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Media Statement:

COPE CALLS ON TRIMMING THE INEFFICIENT AND BLOATED GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

For immediate release:

Do taxpayers approve of how their tax contributions are allocated, especially in conditions of low economic growth, high national debt, and continuing yearly constrained essential services?

It is time for taxpayers to carefully consider the implications of the Electoral Laws Second Amendment Bill (B34-2020).

On April 12, 2020, Congress of the People (COPE) President Mosiuoa Lekota, when still a Member of Parliament, introduced a private members motion, the Electoral Laws Second Amendment Bill (B34-2020), which proposed significant efforts to reduce the size of national and provincial legislatures, among others.

However, these efforts were hindered by constitutional limitations. The continued existence of large, inefficient legislatures across all three levels of government is consuming valuable resources and undermining service delivery.

In his insightful Sunday Times column this past Sunday, Barney Mthombothi draws attention to the untenable strain placed on our already challenged public finances by maintaining nine provincial legislatures, nine premiers, nine provincial cabinets, and an extensive bureaucracy. Highly regarded and well-informed journalist and political commentator Sam Mkokeli echoes Mthombothi's concerns, noting that the public sees little return from the provincial tier, which has persisted primarily as a tool for political patronage.

A reassessment of the provinces and the excessive layers of government is long overdue. The establishment of the bloated GNU has worsened the situation. We need more resources to deliver services, grow the economy, and create jobs.

COPE maintains that taxpayers must carefully consider the implications of the Electoral Laws Second Amendment Bill, as it carries far-reaching consequences for how their money is being wasted through excessive spending on legislatures.

Please find the below link to the Bill

<https://www.parliament.gov.za/bill/2294692>

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