

Pastor arrested for rape and #HumanTrafficking

The Hawks' Serious Organised Crime Investigation in Bloemfontein assisted by members of 10111 arrested a 54-year-old suspect on Sunday, 20 June 2021. It is alleged that on Friday, 18 June 2021, the victim was offered domestic work and to also look after a 4-year-old son at the house of the suspect, who is known to be a pastor. The victim was reportedly informed by the suspect that he will be attending a church service in Thaba Nchu during the night and that she must look after his son on Friday, 18 June 2021.

However the suspect allegedly remained in the house that night and forced himself to the victim repeatedly raping her throughout Friday and Saturday nights respectively. The victim managed to get hold of the

suspect's cell phone on Sunday, 20 June 2021 and immediately called the South African Police Service (SAPS) toll free 10111, seeking assistance. She later escaped with the cellphone and the son of the suspect.

Meanwhile the Hawks team was contacted to assist the victim, which led to the arrest of the suspect at his residence in Lakeview Bloemspruit. The police recovered a vehicle that was reported stolen in the Park Road Police station in Bloemfontein during the arrest of the suspect.

The suspect is expected to appear in the Bloemfontein Magistrate Court on Wednesday, 23 June 2021 where he faced charges of rape, trafficking in person and possession of stolen motor vehicle.



Call for public comments from the Inquiry into ensuring free and fair Local Government Elections during Covid-19



ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA
ENSURING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Call for public comments from the Inquiry into ensuring free and fair Local Government Elections during Covid-19

1. The Inquiry into Ensuring Free and Fair Local Government Elections During COVID-19 ("Inquiry") is inviting the public to provide their views on whether the Electoral Commission will be able to ensure that the forthcoming general local government elections are free and fair in view of (i) the challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic, and (ii) the

measures promulgated by the government to curb the continued spread of the pandemic.

2. Yesterday, 8 June 2021, the Inquiry launched its new website, which can be visited at <https://www.elections.org.za/freeandfair/>. Members of the public will be able to make submissions about the forthcoming local government elections on the website. Members of the public may also email their submissions to the Inquiry at freeandfair@elections.org.za or send voice notes to the Inquiry's

whatsapp number +27 63 863 4623.

The final day for submissions from the public is Friday, 18 June 2021.

3. The Inquiry's terms of reference, timetable and press releases are all available on the website. In addition, the Inquiry will be publishing all submissions received from key stakeholders on its website in order to ensure that the Inquiry is transparent and that the public has the necessary information to engage meaningfully with the Inquiry.

4. On Friday, 4 June 2021, the Inquiry

received submissions from the Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission's submissions are available on the Inquiry's website.

5. In addition, the Inquiry has invited other key stakeholders to make submissions to it, which may have a bearing on the freeness and fairness of local government elections earmarked to be held in October 2021. Invitations to make submissions have been issued to independent health institutions, medical experts and electoral monitoring bodies, whose submissions are due on Tuesday, 15 June 2021. Invitations have also been issued to the relevant Ministers and government departments, political parties and civil society organisations, all of whose submissions are due on Friday, 18 June 2021.

6. The Inquiry looks forward to engaging with the public and other stakeholders on its assignment of constitutional importance.

Public comments invited on unchanged proposed rates for municipal elections

The Electoral Commission has invited the public to comment on the proposed rates of election deposits for the 27 October local government elections. This follows the publication on Friday in the Government Gazette by the Chief Electoral Officer of proposed deposits to be paid by parties and independent candidates intending to contest the elections scheduled for the municipal elections.

The proposed rates, among others, include R3500 to contest an election in a metropolitan municipality; R2000 in a local municipality with wards; R1000 for an election in a district municipality; and

R1000 for an election in a ward if the party is not contesting PR election or an independent ward candidate.

The IEC in a statement on Monday said the proposed amounts are unchanged from those set in Municipal Elections 2016. "They reflect a decrease of between 50 % (for independent candidates and those choosing to contest a single ward), 12.5% (for those contesting metro councils) and 20% (for those contesting local councils) since Municipal Elections 2011," said the Commission.

Under the proposal, a political party contesting all elections across the country,

would pay a deposit of R482 000 for a total of 4 725 elections and ballot papers on which the party and its candidates would appear. This compared to R605 000 for contesting all 10 elections in national and provincial elections in 2019.

The Commission said it should be noted that it was yet to make a determination with regard to the amount of the election deposits for Municipal Elections 2021 and will accordingly consider all representations and comments in arriving at a final determination prior to the opening of candidate nominations.

Candidate nominations are scheduled to

open after the official proclamation of the Municipal Elections 2021 by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma expected on 2 August 2021.

Representations and comments must be submitted by 4pm on Friday 2 July 2021 to the Electoral Commission for the attention of Kgosietsile Tshoke at deposits@elections.org.za or may be delivered to Election House, Riverside Office Park, 1303 Heuvel Avenue, Centurion, 0157.

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