

THE COPYRIGHT AMMENDMENT BILL



HOW THE KNOWLEDGE SECTOR WILL SUFFER

If the Copyright Amendment Bill no. 17 of 2017 (CAB) is signed into law in its current form, there will be many losers – including many of those it is meant to help!

Authors



- Authors will lose royalties.
- An author may not always be cited as author of their work
- Will have to resort to the courts – if they can afford to – to challenge excessive re-use of their works
- Will struggle to be published, as local publishing houses close
- Will lose the incentive to write and share their knowledge and insight.

Publishers



- Publishing jobs will be lost.
- Publishers' income stream from secondary licensing -the re-use of content- will vanish.
- As turnover and the incentive to publish vanishes, fewer books will be published.
- Many publishers will close.
- Publishers' income will drop as works for education are copied and republished without payment. More than 3 billion Rand in sales will be lost.

Booksellers



- The viability of bookshops, both brick-and-mortar and online, will be threatened
- Will have to pay more to import foreign literature.
- Will diversify into other media, marginalizing books and book culture.
- Will suffer losses as fewer books are published and sales decline.
- Will suffer further losses as migration to cheap, grey imports of books will be dumped on our shores accelerates.

Libraries



- Will have less choice in materials as fewer South African books are published
- Will substitute South African educational material with generic, sub-standard international works.
- Will become embroiled in lawsuits, as some publishers resort to the courts to protect their rights.

Students



- Will have reduced access to works by South African authors as these become scarcer.
- Will be forced to pay more for imported books, as these become the only available options.
- Will be robbed of the African knowledge and relevant ideas that should be their birthright.
- Will develop foreign perspectives as the neo-colonial effects of import-substitution in academic publishing take hold.

The South African People



- The national body of our distinctive knowledge will shrink.
- South Africa's reading culture will wither
- Our people will be mentally colonized by dominant discourse from the global north disseminated digitally.
- The country will become less able to compete in the global knowledge and digital economy.

Don't let it happen! Copyright protection is what encourages knowledge creation.
Don't pass this Copyright Amendment Bill! Join "a Coalition for Effective Copyright in SA".
Email copyright.coalition@yahoo.com