



# LAND PARTY

## IEC Commission Input

2020-06-18

Dear Justice Moseneke,

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the impact of COVID on free and fair local government elections. Here is our input:

*Whether the current conditions under the COVID-19 pandemic are conducive or not to the holding of free and fair local government elections during October 2021;*

There is no reason the current conditions should cause the elections to be delayed.

*The constraints, if any, that the measures in place to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 have imposed or will likely impose on political activity and campaigning in the lead-up to the local government elections earmarked to be held in October 2021;*

There are no constraints due to COVID-19 protocols. It is possible to work within the set parameters.

*The constraints, if any, that the measures in place to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 are likely to impose on the proper and effective monitoring, by political party agents and independent electoral monitoring bodies, of the freeness and fairness of the local government elections earmarked to be held in October 2021; and*

There are no constraints due to COVID-19 protocols. It is possible to work within the set parameters.

*Whether your party participated in by-elections that took place during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic and, if so, what was your party's experience of the by election(s) and did you consider them to be free and fair?*

Yes, we participated in by-elections in December 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The election went smoothly, there was no outbreak of COVID as a result of the election, and we consider them free and fair.

*In addition, you may make any other submissions that you deem necessary and appropriate, provided that they are connected to the proper conduct of local government elections.*

These upcoming elections are vital for our communities. People cannot wait a moment longer than 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to exercise their right to vote for those who will ensure service delivery and take care of those they serve. Government structures are collapsing around us. This election cannot be delayed.

We urge the IEC to assist the department of Home Affairs to reach more citizens who need IDs in order to vote.

Technology must be used to connect mothers and first time ID applicants who do not reside in the same place for verification.

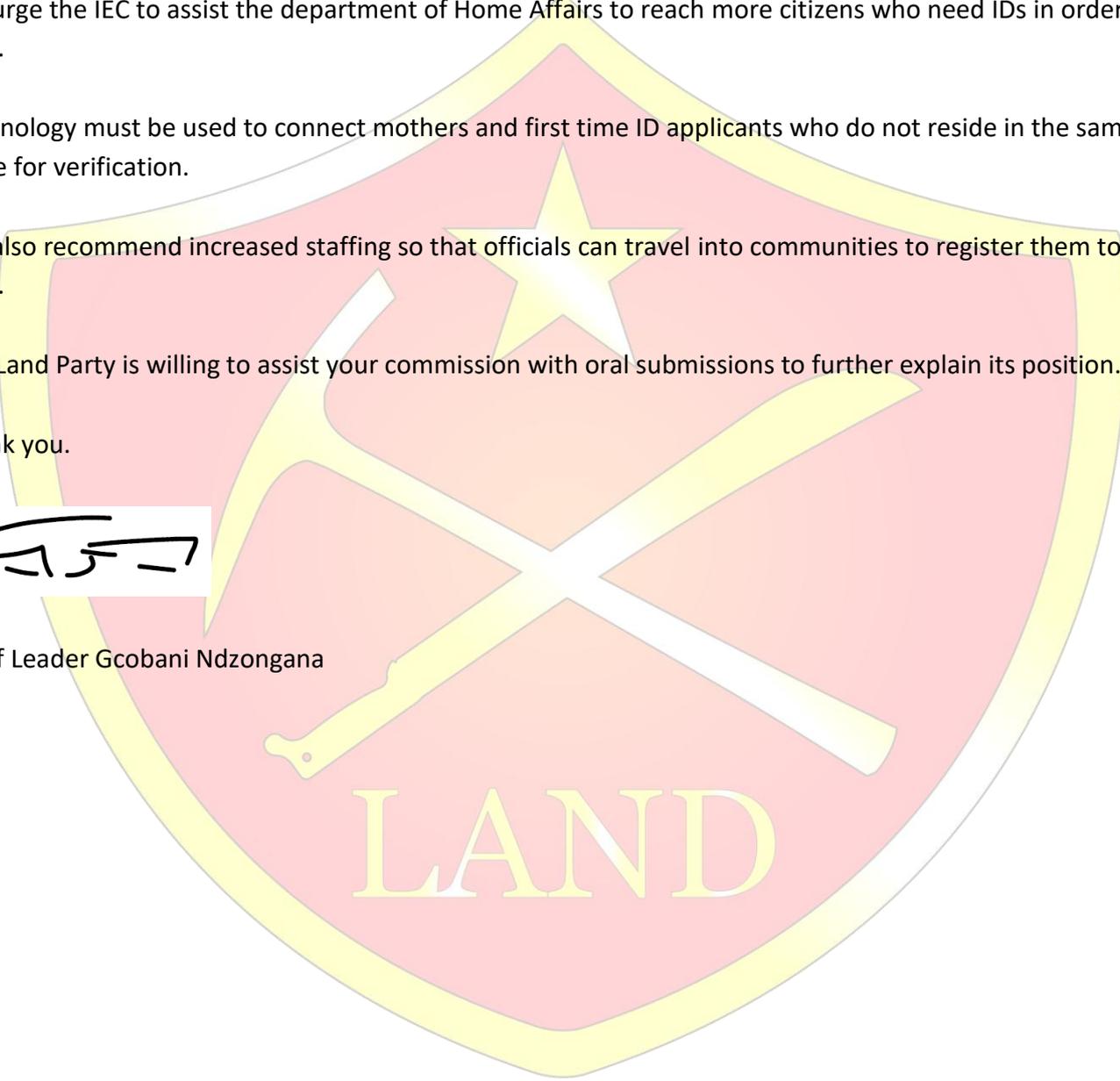
We also recommend increased staffing so that officials can travel into communities to register them to vote.

The Land Party is willing to assist your commission with oral submissions to further explain its position.

Thank you.



Chief Leader Gcobani Ndzongana



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