



# PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

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Tugela House  
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CENTURION  
0157

**Attention: Justice Dikgang Moseneke**

## **ENSURING FREE AND FAIR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS DURING COVID-19**

The current conditions under COVID-19 is not conducive for political parties to campaign freely, because we also have to adhere to the Regulations regarding the pandemic. Having the Local Government Elections on 27 October 2021 will not be fair, for the mere fact that political parties will not be able to reach out to all the communities.

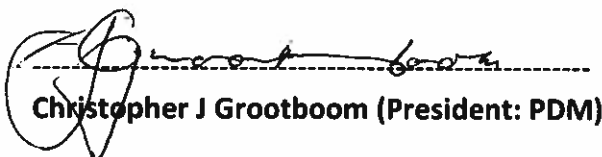
There are many constraints which hampers us to have fruitful political activities, like; - The third wave made that Government had put us under Alert Level 3 and therefore had caused that we only can gather with a small number of people. - Many people do not want to give you entrance into their residence, which means you cannot freely convince them to vote for your party. - Many Organisations and also Municipalities do not make their facilities available to political parties to have meetings with the communities.

It will be very challenging for the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to facilitate the coming Local Government Elections, for the mere fact that the majority registered voters is not vaccinated. Having the Local Government Elections before we have reached herd immunity may give effect to a Fourth Wave. This may result in a low voter's turnout, which means that the outcome of the Elections will not be a true reflection of the wishes of the Country's citizens. Party agents of political parties will be limited to one (1) or even zero (0) where a voting station is too small to accommodate all the contesting parties. The South African Police Service (SAPS) might find it difficult to implement the necessary health protocols, especially at the big voting centres.

We did not participate in any by-election after the Local Government Elections of 2016. The health risk is too big to participate in any election until we had reached herd immunity. We believe in, "Rather Save than Sorry".

Our recommendation is to postpone the 2021 Local Government Elections to May 2022 or until our country had reached herd immunity. The Party (PDM) is of the view that we must give the Department of Health some time to roll out an effective vaccine programme to ensure that COVID-19 is no more an obstacle in having the Local Government Elections.

Regards

  
Christopher J Grootboom (President: PDM)