



**COUNCIL**  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE  
**SOUTH AFRICAN**  
**CONSTITUTION**

6 December 2016

Ms Nonhlanhla Ncube-Ndaba, MP

Chairperson: Ad Hoc Committee on the Filling of Vacancies in the  
Commission for Gender Equality

Parliament

Cape Town

Per Email: [nondaba@parliament.gov.za](mailto:nondaba@parliament.gov.za)

Dear Ms Ncube-Ndaba

We write to you regarding the proposed schedule for the filling of the  
vacancies in the Commission for Gender Equality.

We are concerned about the time allocated for comments by civil society  
organisations and members of the public, on candidates who would be  
nominated or would have applied for these positions. The proposed dates for  
comments are from 16-20 January 2017.

We are of the view that four days would be insufficient for adequate vetting  
and comments, especially for an institution which strengthens constitutional  
democracy.

Section 193(6) of the Constitution provides that "The involvement of civil  
society in the recommendation process may be provided for as envisaged in  
section 59(1) (a)."

Council for the Advancement of South African Constitution

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Furthermore section 59(1) (a) stipulates that “The National Assembly must facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Assembly and its committees.”

In the recent Public Protector and South African Human Rights Commission selection processes, a lengthier period of time was allowed for public involvement. Civil society organisations were provided with more than a week to make submissions on candidates. It is therefore of paramount importance that a similar timeframe is followed for transparent and suitable public consideration.

Both Corruption Watch and CASAC made detailed submissions on the nominees for Public Protector and the SAHRC which greatly benefited the Committee’s deliberations.

The Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution (CASAC) therefore requests that the Committee extends the timeframe, to a period of two weeks to allow sufficient time for considered submissions.

Yours sincerely



**Motlatsi Komote**

Campaigns Officer