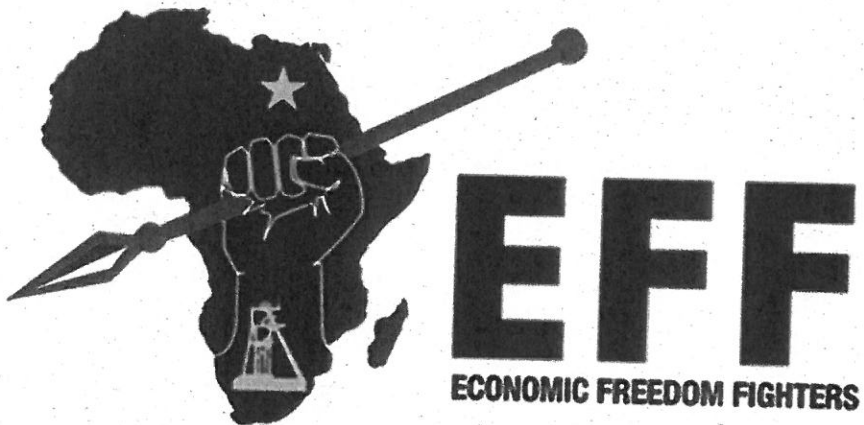


ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING BILL



## 1. Introduction

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) welcomed the idea and purpose of the political party funding bill when it was introduced to parliament. We were one of the first political parties to actively campaign for transparency regarding the funding of political parties, and proposed that a law to be passed to do this, as this would strengthen our democracy.

In its current form this bill will make it illegal for political parties to receive funding from foreign government's or persons, except for skills and policy development. While also requiring all political parties to disclose to the public all the funding they receive, we welcome both. For too long certain political parties have allowed individuals and companies both South African and foreign to determine their policy positions and how they govern, not for the benefit of the people of South Africa, but for commercial interests of those who make donations. This Bill will help bring an end to this, or at least make the South African public aware of who is funding the party they vote for. But the funding mechanisms for political parties this bill puts in place are still inadequate, particularly the formula used to determine equitable and proportional distribution of funds to the various political parties.

However, until now the key reason as to why the EFF has rejected the Political Party Funding Bill in its current form is because of the wording of Section ten (10) of the bill and the intended or unintended consequences it may have.

## **2. Schedule 2 (Regulation: 2)**

The current formula used to determine the allocation of funds in the two funds in question is a two-thirds proportional distribution, and a one-third equitable distribution. This unequal distribution of funds, does not strengthen multi-party democracy as it perpetuates political power imbalances by favouring those who already have more political power by allocating a disproportionate amount of funding to them. The current formula in many ways mirrors the current allocation of funding which has seen the ANC receive nearly R1 billion up until today.

### 3. Section 10

Section 10 of the Political Party Funding Bill reads, (1) *"No person or entity may deliver a donation to a member of a political party other than for party political purposes."* (2) *"A member of a political party may only receive a donation contemplated in subsection (1) on behalf of the party."* (3) *"No person may circumvent subsections (1) or (2) or any provisions of this Chapter."*

The reason why we object to this section of the bill, is because it will result in a limitation and possible violation of the constitutional right to freedom of association all South African citizens are guaranteed in Section 18 of the Constitution of the country, and the Bill of Rights.

Section 10 of the Political Party Funding Bill will actively deter people from becoming members of political parties and politically engaged citizens. Section 10 as it is currently worded would mean that they give up their right to receive donations, as any donation they receive would be of no personal benefit to them, and would only be allowed to be used for party political purposes.

Section 10 applied in any country, but particularly South Africa where many people, particularly the poor and needy, survive on a culture of donations, will be counter-productive to the principle of freedom of association and the South African Constitution. It will discourage those most reliant on donations namely the poor, from being politically active and running for political office. As their membership in a political party would prevent them from receiving simple donations such as, food, assistance for education, or any other basic material support. This will eventually result in a situation where no political office holder comes from the poor.

#### **4. Proposed Change**

1. The EFF is proposing that the split between equitable and proportional distribution of funding be done on a 50/50 basis.
2. The EFF is proposing that Section 10 (1) be amended and rewritten so that it reads, "No person or entity may deliver a donation for political party purposes, to a member of that political party, other than for the realisation, of that parties political objectives"