



29 June 2017

Honourable Vincent Smith
Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding of Political Parties
Per email: vsmith@anc.org.za

C.c. Cindy Balie
Parliament of South Africa
Per email: cbalie@parliament.gov.za

And to: Members of Parliament and of the Ad Hoc Committee

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Per email: ddlakude@parliament.gov.za

Mr Donald Gumede
Per email: dgumede@parliament.gov.za

Mr Robert Lees
Per email: alf@leeskzn.co.za

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Mr Nelson Godi
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Ms Noncawe Mafu
Per email: nmafufu@parliament.gov.za

Dear Mr Smith

Request for time extension on submissions regarding Political Party Funding

1. We refer to the above matter
2. My Vote Counts (MVC), in collaboration with Corruption Watch (CW) are civil society organizations registered as non profit organizations in terms of the Companies Act. Both parties have consistently called for the regulation of private political party funding over the years and have a substantial interest in making both written and oral submissions to this committee.
3. Despite our considerable advocacy efforts in this regard, we will still require substantive research in order to provide the committee with accurate, relevant and reliable information, which will in turn, assist this committee in deliberating on amendments to the Public Funding of Represented Political Parties Act, No.103 of 1997.
4. We have noted with concern that in the call for submissions dated 25 June 2017, the deadline for the filing of written submissions is 21 July 2017.
5. In light of the incredibly important role that political parties play in our constitutional democracy and the need to maintain the public's trust in our political system, a sufficient amount of time should be provided to allow as many civil society organisations, activists and members of the public to prepare and make submissions to this process.
6. We appreciate the tight timeframes which the Committee is required to adhere to as well as a busy term of Parliament, and we note that Parliament will be in recess until 31 July 2017, we therefore kindly request that the deadline for submissions be extended by a week to allow for submissions to be made up until 31 July 2017.
7. Kindly indicate whether the Committee is amenable to such an extension and if so, whether such extension will be communicated to the general public.

Yours faithfully

Leanne Govindsamy
Head: Legal & Investigations
On behalf of ***Corruption Watch***

and

Janine Ogle
National Coordinator
On behalf of ***My Vote Counts***