

FREE



FAIR

STATEMENT BY JUSTICE DIKGANG MOSENEKE ABOUT THE INQUIRY'S PROGRESS, UPCOMING PROCESSES AND TIMELINES

22 June 2021

Centurion

1. The Inquiry into Ensuring Free and Fair Local Government Elections During COVID-19 (“**Inquiry**”) is tasked with an assignment of immense constitutional importance. In order to facilitate its work, the Inquiry invited key stakeholders to make written submissions and the public to provide comment.
2. The Inquiry has received numerous submissions from key stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission, the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Covid-19 for the Department of Health, independent medical experts, electoral monitoring bodies, civil society and political parties. All written submissions received from key stakeholders are now available on the Inquiry’s website at <https://www.elections.org.za/freeandfair/> and readily accessible by any member of the public.
3. There is considerable public interest in the assignment being undertaken by the Inquiry. The Inquiry has received about three thousand individual written submissions and voice notes from the general public. These are not readily available on the website, however, they will be considered alongside the submissions that have been published on the website.
4. The final day for written submissions from all stakeholders and the general public was Friday, 18 June 2021.

Moseneke Report on Ensuring Free and Fair Elections during COVID

5. The Inquiry will hear oral submissions from invited stakeholders in the week commencing Monday, 28 June 2021. The Inquiry will be inviting the Electoral Commission, the Department of Health and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 to make oral submissions along with independent medical experts, electoral monitoring bodies, civil society organisations and political parties who requested to make oral submissions. Attached to this statement is a list of some of the invitees.
6. The Inquiry will, in the course of this week, publish a final schedule of hearings, detailing who will be making oral submissions along with the dates and times that the submissions will be made.
7. The hearings will be held at Elections House, 1303 Heuwel Road, Centurion Central, Centurion, Gauteng. The hearings will be open to the media and the public, although there may not be more than twenty (20) people in attendance inside the venue at one time. Photography and broadcasting will be permitted at the hearings.
8. All oral presentations will be livestreamed on the Inquiry's website and transcriptions of the oral presentations will be available on the Inquiry's website.
9. The Inquiry will weigh all the submissions and scientific evidence placed before it. After careful deliberation, the Inquiry will make findings, together with recommendations, to the Electoral Commission on the likelihood or otherwise, that the forthcoming 2021 general local government elections will be free and fair.
10. The Inquiry will submit its report to the Electoral Commission by Wednesday, 21 July 2021.

END