionele Hof nav 'n groepering wat beweer dat 'n groep skole se reëls vir godsdiensbeoefening nie aan die voorskrifte van die Grondwet en die SA Skolewet voldoen nie. Die SAOU se deelname het ten doel om die saak van die professionele opvoeder te stel. Die basis is dat die SAOU die voorskrifte van billike beoefening en vry en vrywillige deelname deur leerders en personeel onderskryf.

Die verwagting is dat hierdie saak eers na Maart 2017 aangehoor sal word, en tot tyd en wyl die Konstitusionele Hof 'n ander benadering gelas, geld die bepalings van die

Religious observances in schools

The SAOU received several enquiries regarding a rumour that the rules for religious observances have been amended and that a continuance of the *status quo* is prohibited.

It can be reported that no amendments whatsoever have been effected and that it may still be conducted in terms of Section 15(2) of the Constitution of the RSA, 1996 and Section 7 of the SA Schools Act, 1996.

However, it is important to note anew that religious observances are subject to the following:

- It must be conducted in terms of the Constitution of the RSA, i.e:
  - It must follow the rules made by the appropriate authority;
  - On an equitable basis; and
  - Attendance is free and voluntary.
- The SA Schools Act determines that the governing body must provide rules, i.e:
  - That observance will be on an equitable basis; and
  - Attendance by learners and staff will be free and voluntary.
  - Note: It is important that all religions/beliefs be dealt with on a reasonable, equitable and fair basis and that any discrimination be avoided.

It is common cause that the SAOU is an *amicus curiae* (friend of the Court) in the Constitutional Court as a result of a certain grouping who allege that the rules of a group of schools do not comply with the Constitution and the SA Schools Act. The aim of the SAOU's participation is to record the position of the professional educator. The basis is that the SAOU subscribes to the prescriptions regarding equitable observance and the free and voluntary participation by learners and staff members.

The expectation is that this case will only be heard after March 2017 and until such time as the Constitutional Court determines otherwise, the *status quo* as

Grondwet en die SA Skolewet soos hierbo uiteengesit. Dit sal egter raadsaam wees indien skole deurlopend die reëls vir godsdiensbeoefening aan die hand van gemelde bepalings objektief evalueer, en indien nodig, aanpas.

determined by the Constitution and the SA Schools Act, will apply. It will however by advisable if schools continuously and objectively compare their current rules in terms of the prescriptions as stated here above, and if necessary, amend the rules.

Elke SAOU-lid neem kennis

Gratis SAOU Toep

Laai nou af

Every SAOU member take note

Free SAOU App

Download now

Die SAOU het sy eie Toepassing (Toep) ontwikkel om makliker en meer effektief met lede te kommunikeer en om 'n wye verskeidenheid van dienste beskikbaar te stel.

1. Wat is die prosedure vir gratis aflaai?
   SAOU-lede moet die instruksies op die brosjure hieronder volg.
2. Hoe lank neem die aflaaiproses?
   Die Toep is tydens die Hoofdesimposium geloods en die aflaaityd het ongeveer 30 – 60 sekondes geduur.
3. Watter dienste is beskikbaar op die Toep?
   Toegang tot die volgende word voorsien:
   a. Elektroniese lidmaatskapkaart.
   b. Direkte telefoniese skakeling met SAOU Inbelsentrum.
   c. SAOU webwerf.
   d. Nuusbriewe.
   e. SAOU Mall.
   f. SAOU gemeenskap "blog".
4. Is 'n video beskikbaar om die proses te verduidelik?
   Kliek op die skakel vir 'n video wat die Toep demonstreer.
   http://www.saou.co.za/saou-toep-saou-app/
5. Waar kan navrae gerig word?
   Die SAOU Inbelsentrum (086 072 6843) wag vir navrae.

The SAOU has developed its own App to enable easier and more efficient communication with members and also to provide access to a wide variety of services.

1. What is the procedure to download?
   SAOU members must follow the instructions on the brochure here below.
2. What is the duration for the download?
   The App was launched during the Principals' Symposium and the download lasted approximately 30 – 60 seconds.
3. What services are available on the App?
   Access to the following is provided:
   a. Electronic membership card.
   b. Direct telephonic contact with SAOU Call Centre.
   c. SAOU website.
   d. Newsletters.
   e. SAOU Mall.
   f. SAOU community blog.
4. Is a video available to explain the process?
   Click on the link for a video that demonstrates the App.
5. http://www.saou.co.za/saou-toep-saou-app/
   The SAOU Call Centre at 086 072 6843 is waiting for enquiries.