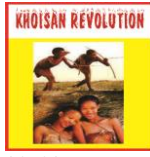


KHOISAN REVOLUTION



Est. 08-10 January 2016

The Secretary General
23 Iona Street
Oakdale, Bellville
7505

Cell: 072 824 7543
Fax: 086 613 8964
Email: khoisanroyalcom@gmail.com

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

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SUBMISSION: FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

1. Introduction:

Elections are a vital part of democratic processes, including political transitions, implementation and consolidation of administrative processes. The South African government plays a major role in providing assistance to these important processes of change.

Multiparty elections can help to produce more legitimate governments that can do a better job of giving citizens what they want. On average, democratic countries do better on human rights, development and economic growth. Having said this, elections under wrong and severe conditions such as the Covid 19 pandemic can lead to catastrophes. When the processes are flawed, voters are scared to exercise their democratic rights and as a result such elections can have the opposite effect.

South Africa's elections this year fall under this category. In the past, our country had credible elections. We have participated in the election processes from the very beginning, believing that this year's national election will also take the country a step in the right direction for justice, true democracy and peace for our Khoi & San people. Thus, our people are eagerly awaiting this. Our understanding is that the Electoral Commission, including the ruling party leaders wants to hold free and fair elections under these extraordinary circumstances'.

However, confronting the increase and on-going infections, wide spread of instability and calls for a speeding up process with the vaccinations of citizens who is currently ineffective, the Electoral Board is pressing on with the intension to go ahead with the municipal elections for 2021, despite the pandemic. This submission aim to illustrate it is highly impossible except if this country want to compromise more lives.

2. Current Status:

It is indeed very important to have various perspectives regarding the debate on the status of the forth-coming election and it's for this reason that we based and compile our inputs on the political perspective. However, we will reflect on the outcome of other perspectives such as those from scientists', regarding the impact of the Corona Virus and its consequences as well as the IEC responds

2.1 Challenge: Covid 19 Pandemic

Information received from scientists about the characteristics of current variants is that it's rapidly emerging. Apparently the scientists are working to learn more about how easily they spread, whether they could cause more severe illness, and whether currently authorized vaccines will protect people against them.

Following Scientists, we learned that viruses constantly change and become more diverse. They monitor these changes, including changes to the spikes on the surface of the virus. By carefully studying viruses, scientists can learn how changes to the virus might affect how it spreads and how sick people will get from it.

Honourable Judge, it is also true to think and see that a virus is like a tree growing and branching out; each branch on the tree is slightly different than the others. By comparing the branches, scientists can label them according to the differences. These small differences, or variants, have been studied and identified since the beginning of the pandemic.

The latest experiences that we have with this virus are the fact that during the last provincial by elections in the Northern Cape, we had a turnout average of less than 45% voters. This situation illustrates the fear that our people experience when visiting voting stations. In Namakwaland only, several volunteers, councillors and political leadership were infected, while others passed on during the said elections.

What makes it difficult for our Party is the fact that most of our constituencies consist out of Khoi and San people who hardly believe in Western medicine and cultures. Our voters still following a traditional way of thinking which sometimes result in a primitive way of thinking. We spend hours in explaining the dangerous consequence of this kind of thinking and we gain relative success.

2.3 Election Administration (IEC)

The Electoral Commission says it is more than ready in administering free and fair elections. Apart from their readiness, they also raised concern about the service delivery protest actions and the pandemic consequences.

They further admitted to communicate with communities to the best of their ability– to appeal to them that they should love their country enough to allow the change of government to happen through a peaceful means. They are saying that the electorate should be given an opportunity to choose the representatives because the one option we have in this country really is electoral democracy.

We fully understand their roles and responsibilities and the fact that the Election administration involves making decisions about the rules of elections, such as whether voters should be able to register online, whether they should be required to show photo identification at the polls, and whether election results should be audited.

It also involves conducting elections in accordance with those decisions and paying for the activities and resources required to conduct them. These three election administration duties can be described as;

- Policymaking,
- Implementation, and
- Funding, this section describes some common patterns in the distribution of these duties at the state and local levels

Understanding how the systems work may be relevant to the electorate for at least two reasons. First, the way state and local election systems work and serve its intended purposes. Secondly, how interactions between the workings of those systems and centralised actions can help determine how effective the state actions are at achieving their objectives.

What the IEC needs to understand is that their responsibilities can easily be done from devices such as desktops, laptops, print and electronic media ect. They are not physical in the streets, because they are office bounded. Even their field staff experience minimum and limited time during voter registration campaigns and on Election Day.

2.4 Political Party Work

Political parties are entitled to nominate candidates for public office, subject to the current regulation by the IEC and State Legislatures. The nominating process is accomplished through a system of primaries, caucuses, and nominating conferences. The process varies from party to party, but generally, primaries and caucuses produce delegates who later cast votes at nominating voting stations held on Election Day. Political parties hold nominations processes at local levels in various municipal areas, districts and provincial.

It is a known fact that Elections do not take place on Election Day for political parties, but in order to evaluate the freedom and fairness of an election, it is necessary to look at the process from beginning to end. In this regard, the delay, neglect and amended Covid 19 regulations to render proper services to constituencies, hampered our entire election campaign.

As smaller parties with the lack of financial assistance, human capacity it became extremely difficult to successfully prepare for this election except if we defiant the current regulations.

3. Conclusion

Contrary to the desktop preparations of the IEC, party leadership and volunteers has the responsibility of a door-door principle to ensure that all legible voters vote during elections and those potential youth voters to register.

Unless the IEC involve themselves in door-to-door campaigns like our small and minority parties doing, they can't pronounce that these elections will be free and fair. We fully understand their desktop academic exercise, but they should look to this situation from a political perspective as well. If we are not visible and actively involved in communities, their voter registrations campaigns will be a failure.

Although the country has never experienced "election" during a pandemic in its true meaning, political parties, including Independent candidates will never meet the criteria needed to participate in a fair election, a promise made by the IEC in this election.

We consider it important that the South African people, who are the electorate and members of respective political parties, given sufficient time to participate in free and fair elections.

Recommendation

WE therefore believe that the environment for such an election is not conducive and request that you recommend that the election be postponed to 2024 in order to give all role players, including the scientist enough time to prepare for a free and fair Election.

Compiled on the 17th day of June 2021 at Bellville by:

Cornelius Petersen



Secretary General