



# UNITED RESIDENTS FRONT (URF)

ESTABLISHED: JUNE 2010

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Date: 09 June 2021

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**Honourable Justice,**

**Re: Report on ensuring Free and Fair Local Government Elections During Covid**

We hereby refer to your mail dated 2 June 2021 on the above stated matter and wish to submit as follows;

1. Compliments:

We wish to compliment you for your appointment by IEC of South Africa's Chairperson for the above mammoth task. Your contribution to the democratically dispensation of South Africa will not go on unnoticed. The fathers of the liberation struggle who are our Ancestors today will allways stand by your side. Congratulations once more.

2. Electoral Commision of South Africa (IEC) SA:

The IEC has been mandated by South Africa's Constitution to ensure that there are periodically Free and Fair Elections on all levels of government. This mandate has been performed since 1994 todate with some challenges here and there but the IEC kept the boat afloat. We compliment the IEC of South Africa for assisting to the stability and peace after each and every crucial elections. Well done guys.

3. Covid 19 Pandemic and local government election of South Africa 2021.

The whole world experienced one of the most lethal pandemic that resulted in the hospitalization and loss of lives of many people. The whole world stood still in socio and economic activities with wave to wave of this pandemic. Governments accused each other on the origin of Covid 19 but that has not stopped the wide spread of this deadly pandemic. Many wars globally never killed so many people even when bombs were literally thrown to some of the places. The question is; What is Covid 19?

In the United Residents Front (URF) we regard Covid 19 as the act of God like all other things that are beyond the control of the human being like earth quakes, heavy thunder storms etc.

4. United Residents Front (URF) position on Free and Fair Elections during Covid 19 is as follows;

4.1 The elections Must proceed as schedule, 27 October 2021.

4.2 IEC is a capable organisation to steer us through troubled water and deliver Free and Fair Elections.

4.2 The government of South Africa Must provide IEC with all the necessary material to curb the spread of Covid 19 during elections.

4.3 The people of South Africa are presently going on with their lives daily with full understanding of curbing the spread of Covid 19. It will be the same during elections. All precautionary measures will be put in place by IEC with the full support of government to stop the spread of Covid 19.

4.4 During Level 5 of Covid 19 the Security Cluster was unleashed nationally to enforce adherence of Covid 19 disaster regulations. That is what URF is expecting as a support to IEC by government.

4.5 The elections are held in one day only whilst in Level 5 the Security Structure was roaming our streets nationally with more than a day.

4.6 The budget of IEC for this election Must be extra ordinary to stop the spread of Covid 19 and provide Free and Fair Elections.

4.7 The people of South Africa are daily seen in big numbers in the Taxis, Buses and Trains to and from work. The Malls nationally are full of people, the students are attending schools at all levels, there are long queues at Post Offices, Traffic department, Social Development Offices, Banks and many other places. Elections will not be different to what is daily happening in our daily lives.

5. The term of office of the Municipal Council:

The term of Municipal Council may be no more than 5 years as determined by national legislation. After the expiry of the term the elections must be held within 90 days of the date that council's term expired. Therefore IEC has a responsibility to manage the elections under this trying period of Covid 19 ensuring that all precautionary measures to stop its spread are adhered to.

## 6. Public Participation:

URF conducted public participation to get the views of the voters on this matter as follows;

### 6.1 United Residents Members:

URF has the platforms to liaise with members through Groups in the social media, viz; WhatsApp. We also use Twitter and Facebook.

The feedback we received from members is that elections must proceed as planned, 27 October 2021. The reasons behind this decision was that IEC with the support of the voters will protect the spread of Covid 19. Government and political parties must work closely to prevent the spread of Covid 19.

### 6.2 The General Public:

URF uses digital platforms to liaise with the public. We use Facebook, Twitter and Wordpress. Further URF members use a word of mouth to pass information to the public. The response from the public is that elections must proceed as scheduled, 27 October 2021. The reasons forwarded was that the term of office by this present council shall have expired. That the mismanagement and maladministration at the level of municipalities was getting out of hand. Lastly the government was not doing enough to prevent corruption tjat has crippled our economy. That government is failing to protect the voters from Covid 19 as billions of rands meant to prevent the spread of Covid 19 was stolen mostly by the companies belonging to members of the governing party. The revelations of corruption at Zondo Commision leaves much to be desired. Lastly that IEC through the help of Government, Political Parties and the Civil Society will help to stop the spread of Covid 19 during elections.

7. United Residents Front (URF) submit that elections Must proceed as scheduled on the 27 October 2021.

Thank you

Likotsi Mofihli

UNITED RESIDENTS FRONT (URF)

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**“A SOCIAL MOVEMENT FOR A POSITIVE ACTION”**