

Type:	<i>Policy Summary</i>
Name:	Expanded Democracy Support Programme/Political Party Donations
Key search terms:	Civil society/ Political contributions/ Political donations/ Public policy funding

1 Policy Statement

Standard Bank has sought to strengthen democracy and political participation in South Africa by supporting civil society organisations under the Expanded Democracy Support Programme (EDSP). Standard Bank engages in the EDSP to enhance our reputation and demonstrate that we are locally relevant and responsive. A functioning constitutional democracy provides a sustainable basis for a positive investment climate and inclusive economic growth. The business sector has a vested interest in a functioning constitutional democracy which is a public good that we benefit from and should therefore be investing in.

2 Policy Scope

This policy summary applies to all employees of Standard Bank South Africa regardless of location or business unit and should be applied by all employees involved with assessing funding requests from civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

3 Purpose of this policy

To provide a framework against which organisations will be assessed and considered for support.

The following principles will be applied during assessment:

- Producing evidenced-based research
- Supporting evidence-based policy making
- Promoting the rule of law and constitutionalism
- Supporting independent media, investigative journalism and public accountability
- Advancing equitable access to justice, social and economic opportunities for disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- Promoting a sustainable and conducive business environment

In addition, organisations will be considered for support against their ability to display:

- Independence, credibility, sound reputation and adherence to the highest levels of integrity
- Organisational stability and appropriate internal governance and oversight mechanisms in respect of the manner in which donor funding will be applied.
- Experience in the field of work and a proven track record of impact on policymaking and influencing the operating environment.
- Impact and reach of the organisation to a wide, diverse audience.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

Oversight is provided by SA Exco, whose purpose is to monitor governance of the EDSP through the following:

- Provide an oversight mechanism and ensure application of principles and enhanced due diligence of organisations
- Review allocations and organisations on an annual basis

5 Considerations and exclusions

Political parties – Parties represented in the National Assembly of South Africa's Parliament receive funding, through a donation to the IEC's Multi-Party Democracy Fund, using the Independent Electoral Commission's formula. This board-approved funding policy is reviewed every five years. Political parties receive no other financial support from the group. Guidelines are in place to guard against the risk that such contributions be used inappropriately, by the bank, its employees or third parties, to obtain business advantage.