



INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION FOR ALL

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26 April 1994

U R G E N T

TO: ALL PRESIDING OFFICERS

RE: PERIMETERS OF THE VOTING STATIONS

We refer to our circular in this regard of 22 April.

You are hereby urged to ensure that the boundaries of controlled areas are not demarcated at an unreasonable distance from polling stations. The distance of 1 100m referred to in the Electoral Act (read with regulations 14-16) is the *absolute maximum* that the law allows for such boundaries. *It serves only as a guideline to presiding officers.*

In deciding the boundaries of controlled areas you should take into account the *objectives* of demarcating controlled areas. The main objectives of demarcating controlled areas are:

- * to ensure that proper order is kept around polling stations; and
- * to prohibit political activities that could intimidate voters or put undue pressure on them within the vicinity of the polling station.

It is not the objective of the demarcation of controlled areas to push political parties' activities to areas so far away from polling stations that they are not able to effectively assist their supporters by putting up tables or providing information to interested people.

Please ensure that boundaries of controlled areas are demarcated as close to polling stations as possible, while still serving the objectives set out above.

Please also note that party election agents should be consulted about the boundaries, and that agreements in this regard reached between presiding officers and party election agents should be adhered to unless there are very good reasons for changing them.

Yours sincerely

MARY BURTON