



Press Statement

21 October 2022

Support for Electoral Amendment Bill by MPs is regrettable

Defend our Democracy expresses disappointment in the outcomes of the National Assembly vote in favour of the Electoral Amendment Bill.

Out of a total of 330 votes, 232 Members of Parliament (MPs) voted for the Bill, 98 rejected it and three abstained from the vote. The majority of the votes in favour of the bill were attributed to the ANC, EFF and Al Jama-ah, while the DA, FF Plus, ACDP, IFP, ATM, and UDM rejected the Bill, citing similar concerns to those that civil society has raised on numerous occasions.

Support for this Bill is once again an indicator that political parties value their own interests rather than that of the public.

Furthermore, it is unfortunate that some MPs have chosen to attack civil society organisations, instead of engage with the substance of the concerns raised around the Bill. These crude attacks are the antithesis of what debates and engagements should be premised on in a vibrant constitutional democracy.

Defend our Democracy will keep a watchful eye on the developments around this Bill as it proceeds to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP). It is our hope that the NCOP will be open to engagements with civil society, and consider the issues that have been flagged in relation to the Bill.



We will also step up the campaign calling on President Cyril Ramaphosa to not sign off on the Bill when it comes before him ahead of the December 10, 2022 deadline provided by the Courts.

If the Bill is signed into being, civil society organisations will consider legally challenging it.

Defend our Democracy urges members of the public and organisations across the country to join us as we intensify the call to reject the Bill, and implement meaningful and credible reforms to our electoral system.

Issued by Defend our Democracy

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