

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS

1. Issues where we must insist on greater clarity in advance from election authorities

* Demarcating clear boundaries around voting stations, but not at such a distance so as to render legitimate political activity pointless;

* Clarity on the permissible function of party information tables and their positioning;

* Clarity on security arrangements, in particular:
- the transporting of ballot boxes to counting stations
- the overnight presence and positioning of party voting agents
- access to counting stations during counting;

* Clarity on the number of party voting agents allowed and their positioning;

* Clarity on the status of district and provincial agents (in relation to the numbers of permissible party agents) and their identification for both voting and counting;

* Clarity on the status and positioning of candidates for both voting and counting;

* More detailed guidelines and training on acceptable and excluded ballots so as to avoid the sometimes considerable differences in interpretation by counting officers;

* More detailed guidelines and training on the right to assistance when voting and where precisely this should take place, again to avoid different approaches by different presiding officers;

* Making the names of district electoral officers, presiding officers and counting officers available in advance so as to allow parties the opportunity to raise possible objections to their appointments.

2. Further suggested areas of improvement by election authorities

* During counting, batches of votes from different voting stations should not be mixed after reconciliation - this has the undesirable effect of not being able to establish precisely how voters in particular suburbs voted, and thus hampers planning for future elections;

* More detailed and timeous availability of technical information, eg. voting streams, exact sealing procedures;

* Speedier access to higher-up election authorities during voting and counting to deal with urgent complaints and queries;

* Ensuring that important information updates filter through timeously to presiding and counting officers, eg. permissibility of 'homeland' travel documents, overnight security arrangements.

* A greater effort to balance the staff of voting and counting stations so as to ensure greater representivity and accessibility, including ensuring that local language-speaking interpreters are available;

* Mechanisms for ensuring that district party liaison committee meetings take place, and that disputes are first brought by parties to the committee or resolved between respective party agents before resorting to more drastic channels, eg. calling in the police (as was done by the National Party).

3. Areas for improvement in ANC work

* Ensuring that our planning and operational structures coincide with electoral districts;

* Ensuring that all the issues raised under section 1 above are clarified for future elections and fed into the training of our party agents;

* More thorough briefing of, and liaison with, district party agents by our provincial structures;

* Making more developed contingency plans to deal with practical problems like bad weather, congestion and delays during voting;

* Providing for a thorough debriefing and evaluation with district party agents.

4. Recommendation re District Electoral Officer

* It is recommended that we ensure that the District Electoral Officer for the District of The Cape, Mr Alan Derby-Lewis, be never again allowed to hold such a high position. Several complaints in relation to his conduct were lodged with the IEC during the election period. In summary, our main problems were:

- his gross incompetence;
- his short fuse;
- his hostility towards the ANC;
- his racist attitudes;
- his tendency to change decisions and arrangements arbitrarily;
- nepotism leading to the appointment of his son (at Milnerton) and his brother (at Frankdale) as Presiding Officers, both of whose conduct also led to complaints being made by party voting agents.

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Note: A file with fuller reports and documents for the District of the Cape has been lodged with the ANC (Cape Town Central) Sea Point office for future reference [tel. 4345300].

Special Note: Thank you to all our party voting agents for their great commitment and for their reports which assisted me in compiling the above suggestions

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