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MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION: EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENT ON DISCUSSION PAPER 152 ON A SINGLE MARRIAGE STATUTE (PROJECT 144) UNTIL 17 MAY 2021

On 11 January 2021, the South African Law Reform Commission (the Commission) announced the availability for general information and comment of its project 144 Discussion Paper 152 dealing with the possible adoption of a single marriage statute. Respondents were requested to submit comments to the Commission by 31 March 2021.

Discussion Paper 152 is available on the Internet at the following site:

<https://www.justice.gov.za/salrc/dpapers/dp152-prj144-SingleMarriageStatute-Jan2021.pdf>

Discussion Paper 152 serves to elicit responses and to serve as the basis for the Commission's further deliberations. It contains the Commission's preliminary proposals. Therefore, the opinions, findings, and recommendations should not be regarded as the Commission's final views on this investigation. Discussion Paper 152 (with two alternative Bills) seeks to provide for the recognition of protected relationships or marriages and life partnerships, entered into by parties regardless of the religious, cultural or any other beliefs of the parties, or how the relationship was entered. Also to provide for the requirements for entering into a protected relationship or a marriage or a life partnership; for the registration of protected relationships or marriages and life partnerships; for the legal consequences of entering into protected relationships or marriages and life partnerships; and for matters incidental to that. Responses to the discussion paper will be collated and evaluated to prepare a final report setting out the Commission's final recommendations. The Commission will submit the report (with draft legislation) to the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services to present to the Minister of Home Affairs.

The Commission hosted its first two virtual workshops on Discussion Paper 152 during February 2021. The Commission is planning to host further virtual workshops from March to May 2021. The details of these virtual workshops will be announced to the general public in due course.

Considering the time factor and the logistical intricacies of the virtual workshops that must follow the publication of Discussion Paper 152, it has been decided to extend the closing date for comment on Discussion Paper 152 until **17 May 2021**.

Respondents are requested to submit written comment, representations or submissions to the Commission on Discussion Paper 152 for the attention of Pierre van Wyk to the following address:

The Secretary
South African Law Reform Commission
Private Bag X668
Pretoria
0001

Email: pvanwyk@justice.gov.za

Contact for enquiries in respect of media statement: Pierre van Wyk

Email: pvanwyk@justice.gov.za

ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY, S A LAW REFORM COMMISSION, CENTURION

DATE: 9 MARCH 2021