



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEMO

Date:	14 th June 2021		
To:	Honorable Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke	From:	Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) on COVID-19

INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (IEC) REQUEST FOR INPUTS REGARDING SCHEDULING OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Memo on updated information related to the MAC on COVID-19 Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) Advisory (17 May 2021 – refer to Appendix I) and response to request from the Office of the Commission of Inquiry into Ensuring Free and Fair Local Government Elections During COVID-19, Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke dated 1 June 2021.

Request for Information

Information on the current status and expected trajectory of the COVID-19 epidemic in South Africa as well as the likelihood of reaching vaccination herd immunity by October 2021 is contained in the attached South African COVID-19 Modelling Consortium (SACMC) report (refer to Appendix II).

Additional responses by the MAC on COVID-19 to the issues raised in the letter of 1 June 2021 are below:

- 1. The nature, extent and features of the vaccination efforts being undertaken in South Africa.** Current immunization efforts have been hampered by a slower than expected roll out. It is unlikely the targets will be met for vaccinating all healthcare workers and people of 60 years of age or older by the end of July 2021, and people 40 years of age or older by mid-October 2021.
- 2. The risk that might be posed to the lives and health of people in South Africa if the local government elections were to proceed in October 2021.** As per the MAC on COVID-19 IEC Advisory, election activities that involve gatherings of large numbers of people may increase the risk to the population if COVID-19 protocols are not maintained and adhered to, particularly in events such as political rallies where it is a challenge to monitor adherence to protocols.
- 3. Any additional measures that may be undertaken to reduce the risk posed to the lives and health of people in South Africa, in the event that the local government elections were to take place during October 2021.** There are no further recommendations beyond what is already in the MAC on COVID-19 IEC Advisory. It is worth emphasizing that for any IEC related activities, efforts should continue to be made to insist on, and enforce,

ventilation, social distancing, sanitizing of hands, use of masks, and other non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) in any indoor and outdoor settings. This should also include emphasis on contact tracing, quarantine and isolation where required.

IEC COVID-19 protocols have been developed and implemented to facilitate recent municipal elections in November 2020 as well as April and May 2021. These protocols should be reviewed to ensure they are adhered to and implemented during the election process.

Thank you for consideration of this response.

Kind regards,



PROF MARIAN JACOBS

PROF KOLEKA MLISANA

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

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