



## INCLUSIVE SOCIETY INSTITUTE

### **MEDIA COMMENT ON PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA ASSENTS TO THE ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL**

The Inclusive Society Institute (ISI) has noted the President's assent to the Electoral Amendment Bill. Of course, we welcome the introduction of independent candidates into the electoral system for national and provincial legislatures, but their participation should be based on rational rules and regulations. The ISI is of the opinion that the current Bill, now assented to, falls short, and will not pass the rationality test.

It can, for example, not be right that an independent candidate can stand in all nine provinces, but he/she will not be allowed to aggregate the votes, whilst a small party may do so. It is quite conceivable that independent candidates and small parties may have the same number and distribution of votes across the country, but due to the aggregation rule, the independent could be excluded, whilst the party could gain some seats. That must go against the constitutional principle of equality.

The ISI's legal team is currently weighing the Institute's options. It is morally and ethically obliged to challenge unconstitutional law.

**Contact:** Ms Berenice Marks  
**Mobile:** 076 984 8377  
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