

Moqhaka Community Forum

To Honourable Dikgang Moseneke

Dear Sir,

Herewith the considered response from Moqhaka Community Forum.

In principle we are not in favour of any election postponement, for the following reasons, as tabulated below;

- In the 448 days of Lockdown of various degrees, (as of date 18/6/2021) the lockdown has led to or been used / abused by Local Government to justify the lack of service delivery of any or all kind,
- The comment above is specific and exclusively linked and or aimed at the Moqhaka Local Municipality (FS201),
- Access to Municipal officials, democratically elected Councilor's, complaints registration / acceptance, never mind resolution thereof, is factually irrefutable by the above-mentioned,
- The Municipal Budget was approved without due consideration of the mandatory Public Participation process, this despite that, when the regulations were relaxed, and various numbers of Citizens from 50 – 100 – 200 were allowed to visit, attend gatherings in closed spaces, such as the Constantia Hall, (max 100 - 200 persons) complete with Covid Protocols applicable,
- The Democratic State of South Africa, i.e., Citizens Rights, Duties & Obligations were plainly ignored, no work around attempted, even, when possible, was or were initiated by said duly Democratically Elected Councilors, and Council Official's,
- South Africa's democracy is at stake, the importance of the People's Vote is too important to postpone, our research of Voting Wards and numbers of registered voters is +- 8 – 9000, with a sixty % (60) percent voting average presumed, voting stations open from 07h00 – 21h00, thus +- 5400 voters, divided by 14 hours = 386 voters per hour, 3 – 4 voting booths, it is our repeated considered opinion that even with Lockdown Regulations & Protocols in place, there is no logical or practical reason to postpone the 27th of October 2021 target date as announced by President Ramaphosa! (Add the possibility of extending voting hours by an hour or 2, precedent applies.)
- Having said all of the above, the MCF, as a duly IEC Registered Party, within the geographic boundaries of the Moqhaka Local Municipality, it, the MCF will abide by the IEC's ruling.
- If elections have to be postponed, to which date will it be and what guarantee do we have that the said date SA will be cleared of COVID?
- The pattern of COVID cases show that the virus complicates with the new wave and becomes more dangerous. Therefore the question becomes, if IEC postpones, are we not waiting for a more severe period that will not even allow us to be outside our houses?

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- We should also not forget that SA is not the only country that is or has not been due to go for elections during this period of pandemic. Some of those countries like USA were the most severely hit by the pandemic, but they kept to their schedule of going for elections as per constitutional requirement and they succeeded to allow government to renew its mandate. Instead of hiding our heads in the sand, we should learn from them and copy good traits. Check how they managed to have free and fair elections without allowing the process to be a superspreader.

- The following are the recommended health measures to curb the spread of COVID 19 during elections

- Supply of enough PPE such as

- Face shields

- Masks

- Gloves

- Non-contact thermometer

- Hand sanitizers

- Recruit and train queue marshals/volunteers to monitor social distancing among voters

- Sanitize voters regularly on queue

- Deploy EMS to be on standby in each voting station in case of emergency

- Provide a district nurse at the voting station to liaise with the Hospital for referrals in case of an emergency

- The CHW may screen all voters for symptoms, temperature monitoring, before they enter voting stations

- Adopt a routine cleaning protocol for any equipment used, e.g. Biometric capture machines

- Put a system in place for contact tracing in case a suspect is detected at the voting station

*****END*****

This concludes our submission and we won't do oral submission as this we deem it enough.

Kindest regards

Mr. Morena Thebe

(Founding Member & Chairperson)

Moqhaka Community Forum

3282 Lethetsa Street, Phomolong Shopping Complex, Maokeng, Kroonstad, 9499

Moqhaka Community Forum

☎: 082 702 5833

☎: 086 513 4499

✉: info@moqhakacommunityforum.org.za

WhatsApp Business Link: <https://wa.me/message/JM51EEWLSWT5H1>