



**CITIZENS FOR INTEGRITY PRESS RELEASE:**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**GOVERNMENT STILL NOT YET PREPARED TO ADMIT THAT IT BULLIED MISS SOUTH AFRICA.**

The government has delayed the inevitable.

On 8 December 2021, Judge Cornelius Van der Westhuizen struck CFI's application from the urgent roll, holding that there was no urgency in the matter.

This will delay the hearing of the matter which can now only be heard in a few months' time.

Citizens For Integrity (CFI) will pursue this application, in which we say the government's public withdrawal on their support for the Miss South Africa organisation constitutes an unwarranted infringement of the rights of Miss South Africa and her supporters and other South African citizens.

This issue before the court affects the rights **of every person** who does not have the ability of resources to fight against the bullying tactics of the government.

While Miss South Africa will participate in the Miss Universe pageant in Israel in December, our issue is not concerned with the rights and wrongs of the situation in the Middle East.

We remain steadfast in the belief that only when the government is held accountable for its unacceptable conduct toward its own citizens and until the courts made such orders, can we say that we are making South Africa a better democratic society.

This is what we seek to do by fighting for the rights of South Africans in this case.



Citizens for Integrity remains convinced that the government has avoided its obligations and has failed to respect the rights of its citizens and needs to be taken to task because of it.

Citizens for Integrity does not seek to compel the government restore its support to Miss South Africa, we want the government to apologise for infringing her right and by making the public statement in the first place.

We believe that the government had no constitutional right to either interfere in legitimate private business affairs in the first place or to bully such party into submitting the government position and publicly sanction her for refusing to comply with its demand.

We also believe that the government has also unconstitutionally impaired Miss South Africa's dignity by detailing to the public, in emotive terms, the nature of private discussions - simply in order to justify a decision which they have imposed on her.

The government should apologise for interfering in legitimate affairs of private individuals and respect their rights to freedom of speech and association.

We will ensure that this matter is fully debated in court as citizens' constitutional rights must be protected and the irrational conduct and decisions of government must be curbed.

Certain organisations, who had not been parties to the application, have claimed "victory" declaring that our application was dismissed.

**It has not been dismissed!**

It also can never be a victory when our citizens' rights remain violated. The court has merely held that the matter was not sufficiently urgent for it be heard before the Miss Universe contest is held on 12 December.

Our application will proceed and we remain steadfastly supportive of Miss South Africa and of the rights of all South Africans, especially the rights of previously disadvantaged black females, whose rights have been trampled upon or affected by the decision of the government in this matter.

**Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo! You strike a woman, you strike a rock!**



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**Ends**