



AFRICAN CONTENT MOVEMENT

"THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS"

WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE, 2021.

Statement by ACM President Hlaudi Motsoeneng at the Inquiry established to look on whether the conditions under the COVID-19 are conducive to holding of Free and Fair Local Government Elections in October 2021.

Thank you very much Chairperson for the opportunity given to the African Content Movement (ACM) to make oral submission to this Inquiry.

Holding free, fair and regular elections is an important activity in any democracy. Here we are talking about LIVES! It is more important to secure free, fair and healthy lives.

Chairperson, my submission to this inquiry is that to guarantee the safety of our people is more important than the achievement of the right to vote or the obligation to hold regular elections as required by the Constitution. The same Constitution guarantees every citizen a right to life.

Our primary view as ACM is that all political parties including civil society organisations who do not present medically proven scientific data should not be entertained by the Inquiry.

The Inquiry should rather give priority to scientists and medical experts; their views should be the dominant final view going forward. Elections come and Go, a life lost cannot be regained. Any additional work on a simple matter like this will be a waste of resources.

The process of seeking broad based democratic consensus is fundamentally important in a democracy. But too much consultation on a simple matter will be a waste.

We do not seek a commission to know that CORONOVIRUS IS DEADLY, AND OUR PEOPLE ARE DYING EVERY DAY IN NUMBERS! Chairperson these are hard times- which require firm leadership.

Ke motho a nkang diqeto- ntho ena e bonolo empa fela e batla baetapele ba kgonang honka diqeto.

On the Constitutionality of the elections. I believe that the Constitution comes second and saving lives come first. We must assist the IEC in ensuring that it has the capacity to deal with this issue going forward, and take correct decisions informed by data from the medical experts- as the right people with skills to advice.

Our view is that the IEC is the correct body suitable to take the decision but the decision must be based on the advice of the scientists and medical experts.

In addition, the Deputy Chief Justice can easily advice IEC on what to do in this situation that we are facing.

We have scientists with the best interest of the Nation's health at heart. Only science driven inputs will assist us.

The Local Government Elections should be postponed to at least February/March 2022 depending on available medical scientific data. Such a decision must take into account the rate of the COVID-19 infections, national recovery rate, national vaccination roll-out plan and the available capacity within the our health institutions.

SECRETARIAT OFFICE CONTACT:

081 845 4607

073 9320799





We propose additional 90 days from the November 1 deadline to February 2022. This will also allow political parties few more months to reach communities in rural and remote areas who do not necessarily have access to information and communication technologies (ICT). Those communities do not have access to news and information. These are my priorities.

There are many disadvantaged South Africans who stay in rural areas including farms and who have limited access to information such as Internet, Social media, radio, or television. We believe that to have free and fair elections, we must be able to reach out those communities without fear.

We need the environment to be conducive to campaign (door-to-door), host political address rallies and other mobilization campaigns so that we can effectively communicate to the voters.

Ke a leboha. Thank you.

Issued by the African Content Movement (ACM).

Enquiries

081 845 4607

Twitter: @ACMServants

SECRETARIAT OFFICE CONTACT:

081 845 4607

073 9320799

