

GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

NOTICE 1933 OF 2023

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA

INVITATION TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS

The Chief Electoral Officer hereby invites representations from interested persons in respect of the amounts proposed to be prescribed by the Commission as deposits to be paid by registered parties and independent candidates intending to contest the National and Provincial Elections in 2024.

Section 27(3)(a) and 31B(3)(b) of the Electoral Act No. 73 of 1998 (Act) provides that political parties and independent candidates must deposit amounts to be prescribed by the Electoral Commission (Commission), as one of the requirements for contesting elections. The legitimate purpose for levying a deposit is to ensure that contestants are earnest about their participation and such participation is not frivolous. This enables the Commission to make proper arrangements for the exercise of the “*right to stand for public office*”.

The Commission reviews the quantum of electoral deposits ahead of each election. In addition, since the amendment of the Act to allow independent candidates to contest elections for seats in the National Assembly and/or provincial legislatures, it is necessary to prescribe deposits payable by such independent candidates for the first time. A deposit is refunded to parties and independent candidates that obtain a seat in the relevant election.

The Commission proposes to amend the Regulations Concerning the Submission of List of Candidates, 2004 (the Regulations) in order to prescribe the quantum of deposits as set out below:

No.	Election type	Contestant	Current deposit	Proposed deposit
1.	Compensatory Election and All Regional Elections	Party	R200, 000	R300, 000
2.	Compensatory Election and at least one Regional Election.	Party	R200, 000	R200,000 plus R25,000 per Regional Election
3.	Provincial Legislature	Party	R45, 000	R45, 000 per Legislature Election
4.	Regional Election: National Assembly	Independent	None	R20, 000 per Regional Election
5.	Provincial Legislature	Independent	None	R15, 000 for a Legislature in a province in which the independent candidate is registered.

Key considerations informing the proposed deposits are:

The amount of deposits was last adjusted in 2014. The amount in respect for the National Assembly elections is proposed to be adjusted for inflation.

In terms of section 31B(6) of the Act, the amount to be deposited by an independent candidate contesting an election of a provincial legislature, must be less than the amount for contesting an election of the National Assembly, and such deposits may also be different to the deposits paid by registered political parties.

Representations and comments must be submitted by 18 August 2023 from publication of this Notice, to the Electoral Commission for the attention of Ms. Kim Kresfelder, at the following e-mail address:- deposits@elections.org.za or delivered to Election House, Riverside Office Park, 1303 Heuwel Avenue, Centurion, 0157.

The Commission is yet to make a determination with regard to the amount of the election deposits for the purposes of the National and Provincial Elections 2024 and will accordingly consider the representations and comments before arriving at a final determination.