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**FAXIMILE LETTER**

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**TO: THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

(MULTI-PARTY NEGOTIATING PROCESS - 011 397 2211)

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**INPUT BY THE PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA: AN INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL FUND AND FUNDING FOR POLITICAL PARTIES THAT TAKE PART IN THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**

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DATE: 8 OCTOBER 1993

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**PREAMBLE**

In order to ensure free and fair elections, it is imperative that the playing fields must be levelled. This principle is accepted by all political organisations and parties that are represented at the Multi-Party Negotiating Process and it is also the object of the Independent Media Commission Act, the Transitional Executive Council Act and the Independent Electoral Commission Act to level the playing fields.

A very important area where the playing fields remains to be levelled is the area of funding of political parties that will take part in the first democratic elections. In this regard all political parties must be required to make public their sources of funding. Furthermore, all parties that take part in the elections must receive funding in a fixed amount when they register as such in terms of the Electoral Act. Moreover, an Independent Electoral Fund that is administered by the Independent Electoral Commission must be established. All funding for election purposes that is received from international organisations, governments or other sources must be paid into this fund. This fund must also receive State monies in order to fund every political party that takes part in the elections. The amount which every political party will thus receive must be commensurate to its support amongst the voters. The support of every party must be determined by an independent opinion poll, undertaken by experts in the field.

Without equal access to resources for all political parties that take part in the elections, the elections cannot be truly free and fair.

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## FUNDING ON REGISTRATION

As soon as a political party registers for the elections in terms of the proposed Electoral Act and thus indicates its intention to contest the elections **in its own name**, the political party must receive an amount of R 1 million from the Independent Electoral Fund. If political parties wish to conduct elections in an alliance with an other party or parties, the said amount is paid to the alliance as such and not to each and every individual party that make up the alliance. If the amount was already paid out to the individual parties, the monies must be paid back to the Independent Electoral Fund, provided that the alliance may keep an amount equal to the said R 1 million.

## INDEPENDENT OPINION POLL

The Independent Electoral Commission must conduct and monitor an independent opinion poll as soon as the time for the registration of political parties has lapsed. This opinion poll must ascertain the support of each and every political party that has registered for the elections.

Three international agencies that are (in the view of the Independent Electoral Commission) experts in the conducting of opinion polls must be mandated by the Independent Electoral Commission to conduct this independent opinion poll. These agencies must conduct their polls separate from one another (that is, every agency conducts its own poll) and the average support that a political party receives from these polls must be taken as its support in terms of the independent opinion poll.

The methodology used by these agencies must be transparent and verifiable. This means that every agency must supply information regarding its opinion poll as far as the following are concerned: data; method; processing; sampling; areas; and field workers. This information must be made available to the political parties that are registered for the elections and are the subject of the independent opinion poll. Political parties that are dissatisfied may appeal against the results to the structures of the Independent Electoral Commission. After the results of the independent opinion poll has been officially announced by the Independent Electoral Commission, the following funds will be paid out by the Independent Electoral Fund:

- every political party that obtains more than 1 % support must receive R 1,5 million.

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- every political party that obtains more than 5 % support must receive R 10 million.
- every political party that obtains more than 10 % of support must receive R 20 million.
- every political party that obtains more than 20 % of support must receive R 20 million plus 10 % of R 20 million for every 10 % of support that is above 20 %.

These funds are paid to the political parties over and above the R 1 million that a political party receives at the time of registration (as explained above).

#### INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL FUND

An Independent Electoral Fund must be established in terms of which funding for elections received from international organisations, governments and other sources must be paid into. If the Independent Electoral Fund is not big enough to pay out the monies referred to above, it must be supplemented by State funding. The Independent Electoral Commission must administer this Fund.

#### MAKING PUBLIC THE SOURCES OF FUNDING

The Independent Electoral Commission must also require from every political party that contests the elections to make known all its sources and amounts of funding received.

#### CONCLUSION

Only if the above measures are introduced will political parties not be penalised for the fact that they do not have access to funding such as State funding and will the playing fields be properly levelled. In other words, equal access to resources ensures a free and fair election.

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