

# Advocacy Project

## MARCH report

Since March 1997, when the Free Market Foundation's Cape Town office was established in Spin Street just five minutes from Parliament, the FMF's *Advocacy Project* has been increasingly successful in promoting free market ideas and objectives.

The FMF's *Advocacy Project* aims to:

- improve existing legislation and encourage new legislative initiatives which will provide a better legal and administrative environment for free enterprise;
- develop a consensus among a broad spectrum of representatives from government, business, academia and the NGO sector regarding the development of the private sector;
- strengthen the ability of the Cape Town facility to influence policies which are important to the private enterprise environment; and
- increase government and public awareness and understanding of the issues relevant to the private sector which are, or should be, part of the legislative debate.

To this end the FMF has achieved the following during the 7 months covered by this summary:

- led **evidence / commented** on 6 occasions on:
  - the *National Health Laboratory Services Bill*,
  - the *Consultative Paper: Proposal on the Future Constitution, Role and Function of Ombudsmen in the Financial Services Sector*,
  - the *Lotteries Regulations Relating to Private Lotteries*.
  - the *Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Bill*,
  - the *Revised Draft Financial Advisors Bill*, and
  - the *Government Supervision of Asset Management by Insurance Companies*;

**Note:** The evidence provided to Parliamentary Portfolio Committees and other government bodies illustrates the nature and extent of the legislative watchdog role the FMF is performing. It also provides an insight into the variety of arguments put forward in addressing these issues. The full text of the evidence and comments is therefore contained in an attachment to this report.

- held 63 **meetings** with parliamentarians from all political parties and government officials from numerous departments;
- **networked** on 137 occasions with over 50 organisations etc, including:
  - the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business,
  - the National Industrial Chamber,
  - the Malamulela Social Movement for the Unemployed, and
  - the South African Liquor Traders Association;
- produced and disseminated 9 **briefing papers** and **comments** including:
  - *Radicalising upliftment* by Paul Pereira,
  - *Nationalisation of water and minerals* by Leon Louw,
  - *How economics can contribute to reducing crime* by Leon Louw,
  - *Economic freedom in South Africa 1998-99* by Henry Kenney, and
  - *Malaria and the environmentalists* by Richard Tren;

- produced and disseminated 4 **occasional papers, summaries** and **books** including:
  - *Liberal reflections* by Michael O’Dowd, and
  - *Economic freedom of the world: 2000 annual report* by James Gwartney & Robert Lawson;
- published articles and/or been quoted in the **media** 30 times, for example,:
  - Dr Brian Benfield was extensively quoted in an article entitled *Bill may create bureaucratic nightmare* which appeared in the *Business Report* on 11 August 1999,
  - Themba Sono was extensively quoted in *Self-employment is the way to go for SA’s jobless* which was published in the *Sowetan* on 12 August 1999,
  - *Finance Week* carried *Taxing made simple*, a brief comment on the *Laws affecting small business booklet on Tax*, on 20 August 1999,
  - on 17 October 1999 *The Sunday Independent* printed *Alarm that PC-talk will make all our problems mere issues* in which Temba Nolutshungu was quoted, and
  - on 23 November 1999 Leon Louw was quoted in *Concern raised over focus of Equality Bill* which appeared in *Business Day*.
- convened / attended / spoke at / participated in 46 **workshops / seminars** – most of these at the request of businesses etc – including:
  - on 14-15 August 1999 Leon Louw attended and spoke on *Liberalism in South Africa: Prospects and challenges for future growth* at a DP seminar,
  - on 6 September 1999 Temba Nolutshungu participated in a debate with Minister Alec Irwin on small business regulation,
  - on 17 September 1999 Leon Louw addressed Roche Pharmaceuticals on *Intellectual property rights*, and
  - on 20 October 1999 Eustace Davie addressed Nafcoc on *Schooling*.

## AUGUST report

The Free Market Foundation’s Cape Town office in Spin Street just five minutes from Parliament continues to be primarily responsible for the *Advocacy Project* which aims to:

- improve existing legislation and encourage new legislative initiatives which will provide a better legal and administrative environment for free enterprise;
- develop a consensus among a broad spectrum of representatives from government, business, academia and the NGO sector regarding the development of the private sector;
- strengthen the ability of the Cape Town facility to influence policies which are important to the private enterprise environment; and
- increase government and public awareness and understanding of the issues relevant to the private sector which are, or should be, part of the legislative debate.

To this end the FMF has achieved the following during the 4 months covered by this summary:

- led **evidence / commented** on 3 occasions:
  - on various constitutional issues (see Constitutional Review Committee)
  - on the *Proposal to Introduce a Capital Gains Tax* (see Attachment 2), and
  - on the *Revised Draft of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Bill* (see Attachment 2);
- held 20 **meetings** with parliamentarians from all political parties and government officials from numerous departments;

- **networked** on 50 occasions with, for example:
  - the Western Cape Amalgamated Liquor Traders Association,
  - the National African Federated Chambers of Commerce,
  - the Small Business Development Corporation, and
  - the Gauteng Hawkers Association;
- produced and disseminated 1 **briefing paper**, 2 **monographs**, and 2 **occasional papers** including:
  - *AIDS and WHO* by Roger Bate,
  - *Deregulation of agricultural marketing in South Africa: Lesson learned* by Nick Vink & Johann Kirsten, and
  - *Smoked out: Anti-tobacco activism at the World Bank* by Richard Tren & Hugh High;
- published articles and/or been quoted in the **media** 9 times;
- convened / attended / spoke at / participated in 12 **workshops / seminars**, most of these at the request of businesses etc, including:
  - on *10 April 2000* Themba Sono and Eustace Davie presented the *From poverty to property* proposals to members of the Northern Province provincial government,
  - on *20 April 2000* Temba Nolutshungu addressed South African Liberal Students Association members on *Liberalism and political correctness: Is there a challenge?*, and
  - on *5 June 2000* Temba Nolutshungu and Leon Louw did a *High growth economies* presentation to Speciality Stores.