Legislation: Latest working draft of Copyright Bill released

The latest working draft of the reworked Copyright Amendment Bill – printed on 29 August – has finally been linked to last Friday’s National Assembly Trade and Industry Committee media statement calling for comment on yet another proposed new sub-clause. As Legalbrief Today reported when the statement was released, its link took stakeholders to the Bill’s deeply flawed original version – making it difficult to understand the context in which the new sub-clause was being proposed. At the time, even a technically improved version presented to the committee last October was not widely available, notes Pam Saxby for Legalbrief Policy Watch.

Interested and affected parties have until 21 September to make input on the draft sub-clause, which seeks to penalise any collecting society that has not been accredited and is therefore operating illegally. As Legalbrief Today has also reported, the new sub-clause is subject to a ‘transitional provision’, which appears under clause 25 of the reworked Bill and refers to what may eventually become sub-section 22B(7) of the Act. It allows existing collecting societies 18 months to apply for accreditation under the proposed new arrangements. This is noting that, if adopted by the committee and promulgated, the section 22 envisaged – comprising an entirely new chapter on collecting societies – will make accreditation mandatory.