

# "PSM12"



SOUTH AFRICA

## National Party Liaison Committee (NPLC) Meeting

### Final Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, 17 September 2020  
**Venue:** Zoom Online Meeting  
**Time:** 12H00

#### 1. Opening and Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed members and declared the meeting open.

#### 2. Apologies

The following apologies were noted:

Mr Mhlongo (AIC)

#### 3. Consideration of the Agenda

Item 7 - Electoral Laws Amendment Bill was added to the agenda. The amended agenda of the meeting was adopted and confirmed as moved by Mr P De Necker (VF+) and seconded by Mr Tlaedi (ACDP).

#### 4. Consideration of the minutes

The minutes of the 23 July 2020 were adopted as a correct reflection of the meeting, after the following amendments:

- Item 8 “.....training for accounting officers of political parties took place on 02 July 2020.....”

## Electoral Commission

*Ensuring Free and Fair Elections*

Commissioners: Mr V.G. Mashinini (Chairperson) | Ms J.Y. Love (Vice-Chairperson) | Dr N.P. Masuku | Mr M. Moepya | Judge D. Pillay  
National Office: Election House, Riverside Office Park, 1303 Heuvel Avenue, Centurion, 0157 | P/Bag X112, Centurion, 0046  
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- Item 9 “...the Commission indicated that it has taken a keen interest in the public debate and has not expressed a view...”
- Item 10 “Mr De Necker (VF+) ...”
- Mr Tlaeli (ACDP) moved for the adoption of the minutes with Ms B Hofmeyr (ANC) seconding.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### **Covid – 19 and By-Elections**

The Chairperson thanked all parties who made submissions.

### **Party Funding**

The meeting agreed that party funding would remain as a standing item on the agenda.

### **List of Voters without addresses**

The list is available and will be forwarded to parties before the end of the day.

## **6. By-Elections**

### **6.1 By- Elections Procedures under COVID 19**

The document contains the decision of the Commission on the measures to be implemented at VS in order to avoid the transmission of the virus to staff and voting public.

6.1.1 All By-elections were postponed as lockdown regulations curtailed free movement of persons and public gatherings.

6.1.2 Following the announcement by the President that the country will move to alert level 1 with effect from midnight on 20 September 2020, the Commission is of the opinion that free and fair by-elections could reasonably be guaranteed with the implementation of safety protocols set out in the document. The measures will be implemented with necessary adjustments during voter registration weekends, special voting days and by election days.

The following questions and inputs were received:

Mr. Tshwaku (EFF) raised the following issues:

- Did the IEC assess if the ink cannot be removed by alcohol contained in the sanitizer?

- Will the zip-zip machine be in use to capture ID numbers or mark off the persons who had already voted?
- Did the IEC accommodate the use of small space during home visits in case of Party Agents who will be observing?
- Will parties be allowed to visit the IEC offices to test the indelible ink?

Mr. Dlamini (ANC) – The requirement for wearing a facemask inside the voting station may hinder identifying the correct voter. Will voters be turned away if they are not wearing facemasks? What will happen if a person's temperature is higher than required, as the IEC has removed the requirement for temperature scanning?

Ms. B Hofmeyr (ANC) supports the document on by-elections procedures under COVID 19.

### **IEC Responses**

- Indelible ink has been tested and its indelibility is not vitiated by the use of hand sanitiser liquids.
- Parties are entitled two party agents per voting station. Where the space limitation militates against this, parties will have one party agent present, with parties taking turns to observe as determined by the Presiding officer.
- Zip-zips will be used at each voting station, to gather demographic data, voter turnout, voting times and patterns as well as help with the management of queues.
- Wearing of masks in public places is a requirement in terms of the national lockdown regulations. Therefore, persons will not be admitted at a voting station if they are not wearing one.
- Temperature screening is not a requirement in terms of the procedure. Provision is thus not made for temperature screening facilities.
- There will thus not as it is acceptable that masks are sufficient.
- The matter regarding visiting the IEC to test the ink will be escalated to the Commission and response will be provided to members.

## **6.2 Timetable and Ward list 11 November 2020**

The ward list for 11 November 2020 By-elections has 96 ward vacancies as well as the 12 PR vacancies for the 2 dissolved councils in the Northern Cape, all the lists have been consolidated to form one list from 23 September 2020, 14 October 2020, 11 November 2020, 18 November 2020 and 09 December 2020. The date of proclamation is 09 October 2020. The Registration Weekend is on the 3-4 October 2020. Registration weekends will also be undertaken in wards in which registrations were conducted previously.

Voting times on by-election day will be 07h00 to 21h00 unless the Commission determines varied voting times for specific voting stations.

Parties that had paid candidate deposits previously need not make new payments. The deposits paid previously are still valid. Parties are also permitted to amend their candidates before the cut off period in the timetable should they be so inclined. Members were also encouraged to make use of Online Candidate Nomination System (OCNS) in order to manage their submission of candidates.

## **7. Party Funding Matters**

Mr. Mahlangu indicated that NPLC members requested training on the party funding system. This training has been availed to parties; however, the participation is very low. He further appealed to parties to utilize the system, as this would assist in assessing whether the system is working appropriately. The system to manage provincial donations by the accounting officer at National level has been implemented and will be availed for use by the parties.

Training is proceeding as planned; the following provinces have been trained to date, LIM, GP, EC NW and NC.

## **8. Electoral Laws Amendment Bill**

Mr. Mamabolo indicated that Cabinet has considered the Bill at its meeting at the beginning of September 2020 and approved it for submission to Parliament. The Chief

State Law Advisor has certified the Bill for Constitutional Compliance. The Bill's office in Parliament will tag the Bill and issue a Bill number. A meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs has been scheduled to receive a briefing from the Commission. Soon, thereafter, the Committee would publish the Bill for public comments. The request by the Commission to have a joint briefing of the Portfolio Committee of the National Assembly and the Select Committee of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) has not been successful. The request was intended to expedite the consideration process to enable the adoption of the Bill before Parliament rises for recess.

Mr. Mamabolo further indicated that the Electoral Laws Amendment Bill is not related to the work that Parliament must undertake following the ruling of the Constitutional Court that the Electoral Act unconstitutional to the extent that it did not facilitate the participation of individuals to stand for public office other than through the platform of political parties. In this regard, Parliament is working on the Integrated Road Map, which outlines timelines for the Executive arm to recommend the Bill to Parliament.

#### **9. Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next NPLC meeting will be on 03 December 2020 on ZOOM at 10:00.

#### **10. Closure**

Meeting concluded at 13:10

**Signed on:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Mr.) (Chairperson)** \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Electoral Officer

## Action List

<b>Nr</b>	<b>Item Point</b>	<b>Action Point</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	5	List of voters without addresses	ASAP	IEC	
2	6.1	Commission decision on the visit of Election House to test the Indelible Ink	ASAP	IEC	
3	6.2	Request for Inclusion of Opening and Closing of VS on the timetable	ASAP	IEC	
4	7	Party Funding: Provincial Training Schedule	Standing Item	IEC	WIP

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/ Political Party</b>
S Mamabolo	IEC
M Sheburi	IEC
A Henning	IEC
M Mosery	IEC
G Mahlangu	IEC
G Abrahams	IEC
L Maphanga	IEC
R Raath	IEC
S Murphy	IEC
K Simelane	IEC
K Tshoke	IEC
K Molefe	IEC
A Mushwane	IEC
T Lubbe	IEC
R Tlaeli	ACDP
D Kissoonduth	ACDP
M Arnolds	AIC
M Dlamini	ANC
B Hofmeyr	ANC
N Jeku	ATM
G Hendricks	AL JAMA-AH
V Coetzee	COPE
M Moriarty	DA
T Abell	DA
M Tshwaku	EFF
S Shabane	GOOD
A Mncwango	IFP
P De Necker	VF+
W Wessels	VF+

T Nontenja	UDM