



MULTIPARTY NEGOTIATION PROCESS
TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE #4
ON AN INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

HEADS OF ARGUMENTS AND POSITIONS
OF THE INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY
SUBMITTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE KWAZULU GOVERNMENT

FULL SUBMISSION WILL BE MADE TO THIS TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE WITHIN THE DEADLINE LAID. THE FOLLOWING IS MERELY AN ABRIDGED STATEMENT TO BE ELABORATED IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT.

The IFP believes that the issue of an independent Electoral Commission can only be determined once there is clarity on the process of transformation of our society and on the issue of the form of state. Once a decision has been made to establish a federal system in South Africa, independent electoral commissions could be established as a part of the constitutional structure of each state. The Constitution of the State of KwaZulu/Natal establishes an Electoral Commission which can be used as a possible example of the type of activities and functions which will also need to be exercised at federal level in preparation for the new elections.

However, as it is the IFP position that the federal constitution should precede elections and the empowerment of a new government, the IFP will be ready to discuss the structure, purposes and functions of a Federal Electoral Commission once the issue of the form of state is resolved and the process to establish federalism is agreed upon. In the meantime, reference can be made to Article 91 of the Constitution of the State of KwaZulu/Natal to signify the type of political perspective and institutional vision that the IFP holds on matters related to an Independent Electoral Commission.

In addition the activities of the Independent Electoral Commission should be aimed at ensuring the levelling of the playing field. This may include the power to adopt and impose rules to ensure the fairness of the political debate in the effective opportunity for all citizens to participate in the democratic process and the power to impose disclosure requirements on the sources and amount of financing.

The IFP has submitted the foregoing heads of arguments to indicate its general positions and perspective on the issues before this Technical Sub-Committees. The IFP reserves the right to submit a more comprehensive and detailed position paper on each of the foregoing subject matters.