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PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF SOUTH AFRICA

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FAX

TO: THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : WORLD TRADE CENTRE
ON THE IEC / ELECTORAL ACT

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FURTHER DP SUBMISSION ON THE ELECTORAL ACT

FRANCHISE : PRISONERS

During the Council discussion on the desirability or otherwise of extending the franchise to prisoners, the Democratic Party requested delegates to apply their minds to the question whether there are categories of prisoners who ought not to vote.

The Democratic Party proposes that the following simple criterion be instituted:

People sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine may not vote.

This would imply that anyone awaiting trial, as well as those sentenced with the option of a fine, but who cannot afford the fine, could vote.

Only those found guilty of serious crimes would therefore be denied the vote.


DENE SMUTS MP