



29 October 2024

Media Statement:

The Congress of the People (COPE) has submitted its proposals on electoral reforms to the Electoral Reform Consultation Panel (ERCP) to enhance accountability, transparency and responsiveness in South Africa's political system.

For immediate release:

Key recommendations are summarised as follows:

- 1. Direct Election of Executives:** COPE suggests that the public should directly elect the heads of all political executives (President, Premiers, Mayors) to improve accountability. Currently, party allegiance often protects executives, undermining their accountability to voters. COPE references both Nelson Mandela and the high-level panel led by Kgalema Motlanthe to underscore the need for direct accountability over party loyalty. Since its inception, COPE has advocated for this change.
- 2. New Electoral System:** COPE proposes a system where voters can directly select candidates rather than only party lists. This change would allow voters more significant influence over public representatives, encouraging accountability. COPE recommends that the ERCP review the Electoral Laws Second Amendment Bill and past Electoral Task Team (ETT) reports, emphasising fair, inclusive and straightforward voting structures. The party also suggests constituency-based systems with ranked proportional lists to balance representation and accountability and argues that the current system's party-centric nature disadvantages independent candidates.
- 3. Electronic Voting:** COPE supports the future implementation of electronic voting, believing that if properly secured, it would reduce errors, speed up vote counts, and minimise the risk of election fraud.
- 4. Preventing Election Irregularities:** COPE advocates strengthening legislation to ensure impartiality among presiding officers and transparency in vote reconciliation. The party emphasise the need for an adequate budget for the Independent Electoral Commission to train election personnel, noting that limitations lead to errors and delays under pressure.

In conclusion, COPE calls for electoral reforms that reduce party dominance, foster true democracy and enable a government to be more responsive to voters' needs

END!

Issued By: COPE Acting National Chairperson
Pakes Dikgetsi / 061 397 3252/082 302 2935

For more information: Contact COPE MEDIA: 061 994 7572

25 Medgate Centre. 05 Kingfisher Street, Helderkruijn, Roodeport, 1724
Johannesburg 2092



Tel: 083 450 1358



media@copesa.org.za

www.copesa.org