

Mr George Mahlangu
Political Party Funding Unit
Independent Electoral Commission

Per email: mahlangui@elections.org.za

21 June 2022

RE: MVC AND SANEF REQUEST THAT THE IEC MAKES PROACTIVE PARTY FUNDING DISCLOSURES

1. We commend the IEC on timeously publishing the 4th and final set of disclosures of the first financial year since the promulgation of the Political Party Funding Act (PPFA). We also acknowledge the forthcoming task of the Electoral Commission (IEC) to receive and publish the Audited Financial Statements, as per the Act.
2. We have been analysing the disclosed data from the first financial year and are concerned that some data has not been consistently published.
3. As per Section 9.3 on the *publication of donations* in the PPFA, the Act does not limit what data can be made available to the public. Rather, the Act [aims](#) to enhance transparency and the rights of ordinary people and therefore should encourage proactive disclosures.
4. We also recognise that the IEC has made a commitment to progressively implement the principles of proactive disclosure of electoral information as set out in the [Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa](#), issued by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in 2017, and as recorded in the 2020 report on Information and Elections in South Africa.
5. We, therefore, request that the IEC makes continuous proactive online disclosure of all verified information received from political parties, donors and auditors that are not legally protected, in addition to the IEC's quarterly summary reports.
6. Such access to the online party funding database reflecting the latest verified information will enable members of the public, civil society and the media to access party funding details expeditiously and inexpensively, in compliance with Articles 26-30 of the ACHPR [Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa](#) (2019).
7. This includes data that has not been consistently published in the previous three declaration reports on party funding, including information declared in the following forms that parties and donors are required to complete and as laid out in the PPFA Regulations, 2022: PPR3A, PPR3B, PPR4, PPR5, PPR7, PPR8, PPR9, PPR10, PP11, PPR12, Annexure A to PPR12, Annexure B to PPR12, Annexure C to PPR12, Annexure D to PPR12, PPR13A, and PPR13B.

Audited Financial Statements

8. We request that the same principle be applied to the publishing of the political parties' Audited Financial Statements, which are due to be submitted to the IEC before 30 September 2022.
9. We, further, request that the IEC presents us with specifics on what data the Commission intends on publishing in relation to the Audited Financial Statements (AFS) and where this data will be made available.
10. In addition, we request that the IEC furnishes us with a deadline for publishing the AFS reports.
11. We continue to applaud the IEC's success in fulfilling its mandate of administering the PPFA and its commitment to accountability and transparency.
12. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.



Minhaj Jeenah
Executive Director
My Vote Counts



Reggy Moalusi
Executive Director
South African National Editors' Forum