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21 May 2011

The Independent Electoral Commission
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OBJECTION IN TERMS OF SECTION 65 (3) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL ACT 27 OF 2000

1. Municipal Elections on 18 May 2011, King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality (EC157) (KSD) and Mbhashe (EC121)
2. Mr Bantu Holomisa, MP, President of the United Democratic Movement (UDM)
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3. After debriefing sessions of the UDM voting agents in the KSD and Mbhashe today, 21 May 2011, it was reported that in almost all of voting districts (VDs) the counting officers of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) had refused to allow our party agents to fulfil their obligations.

There are two processes where IEC officials consistently refused party agents to monitor various processes. Because these are trends show right throughout voting stations in KSD and Mbhashe i.e. they are not isolated incidents and because the election in these municipalities cannot therefore be deemed free and fair, we lodge this objection.

- 3.1. Regarding MEC7 forms, party agents were not allowed to satisfy themselves that the VD number on the MEC7 form matched the VD number on the 'zip-zip sticker' in the ID document.

The abuse of the MEC7 forms have been a concern from the time when they were introduced. Because of this form's susceptibility to abuse, it is important for all

parties' agents to be allowed to satisfy themselves that the form was properly completed and that the voter had been in fact eligible to vote in that VD.

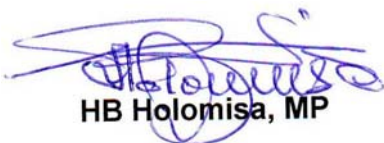
- 3.2. Regarding the counting process, IEC counting agents refused to properly show ballot papers to party agents so that they could satisfy themselves of the clear intent of the voter. In stead, they had quickly turned ballot pages announcing the name of a party or a spoilt ballot; there was no way for party agents to establish the veracity of the 'announced vote'.

Our party agents tried to, in terms of Section 62, object to the sorting of ballot papers and counting of votes, but the counting officers refused to accept the objection and the process continued.

4. Relief sought

- 4.1. In the case of the seriously flawed counting process, we request a recount for the KSD and Mbashe municipalities.
- 4.2. In regards to the use of MEC7 forms in the aforementioned municipalities, we request access to these forms to satisfy ourselves that these persons were indeed registered in those municipalities.

The issue of party agents and their role in the election process has been a matter that we have raised in the past. Standing three metres away from where detailed processes are performed does not mean that party agents can really monitor what happens; this does not serve our democracy. Through the Multi-Party Forum various issues have been raised with the IEC, including the use of MEC7 forms and the role of party agents, yet nothing has changed.



HB Holomisa, MP