

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS REPORT 2024



SOUTH AFRICA

**YOUR DEMOCRACY
OWN IT** 





**YOUR DEMOCRACY
OWN IT** 



ENG CAMERA

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

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FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRPERSON

MOSOTHO MOEPYA
Chairperson
Electoral Commission



The compilation of this report provides the Electoral Commission with a valuable opportunity to reflect on National and Provincial Elections 2024 (NPE 2024) – examining both our achievements and challenges and the environment in which these elections were conducted. The report also allows us to present a comprehensive account of the Electoral Commission's efforts in fulfilling our mandate to ensure free, fair and credible elections for all South Africans.

The year 2024 was truly historic for democracy globally, with voters in more than 70 countries – representing over half the world's population – exercising their right to vote. While unique local circumstances shape every election, South Africa was not immune to the widespread factors influencing voter participation in electoral democracies, such as unemployment, socio-political issues and broader global dynamics.

Research released by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) before the elections revealed concerning trends: 57% of South Africans expressed dissatisfaction with democracy, while only 28% reported satisfaction. This disillusionment stemmed from a lack of trust in political institutions and challenging socio-economic conditions, among

other factors. Young people, in particular, voiced dissatisfaction with the performance of government and political parties, indicating their reluctance to participate in the electoral process.

These findings highlighted the significant challenge we faced in encouraging voter participation and emphasised that democracy development cannot be solely the responsibility of the Electoral Commission. For an election to be genuinely free and fair, it must take place in an environment conducive to peaceful participation, with political parties and candidates adhering to the prescribed Code of Conduct.

Moreover, NPE 2024 took place in the wake of significant electoral reform. The Electoral Commission worked diligently to seamlessly implement changes introduced by the Electoral Amendment Act 2023, which allowed independent candidates to contest for seats in our national and provincial legislatures for the first time.

One of the most challenging aspects of this reform was the compressed implementation timeframe, with the Electoral Amendment Act of 2023 only receiving presidential assent in April 2023. These changes

necessitated substantial adjustments to our logistics, technological infrastructure and voter education programmes. I am particularly proud that the Electoral Commission rose admirably to this challenge.

NPE 2024 was historic for another reason – the election coincided with our nation’s 30th anniversary of democracy, making the election among the most fiercely contested elections in our democratic history. An unprecedented 70 political parties participated, with 52 contesting at the national level alongside 11 independent candidates. To provide perspective, approximately 14 903 candidates competed for just 887 seats in the national and provincial legislatures – creating an intensity of competition never before witnessed.

During and after the elections, the Electoral Commission dealt with a higher than anticipated volume of challenges, particularly an unprecedented incidence of litigation.

The Electoral Commission faced numerous court challenges:

- We considered 110 objections under section 55
- Between January and December 2024, we received approximately 87 legal applications addressing various issues, including intra-party disputes, candidate nominations and challenges to electoral legislation.

The Electoral Commission is grateful that these matters were successfully adjudicated, with the courts consistently affirming our interpretation and application of the law.

Acknowledging the challenging environment in which these elections took place is important. The Electoral Commission and its staff were targets of cyberattacks and social media harassment, alongside orchestrated misinformation and disinformation campaigns to undermine public confidence in our institution. We even witnessed political interference with the Electoral Commission’s work, including attacks on officials performing their duties, unlawful access to storage facilities and intimidation of election officers.

Despite these obstacles, the Electoral Commission remained steadfast in fulfilling its constitutional mandate, prioritising institutional integrity above all else. This commitment was validated by the Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS), which confirmed that voters overwhelmingly perceived NPE 2024 as free and fair. Trust in the Electoral Commission remained high, with voters expressing confidence in their ability to cast secret ballots safely. Even under extraordinary pressure, the Electoral Commission executed its mandate without fear, favour or prejudice.



Even under extraordinary pressure, the Electoral Commission executed its mandate without fear or favour.

The outcomes of the 2024 general elections represent more than merely voter sentiment – they reflect evolving political dynamics and underscore the need for leadership that can navigate an increasingly complex societal landscape. These results stand as a testament to the resilience of South Africa’s democratic institutions in the face of an evolving and challenging environment.

We extend our profound gratitude to everyone who contributed to this electoral process: the parties and independent candidates, dedicated election officials, party agents, observers, government institutions, traditional leaders, security services, civil society organisations, faith-based groups, media outlets, and representatives of business and labour. Our greatest achievement as a nation is that we successfully delivered credible, free and fair elections in peaceful conditions – a testament to South Africa’s enduring democratic spirit.

Mosotho Moepya

Chairperson

OVERVIEW BY THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER



SY MAMABOLO
Chief Electoral Officer
Electoral Commission

This report presents our reflections and a review of the National and Provincial Elections in 2024 (NPE 2024). As we reflect on the monumental task of managing the elections, we present this Elections Report with a sense of pride and responsibility. The significant milestone of 30 years of constitutional democracy was marked in 2024. The achievement of successful general elections underscores the critical role that the Electoral Commission plays in safeguarding and deepening our electoral processes.

The execution of the 2024 elections was a testament to the dedication and expertise of our staff and volunteers. The Electoral Commission is pleased to report that, overall, it performed exceptionally well in fulfilling its constitutional mandate. However, as we celebrate our achievements, we must also engage in honest introspection about areas where improvements are required.

This report is a comprehensive review of our electoral processes, highlighting what worked effectively and, more importantly, identifying areas requiring refinement.

We believe that such reflection is not only necessary but crucial for the continued growth and resilience of our democracy. Learning from our experiences and addressing

challenges directly ensures that future electoral processes are even more robust and inclusive.

As South Africa embarks on a process to review and potentially reform our electoral system, the insights gleaned from the 2024 elections become even more pertinent. This report also outlines remediation measures to address the issues we encountered, to enhance our electoral process and, by extension, strengthen our democracy.

In the following pages, we present a candid assessment of our performance, celebrating our achievements while addressing areas that require improvement. This transparency is fundamental to maintaining public trust and demonstrating our commitment to the continuous enhancement of our electoral system.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Seamless introduction of revised electoral system

The remarkable success of NPE 2024 was the smooth introduction of a revised electoral system occasioned by the Electoral Amendment Act of 2023. The President

signed this Act into law in April 2023 and it became effective in June 2023.

In terms of the law, independent candidates could contest for seats in our national and provincial legislatures.

This change significantly affected the election process, necessitating numerous revisions to our business processes. At a high level, some of the implications of the revisions to the electoral system were the following:

- As a novel reality, individuals not affiliated with political parties could stand as candidates at both national and provincial level
- Our supporting business applications of information and communication technology were rewritten, including the Candidate Nomination System and the Results System
- A portal for capturing supporting signatures for unrepresented parties and independent candidates was developed and deployed.

Voters' roll growth

The Electoral Commission achieved a significant milestone in fulfilling its constitutional mandate to manage, maintain, and grow the voters' roll. The certification of the voters' roll on 12 March 2024 marked a crucial step in ensuring a credible election and fostering citizen participation, which is fundamental to our electoral process.

Following two registration weekends and an effective campaign promoting online registration, the voters' roll was certified with an impressive 27.78 million voters for the first time in the 30 years of our democracy. This figure represented the highest level of registration since the establishment of the voters' roll in 1999, underscoring the success of the Electoral Commission's recent initiatives. The online registration platform recorded the highest voters' roll transactions of over 2.4 million. Online voter registration is a convenient and meaningful tool for citizens out of the country.

The voter registration achievement demonstrates the effectiveness of our outreach efforts and reinforces the foundation upon which a legitimate and transparent election can be conducted. The robust voters' roll serves as a testament to the strength of our democracy and the engagement of our citizenry.

Out of-country voting

The international segment of special votes was one of the success stories of NPE 2024. There were 76 580 voters eligible to vote at the 110 diplomatic missions worldwide, including the total registered population and those who gave the notice to vote out-of-country. Voting out-of-country was determined to take place on either 17 and 18 May 2024 for most diplomatic missions,

with a few diplomatic missions designated to vote on both days. The diplomatic missions received all their election materials on time, including ballot papers, voting booths, boxes, envelopes and voting lists. The long queues at the diplomatic missions reflected high interest from the voters.

After voters had cast their votes in double envelopes, these were transported through a secure channel back to the national office of the Electoral Commission for counting. The logistics system oversaw the delivery of all out-of-country votes in a record two days before in-country voting.

Special votes

The casting of special votes was designated for two days before the general Election Day of 29 May 2024. Special votes include home visits for voters with disabilities and those in places of confinement. Special votes at voting stations were also conducted on 27 and 28 May 2025. This category of election is designed to ensure that all eligible South African voters are not denied the right to vote because of special circumstances and absence from their voting district.

A total of 1 668 076 special votes applications were approved. Of these, 624 593 were home visits and the balance of 1 043 483 were voting station visits. It is important to note that during the conduct of special votes, contestant agents and accredited observers accompanied electoral staff to observe the conduct of special votes.

Online voter registration

The Electoral Commission had implemented an online voter registration system since LGE 2021, which proved a significant achievement. In particular, the online registration facility facilitated voter convenience for an election troubled by the natural disaster of the COVID-19 pandemic. For NPE 2024, the online voter registration platform was introduced for out-of-country citizens.

An impressive 2.4 million voter transactions were recorded on this digital platform to either initiate their registration or update their existing address information. Among the voting-age population, 27% of individuals aged 18 to 19 and 48.6% of those aged between 20 and 29 were registered using the system.

These registrations marked a positive shift in addressing the traditionally low representation of youth on the voters' roll. Starting from a previously limited registration base, there was a noteworthy increase in young voter registration. Such progress is encouraging for the nation's democratic future.

Results system

The Results System was re-developed owing to changes in the electoral system. The Results System worked well and provided the final results at the required time. Of note is that the results process begins at the voting station, observed by the agents of political contestants. Following the verification of the results slip at the station, it is captured at the relevant local office of the Electoral Commission, where it is verified by auditors. Only at this stage are the results released to the public.

The entire process was exhaustively documented, audited and observed by parties and independent monitors at each stage. The results-capture process proved invaluable for transparency and integrity of the overall electoral process.

A digital application programme interface (API) feed was provided to several NGOs, academics, media houses and political contestants. The feed allowed for the streaming and tallying of results in real time for all stakeholders and the country's population. The mobile election application also carried the results as they were released.

Once all results are captured, audited and all exceptions resolved, the results system performs a seat calculation which implements the prescribed formula for the determination of a quota per seat. This prescribed formula is based on the Droop quota system, which has been part of our electoral framework since the dawn of democracy in 1994.

Then the party's votes are divided by the quota to determine the provisional number of seats per party. Where there is no forfeiture, the provisional seats are confirmed as final allocations.

To ensure integrity of the results, an independent IT auditor was engaged to review the seat calculation on the results system. The system calculations were confirmed.

Results operation centres (ROCs)

The ROCs are a remarkable South African innovation, described as a theatre of electoral transparency. The National ROC was housed at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand and was the primary management hub for electoral operations.

The ROC provides facilities for the Electoral Commissioners and the Chief Electoral Officer with senior executives to coordinate the delivery of the election. The centre is a central hub for political parties, independent candidates, observers, business leaders and the media to access real-time election information. In addition to the National ROC, there are nine provincial ROCs.

Voter education

The voter education campaign was aimed at boosting participation rates. The campaign focused on explaining the three-ballot system for the election, the ballots' significance, and how valid votes would translate into seats across the ten legislative assemblies.

To reach South Africans effectively, the campaign used various multimedia platforms. Over 2 500 democracy education facilitators (DEFs) conducted in-person community outreach in the various wards. Additionally, radio (including community stations) and television played crucial roles in disseminating information. The campaign intensified as the election approached to maximise voter reach and understanding.

Although we can never do enough, our voter education efforts for NPE 2024 were a success.

Communications

Communication efforts for NPE 2024 began with comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns, including two voter registration weekends, voting abroad and online voter registration. There were 105 billboards, 119 wall murals, and 300 ATMs for registration weekends secured for voter awareness.

Additional campaign efforts were made to educate the public about new legislative requirements, such as Section 24A and the three-ballot system to be used in the election, what each represents and how valid votes will be translated into seats in the ten legislative assemblies.

The reach of these campaigns across channels, including digital, television, radio, print and out-of-home advertising was as follows:

- First registration in November 2023: 140 837 644
- Second registration in February 2024: 302 265 745
- Elections in May 2024: 661 796 994

These campaigns aided the voter registration drive, resulting in 27.78 million registered voters. These campaigns were supported by a variety of media relations activities, including hosting 25 media briefings and over 200 strategic media interviews, as well as media training to empower journalists on election issues.

The number of journalists who attended from each organisation are as follows:

- South African National Editors' Forum (Sanef) – 393
- Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) – 85
- National Press Club – 40
- SABC – 98
- Newzroom Afrika – 30
- PowerFM – 29.

Electoral logistics

Organising an election is a complex and large-scale operation. The Electoral Commission achieved a significant accomplishment in efficiently handling, storing, and managing the vast quantities of voting materials.

Approximately 30 million ballots were produced for each of the three ballot categories. This immense project, which involved printing, binding the ballots into booklets of 100 ballots, and precise labelling, was finished within the planned 30-day timeframe. The Electoral Commission also coordinated the distribution of 1 874 tons of materials among our various warehouses and storage facilities nationwide for election purposes.

Recruitment of electoral staff

The Electoral Commission recruited and trained 200 526 people to manage the voting process across 23 292 voting stations. To enhance the counting accuracy, a new counting official role was created to support presiding officers at each voting station. Three of these new staff members were assigned to each voting station, totalling just over 70 000 additional personnel.

Ballot papers

The Electoral Commission created simplified ballot papers to match the revised electoral system, ensuring they were easy for voters to read and comprehend. For this election, each voter was given three ballots:

1. A national compensatory ballot for political parties
2. A provincial ballot for parties and independent candidates
3. A regional ballot for parties and independent candidates.

Throughout its voter education efforts and communications, the Electoral Commission consistently emphasised one clear message: “One ballot, one mark”.

Misinformation and disinformation campaign

The Electoral Commission extends its gratitude and appreciation for the overwhelmingly positive reaction by the South African public to the agreement reached with social media companies to combat disinformation in the run-up to and during NPE 2024.

The Electoral Commission partnered with Google, Meta, TikTok and Media Monitoring Africa (MMA) because it remains committed to curbing disinformation, safeguarding information integrity, and preserving the credibility of electoral processes.

Reaction to the agreement, renewed after it was first entered into in 2019 and again in 2023, was largely positive. However, the Electoral Commission remains concerned about some ill-informed reactions to an incorrect analysis of the agreement outcomes.

The Electoral Commission does not unlawfully share the private details contained in the voters’ roll, as claimed by some. The voters’ roll is sacrosanct, and the Electoral Commission will continue to adhere to legislation to protect it. Accordingly, data held by the Electoral Commission cannot be “harvested to influence voter behaviour or steer the outcome of elections”.

Furthermore, the partnership is designed to eliminate disinformation and is not, in any way, censorship. The social media partners have applauded the framework and reiterated their commitment to cooperate with the Electoral Commission in this initiative. The partners stress that they also have policies and mechanisms to counter disinformation and would continue to use these mechanisms to contribute to the collective effort to eradicate online harms.

In the 2024 election period, the Electoral Commission received 289 complaints through the Real411 disinformation reporting platform. These complaints could broadly be divided into four categories:

- False information regarding electoral processes
- False information regarding parties and candidates
- False information regarding election results
- Information intended to undermine the credibility of NPE 2024, the Electoral Commission commissioners and Electoral Commission staff.

No double voting

Ahead of LGE 2021, the Electoral Act was amended by Parliament to provide that voters who are unable to vote at the voting station of registration must notify the Chief Electoral Officer of the intention to vote elsewhere by a date specified in the election timetable. In respect of NPE 2024, this was determined as 17 May 2024 and 387 217 voters accordingly submitted notifications

The importance of this legislative amendment is that there were no incidents of double voting, as only voters with notifications could vote outside voting stations of registration. Furthermore, this legislative provision supports the electoral norm that voters vote at the voting station where they are registered. Therefore, this legal innovation was a huge success. This change was communicated to eligible voters through constant messaging as part of the communications, marketing and outreach campaigns.

Election observer missions

Transparency has been a consistent value of the Electoral Commission since its inception. Accordingly, the Electoral Commission regularly opens its operations to domestic and international observers during elections. There were 191 observer organisations, and an estimated 6 000 observers, accredited for NPE 2024.

Measures to assist persons with disabilities

The Electoral Commission took steps to enhance voting accessibility for all South African citizens, including citizens with disabilities. On Election Day, voting officials provided assistance to voters who needed it. Working with the South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB), we improved a voting aid called the universal ballot template (UBT) to enable voters to participate in the electoral process independently. This tool was designed to help various groups of voters, including:

- Blind and visually impaired persons
- Persons with low vision
- Elderly persons
- Persons with limited literacy
- Persons with motor or nervous system conditions affecting hand stability.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Information technology systems

Our information technology (IT) systems were developed and prepared from the beginning of 2023 as the systems were affected by the changes in the law, and when tested for the election event, all systems worked well. However, there were two incidents: the leaderboard blackout and difficulties with the voters' roll application on the voter management devices (VMDs). These incidents threatened to overshadow the good work done by the Electoral Commission in delivering NPE 2024.

The Electoral Commission experienced an interruption in display of data at its ROCs. The public reports and data feeds were affected as well as the leaderboard while the Results System continued to function optimally. Therefore, there was no data loss. The data in the data centre remained intact, and the results were not compromised in any way.

It took an estimated two hours on the morning of 31 May 2024 to locate the cause of the problem. A coding error during the optimisation of the data replication to the ROCs caused the data to not display on the leaderboards at the ROCs and public-facing applications.

The problem also affected access to results for all media and political contestants. All services were restored

two and a half hours after the problem was identified. The leaderboard then worked normally while result processing continued unaffected throughout.

There continues to be a threat of interference from digital malfeasance. A robust ICT security framework was implemented and ensured that there was no external interference with the Electoral Commission's systems during NPE 2024.

Voter management device

Investment in voter management devices (VMDs) continues to yield dividends. The VMDs were the technological mainstay for the delivery of the elections and related events such as voter registration. There were live connections with a majority of voting stations through an Access Point Network. These live connections improved the administrative efficiency of the voting process and fortified necessary controls. Just under 40 000 VMDs were in use in NPE 2024. The operating systems of the VMDs were upgraded, and new business applications were coded to enhance efficiencies. Given the uneven distribution of data network connectivity across the country, the VMDs automatically and seamlessly transitioned between online (with available connectivity) and offline (with no connectivity) modes without disrupting the registration operation.

The VMDs worked on Election Day for the five applications loaded for use on the day. The voters' roll processing application experienced serious coding challenges that only materialised on the day. While the application had been used in 2021 and in by-elections, it was adjusted for NPE 2024 and on Election Day presented a coding challenge which caused the checking of a voter's identity to be duplicated, thereby slowing down the process before a voter was allowed to vote. Since NPE 2024, the VMDs have continued to function in by-elections, and no challenges have been experienced.

Communication on Section 24A

Creating awareness of Section 24A remained a key area of voter education. In terms of this section, a voter may vote outside of the voting district where registered on voting day, 29 May 2024, but needs to notify the Electoral Commission before voting day during the period specified in the Election Timetable. That period for the 2024 elections was 15 March to 17 May 2024. While enormous resources and campaigns were delivered over a protracted period, on Election Day, it was evident that Section 24A remained a challenge.

The campaign regarding the three-ballot system seems to have reached voters well, as there were no more than the usual percentage of spoilt votes in this election. Also, voters seemed not to take long in ballot booths to mark

their ballots. Research done on behalf of the Electoral Commission confirms voter ease with marking ballots and records overall satisfaction with the ballot design.

Security of election materials

The security plan put together by the Electoral Commission and national law enforcement agencies ensured that the materials for NPE 2024 were secured. There were a few incidents where the security was intentionally breached, and the Electoral Commission worked with the law enforcement agencies to restore order and realign plans.

Long queues

The Electoral Commission was satisfied with the interest and turnout in NPE 2024. Research undertaken by the HSRC shows that voters generally had a good experience at the polls once they reached the voting process. The amount of time it took some voters to vote remains an issue of concern. In some instances, the HSRC study recorded the longest wait on average to be two and a half hours.

The Electoral Commission will continue to work with all stakeholders to reduce the length of time voters spend in queues waiting to cast their votes.

Performance of voting station staffing

The Electoral Commission relied on temporary voting staff to work at the 23 292 voting stations. The presiding officers, deputy presiding officers and voters' roll officers were recruited as per the criteria of the Electoral Commission, which included a process of verification of suitability with the PLC. The temporary staff's integrity is further verified through a process that includes criminal records and other checks. They underwent rigorous training following prescribed procedures. Overall, the conduct of the staff and the quality of service provided was good. The Electoral Commission will endeavour to ensure that the few negative voter experiences relating to etiquette, queue management and assistance provided to voters with disabilities are addressed. Issues relating to management by inexperienced presiding officers will necessitate that the Electoral Commission reviews the management experience of Presiding and Deputy Presiding Officers.

Misinformation and disinformation

While the agreement with the social and digital media platforms and the continental guidelines have had a positive effect and shown better use of these platforms, this remains an area of vulnerability regarding the election process and the integrity of the Electoral Commission.

Freedom of speech encourages users of these social and digital media platforms to air their views. However, it is an abuse and misuse of the platforms and free speech

to circulate unverified information and allegations that compromise elections and Electoral Commission staff.

The Electoral Commission has sought various approaches, including sharing positive and correct information on these platforms. The Electoral Commission, in partnership with various statutory actors, has sought to monitor and encourage the positive use of social and digital media platforms. They have also sought the support and assistance of platform owners and hosts in partnership with various civil society organisations.

Furthermore, partnerships with various professional bodies, including Sanef, have assisted in minimising journalists' reliance on unverified social media and digital social platforms.

The Electoral Commission and other State actors are still trying to find an optimal way to deal with misinformation and disinformation. This area remains a threat to true, correct and verified information about the electoral process and political contestants.

The Electoral Commission will continue to work with the social media platforms and other stakeholders, as well as the South African public, towards the mitigation, if not the total eradication, of misinformation and disinformation.

CONCLUSION

As we look to the future, the Electoral Commission remains dedicated to its constitutional role, adapting to new challenges and opportunities. We are committed to ensuring that every eligible South African can exercise their right to vote freely and fairly, thereby contributing to the vibrant tapestry of our nation's democracy.

This report is more than a record of past events. The report is a roadmap for future improvements and a reflection of our unwavering commitment to South Africa's democratic ideals. I invite you to engage with its contents because we are collectively working towards an even stronger, more inclusive democracy for all South Africans.

Sy Mamabolo

Chief Electoral Officer

2024 ELECTIONS BY NUMBERS



**Voter
registration
split by
gender**



Female
55%



Male
45%

**Number of
registered voters
27.78 million**

**Number of
voters on 29 May 2024
16 291 516**



Voter turnout

58%

(66% in 2019)



Female

57%



Male

43%



**Citizens who cast
a special vote in
South Africa**

1 143 975

(68% turnout, 7% of
total votes cast)



**Citizens who
voted abroad**

39 114

(51% turnout)



**Spoilt
ballots**

1.10%

(1.27% in 2019)



**Voting
districts**

23 292

(1.6% up from 2019)

Parties
contesting

70

Independent
candidates
contesting

11

Average number
of voters per
voting station

916



400

**Seats contested in National
Assembly**



430

**Seats contested in Provincial
Legislatures**



14 886

**Candidates
nominated**



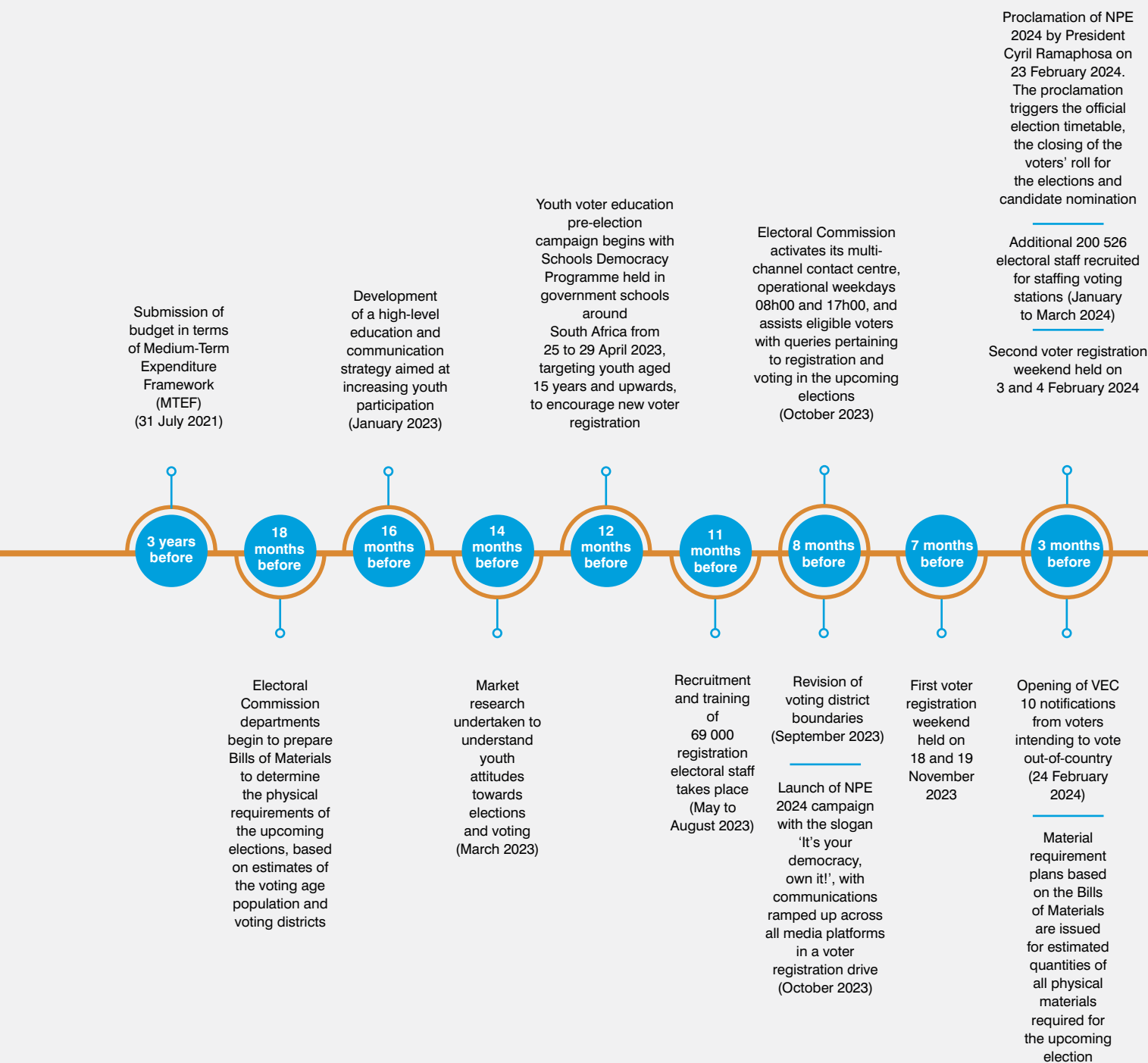
**Ballot papers
printed
90 million**

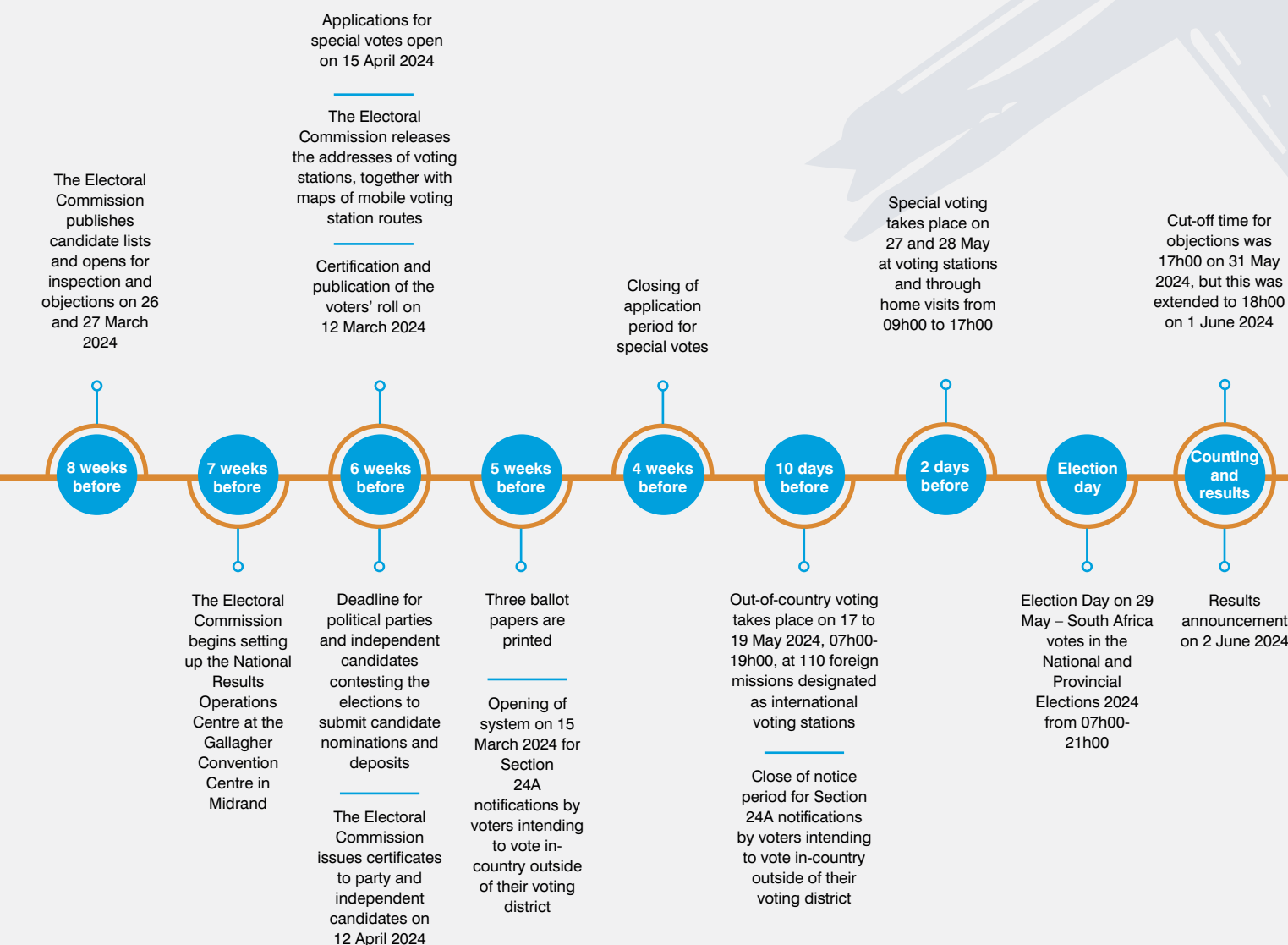


**Temporary
election officials
recruited and
trained for
elections
200 526**

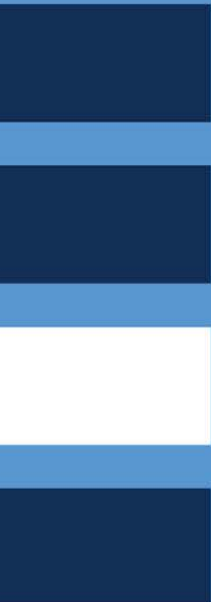
ROAD TO THE 2024 NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

Milestones in the planning process





PREPARING FOR THE ELECTIONS



Preparations for an election, particularly a national and provincial election (NPE), is a massive undertaking, and success relies on careful planning and execution, engaging the right staff and taking cognisance of lessons learned over the last 30 years. From the use of sophisticated electronic systems and an effective logistics distribution network to support provided by both full-time and short-term staff, nothing can be left to chance.

An election, however, is a lot more than the act of South African citizens placing their cross on the ballot papers issued in an election. It is a culmination of the many projects and processes in the preparatory phase of the election itself.



1. Legislative Framework

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Electoral Commission is one of six independent Chapter 9 institutions created by the Constitution to support constitutional democracy in South Africa. The Electoral Commission is subject to the Constitution and the law and is required to be impartial and to act without fear, favour or prejudice.

The NPE 2024 was conducted in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the following statutes in particular: the Electoral Commission Act 51 of 1996 ("Electoral Commission Act") and the Regulations and the Electoral Act 73 of 1998 ("Electoral Act") and the Regulations.

Legislation

The Constitution requires that the Electoral Commission:

1. Manages elections of national, provincial and municipal legislative bodies in accordance with national legislation
2. Ensures that those elections are free and fair
3. Declares the result of those elections within a period that must be prescribed by the national legislation and is as short as reasonably possible.

Section 5(1)(j) of the Electoral Commission Act mandates the Electoral Commission to continuously review electoral legislation and to propose amendments.

Ahead of NPE 2024, the Electoral Commission conducted a review of electoral legislation. This review included consultation with electoral stakeholders and the National Political Liaison Committee.

Electoral Amendment Act No. 1 of 2023

In the Constitutional Court judgment in *New Nation Movement NPC & Others v President of the Republic of South Africa & Others* (2020) ZACC 11, the Electoral Act of 1998 was declared unconstitutional to the extent that it required that adult citizens may be elected to the National Assembly and provincial legislatures only through their membership of political parties. Parliament enacted the Electoral Amendment Act No. 1 of 2023 to provide that adult citizens may contest elections for the National Assembly and provincial legislatures as independent candidates.

The key elements of the Electoral Amendment Act included the following:

1. To provide for:
 - a. The nomination of independent candidates to contest elections in the National Assembly and provincial legislatures
 - b. The requirements which must be met by persons who wish to be nominated as independent candidates
 - c. Unrepresented parties to demonstrate support by submitting a number of signatures linked to a quota for a seat in a previous corresponding election
 - d. The appointment of agents by independent candidates
 - e. Independent candidates to be bound by the Electoral Code of Conduct
 - f. A refund of a deposit to independent candidates in certain circumstances
 - g. In addition, the amendment of Schedule 1A to the Electoral Act provides for a formula to include independent candidates in the allocation of seats.
2. To provide for the Minister of Home Affairs to establish the Electoral Reform Consultation Panel and to provide for matters connected therewith.
3. The Electoral Matters Amendment Act No. 14 of 2024 affected consequential amendments, which arose from the introduction of independents as candidates and possibly as representatives in legislative bodies. This Act amended the following statutes:
 - a. Political Party Funding Act
 - b. Electoral Act
 - c. Electoral Commission Act.
4. Furthermore, the Electoral Matters Amendment Act effected amendments to the Electoral Act as follows:
 - a. Substituted Section 24A of the Electoral Act to clarify the ballots that a voter who votes outside of the province in which they are registered is entitled to such a ballot.
 - b. Amended Section 33 to clarify that voters casting a ballot outside the Republic are entitled only to the national PR ballot.
5. The Electoral Matters Amendment Act affected amendments to the Electoral Commission Act:
 - a. Specified that the Electoral Commission's functions include establishing and maintaining liaison and cooperation with parties, independent candidates and independent representatives
 - b. Section 6 of the Electoral Commission Act was amended to make editorial amendments and include references for independent representatives.

6. The Electoral Matters Amendment Act of 2024 stipulated the following changes to the Funding Act to effect the following:
 - a. Amend the title, long title and preamble, and insert and substitute definitions
 - b. Amend the names of the Represented Political Party Fund
 - c. Preclude the Electoral Commission from accepting donations to the Multi-Party Democracy Fund when it has reason to believe the donations are proceeds of crime
 - d. Empower the Electoral Commission to invest money in the Represented Political Party Fund in any bank registered in terms of the Banks Act of 1990
 - e. Proscribe the attachment of money in the Represented Political Fund by certain persons
 - f. Provide for the right of political parties, independent candidates and independent representatives to refuse donations
 - g. Provide for the prohibition on certain donations to a member of a political party, an independent representative or an independent candidate
 - h. Amend the provisions relating to the accounting obligations of represented and unrepresented political parties
 - i. Provide for the offence of making a donation to a political party, a member of a political party, an independent candidate or an independent representative other than for political purposes
 - j. Provide for the offence of making a donation to a member of a political party, independent representatives or independent candidate to circumvent the provisions of Chapter 3
- k. Amend the powers of the President to make regulations on certain matters
- l. Amend Schedule 2 regarding the formula for the allocation of money in the Funds on a proportional and equitable basis, regarding the upper limit of donations and the disclosure limit for donations.
7. The Electoral Matters Amendment Act was assented to on 4 May 2024 and came into effect on 8 May 2024, less than one month before NPE 2024. The late implementation of the Electoral Matters Amendment Act delayed the finalisation of the Election Regulations published under the Electoral Act, which affected the Electoral Commission's preparations for the elections. The Election Regulations were published on 9 May 2024, the day after the Electoral Matters Amendment Act of 2024 was enacted.

Electoral system

South Africa's elections follow a five-year cycle, with national and provincial elections held simultaneously. The electoral system is a two-tier compensatory closed-party list using a proportional representation method.

A quota of votes per seat is used in the seat calculation procedure. The quota means that participating parties and independents are allocated seats in a legislature in proportion to the number of votes secured. In proportional representation systems, every vote counts as it is considered in the allocation of seats to contestants.

2. Re-Delimitation of Voting District Boundaries

The Electoral Act requires the Electoral Commission to compile and maintain a voters' roll. To assist in this regard, the Electoral Commission delimits voting districts (VDs), which involves registering an eligible voter against a voting district within a ward of ordinary residence for purposes of the voters' roll and elections. A voter is required to register to vote in a voting district in the ward where the voter is ordinarily resident (the place to which the person returns after a period of temporary absence). Each voting district is serviced by one voting station. A registered voter will only appear on one segment of the voters' roll.

Voting district delimitation is undertaken for the following key reasons:

1. To ensure that voters have reasonable access to voting stations and are not required to wait to vote at their voting station for unreasonable periods of time

2. To ensure that voters do not vote more than once in an election
3. To assist the Electoral Commission with planning elections, including staff and materials.

The national common voters' roll used for NPE 2024 contained 23 292 voting districts. An increase in the number of voting districts between elections translates into improved voter access to voting stations. The increased number of voting districts also reduces the time it takes voters to cast their ballots on Election Day.

The number of voting districts for NPE 2024 increased by 1.6% in relation to the 2019 elections (NPE 2019). There has been a 59% increase in the number of voting districts over the past 25 years (NPE 2024 compared with NPE 1999). Whilst the number of voting districts has increased at a slower rate since the 2014 elections, an increase in the number of voting centres with sub-stations has generally improved the queue waiting time of voters at their voting stations on Election Day.

Table 1: Change in the number of voting districts (VDs): 1999 to 2024 National and Provincial Elections

Province	VDs 1999	VDs 2004 (% change)	VDs 2009 (% change)	VDs 2014 (% change)	VDs 2019 (% change)	VDs 2024 (% change)
Eastern Cape	2 646	4 115	4 482	4 615	4 791	4 868
Free State	1 075	1 063	1 263	1 523	1 529	1 586
Gauteng	1 841	1 956	2 238	2 647	2 771	2 797
KwaZulu-Natal	3 340	3 556	4 187	4 746	4 885	4 974
Mpumalanga	877	966	1 376	1 678	1 772	1 811
Northern Cape	357	347	1 559	694	707	730
Limpopo	1 954	2 170	2 455	3 066	3 157	3 216
North West	1 252	1 445	1 559	1 716	1 733	1 738
Western Cape	1 308	1 348	1 541	1 578	1 579	1 572
TOTAL	14 650	16 966 (16%)	19 726 (16%)	22 263 (13%)	22 924 (3%)	23 292 (1.6%)

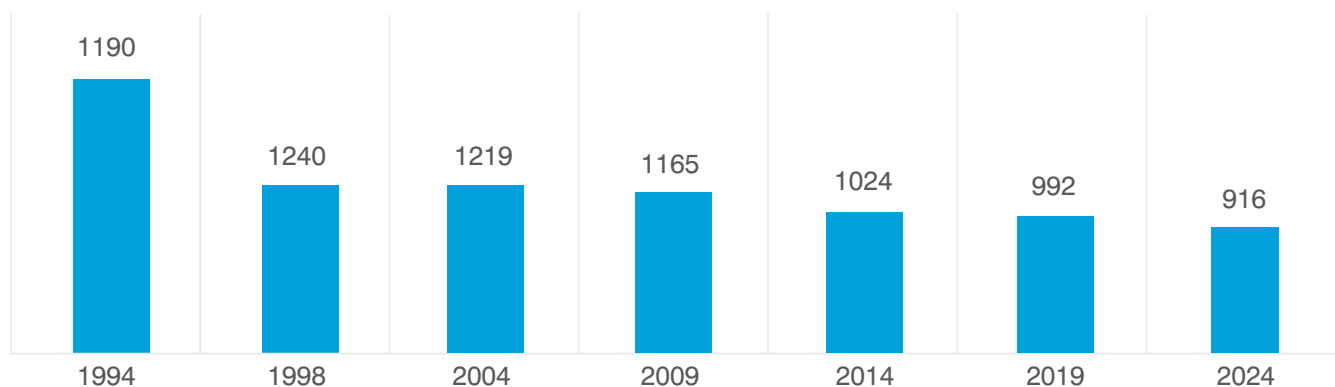
The South African electoral administration introduced a new voting venue concept for the 2011 municipal council elections, termed voting centres. A voting centre is a voting station with several sub-stations that use mandatory streaming on Election Day. Each mandatory stream or sub-station functions as a semi-autonomous voting station. However, a voting centre services one voting district only.

For NPE 2024, 4 137 voting centres operated with 9 511 sub-stations, as shown in the table below. Provinces with the highest number of voting centres include the provinces with the largest concentrations of voting population: Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Western Cape.

Table 2: Number of voting centres and sub-stations in NPE 2024

Province	Number voting centres	Number sub-stations	Average number of sub-stations per voting centre
Eastern Cape	111	230	2
Free State	246	507	2
Gauteng	1 302	3 239	2
KwaZulu-Natal	1 245	2 782	2
Limpopo	311	655	2
Mpumalanga	200	501	3
North West	206	417	2
Northern Cape	14	35	3
Western Cape	502	1 145	2
TOTAL	4 137	9 511	2

Figure 1: Average voters per voting district

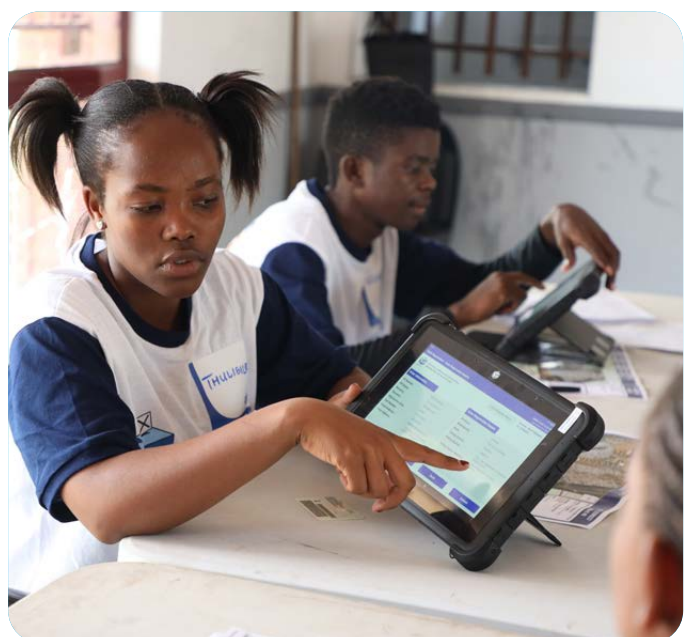


Just under 20 million voters cast their votes at approximately 10 000 voting stations in NPE 1994 (no national common voters' roll was in place at the time), translating to an average of 1 990 voters per voting station. Since then, the average number of registered voters per voting station or voting centre stream has

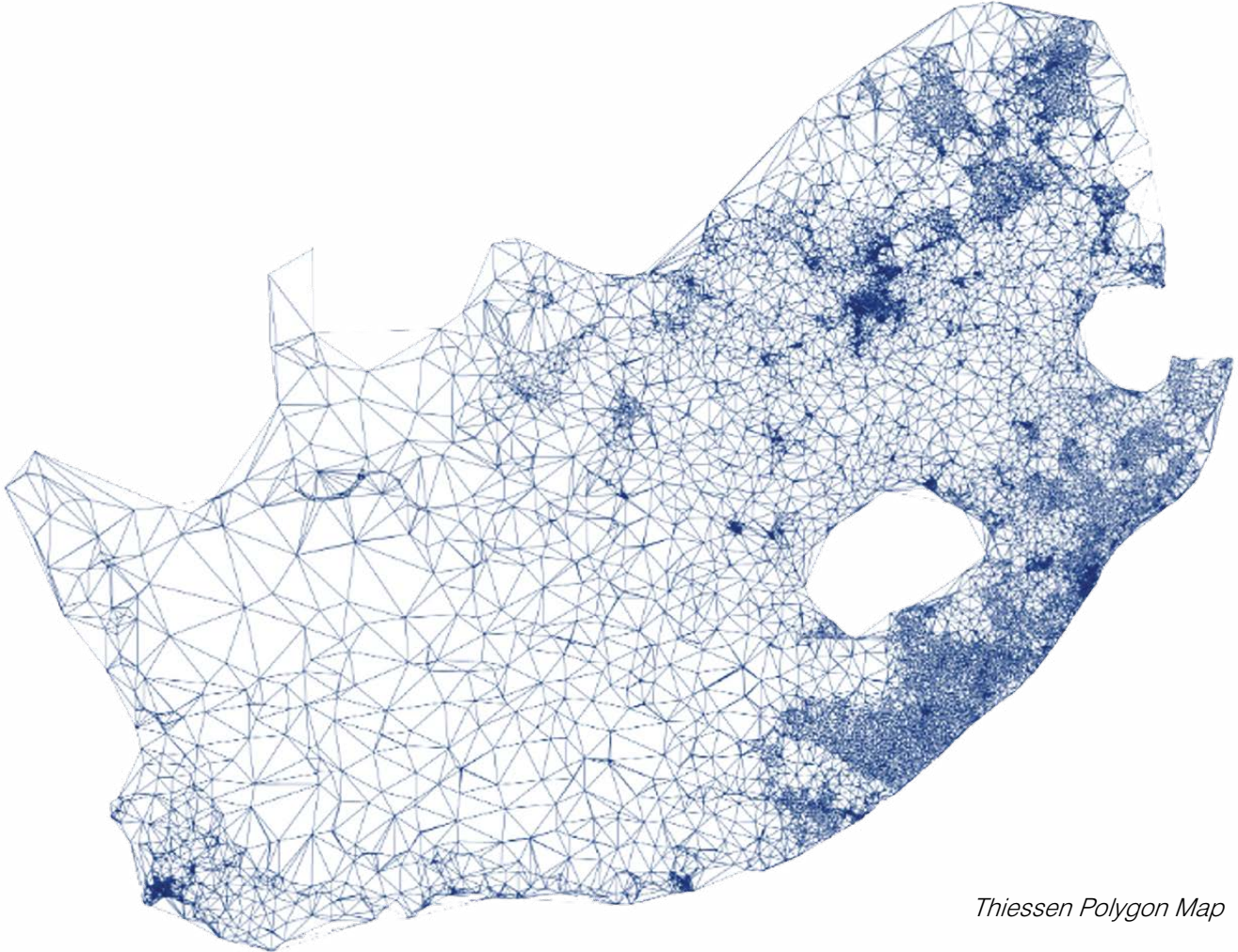
declined with each general election. This decline means that, on average, voters should wait for shorter periods to vote at voting stations on Election Day.

There were 916 registered voters per voting station or stream during NPE 2024 – the lowest average in 30 years.

Voter Registration Weekends



Map illustrating the Voting Station Network for South Africa's 2024 National and Provincial Elections



Thiessen Polygon Map

“

An increase in the number of voting districts between elections should generally translate into improved voter access to voting stations, potentially reducing the time taken to cast their ballots on Election Day.

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3. Pre-Election Research

The Electoral Commission's research strategy comprises a set of long- and short-term research studies. The long-term research studies comprise two flagship longitudinal national survey studies:

- Voter Participation Surveys (VPS)
- Election Satisfaction Surveys (ESS).

These surveys have been undertaken since the mid-2000s and conducted during each election cycle in collaboration with the HSRC.

In addition to long-term research studies, the Electoral Commission also regularly conducts short-term research studies based on emerging and urgent imperatives or priorities. Examples of short-term studies have included subjects such as electronic voting technology, ballot paper design, party funding, voter turnout in municipal by-elections and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on electoral processes.

The Electoral Commission derives considerable benefits from these studies, as they help the leadership and staff of the organisation to learn from the findings and use the lessons to enhance all aspects of election management. Among others, the benefits of these studies include:

1. Informing and guiding the work of the Electoral Commission in the formulation of policies and strategic decision-making
2. Assisting the Electoral Commission to plan and manage electoral processes
3. Helping the Electoral Commission to learn from best practices in aspects of its mandate, including voter education and voter registration

4. Providing evidence-based research for decision-making.

The research outputs (reports and related publications) are also made available to the public to contribute towards broader public debates on matters impacting the country's electoral democracy. The information provided in this section outlines the research studies carried out in preparation for NPE 2024.

Promoting greater youth participation in electoral democracy

This study sought to address one of the major challenges facing global electoral democracies, including South Africa. The challenge is the widespread prevalence of declining voter turnout in elections. It is widely acknowledged that electoral democracy has been in decline for some time, with widespread decreases in voter participation and voter turnout in elections, particularly among young people. The study explored the factors influencing voter participation and low voter turnout during elections in South Africa, as well as strategies to address these challenges.

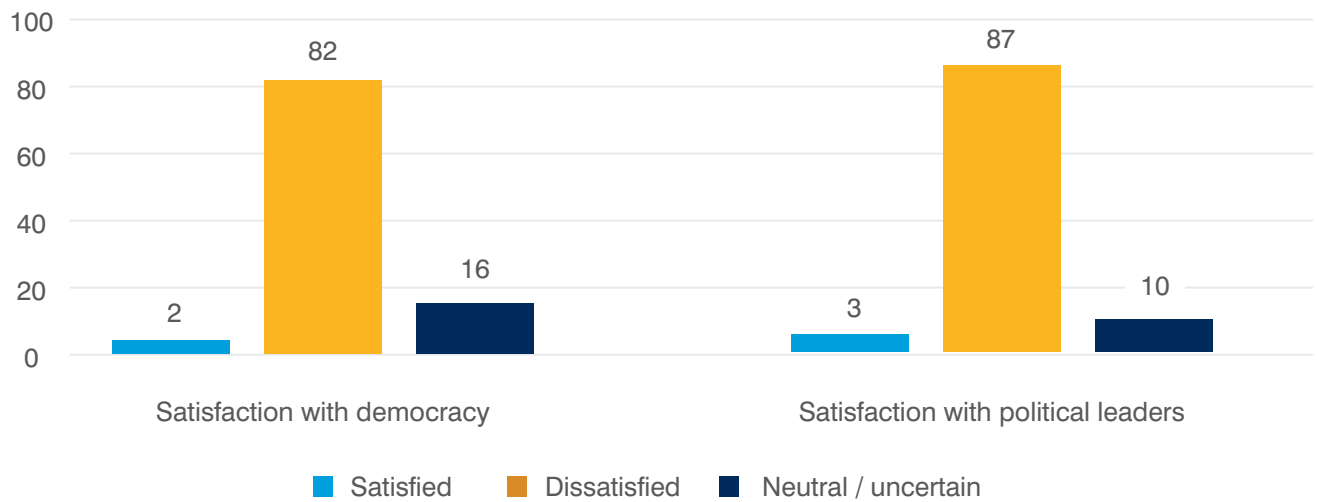
The study comprised two components. The first component consisted of an online survey using the data-free Moya Messenger application to allow for a rapid assessment of the factors underlying planned voter abstentions in NPE 2024. The second component was a qualitative research exercise focusing on group discussions with young prospective voters (between 18 and 35) who were openly disillusioned about voting in NPE 2024. The findings from this study were used to inform the formulation of the communication strategy and campaigns to increase voter participation among young people ahead of NPE 2024.

Scan the QR code to link to research on youth participation



The Electoral Commission derives considerable benefits from these studies, as they help the leadership and staff of the organisation to learn from the findings and use the lessons to enhance all aspects of election management.

Figure 2: Satisfaction with democracy and leaders



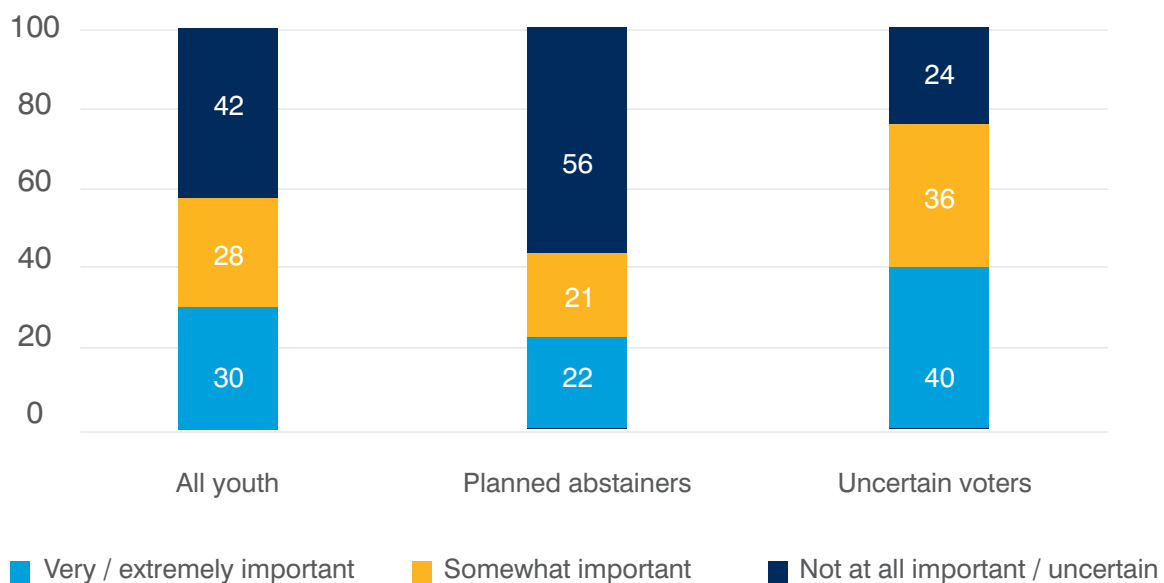
Source: HSRC 2023 Online Youth Survey

As the figure above shows, the study revealed the extent to which the youth were dissatisfied with the country's democracy.

As the figure below illustrates, the study also pointed to significant divisions ahead of NPE 2024 among young people in South Africa regarding the importance of voting.

Among the findings of the study was the number of young people who were not interested in voting in NPE 2024 due to perceptions that their individual vote would not make any difference in the outcomes of the elections (47%). However, young people still believed in the importance of voting as a duty of citizens (53%).

Figure 3: Importance of voting



Source: HSRC 2023 Online Youth Survey

Voter Participation Survey (VPS)

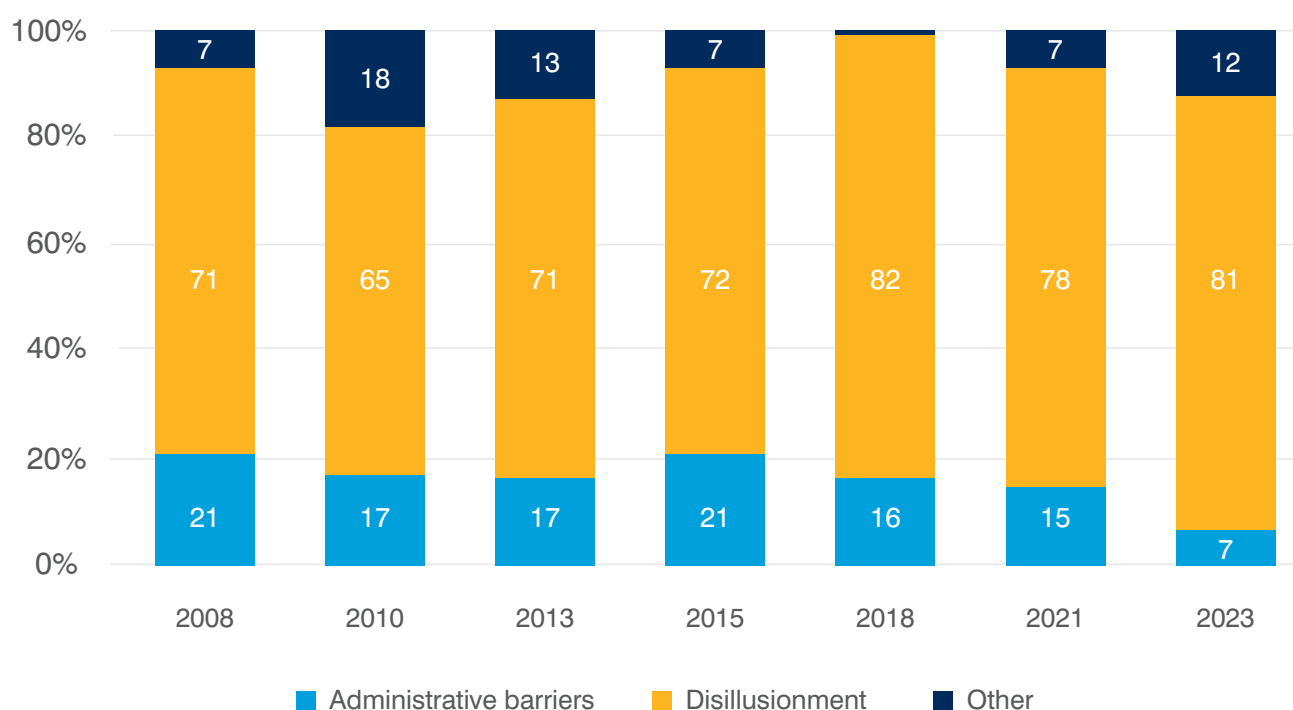
The VPS is routinely conducted across the country before every local, national and provincial government election and is based on a nationally representative sample of members of the public of voting age. At least half a year before the election, the VPS seeks to assess the attitudes and perceptions of prospective voters (whether they intend to vote or not) towards the country's democracy, and political system, as well as the performance of government institutions. These surveys also measure

the levels of citizen interest in electoral participation before elections.

For NPE 2024, the VPS was conducted in the second half of 2023, with the findings presented to the public at a research seminar held on 6 December 2023.

The findings of the VPS are used to inform and guide the work of the Electoral Commission, including planning for the voter education programme, communication campaigns, and information policies and related practices ahead of elections.

Figure 4: Reasons for planned abstentions



Source: HSRC 2023, Voter Participation Survey

The VPS revealed significant levels of disillusionment among voters in general, but particularly so among those between the ages of 18 and 19. The study showed that voters between the ages of 45 and 54 were the most likely to want to vote in NPE 2024.

The figure above captures the major reasons why voters were largely critical in their evaluations of the government's performance, which underpinned their intentions to abstain from voting ahead of NPE 2024. The VPS identified the following reasons or factors leading to voters opting not to vote in NPE 2024: disillusionment (81%), administrative barriers (7%) and individual barriers, intimidation and other reasons (12%).

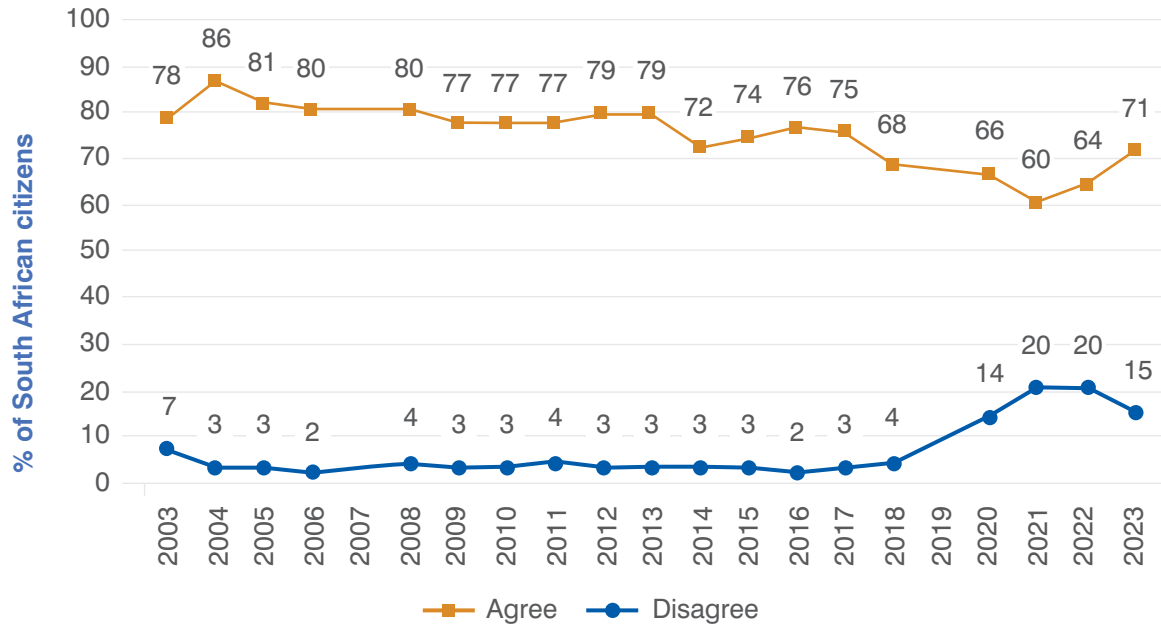
Research findings revealed that disillusionment emerged as the dominant reason why voters intended not to vote in NPE 2024. Disillusionment refers to widespread voter discontent and disaffection with several issues, such as voter dissatisfaction with the way the country's democracy functions, poor delivery of government services, the performance of political parties, corruption and the general quality of material living conditions (including unemployment and cost of living). Disillusionment has increased significantly from 2008 (71%) to 2023 (81%).

Administrative barriers, which might include issues such as voters not being registered or lack of identity documents, have declined from 2008 (21%) to 2023

(7%) as a factor leading to voters opting not to vote. The decline in the levels of administrative barriers shows clearly that the Electoral Commission and its partners,

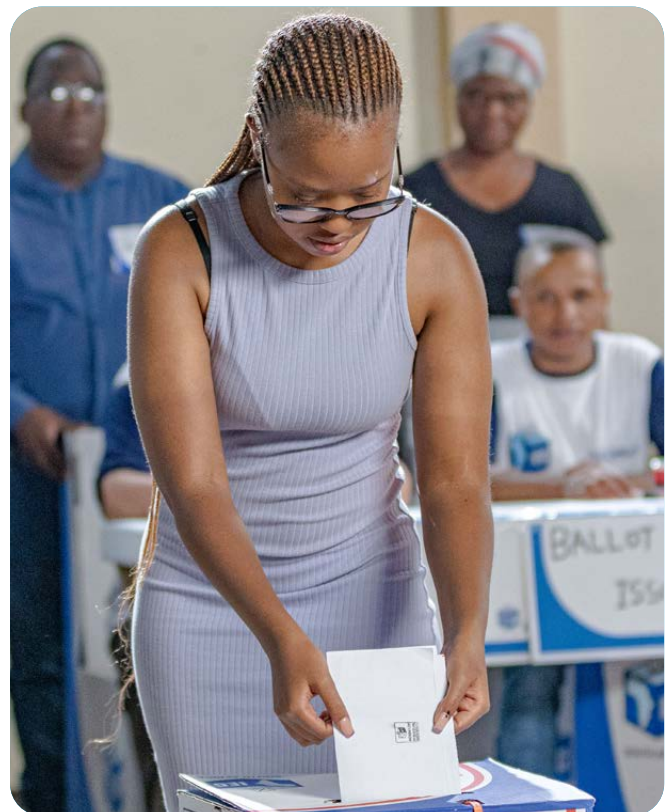
such as the Department of Home Affairs, have addressed many of these barriers over the years.

Figure 5: Duty to vote



Ahead of the NPE in May 2024, the majority of the VPS respondents believed it is the duty of citizens to vote (71%). This figure represents an upward trend from 2022 (64%) and is higher than the figure obtained in the

youth survey, which showed that 53% of young people (between the ages of 18 and 34) believed it is the duty of citizens to vote.



4. Infrastructure: Voting Station Planning

The primary infrastructure required to support an election is the extensive network of voting stations. Each of the 23 292 voting stations for NPE 2024 was inspected in advance to confirm the availability of key infrastructure and facilities, including electricity (lighting), telecommunications, water, sanitation, furniture and disability-friendly access. For this purpose, the Electoral Commission designed and implemented an internal voting station survey that provided insight into all voting stations and their accompanying infrastructure. Where necessary, temporary infrastructure was procured for the duration of the election event.

The majority of venues are schools, and to stabilise and improve the voting station network, the Electoral Commission formed long-term strategic partnerships with public and private bodies such as the Department of Basic Education, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Eskom, and the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network operators such as Vodacom, MTN, Telkom, and Cell C. Initiatives involving these partners were aimed at improving the infrastructure situation at voting stations by prioritising infrastructure improvement.

In the quest to ensure free and fair elections, the Electoral Commission actively collaborated with Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd in March 2024 to bolster network accessibility to communities and the electoral operations across the country. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed through which the parties confirmed their distinct complementary and respective roles and shared a common commitment to collaborate in that initiative to support free and fair elections. In support of the MoU, the Electoral Commission and Eskom held multiple high-level meetings to share and discuss election readiness matters. This collaboration contributed significantly to Eskom's success in suspending load shedding and preventing power outages during the elections and beyond.

For the purposes of NPE 2024, the Electoral Commission provided adequate emergency lighting and backup power equipment to ensure the efficient operation of all voting stations and NPE 2024 result-capture sites.

The Electoral Commission is also committed to further investigating and assessing alternative power sources to ensure continuous operational functionality at its local offices in preparation for future elections.

The table below provides an overview of the types of voting stations used during NPE 2024.

Table 3: Provincial breakdown by voting station type for NPE 2024

Province	Voting districts	Permanent voting stations (schools)	Temporary voting stations	Mobile voting stations
Eastern Cape	4 868	4 765 (3 639)	93	10
Free State	1 586	1 402 (686)	184	0
Gauteng	2 797	2 605 (1 468)	192	0
KwaZulu-Natal	4 974	4 837 (3 520)	128	9
Limpopo	3 216	3 065 (2 399)	151	0
Mpumalanga	1 811	1 732 (1 089)	66	13
North West	1 738	1 651 (940)	87	0
Northern Cape	730	721 (222)	9	0
Western Cape	1 572	1 546 (683)	26	0
Total	23 292	22 324 (14 646)	936	32

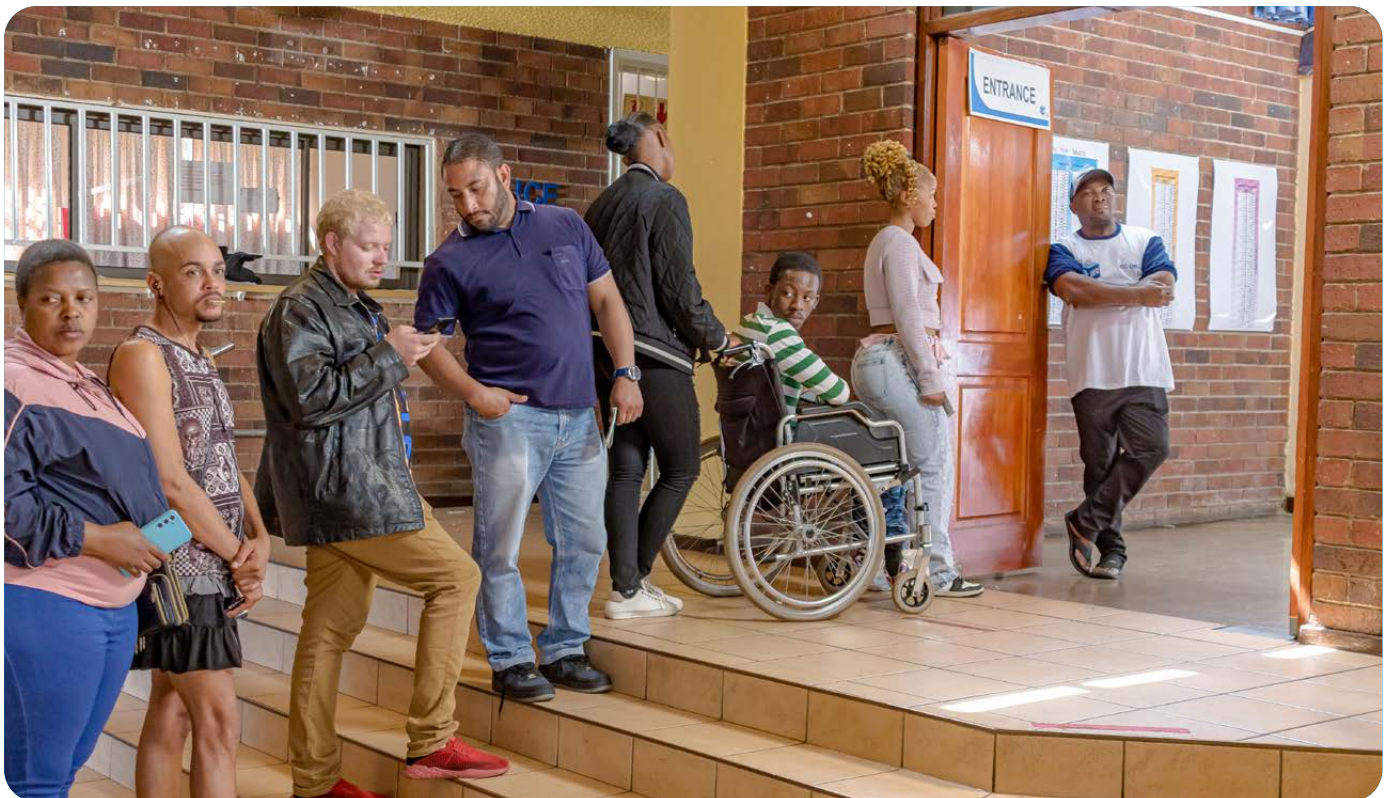
Schools used as voting stations accounted for 63% of the voting stations during NPE 2024.

The Electoral Commission also made a concerted effort to reduce the use of temporary facilities, as these have security and other implications for election officials and

election materials and tend to negatively impact the voting experience. The use of temporary facilities was reduced by 24.10% since LGE 2016. There was a further reduction in the use of temporary voting stations of 17.16% between LGE 2021 and NPE 2024, as illustrated in the table below.

Table 4: Reduction in the number of temporary voting stations between the 2016 and 2024 elections

Province	LGE 2016	NPE 2019	LGE 2021	NPE 2024	Percentage change (LGE 2016 to NPE 2024)	Percentage change (LGE 2021 to NPE 2024)
Eastern Cape	161	119	118	93	-42.24	-21.19
Free State	189	148	179	184	-2.65	2.79
Gauteng	327	295	271	193	-41.28	-28.78
KwaZulu-Natal	133	116	154	128	-4.51	-16.88
Limpopo	145	138	152	151	4.14	-0.66
Mpumalanga	82	65	73	66	-19.51	-9.59
North West	115	126	134	87	-26.96	-37.31
Northern Cape	26	4	7	9	-65.38	-28.57
Western Cape	50	35	37	26	-48.00	-24.32
Total	1 228	1 046	1 125	936	-24.10	-16.8



5. Civic and Democracy Education

Voter education and balloting education form an integral part of civic and democracy education (CDE), and the Electoral Commission conducts CDE programmes on a continuous basis across the electoral cycle, engaging the public in the periods before, between and after general elections, as well as before by-elections.

Community outreach and mobilisation

As part of promoting NPE 2024, the Electoral Commission actively promoted and generated awareness and participation in electoral processes through CDE programmes. CDE programmes engaged communities on the importance of voting and registering eligible voters. Notably, the CDE campaign achieved results, with a high number of registered voters reaching approximately 27.78 million. However, voter participation was lower than expected.

Because the NPE was in May 2024, the process overlapped the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years, and therefore the number of CDE events conducted will reflect the overlap. For the year that ended 31 March 2024, 203 996 events were conducted, and during April and May of 2024/25, 42 392 events were conducted. The provinces that were allocated the highest number of events were Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, which have the highest registration population. In the lead-up to NPE 2024, 246 388 CDE events were conducted.

The success of presenting this number of CDE events can be attributed to the recruitment of 292 municipal outreach coordinators (MOCs) from June 2023 to June 2024 and 2 032 democracy education facilitators (DEFs) from July 2023 to April 2024. Training of MOCs and DEFs was key, and a train-the-trainer approach was used. All provincial outreach and regional outreach officers (ROOs) were trained in preparation for them to train MOCs and DEFs. A comprehensive two-day training programme was

developed, and training was rolled out across the country to MOCs in July and August 2023 and DEFs in August and September 2023. The training encompassed the entire electoral cycle and provided some facilitation tips. The training was designed to equip MOCs and DEFs with the knowledge to tackle any question related to electoral democracy and elections.

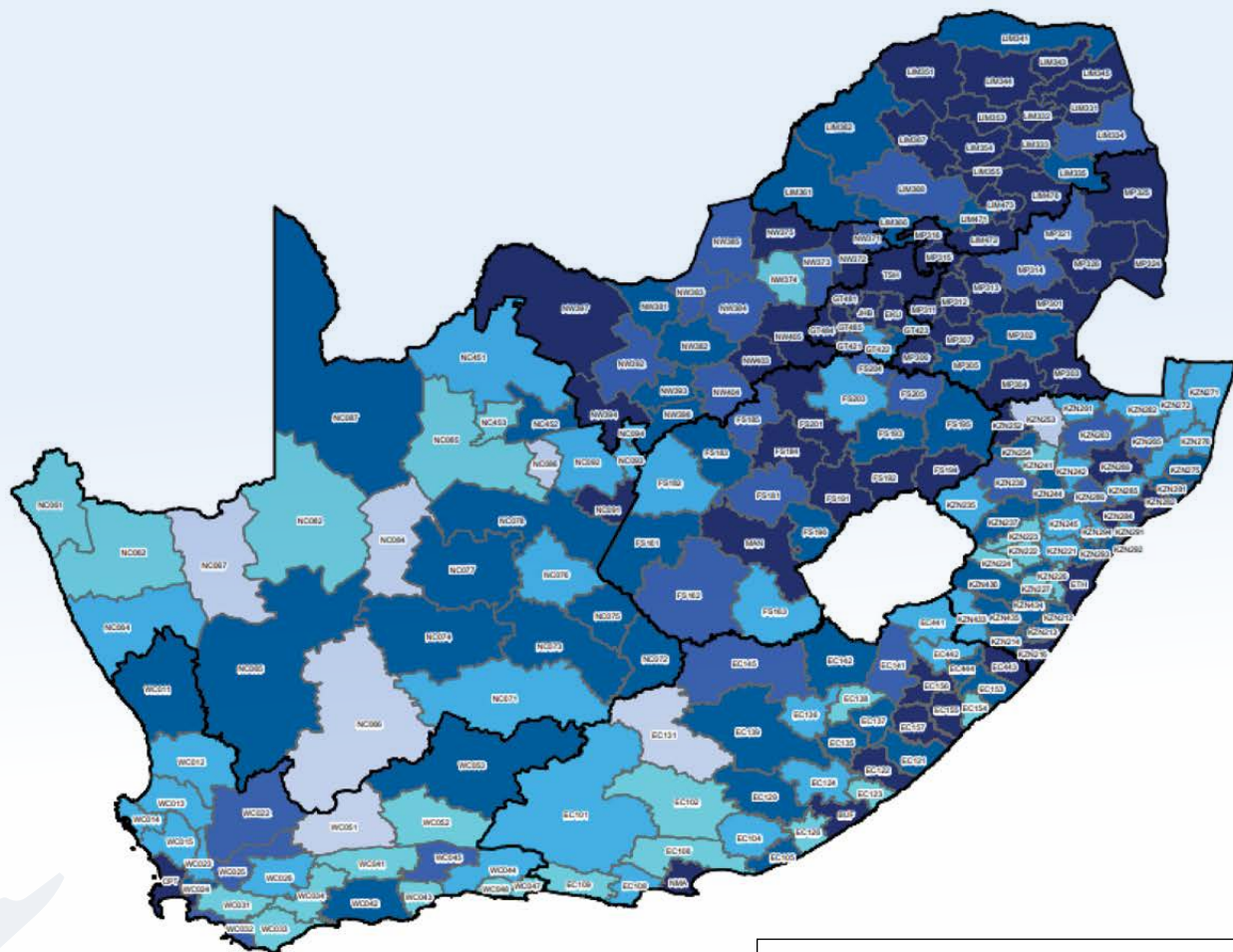
The training content included the following:

- What is democracy?
- Introduction to the Electoral Commission and its structures
- Civic education and its projects at the Electoral Commission
- What is a Constitution (including the Rule of Law)?
- Bill of Rights
- Spheres of governance (including the Separation of Powers)
- National and provincial elections with a focus on 2024 changes
- Electoral Code of Conduct
- Free and fair elections
- Seat allocation.

All MOCs and DEFs underwent refresher training in February 2024. This phase focused on balloting education which encompassed how each of the three ballots worked and how to ensure that they were validly marked. It was mandatory for all MOCs and DEFs to be taken through this programme to ensure that consistent information was cascaded to the various communities for which they were responsible.

Figure 6: Civic and democracy education events 2023-2024 mapped across South Africa

Province	Interventions
Eastern Cape	24 817
Free State	21 092
Gauteng	27 985
KwaZulu-Natal	31 086
Limpopo	27 232
Mpumalanga	24 068
North West	16 962
Northern Cape	13 397
Western Cape	17 357
Total	203 996

**LEGEND**

- Provincial boundary
- Municipal boundary

Number of outreach interventions

- 1 - 200
- 201 - 400
- 401 - 600
- 601 - 800
- 801 - 1 000
- > 1 000

Schools democracy programme

One of the greatest challenges for the Electoral Commission is getting the youth to register and vote. The largest proportion of unregistered voters is found amongst the youngest age cohort (16 to 19 years), affirming the focus on the youth during registration and voting.

Since 2013, the Electoral Commission has collaborated with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) on the Schools Democracy Programme initiative. The programme is typically launched in the week that coincides with Freedom Day on 27 April annually. The programme objectives are to entrench voter registration,

voting, and active participation as fundamental civic responsibilities.

The DBE and Electoral Commission jointly launched the Schools Democracy Programme in Alexandra and in Soweto on 18 and 22 April 2024 respectively. In preparation for NPE 2024, various advocacy materials were produced to empower learners to participate in democratic processes.

The table below shows that the Schools Democracy Programme reached over 3 200 schools and over 407 000 learners ahead of the elections.

Table 5: Schools Democracy Programme

Province	Number of GET schools reached	Number of FET schools reached	Number of learners reached
Eastern Cape	102	126	17 812
Free State	13	137	22 843
Gauteng	261	336	113 452
KwaZulu-Natal	15	286	4 458
Limpopo	69	437	68 118
Mpumalanga	181	301	109 809
North West	22	263	1 546
Northern Cape	107	146	46 492
Western Cape	41	431	22 828
Total	811	2 463	407 358

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder consultation takes place at various levels of government, from the national to the local sphere. A variety of stakeholders are consulted, including technical, vocational, education and training colleges (TVETs), civil society organisations (CSOs), education, teachers, learners, universities, students, traditional leaders, religious leaders, the youth, legislators, municipalities, the disability sector, business, councillors, the police and security services, other Chapter 9 institutions and government departments.

Tertiary institutions civic and democracy education (CDE) programmes

In recent years, the Electoral Commission has also run initiatives focused on educating older youth at tertiary institutions. The initiatives aim to empower the tertiary students through CDE programmes to become active citizens who register to vote and participate fully in electoral processes. Over the course of the 2023/24 financial year, 190 tertiary institutions and 63 654 students were reached. A breakdown by province and institution follows:

Table 6: Reach of the civic and democracy education campaign in tertiary institutions

Province	Number of universities visited	Number of students reached	Number of students registered	Number of colleges visited	Number of students reached	Number of students registered
Gauteng	10	10 969	572	35	22 968	861
KwaZulu-Natal	5	933	537	36	6 425	2 569
Western Cape	4	4 692	270	3	935	74
Eastern Cape	5	1 098	547	15	2 344	557
Limpopo	2	976	227	38	5 102	756
Mpumalanga	0	0	0	11	2 495	0
Free State	1	20	0	4	877	64
Northern Cape	1	90	27	5	808	90
North West	1	128	139	14	2 794	841
Total	29	18 906	2 319	161	44 748	5 812

Importantly, the Electoral Commission has worked closely with the disability sector to address their concerns, especially with organisations representing blind and deaf persons. The organisations that represent blind persons have contributed significantly

to the improvement of the universal ballot template (UBT), which is used by braille-literate blind voters and voters whose disability condition requires support. The UBT helps ensure that the ballots are not spoilt and ensures the secrecy of their vote.



South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) partnership

Once again the Electoral Commission signed an agreement with the SABC to use their various platforms to raise awareness and inform stakeholders about NPE 2024. The Charter for Civic and Democracy Education detailed the specific platforms to be included, mainly radio, television and social media.

As part of the preparations, the SABC and the Electoral Commission held a content workshop on 12 and 13 September 2023. All the provincial outreach officers from the Electoral Commission attended the session with all the senior producers from the SABC's 13 participating radio stations. The content focused on election procedures and included information on registration, voting and results.

Table 7: Radio stations utilised for voter education

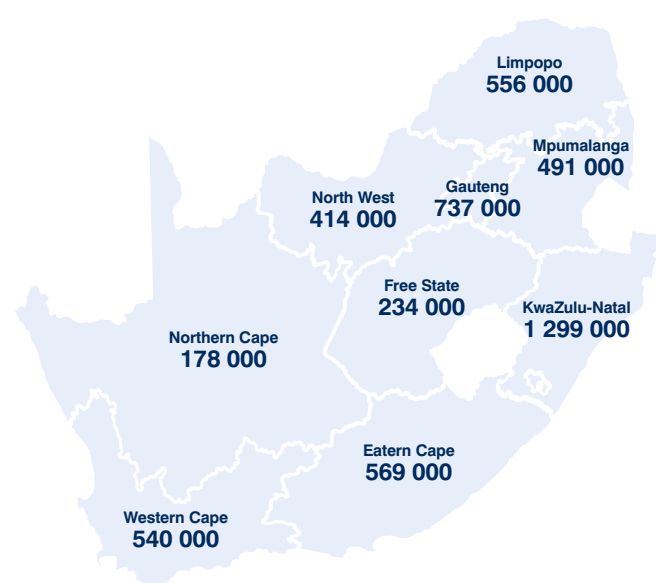
Radio station	Estimated listenership	Languages
Ukhozi FM	7.8 million	IsiZulu
Umhlobo Wenene FM	5.5 million	IsiXhosa
Lesedi FM	4.0 million	SeSotho
Phalaphala FM	907 000	Venda
Thobela FM	2.9 million	Sepedi (Nothern Sotho)
Motsweding FM	2.6 million	Setswana
Ligwalagwala FM	1.5 million	Siswati
Lotus FM	260 000	English
Munghana Ionene FM	1 million	Xitsonga
Ikwekwezi FM	1.3 million	IsiNdebele
RSG FM	1.3 million	Afrikaans
True FM	281 000	IsiXhosa and English
XK FM	6 000	Xu, Kwe and Afrikaans

The above radio stations covered all 11 official languages spoken in South Africa. The SABC used two programmes called Civic Slot and Youth Ke Yona on all 13 radio stations.

The radio project started in the first week of November 2023, initially focusing on promoting the November voter registration weekend and the changes to the electoral law. In February 2024, focus was placed on the second voter registration weekend. After the closure of the voters' roll, radio content outlined topics such as out-of-country voting, special votes, Section 24A, the three-ballot system, voting, how to mark your ballots, free and fair elections, and the Electoral Code of Conduct.

The SABC prepared a script for all the programmes in collaboration with the Electoral Commission. Officials from the Electoral Commission were the guests on programmes to provide information and to answer listener questions.

Figure 7: Listenership of the community radio civic and democracy education (CDE) campaign in 2023/24



Voter education on television

As early as November 2023, SABC 1 hosted a programme to promote electoral democracy focused on the youth. The programme featured various speakers from the Electoral Commission and covered a wide variety of topics related to the election.

Voter education on social media

Social media activities and communication commenced in 2023 across the Electoral Commission's social media pages on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, X, WhatsApp and YouTube. These activities focused on all stages of the election process, from voter registration to

the announcement of the results. Social media content extended to include all the 'additional' information required by citizens:

- Revised electoral system
- Opportunities for independent candidates
- Misinformation and disinformation warnings
- The new three-ballot system used in NPE 2024, among numerous other topics of interest.

The growth of the reach of CDE content on the WhatsApp channel is noteworthy, as messages were sent to the growing number of active users throughout the election period with great success.



Table 8: Reach of civic and democracy education (CDE) programmes on WhatsApp in 2023/24

Period	Analytics		
	Nov 2023 (first registration weekend)	Feb 2024 (second registration weekend)	May 2024 (NPE 2024 period)
Total users	94 100	214 210	203 790
Active users	50 840	57 180	203 790
Messages sent	572 400	861 500	3.42 million
Messages received	334 240	560 270	1.95 million

6. Communication Campaign: Your Democracy, Own It!

“Your democracy, own it!” was the theme of the comprehensive communications campaign for NPE 2024. The dynamic initiative aimed to empower citizens to actively participate in the electoral process.

The campaign sought to foster informed and engaged voters using a strategic focus on voter registration and voting, education around the revised electoral dispensation and the use of three ballots.

Youth focus

As a cornerstone of democracy, the Electoral Commission recognises the paramount importance of a comprehensive communication offering to ensure that all citizens are informed, engaged, and empowered to participate fully in the democratic process.

Thirty years of democratic rule have resulted in a relatively high proportion of registered voters within the overall potential voting age population, but voter registration indicates greater representation of older age groups.

Census data from Statistics South Africa shows that the population of South Africa is increasingly young. As of January 2022, 66% of the population was under the age of 35. On the voters’ roll, however, the reverse was true: just 18% of registered voters were aged 18 to 30. To facilitate and promote a truly representative electoral process, one

of the key challenges the Electoral Commission faced in the build-up to NPE 2024 was encouraging eligible young voters to register, participate and engage. Getting the youth interested in elections and politics is especially important because research shows that young voters tend to become voters for life.

Low voter registration and electoral participation are frequently interpreted to mean that young people are apathetic when it comes to politics. Research conducted for the Electoral Commission by the HSRC in May 2023 indicated otherwise. The *Promoting Greater Youth Voter Participation in Electoral Democracy* study explored the factors impacting voter participation and low voter turnout in elections in South Africa and strategies to address these challenges. The findings from this study informed the formulation of the Electoral Commission’s election campaign.

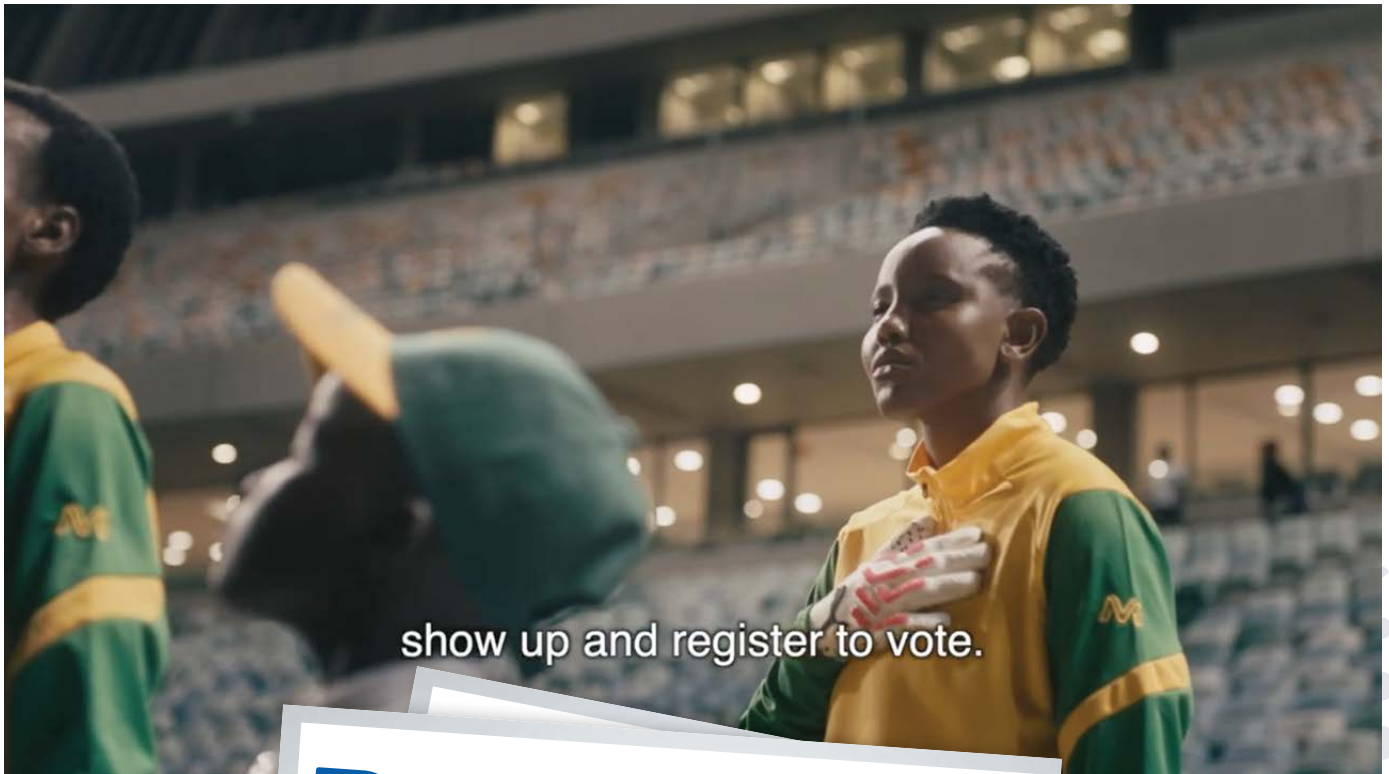
The intention of the “Your democracy, own it!” theme crafted for the NPE 2024 campaign was to remind citizens that they were born into a democratic country where their opinions matter and where they can take charge of matters that affect their future.

Furthermore, the slogan sought to convince citizens, especially the youth, to take charge, reminding the citizens that this democracy belongs to them and inviting them to take ownership of the democracy.

The focus during the initial phase of the campaign was the promotion of voter registration.

A campaign for voter registration abroad also used social media to effectively reach out-of-country South Africans via social media.





show up and register to vote.

**REGISTER
TO VOTE**

**18 - 19 NOV
2023 | 8AM - 5PM**

**YOUR DEMOCRACY
OWN IT X**

0800 11 8000

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ENGLISH

Campaign highlights

Launched in October 2023, the “Your democracy, own it!” campaign championed the voter registration events held in November 2023 and March 2024, particularly among young citizens, and Election Days both in and out of the country in May 2024. Critically, the campaign also focused on creating awareness among citizens of the changes brought about by the Electoral Amendment Act and the impact these would have on the elections.

The campaign used a multi-channel approach to reach a wide audience, leveraging traditional media and digital and social media platforms. Through engaging television, radio, digital, out-of-home and social advertisements, posters, and interactive workshops, the Electoral Commission reached and encouraged eligible voters to register, emphasising the importance of everyone’s voice in shaping the nation’s future.

The impressive reach of the Electoral Commission’s NPE “Your democracy, own it!” campaign was as follows:

1

First registration in November 2023:
140 837 644

2

Second registration in February 2024:
302 265 745



Elections in May 2024:
661 796 994

In broadcast and digital marketing, reach refers to the number of unique viewers who see content. The figures provided here were supplied by the appointed media buyer and media monitoring agency.



Television

Among the key creative products of the registration and voting campaigns were 30-second and 60-second television adverts featuring a diverse range of dynamic South Africans celebrating their democratic gains and encouraging others to register and vote. The key products were broadcast on all major SABC channels, eTV and eNCA, and selected DSTv channels.



Radio

Various radio adverts supported the television adverts in all 11 official languages. These adverts were featured across 13 SABC radio stations, 11 commercial stations, and community and regional radio stations.



Street-pole posters

To further reinforce the voter registration messaging, the Electoral Commission produced approximately 180 000 posters in all 11 official languages, which were distributed and erected throughout South Africa ahead of the November 2023 and February 2024 voter registration weekends.



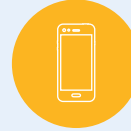
Print

During the registration and voting campaigns, the print strategy focused on various platforms and sizes of print advertisements in mainstream and community newspapers across all nine provinces.



Out-of-home activation

During this election campaign, the Electoral Commission pursued various formats, sizes and platforms in its out-of-home activation for the registration campaign, including digital and static billboards, wall murals, automatic teller machine (ATM) screens, taxi rank screens and bus-back advertisements. The approach was to have various touchpoints and destinations where the Electoral Commission could reach as wide an audience as possible across all nine provinces. Touchpoints included major arterials, township exit-and-entry points, commuter nodes and sites deep in the townships.



Digital and social media

The rise of digital communication technologies has significantly expanded how information is shared and consumed. Recognising the shift from traditional media to digital and social media, particularly among the youth, the Electoral Commission strategically adapted its communication approach to align with these trends. The Electoral Commission embraced digital platforms as essential tools for disseminating news and information, ensuring it remains at the forefront of modern communication.

The social media campaign launched with a series of dynamic voter registration events, setting the stage for an innovative and expansive digital strategy to guide South Africa through NPE 2024. The campaign skilfully integrated organic and promoted content across major social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and X, ensuring broad and diverse engagement. This strategic use of social media platforms allowed the Electoral Commission to connect with various demographic groups, including the youth, who increasingly rely on digital channels for information.

To amplify the reach of the campaign, the Electoral Commission also deployed digital banner ads and homepage takeovers on leading South African news websites such as News24, IOL, and Daily Maverick. These platforms played a crucial role in driving the campaign's message, reaching voters in both urban and rural areas. The combination of social media and digital news platforms ensured that the campaign's messaging penetrated deeply among the voters, capturing the attention of those who might not have been reached through traditional media.

However, the campaign's goals extended beyond mere voter registration reminders. The campaign aimed to spark a nationwide dialogue about the significance of participating in the upcoming elections. By harnessing the reach and influence of social media and strategic digital placements, the campaign provided vital information on the registration process, key dates, and the implications of the Electoral Amendment Act. This comprehensive approach informed the public and inspired a deeper sense of civic responsibility, encouraging citizens to actively shape their country's future.

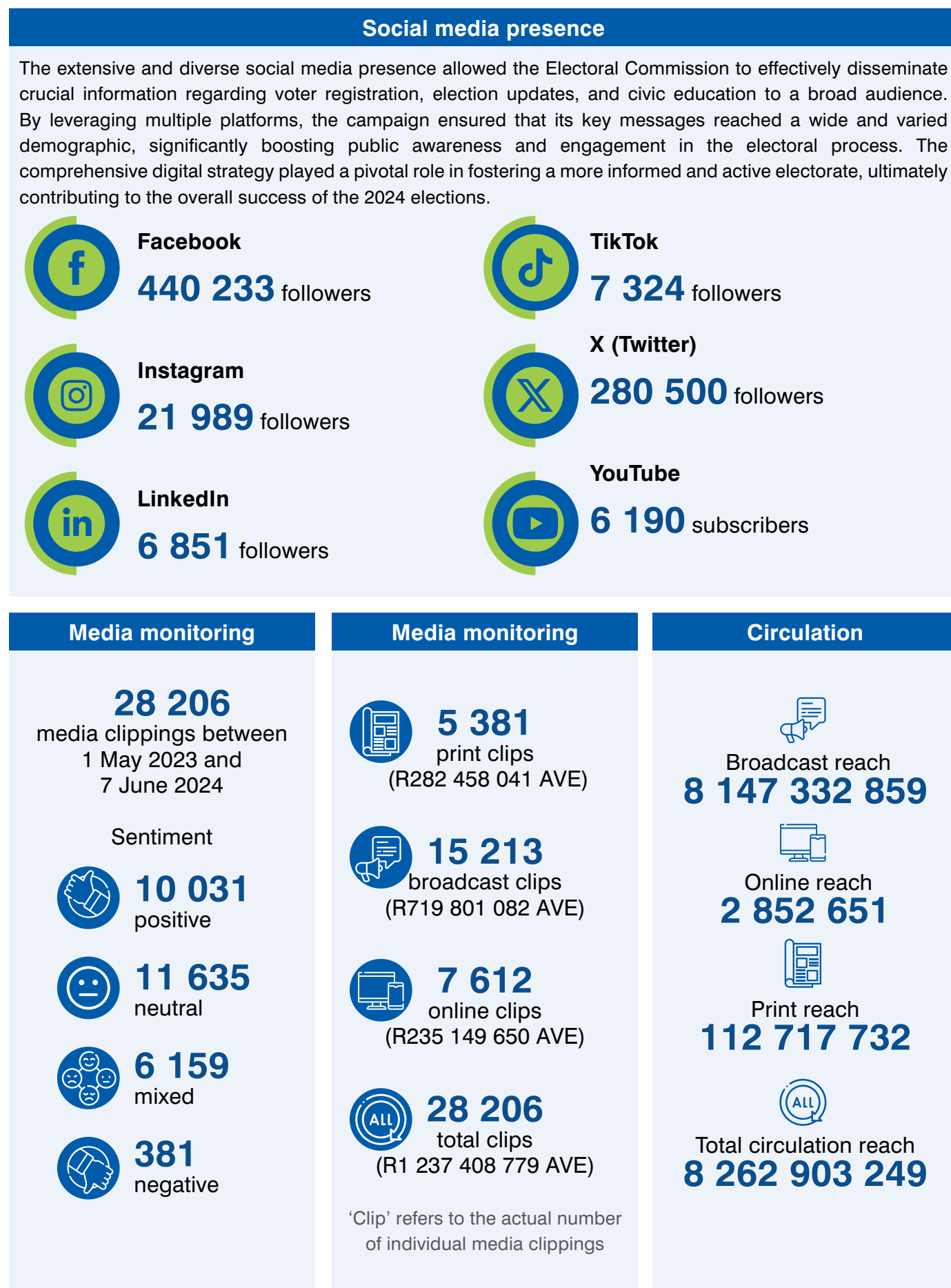
The campaign also emphasised the importance of understanding the changes brought by the Electoral Amendment Act, which would impact the upcoming elections. Through engaging content, the Electoral Commission informed voters about how these changes would affect their voting experience and the overall electoral process. This educational aspect was crucial in ensuring voters were prepared to participate and fully understood the new electoral landscape.

The campaign's success was measured by its ability to foster dialogue and engagement across digital platforms. The Electoral Commission's active presence on social media enabled real-time interaction with the public, where queries were addressed and transparent updates were provided. This level of engagement boosted public trust and empowered voters with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions.

In summary, the Electoral Commission's social media campaign was more than just a promotional effort. The campaign was a comprehensive digital presence that successfully connected with millions of South Africans. By combining the reach of social media with targeted digital advertising, the campaign ensured that crucial electoral information was accessible, engaging, and effective in mobilising the voters for NPE 2024.



Figure 8: Summary of the media campaign for NPE 2024



Source: information as provided by the appointed media monitoring service provider

Media relations and events management

Over the years, the Electoral Commission has nurtured and enjoyed a dynamic relationship with the South African media to ensure that the voters are extensively informed about voter registration drives and elections. The media bears the significant responsibility of ensuring that the voters are provided with the information they need to make informed decisions about electoral processes.

During the NPE 2024 media campaign, the Electoral Commission communicated voter education, registration and voting information, and disclosures concerning political funding.

The Electoral Commission hosted several activities to promote and report on NPE 2024. The activities included live media broadcasts, media briefings, electoral events and journalist training.

Throughout the election campaign, the Electoral Commission dealt with thousands of media enquiries and interview requests from journalists.

Nearly 2 000 journalists were engaged at the height of the election period. The Electoral Commission's WhatsApp group for members of the media was highly responsive to requests for information and interviews. The WhatsApp group communications team recorded and shared voice notes and video clips by senior management and distributed media releases.

The Electoral Commission also issued 97 media statements, hosted 27 media briefings and conducted media training workshops attended by 675 journalists from various media houses. The workshops aimed to achieve the following:

1. Inform the media of their role and responsibilities in election coverage
2. Inform the media of the Electoral Commission's preparations and electoral timelines
3. Provide a platform for sharing the Electoral Commission's communication and information needs with the media.



Overview of key events held

1. Launch of the “Your democracy, own it!” campaign on 24 October 2023

The Electoral Commission hosted the launch of the NPE 2024 campaign, which took place at the Gallagher Estate Convention Centre, with 150 guests and a sizeable media presence physically and online for the hour-long unveiling of the election’s logo.

2. National Electoral Code of Conduct pledge signing and ballot paper draw

This national event was held at Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, followed by Code of Conduct pledge-signing ceremonies in the nine provinces. At the events, the political contestants pledged to uphold the Electoral Code of Conduct as they entered the electioneering period. At the national event, the Electoral Commission hosted leaders of 52 of the contesting 70 political parties and their

representatives and six of the 11 independent candidates contesting national elections. The media covered the event, which was broadcast live on national television and beamed on Facebook and YouTube social media platforms.

3. Results announcement

The Electoral Commission hosted the results announcement on 2 June 2024 at the Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, with approximately 800 guests in attendance.

4. Handover of the seat allocation to the Chief Justice following NPE 2024

Following the announcement of the NPE 2024 results, on 6 June 2024, the Electoral Commission officially handed over the lists of designated members of parliament and members of provincial legislatures to the then Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, Raymond Zondo.



Contact centre

The Electoral Commission's commitment to democratic participation materialised through its state-of-the-art contact centre, launched in October 2023. This multi-channel hub deployed 120 trained agents across voice, email, social media, and – breaking new ground – a live chat application on the Electoral Commission's digital platforms.

Operating through the toll-free number 0800 11 8000 and email address info@elections.org.za, the centre demonstrated remarkable operational agility. Staffing flexed from 60 agents during standard periods to full capacity during peak electoral events, with extended hours during voter registration weekends and voting periods.

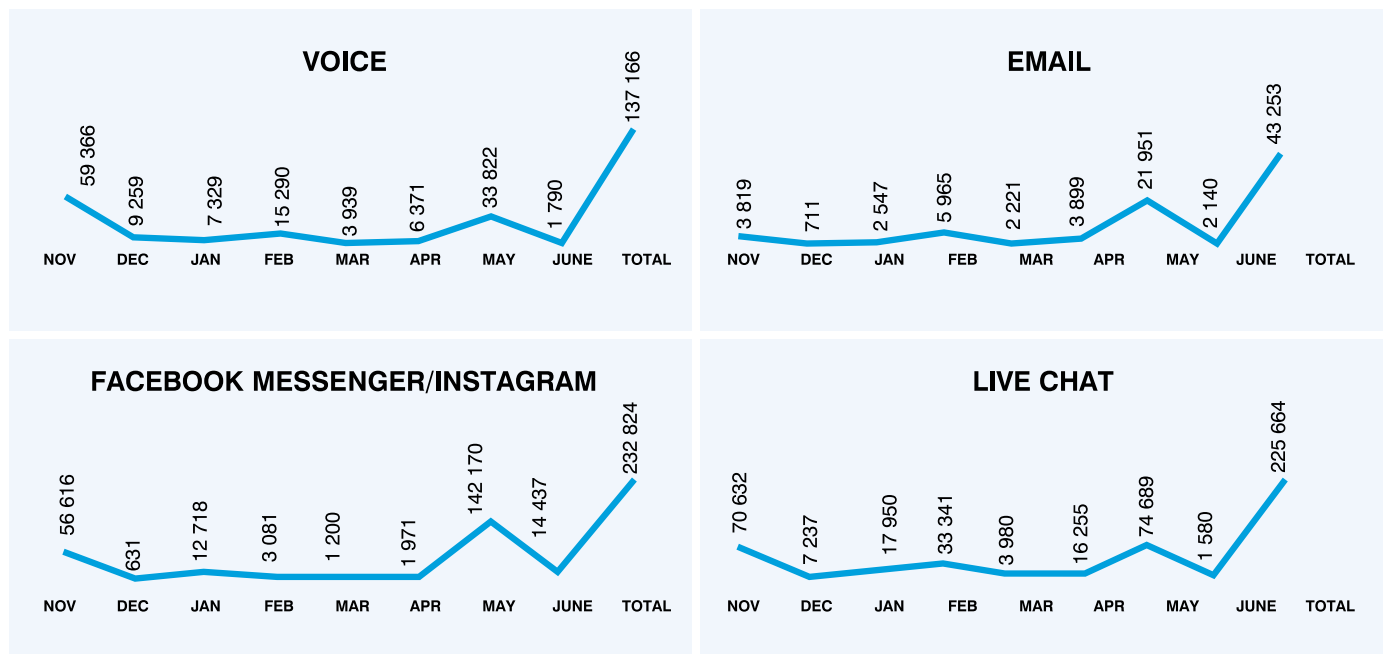
The centre's impact is evident in its engagement metrics from November 2023 to June 2024:

- 137 166 voice calls
- 43 253 emails
- 232 824 social media interactions
- 225 664 live chat conversations.

These numbers represent over 638 000 direct engagements with voters and stakeholders, highlighting the successful modernisation of electoral communication.

The social media channels continued to be integrated into the contact centre function to reach South Africans, especially young, unregistered voters, in a more integrated and accessible way.

Figure 9: Interaction overview November 2023 to June 2024



7. Countering Misinformation and Disinformation

The Electoral Commission implemented several measures to mitigate misinformation and disinformation during the NPE 2024. These efforts primarily focused on introducing social media resources, social media monitoring, enhancing public awareness, and collaborating with various stakeholders and thought leadership.

Social media resources

During the 2024 general elections, the organisation expanded its social media capabilities through ten social media specialists, supported by dedicated call centre agents trained to respond to social media queries. These staff members focused on three key areas: content creation, monitoring and analysing social media metrics and managing queries and potential threats across social media platforms.

Social media monitoring

The Electoral Commission actively monitors social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X) for misleading or false information, particularly regarding elections. By identifying and addressing problematic content in real-time with corrections and educational content, the Electoral Commission sought to limit the impact of misinformation and disinformation on public discourse and information integrity.

Public awareness campaigns

The Electoral Commission conducted a public awareness campaign to educate voters about the risks of misinformation and disinformation. This campaign emphasised the importance of verifying information before sharing it and encouraged citizens to rely on credible sources for election-related news.

Collaboration with technological companies

The Electoral Commission collaborated with technology companies, such as Meta, Google, Microsoft and TikTok, to develop tools and strategies for detecting and addressing misinformation and disinformation online. By working closely with these platforms, the Electoral Commission aimed to prevent the spread of false information and promote a more transparent electoral process.

Partnerships with civil society

The Electoral Commission partnered with the non-profit organisation Media Monitoring Africa (MMA) on the Real411 digital misinformation and disinformation reporting platform. This platform formed part of the work of the Electoral Commission's Directorate of Electoral Offences, first established ahead of LGE 2016 to investigate alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct and prohibited conduct as contained in the Electoral Act. The Electoral Commission's Directorate, comprised of independent attorneys, operates throughout the term of the election timetable. The directorate investigated complaints and provided recommendations for possible further action. A panel of relevant experts (including those with expertise in media law and social and digital media) considered 289 Real411 complaints about disinformation. They made recommendations for possible further action for the consideration of the Electoral Commission.

Association of African Election Authorities (AAEA)

Supported by the Electoral Commission, the AAEA launched the groundbreaking Principles and Guidelines for the Use of Digital and Social Media in Elections in Africa in February 2024. South Africa, through grant funding from the African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund, played a significant role in developing the guidelines. These guidelines are available on the Electoral Commission's website.

A key lesson learned from this initiative to address misinformation and disinformation is that considerable work remains to be done by all stakeholders to educate the public about the dangers of misinformation and disinformation, especially through social media, and to arm voters with the means to discern these harms.

Overall, the Electoral Commission took proactive measures to safeguard the integrity of the 2024 elections to ensure that voters have access to accurate and reliable information. Through a combination of public awareness campaigns, social media monitoring and collaboration with technology companies, civil society and other election management bodies on the African continent, the Electoral Commission is working to mitigate the impact of misinformation and disinformation on the electoral process.

Impact on NPE 2024 of misinformation and disinformation

According to MMA, there was a significant increase in the number of people using its Real411 platform during NPA 2024 to report online harms, particularly misinformation and

REAL
411
FIGHT DISINFORMATION TOGETHER

SEE SOMETHING? DO SOMETHING!

Report online digital harms



Forwarded

Hi, if you decide to vote, please take your OWN BLACK BALLPOINT PEN with you. They received evidence this morning that the pens provided have their ink "evaporate" within a short period. This results in names and addresses of voters being legally in the books, but without a vote!! Now it can be marked arbitrarily by ANYONE with an unmarked pen wherever they want. With our ward election 3 months ago, the problem was noted, and the councilors have now FOLLOWED UP on it and gone through it again, and surprisingly it's the SAME story AGAIN. So take your own black pen with you.

Forwarded

Hi, as jy besluit om te gaan stem, vat ASB jou EIE SWART BALLPOINT PEN saam. Hulle het vanoggend hier bewyse gekry dat d penne wat voorsien word se ink "verdamp" binne n kort tyd. Dit beteken dat daar kan wesen a adresse v stemgeregtigdes regtig in d bokse maar sonder n stem!! Nou kan d n w ekeur deur ENIGE IEMAND met n nie gemerkte pen gemerk word waar hulle dit gemerk wil hê. Met ons wyksverkiezing 3mnd terug was d probleem opgetel, en d councilors het dit nou OP GEVOLG en weer deurgegaan, en wragties dit is WEER dieselfde storie. So vat jou eie swart pen saam.

FALSE!

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The right information protects us all.

LET'S GET INFORMED!

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RESULTS

2024 National and Provincial Elections

results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/

YOUR DEMOCRACY OWN IT

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Rumour Alert!

Voters, did you know that you CAN vote even with manicured or false nails?

Share and spread the truth!

YOUR DEMOCRACY OWN IT

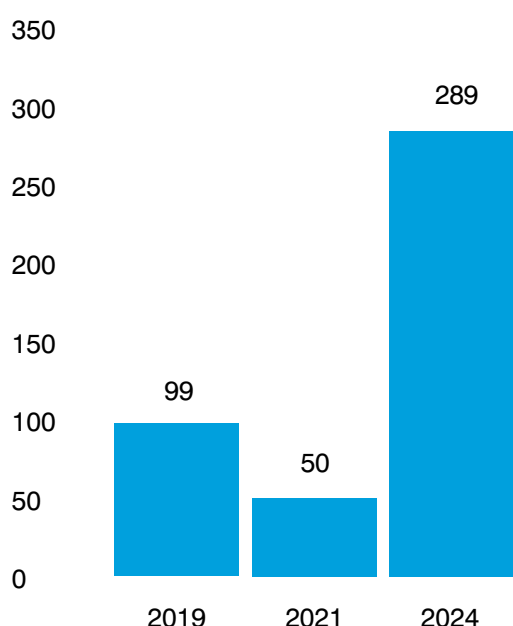
IEC SOUTH AFRICA

@IECSouthAfrica info@elections.org.za 080 088 0000 SMS ID to 32810 (R1/SMS) elections.org.za

disinformation. This reporting increase may indicate that the public is becoming increasingly aware of Real411 and has a higher level of familiarity and comfort in using it, that there was a growing appreciation for the need to have accurate and credible information during election periods, that the use of social media was more prominent during these elections both by voters and by contestants and/or that the tumult arising in the most recent elections created a heightened demand across the voter public to be able to distinguish what was real and what was not.

Moreover, over half of the complaints received and adjudicated were upheld as either misinformation or disinformation. Overall, Real411 received 289 election-related complaints over the election period, a rise from 99 complaints in the 2019 election period and 50 complaints in the 2021 election period.

Figure 10: Complaints submitted to Real411 in the 2019, 2021 and 2024 election periods



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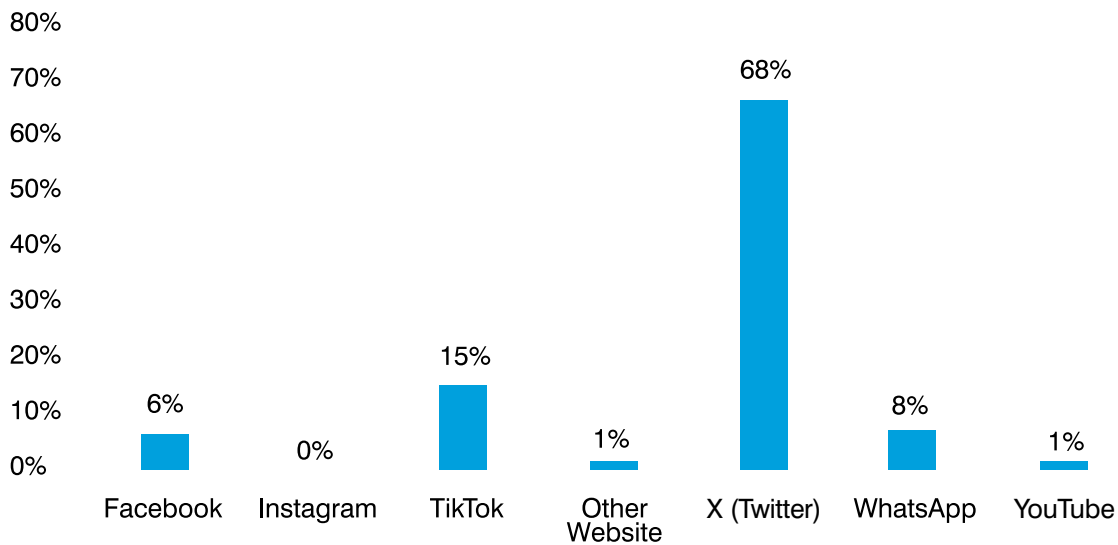
Through a combination of public awareness campaigns, social media monitoring and collaboration with technology companies, civil society and other election management bodies on the African continent, the Electoral Commission is working to mitigate the impact of misinformation and disinformation on the electoral process.



Overwhelmingly, X was the platform on which the greatest number of complaints were received across all the

complaint categories, particularly regarding misinformation and disinformation.

Figure 11: Distribution of complaints (misinformation and disinformation) across platforms



X is not part of the Electoral Commission's Framework of Cooperation despite X being invited to participate. This non-participation was made all the more concerning as X appears to be maintaining a hard-line position of not having policies or standards for misinformation and disinformation. The second and third platforms identified were TikTok and WhatsApp.

With 286 election-related complaints received, the vast majority were submitted due to concerns about misinformation or disinformation. Notably, the reviews of the complaints concluded that 53% of these complaints fall within the scope of the elements for misinformation or disinformation.

Across the 289 complaints received, these could broadly be divided into four categories:

- False information regarding electoral processes
- False information regarding parties and candidates
- False information regarding election results
- Information intended to undermine the credibility of NPE 2024, the Electoral Commission commissioners and Electoral Commission staff.

A detailed report on this is available at: [https:// www. mediamonitoringafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ ELECTIONSDisinfo_Report-1.pdf](https://www.mediamonitoringafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ELECTIONSDisinfo_Report-1.pdf).

8. Recruitment of Electoral Staff

The Electoral Commission used its e-recruitment system to assist with the large-scale recruitment of various categories of electoral staff. However, the system was not used to exclude existing recruitment processes, such as direct manual recruitment at the local level. It is envisaged that the system will incrementally be used as the only method of recruitment.

Various categories of election staff were recruited by the Electoral Commission to assist with the voter registration weekends in November 2023 and February 2024 and conduct NPE 2024 in 23 292 voting stations across the country. For the two voter registration weekends, a provision was made for three staff members per voting station, resulting in the recruitment of approximately 69 527 and 69 141 voter registration staff members, as reflected in the tables below.

Notably, the voter registration staff was increased from two to three in NPE 2024.

Provision was also made for area or ward managers, who mainly fulfilled a coordination, monitoring and logistical

role. There were 4 997 area managers allocated across all provinces and deployed for the entire NPE 2024 period, including the voter registration weekends and the elections.

There were 253 data capturers appointed to assist with capturing of special-votes applications, whilst additional provision was made for 312 general administrative assistants to assist with the administration and scanning of results slips.

For NPE 2024, approximately 200 526 electoral officials were recruited, including replacement staff. Of these, 100 586 also dealt with special voting processes before Election Day. Recruitment of electoral officials was undertaken locally in accordance with agreed selection criteria. Consideration was given to gender, citizenship, previous election experience, employment status, registration as a voter on the voters' roll, language proficiency, age, disability, and literacy. Furthermore, emphasis was placed on the recruitment of technologically knowledgeable operators to manage the VMDs.

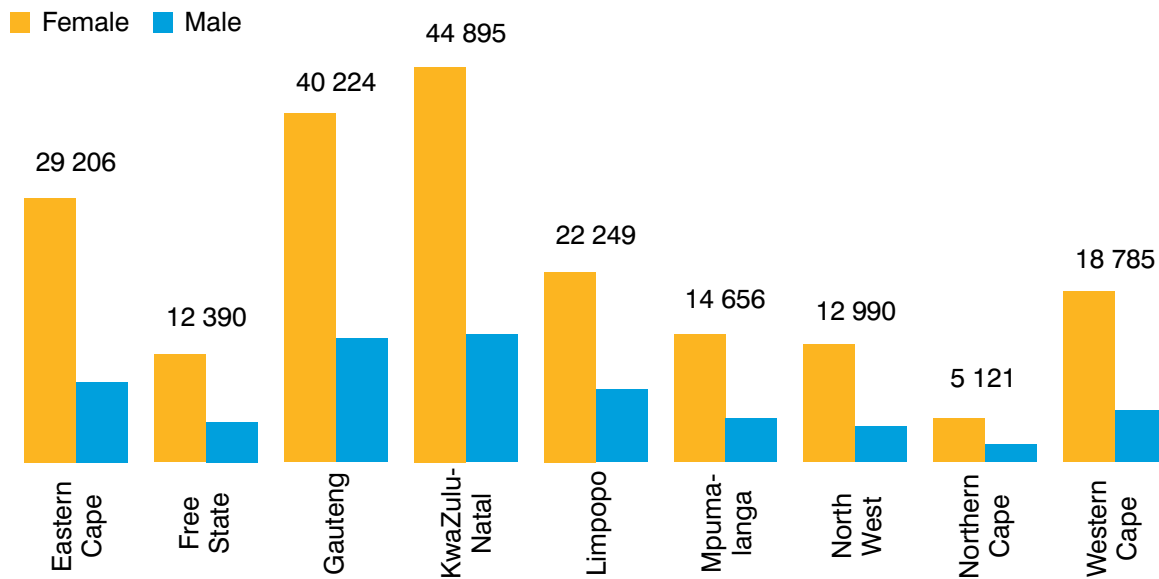
Table 9: Registration numbers 18 to 19 November 2023

Provinces	REGISTRATION 1 18 and 19 November 2023
Eastern Cape	14 510
Free State	4 740
Gauteng	8 384
KwaZulu-Natal	14 918
Limpopo	9 604
Mpumalanga	5 423
Northern Cape	2 156
North West	5 208
Western Cape	4 584
TOTAL	69 527

Table 10: Registration numbers 3 to 4 February 2024

Provinces	REGISTRATION 2 3 and 4 February 2024
Eastern Cape	14 284
Free State	4 747
Gauteng	8 326
KwaZulu-Natal	14 920
Limpopo	9 622
Mpumalanga	5 424
Northern Cape	2 148
North West	5 212
Western Cape	4 458
TOTAL	69 141

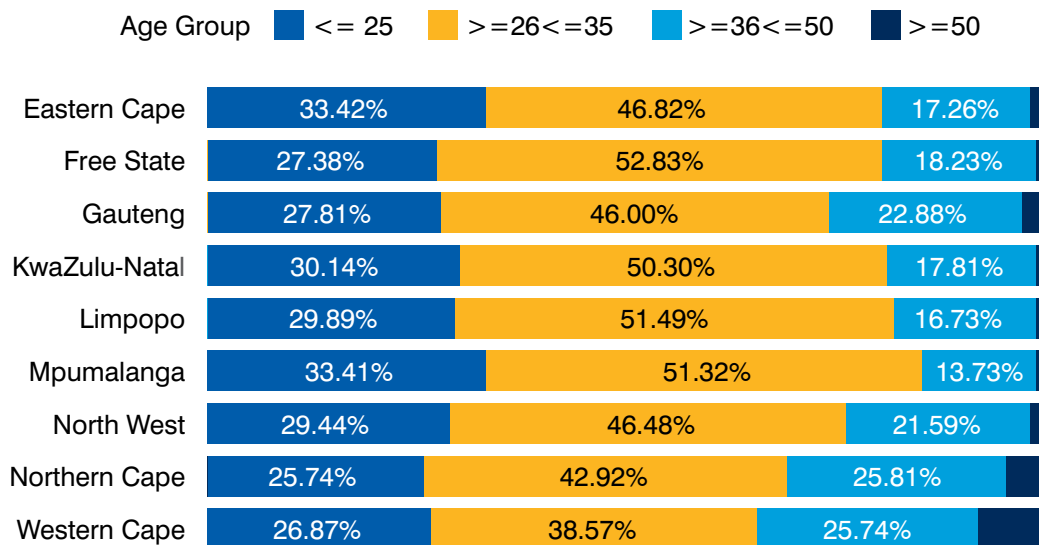
Figure 12: Gender by province of staff recruited for NPE 2024



To assist with the complex results slips with increased political party participation, counteracting fatigue, and the introduction of a third ballot paper, vote-counting officials were recruited to assist presiding officers with the counting and ballot reconciliation processes

at voting stations. There were 72 794 additional vote-counting officials recruited across all provinces, with a specific requirement of numeracy and counting ability. A breakdown of the age of these officials is reflected in the figure below.

Figure 13: Age breakdown of staff recruited for NPE 2024



Persons with a high political profile or office bearers of a political party did not qualify to serve as election or vote-counting officers. In the case of presiding officers and deputy presiding officers, their names were submitted to the local political liaison committees, where contestants had the opportunity to raise substantive objections to their intended appointment.

Details of the 200 526 staff were captured on the customised Electoral Staff System (ESS) application,

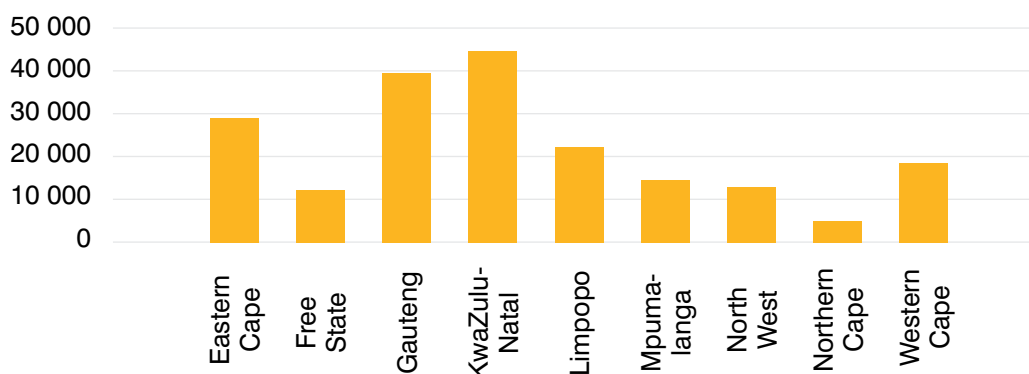
which ran seamlessly on the VMDs throughout NPE 2024 and facilitated the efficient payment of staff. Presiding officers and deputy presiding officers were mostly drawn from the existing pool of staff who gained experience during previous elections, as well as during municipal ward by-elections. An appointment was furthermore subject to the successful completion and passing of training assessments.

Statistics on electoral staff recruited for NPE 2024

KwaZulu-Natal recruited the highest number of electoral staff, followed closely by Gauteng, the Eastern Cape and Limpopo. The remaining provinces recruited

between 10 000 and 19 000 staff each, with Northern Cape having the smallest staff complement.

Figure 14: Summary of staff employed



All provinces demonstrated significant reliance on experienced staff, with reused personnel vastly outnumbering newly recruited staff across every province. KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of reused staff at 29 495 compared to new recruits, while

Eastern Cape reused 22 487 staff versus 6 719 new appointments. This pattern of heavy dependence on experienced electoral workers was consistent nationwide, indicating the value placed on institutional knowledge and proven capabilities.

Figure 15: Reuse of staff by province

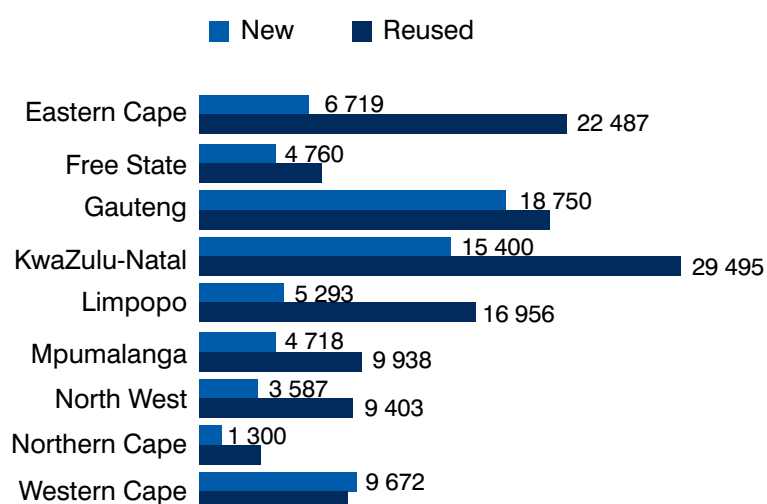
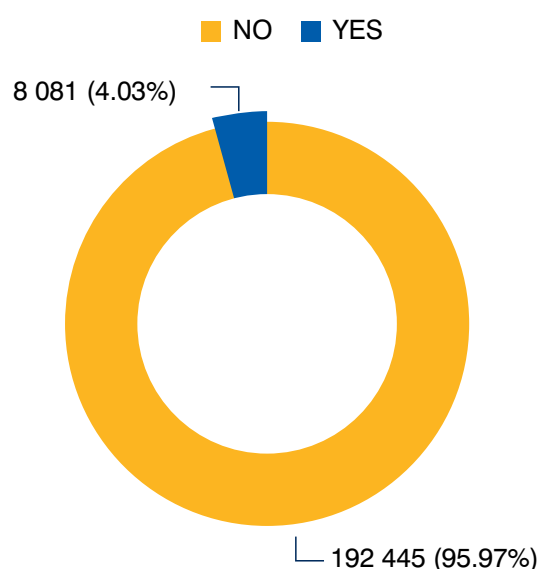


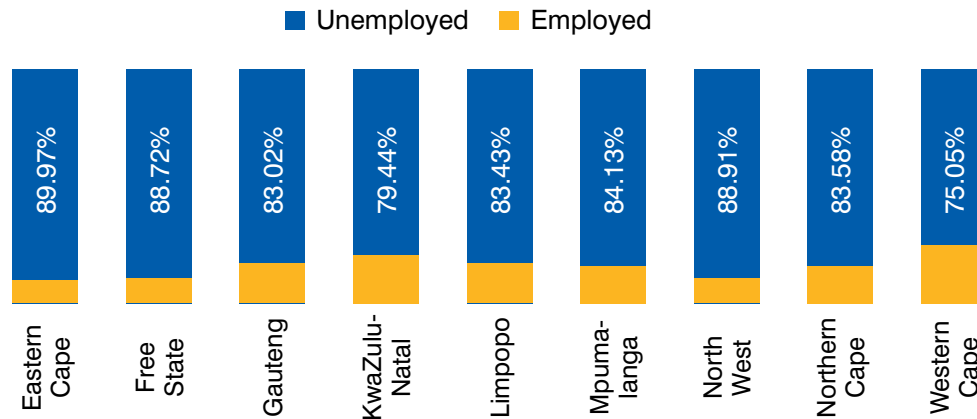
Figure 16: Teacher counts



The vast majority of electoral staff were non-teachers, comprising 192 445 people or 95.97% of the total workforce. Only 8 081 staff members (4.03%) were

teachers, suggesting that while educators participated in the electoral process, the bulk of recruitment came from unemployed communities and the public.

Figure 17: Employment status by province



As is evident from the figure above that most electoral staff for NPE 2024 were recruited from the unemployed in the affected communities.

The strong correlation between the increased reliance on unemployed personnel, the concurrent decrease in teacher participation as election officials, and the discernible challenges in voting station administration cannot be denied.

Figure 18: Summary of staff employed

Male voting officers	52 177	25%
Female voting officers	142 328	75%
Unemployed	168 442	84%
Employed	32 084	16%
Teachers	8 081	4%
Non-teachers	192 445	96%
Age breakdown:		
<25	50 131	25%
>25 <35	86 226	43%
>36 <50	58 153	29%
>51	6 016	3%

Payment of electoral staff

Recruited staff received a basic honorarium to assist with travel expenses when attending training events, conducting voter registration events, working on special voting days and on Election Day or assisting with the counting procedures. The ESS was used to facilitate payment after the vote counting was completed. In terms of legislative requirements, staff were again paid through an official payroll to determine the correct

statutory deductions per person, and payment was made via electronic transfer into verified bank accounts. This payment method resulted in most of the registration and electoral staff being paid approximately one month after the event. A small percentage of payments were hindered due to delayed or incorrect banking details and finalisation of the required payment documentation.

9. Elections Training

The availability of competent staff at all levels of the organisation, including the voting station level, is an integral part of achieving free and fair elections. To this end, the Electoral Commission developed training manuals and e-learning material that are concise and user-friendly, conducted boot camps for the trainers, and training for the electoral staff and stakeholders.

The Electoral Commission uses the interactive and self-paced e-learning platform introduced during the preparations for LGE 2021 to complement the traditional contact training sessions. The contact sessions are mainly used to assess the participants' ability to apply the knowledge acquired, and they give the trainers the opportunity to assess participants and satisfy themselves that they will be able to perform competently at the voting stations.

Contact sessions were also arranged where participants were unable to access the virtual platform due to a lack of internet connectivity in remote areas of the country.

As a result of the amendment to the Electoral Act and the regulations, the materials development team convened earlier than usual to be taken through these changes. Afterwards, the team reviewed the material and incorporated the changes into the voting and counting training manuals and posters.

To ensure the efficiency of the counting process, an additional day of training was allocated to the counting process. This was done to accommodate the anticipated increase in work due to the addition of independent candidates for the first time.

Training model

Following the LGE 2021 debriefing and the review of the electoral staff training, the Electoral Commission concluded that the cascading training model remains relevant for the training of the electoral staff. This model is ideal for the training of large numbers of participants. Evidently, the investment in comprehensive monitoring of training at the last level of the cascading model in the training of electoral staff is as important as the training itself.

Training material

The ability of the Electoral Commission to deliver on its mandate rests on the availability of competent electoral staff at the voting stations, among other factors. Developing impactful and user-friendly training material with clear learning objectives is the gateway to ensuring effective learning and the availability of competent staff.

Printed and online training materials and resources were developed in preparation for the training of electoral staff.

Figure 19: Printed and online training material developed for NPE 2024

Registration training material	Election training material
Module 1: About the Electoral Commission	Module 3: Special Voting
Module 2: Registration Guide/Training	Module 4: Voting
Registration Diary	Module 5: Counting
Area Manager Diary	Area Manager, Voting Station and Voting Centre Diaries
Poster packs	Poster packs

Voter management device

Another crucial aspect of preparing competent staff was the proper use of the VMDs to assist with the implementation of the correct processes and procedures.

The trainers and electoral staff were trained on the applications loaded on the VMDs. The importance of each participant having the opportunity to use the VMDs and understand the applications on the VMDs was emphasised.

A dry run was conducted ahead of the voter registration weekends, and all three voter registration staff members

per voting station participated in this event. The areas of development identified during the dry run were attended to by the relevant departments before the voter registration event.

National and provincial boot camps

Following the development of the training modules and the relevant resources, the national boot camps for voter registration and election events were held in June and December 2023 respectively.

These were followed by the provincial boot camps. The purpose of these sessions was to familiarise master and lead trainers with the training material, guide them on using lesson plans, train them on using VMDs, and ensure they understand the voter registration and election processes.

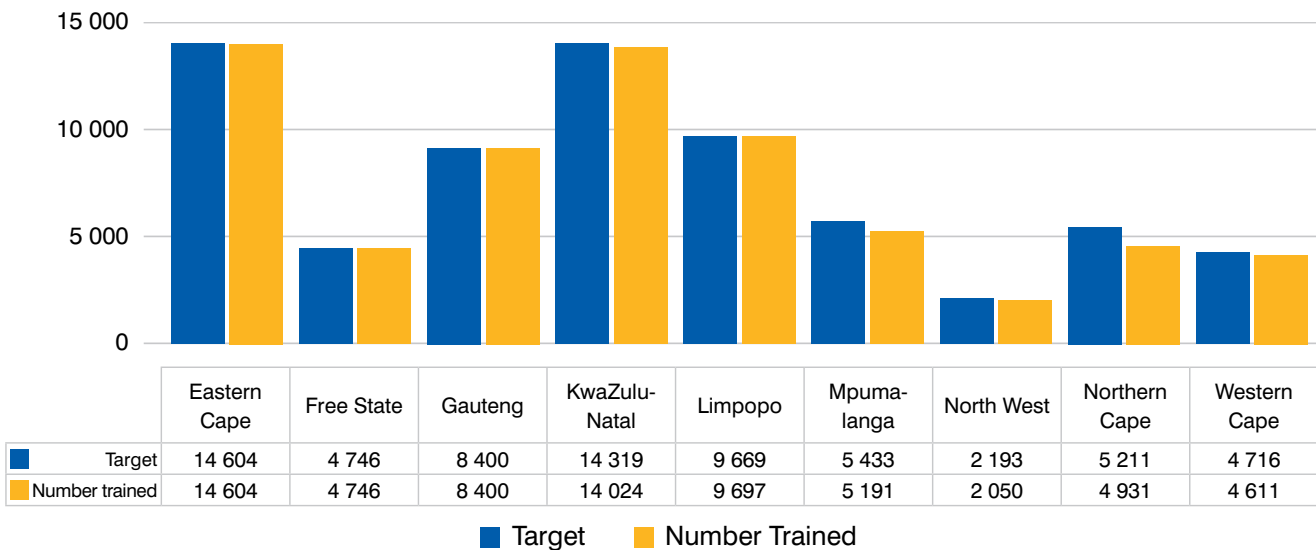
Training of electoral staff

A blended training approach was implemented, where participants attended in-person training sessions and completed some modules through e-learning.

Besides being trained on the legislative aspects, voter registration and election processes, participants were also equipped with soft skills in customer care to ensure that the voters received professional service during their interaction with the Electoral Commission.

As depicted in the figure below, the number of registration staff trained is higher than the number trained during LGE 2021. This increase was due to the new allocation of three staff members at all voting stations during both registration events.

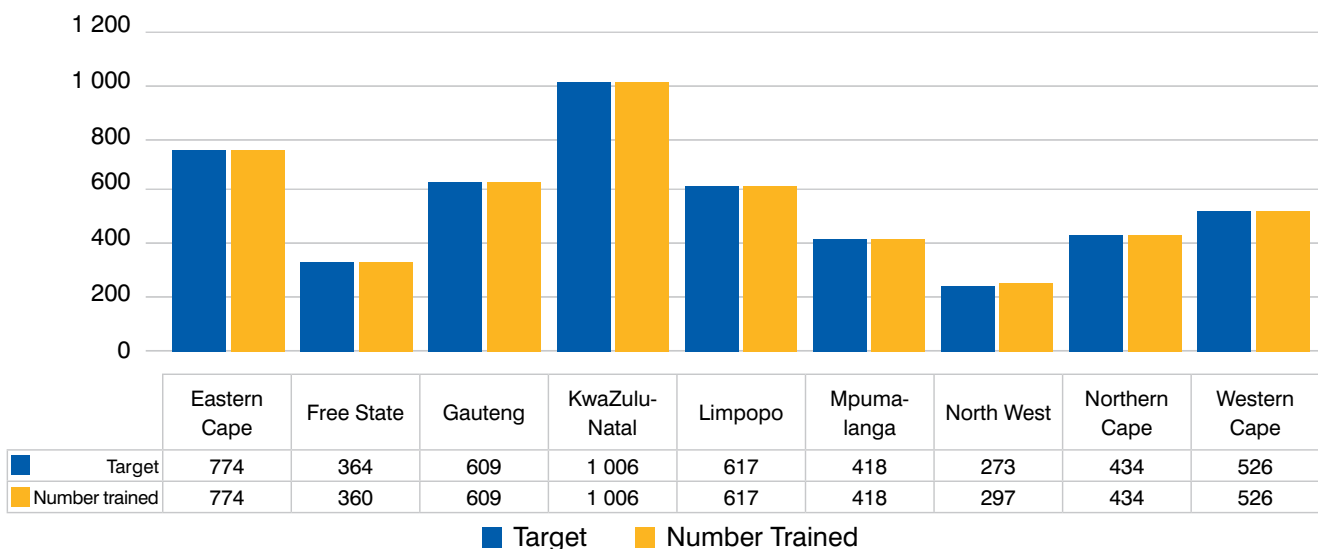
Figure 20: Training of registration staff



During the LGE 2021 debriefing, it was resolved that the area manager position be professionalised. This professionalisation commenced with reviewing the area manager job profile and providing dedicated training

for this category of staff in all provinces. There were 5 041 area managers trained. The provincial breakdown is indicated in the figure below.

Figure 21: Training of area managers



e-Learning

The e-learning training was introduced during LGE 2021, and at the end of the elections, 121 845 potential electoral staff had accessed all five modules.

The e-learning uptake for NPE 2024 was 314 968, representing a 38.68% increase. Despite the challenges of the digital divide in the country, there was interest in using the e-learning platform.

Table 11: e-Learning training statistics by module

	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	Total
Enrolled	195 786	51 251	29 259	19 461	19 211	314 968
Completed	67 089	25 146	7 278	4 748	8 077	112 338
%	34.27%	49%	24.87%	24.40%	42.04%	

Training of stakeholders

As part of enhancing accountability and transparency, the Electoral Commission included the training of political party and independent candidate agents, hence the increase in the number of people to be trained.

The availability of knowledgeable political party and independent candidate agents at a voting station is crucial for minimising objections and potential misunderstandings between the voting station staff and stakeholders during electoral events. In addition, members of the security services and media staff were also trained.



10. Information and Communication Technology

Preparations for general elections commenced with a review of the voting district and voting station network. A delimitation exercise was undertaken in areas where adjustments to settlement patterns changed.

Specific information and communication technology (ICT) projects were undertaken in accordance with changing and evolving business requirements in various areas. The number of projects escalated during preparations for the NPE, and additional resources were sourced to service the additional workload.

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) received updates to the voting district and voting station network for NPE 2024 in March 2023. Small changes following the two voter registration weekends established that the number of voting districts for NPE 2024 was 23 292.

In addition, the ICT Department oversaw enhancements to the in-house mapping tool designed to improve search services, geocoding improvements to address weighting algorithms and any support required for by-election activities.

ICT plays a crucial role in supporting the various processes of the Electoral Commission. The following continuous support services are at the core of the Electoral Commission's ICT capability and provide the foundation for all other ICT activities:

1. Stable applications to support and enable all business processes
2. Closely integrated systems aimed at ensuring a seamless flow of information across the various systems
3. Stable and secure ICT infrastructure and network comprising both the wide area network (WAN) and local area network (LAN) levels
4. Scalable network and background server capacity, with the capability to support increased election activity and network traffic
5. Management of risks, disaster recovery and business continuity processes
6. Integrated online self-service facilities for citizen engagement through the internet-using websites, mobile applications, SMS and social media
7. Ensuring that the Electoral Commission can take advantage of and fully use all available and relevant technologies in the ICT market
8. Stable and effective open data platforms that provide integrated technology-enabled platforms for all stakeholders through API
9. Secure platforms with controlled and restricted access that use intrusion prevention mechanisms.

Several maintenance and business support processes were implemented to effectively support all relevant business processes within the Electoral Commission.





Voter management devices (VMDs)

VMDs have revolutionised elections. During NPE 2024, VMDs proved their worth through improvement in the following key processes:

1. Voter registration processes
2. Voters' roll management
3. Staff attendance
4. Ballot paper tracking
5. Voting station monitoring
6. Prison voting administration
7. Outreach management.

The VMDs have provided the foundation and backbone for the use of information technology in voting stations, laying a solid platform for voting station mobility underpinned by real-time data processing.

ICT enhancements undertaken

Several ICT system enhancements were undertaken in the period leading to NPE 2024, including:

1. The online voter registration system (registertovote.elections.org.za) enabled voters to apply for registration or re-registration online. Several improvements were introduced to this system in preparation for NPE 2024. These enhancements included a website dashboard, which was modernised and enhanced to provide additional reports and analysis capability.
2. The Electoral Staff System and e-recruitment portal, which assist with recruitment, appointment, contract management and payment of electoral staff, further supported the move away from paper-based processes and improved the overall administration capability of the Electoral Commission.
3. Enhancements to the Online Candidate Nomination System (OCNS) involved a module to capture and upload supporter signatures for unrepresented parties and independent candidates as prescribed in the amended legislation. The system also made provision for the capture of party lists and independent candidate details.
4. The Party Registration System (PRS) was rewritten to enable an online component.
5. Improvements were made to the Outreach Management System (OMS) regarding reporting and administration, as well as the introduction of a VMD application.
6. Enhancements were made to the Special Votes Administration System (SVAS) to include the administration of pre-applications (including out-of-country votes), home visits and queue management.
7. Rewriting the NPE Results System to include capturing the third ballot paper, amendments to the seat calculation, and the calculations necessary to fill vacancies in accordance with the amended electoral legislation. The user interface was modernised.
8. The ICT team also undertook a range of other activities supporting the various business processes.

During the election results period between 27 May and 2 June 2024, ICT business systems, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and information technology (IT) operations teams provided support to the nine ROCs. Information was disseminated to all electoral stakeholders through several supported ICT platforms. Website analytics revealed a substantial increase in website traffic.

Information was disseminated nationally and internationally to all stakeholders through a number of supported ICT platforms:

Website – the 64 124 618 website pageviews comprised:

- 36 457 084 Results Dashboard page
- 12 034 787 Results Summary page
- 4 721 006 Home page
- 5 653 620 Am I registered?
- 683 451 Voting Station Finder
- 7 564 545 Other

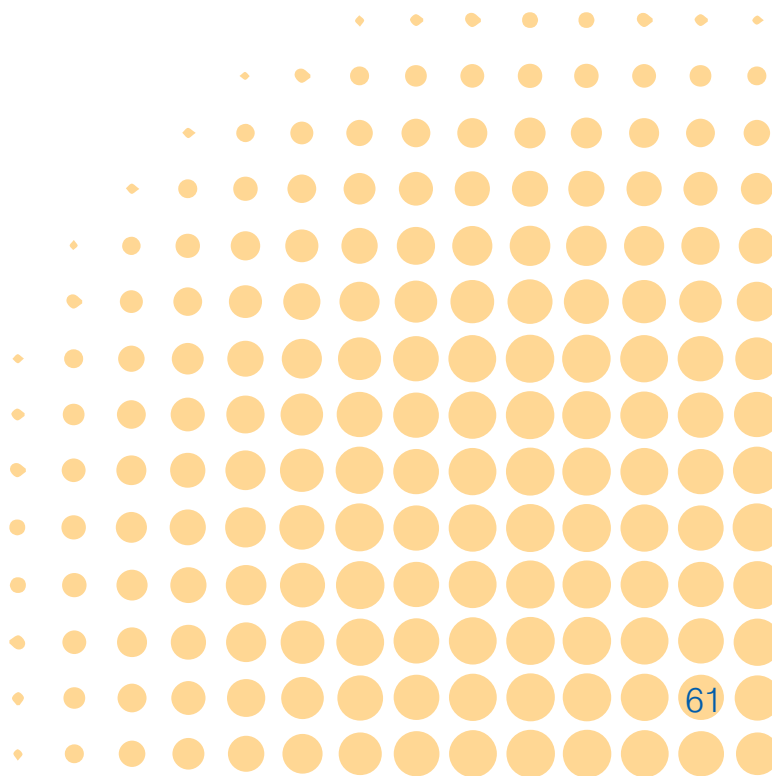
SMS – 336 403 requests to 32810 Am I Registered

API requests – the 10 741 604 comprised:

- 107 633 from IEC Mobile application
- 3 472 046 from Times Media
- 214 154 from Mail & Guardian
- 157 809 from Daily Maverick
- 6 503 from political parties
- 6 784 459 from other media houses.

The following week, 3 to 9 June 2024, the average hits were still very high as evident from the information below:

- API requests – average of 75 915 per day
- Website page views – average of 410 787 per day.



Technical challenge: Performance of voters' roll application on Election Day

During special voting on Monday, 27 May 2024, it was noted that the voters' roll application randomly wrote multiple records to its local storage and transmitted the records to the database. The ICT team attempted to find a solution to this problem overnight and published the last version of the application on Tuesday morning, 28 May 2024. However, on Election Day, it became apparent that the issue had not been completely resolved. Troubleshooting was rendered difficult because the issue with the voters' roll application was random.

It appeared that some VMDs would store multiple transactions in their local storage and then attempt to transmit them to the central database. Before reaching the database, application pools, housing the VMD API, received and directed the transactions to the VMD database server. With the multiple transactions received from some VMDs (in some cases, more than 10 000 for a single transaction), the app pools became congested to the extent that transactions from other VMDs were either non-responsive or very slow in responding.

Cause of the incident

A software engineer from Microsoft assisted the ICT team. The team thoroughly checked the code during Election Day but was unable to pinpoint the cause of the incident.

Some fixes tried included setting the app pool queue lengths on each server to the maximum allowed and restarting the app pools to relieve pressure. These measures were ineffective, as congestion occurred again within minutes.

A complicating factor was the continuous checking of connectivity. In practical terms, this meant that many checks were performed after each page of the voters' roll application, ranging from two to four if there was no address or a redirection of voters.

Resolution and future recommendations

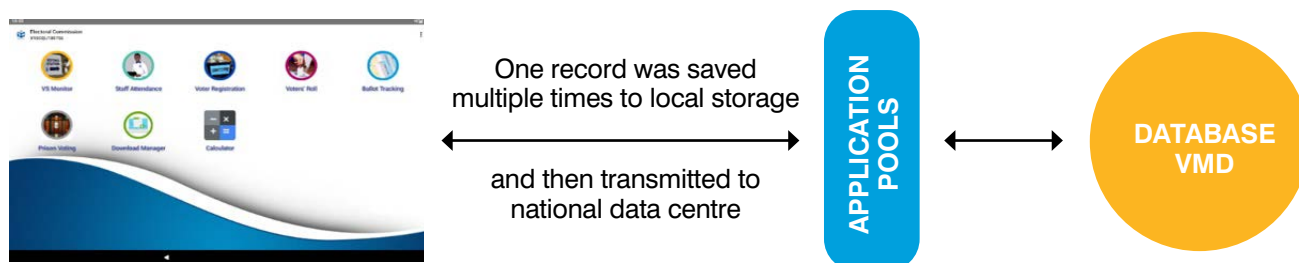
The code base will be modified to prevent duplicate entries from being written to the local database, and the number of allowed connection strings was increased to the maximum allowable (although the connection string maximum may not necessarily be a factor). Also, the number of actions performed against the external database was curbed. The immediate effect is that multiple transactions will not be transmitted and therefore will not cause congestion.

Ongoing quality assurance remains under way, including several solutions to achieve connectivity.

The root cause was established for completeness. Android, by default, uses only a single main thread and the number of external calls or steps required during one voter session (up to 9 for each user action) caused time-outs on the thread. The final step after each is to display information back to the user and when this step could not execute, it saved another record and tried again causing multiple records for the same voter. Multi-threading is being implemented for both the voter registration and voters' roll applications on the VMDs. Reducing the number of external calls will be investigated and appropriately implemented.

The Electoral Commission is investigating services/tools to assist with performing high volume stress testing simulating user actions.

Figure 22: Simplified process flow to VMDs in the field



Technical challenge: Leaderboard incident on 31 May 2024 at the national and provincial results operation centres

The Results System consists of two parts: i) online transaction programming (OLTP) for all functionality, and ii) a data warehouse for most reporting.

The separation ensures that the speed of capturing, auditing, and scanning, among other functions, is not affected by reports being downloaded from the system. The high-level process of result capture and reporting is as follows:

1. Every voting district across the country had three ballot types for which a result was to be captured (national, regional and provincial), where national and regional ballots both contribute to the National Assembly and the provincial ballots to the nine provincial legislatures
2. Results are captured and audited from results slips, which are scanned into the system at municipal sites nationwide
3. Results data is captured and stored directly in the database at the national data centre
4. Once the results data is captured at the national

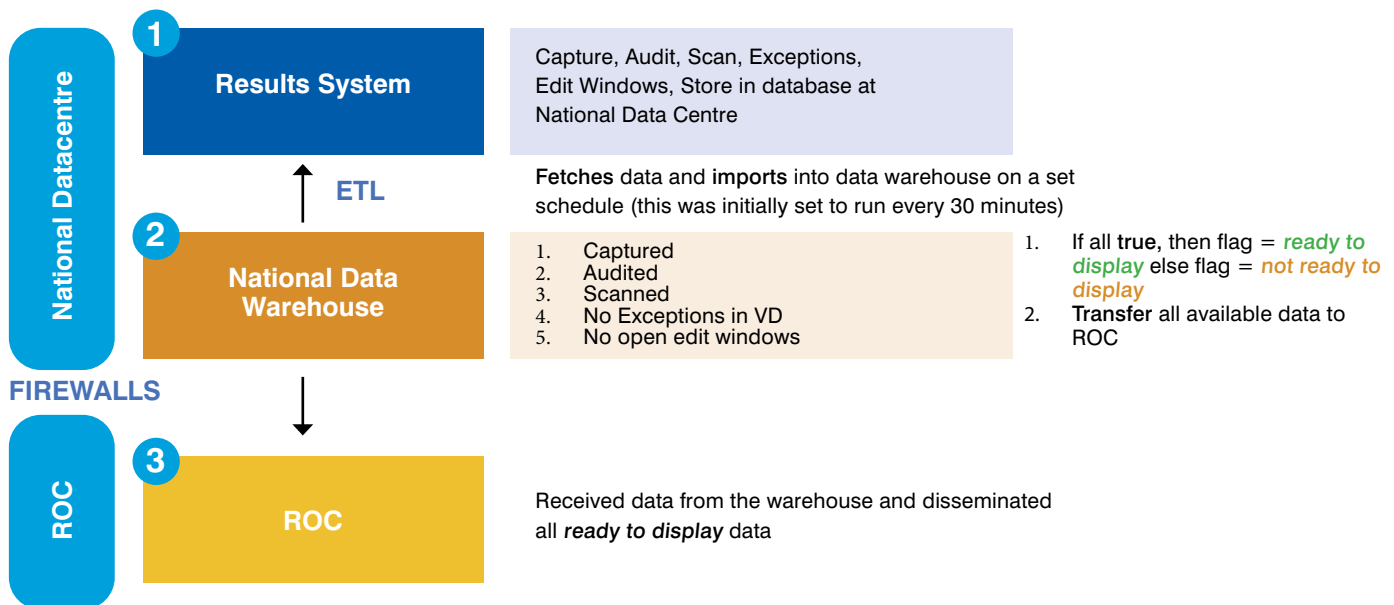
data centre, a scheduled job in the data warehouse processes the data into the relevant data warehouse cube. The scheduled process is called extract, transform and load (ETL)

5. For a result to be considered complete (ready for display on the leaderboards and dissemination to political contestants), the following criteria must be true in each voting district:
 - a. Results from a voting station must be captured and audited for national, regional and provincial ballots
 - b. Relevant results slips must be scanned
 - c. No open exceptions
 - d. No open edit windows.

All results data, including those not flagged for display, are then replicated to the ROC servers. Data flagged for display is replicated across various channels (web hosting, media and political parties), while data not flagged for display is shown only in management reports for the Electoral Commission.

The process is depicted in the figure below.

Figure 23: Process of replicating data on the ROC servers



By the evening of Thursday, 30 May 2024, the replication of data to the ROC had slowed significantly due to the high volume of results being captured, audited and scanned. The first step in addressing the matter was to lift the requirement for the scan to be done before a result is ready to display. The change was successfully implemented through the front end of the Results System at approximately 23h00. The second step involved the ICT team further investigating the data flow through the process. At that stage, the data warehouse extract, transform and load (ETL) job was scheduled to run every 30 minutes and required another

30 to 35 minutes to process (in other words, more than 60 minutes for updates to be displayed).

The ICT team explored several possibilities. On the morning of 31 May 2024, the team had a solution that would optimise the ETL job to the extent that the processing time could be decreased from 30 minutes to 4 minutes, which also meant that the job could be scheduled every 10 minutes. After testing, the changes were migrated to the live environment at 06h15.

At 06h30, the leaderboards at the ROCs, result reports, website, dashboard, APIs, and replication to media and political contestants suddenly displayed zeros. However, the management reports, viewable by Electoral Commission staff, remained unaffected. Two management results reports (national and regional) were drawn at 07h36 at the ROC and still displayed data, while the leaderboards and reports for political parties, public websites and media displayed zeros.

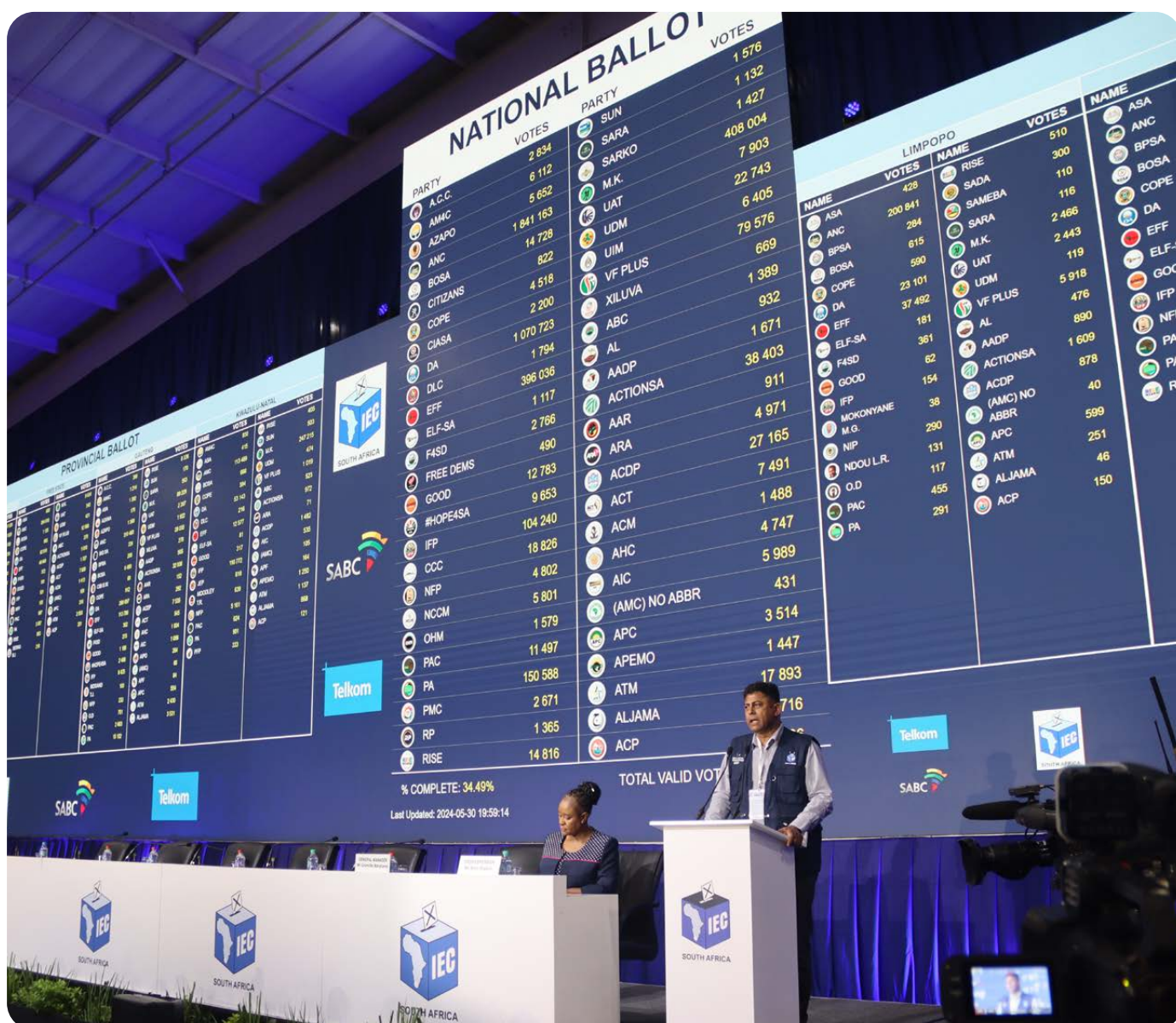
The ICT team immediately established that the data at the national data centre was not affected and that capturing at the municipal sites continued. During the interrupted display period, 2 614 voting district results were captured for 1 213 voting districts.

The next logical conclusion was that the change to the ETL job may have caused the problem, and the ICT team immediately reverted to the previous version.

While reverting to the previous version of the ETL data warehouse job was done in mere seconds, the duration of processing the job (35 minutes) and replicating the new results data through to the National ROC meant that the leaderboards and reports were only restored at approximately 08h45.

After restoring the displays, the ICT team continued to investigate and found that one line of the testing codes remained behind during the final migration, which caused the ready-to-display flag to be set to zero for all results. While all the public-facing platforms were affected, the management reports continued to display data.

Since the functional part of the Results System remained available, no results data was affected during the incident. Only the display of the results data was disturbed.



11. Voter Registration and the Voters' Roll

Since voter registration processes commenced in 1998, the Electoral Commission has successfully maintained a comprehensive, inclusive and up-to-date national common voters' roll.

To register to vote, a person must be:

1. A South African citizen
2. At least 16 years old
3. In possession of their identity document (ID)
4. Be ordinarily resident in the ward.

According to Section 24 of the Electoral Act, the voters' roll to be used for an election must be certified and published by the Chief Electoral Officer, who must make it available for inspection. On 23 February 2024, the President of the Republic of South Africa proclaimed NPE 2024, and thus the voters' roll closed on that day with over 27.78 million people qualified as voters for the election.

Voters can register in two ways. Firstly, voters can register through traditional in-person registration at any of the Electoral Commission's 269 offices. Secondly, voters can register anywhere and at any time through continuous online voter registration through legislative changes that paved the way for innovatively harnessing smart technology for registration. To facilitate the growth and maintenance of the voters' roll, prospective voters who are eligible to register as voters can present themselves for registration at any time. This online registration is particularly relevant on the registration weekends at the voting stations, where first-time applicants can register and individuals can update their registration details after having previously applied for registration. This strategy contributes to the

continued maintenance of the voters' roll and organic growth, especially among the youth. Other activities that form part of continuous registration are: having nationwide registrations at tertiary institutions, opening voting stations in the affected wards before municipal ward by-elections, and opening voting stations for registration weekends.

Targeted communication and registration

Due to the changes in settlement patterns, general population movements, an increase in the number of voting districts, as well as changes to voting district boundaries, the Electoral Commission embarked on a targeted communication and registration (TCR) programme to ensure that affected voters were made aware and had the opportunity to re-register in the correct wards.

It was essential that voters re-register in the correct ward to ensure their names appear on the certified voters' roll for a voting district in the ward of ordinary residence on election day.

The Electoral Commission employed fieldworkers in a door-to-door registration campaign. The campaign focused on the 1 925 voting districts affected by the changing settlement patterns.

In cases where people were not at home, a pamphlet was left behind, informing the occupants that their voting district had changed and that the voter must re-register either at the Electoral Commission's local office or at their voting stations during the upcoming registration weekend.

To ensure that voters affected by the delimitation process were registered correctly and informed of changes in their voting districts, the Electoral Commission conducted the targeted communication and registration programme from 2 to 27 October 2023, ahead of NPE 2024.

Table 12: Targeted communication and registration programme voting districts per province

EC	FS	GP	KZN	LIMP	MPU	NW	NCape	WC	Total
332	38	214	774	276	122	56	9	84	1 925

A total of 39 003 new registrations and 145 847 re-registrations were recorded for the voting districts that were affected throughout the nine provinces.

Table 13: Targeted communication and registration programme activity

Province	Registration activity type			Total
	New registration	Re-registration (same voting district)	Re-registration (move in voting district)	
Eastern Cape	6 874	10 388	15 391	32 653
Free State	1 460	141	4 642	6 243
Gauteng	3 022	2 345	7 238	12 605
KwaZulu-Natal	15 789	34 143	34 086	84 018
Limpopo	6 790	7 547	12 564	26 901
Mpumalanga	2 614	2 120	5 954	10 688
North West	1 285	1 844	2 841	5 970
Northern Cape	121	8	247	376
Western Cape	1 048	1 669	2 679	5 396
Total	39 003	60 205	85 642	184 850

General voter registration weekends

In preparation for NPE 2024, the Electoral Commission held two general voter registration weekends on 18 and 19 November 2023 and on 3 and 4 February 2024.

On 18 and 19 November 2023, the Electoral Commission opened 23 292 voter registration stations across South Africa to allow voters to register to vote and to provide,

update or confirm their address details on the voters' roll. Over this weekend, approximately 2.9 million citizens visited their registration stations to register to vote, update or confirm their voter registration details. Of these 2.9 million registered voters, 1.4 million re-registered in their existing voting district, 0.9 million re-registered in another voting district and nearly 0.6 million registered to vote for the first time.

Table 14: Voter registration weekend 18 to 19 November 2023

Province	New registrations	% of total provincial activity	Re-registrations (different VD)	% of total provincial activity	Re-registrations (same VD)	% of total provincial activity	Total provincial activity	% of total activity
Eastern Cape	82 639	16.00%	137 565	26.63%	296 343	57.37%	516 547	17.79%
Free State	27 042	15.58%	50 080	28.85%	96 490	55.58%	173 612	5.98%
Gauteng	138 283	22.63%	252 687	41.36%	219 978	36.01%	610 948	21.04%
KwaZulu-Natal	119 828	21.40%	161 965	28.93%	278 140	49.67%	559 933	19.28%
Limpopo	56 821	17.09%	84 729	25.48%	191 007	57.44%	332 557	11.45%
Mpumalanga	45 335	20.14%	71 369	31.71%	108 370	48.15%	225 074	7.75%
North West	30 158	16.31%	55 074	29.79%	99 670	53.90%	184 902	6.37%
Northern Cape	16 925	23.23%	17 834	24.48%	38 085	52.28%	72 844	2.51%
Western Cape	51 343	22.56%	98 261	43.17%	78 016	34.27%	227 620	7.84%
Total	568 374	19.57%	929 564	32.01%	1 406 099	48.42%	2 904 037	100.00%

Voter registration

During the voter registration weekend of 3 and 4 February 2024, 22 922 voter stations were opened to allow eligible South African citizens to apply for new registrations and to update or confirm their voter registration details in cases where they had changed their places of ordinary residence (changes in voting districts). Some voters also took the opportunity to re-register as voters, even if their details had not changed (re-registration in the same voting district).

Over 400 000 new voters were added to the voters' roll, while re-registration in various voting districts accounted for 700 000 voters.

There were over 800 000 re-registrations in the same voting district. The total registration activity over the general registration weekend amounted to 2.06 million voters.

Table 15: Voter registration weekend 3 to 4 February 2024

Province	New registrations	% of total provincial activity	Re-registrations (different VD)	% of total provincial activity	Re-registrations (same VD)	% of total provincial activity	Total provincial activity	% of total activity
Eastern Cape	53 722	17.59%	90 244	29.54%	161 494	52.87%	305 460	14.82%
Free State	22 084	18.58%	36 835	30.98%	59 970	50.44%	118 889	5.77%
Gauteng	112 541	24.87%	208 425	46.05%	131 630	29.08%	452 596	21.96%
KwaZulu-Natal	124 146	24.31%	184 400	36.11%	202 124	39.58%	510 670	24.78%
Limpopo	34 094	18.84%	52 284	28.89%	94 573	52.26%	180 951	8.78%
Mpumalanga	34 171	21.86%	56 470	36.13%	65 653	42.01%	156 294	7.58%
North West	25 791	20.30%	41 783	32.88%	59 506	46.83%	127 080	6.17%
Northern Cape	11 141	23.08%	14 024	29.06%	23 099	47.86%	48 264	2.34%
Western Cape	39 694	24.72%	72 721	45.29%	48 135	29.98%	160 550	7.79%
Total	457 384	22.19%	757 186	36.74%	846 184	41.06%	2 060 754	100.00%

The voters' roll used for NPE 2024 was closed on 23 February 2024, when the election was proclaimed. Electronic copies of the voters' roll were then made available for inspection at all local, provincial and national offices of the Electoral Commission from 26 February to 4 March 2024.

Interested persons were granted one week to object to the inclusion or exclusion of any person on a segment of the voters' roll or the correctness of any person's registration details. Objections had to be made in writing and had to be delivered to the office of the Electoral Commission or via email to objectionsvotersroll@elections.org.za.

In terms of the prescripts, this was the only opportunity to object to the voters' roll based on the inclusion or exclusion of a voter and the correctness of their registration details. After certification, objections to the voters' roll would only be considered in exceptional circumstances or in cases where fraud is alleged. Amendments to Section 38(8) of the Electoral Act also gave effect to the ruling

of the Constitutional Court in October 2018 that voters without addresses listed on the voters' roll would be required to provide an address before they could be allowed to vote. Therefore, the absence of a voter's address on the voters' roll did not automatically lead to the disqualification of the voter.

The Commission received 17 objections to the provisional voters' roll. Three objectors submitted more than one objection.

The voters' roll was subsequently certified on 12 March 2024 and was made available to participating political parties and independent candidates. On certification, the voters' roll contained 27 782 477 voters.

Table 16: Comparison of the voters' roll of the total registered voters from NPE 2009 to NPE 2024

Province	Voters' roll 2009	Voters' roll 2014	Voters' roll 2019	Voters' roll 2024	Percentage increase in registered voters from 2009
Eastern Cape	3 056 559	3 240 059	3 363 161	3 439 320	11.13%
Free State	1 388 588	1 449 488	1 462 508	1 456 927	4.69%
Gauteng	5 461 972	6 063 739	6 381 220	6 541 978	16.5%
KwaZulu-Natal	4 475 217	5 117 131	5 524 666	5 738 249	22.01%
Limpopo	2 256 073	2 440 348	2 608 460	2 779 657	18.84%
Mpumalanga	1 696 705	1 860 834	1 951 776	2 025 070	16.21%
North West	1 657 544	1 669 349	1 702 728	1 768 576	6.28%
Northern Cape	554 900	601 080	626 471	656 826	15.52%
Western Cape	2 634 439	2 941 333	3 128 567	3 317 072	20.58%
Out of country		6 789	7 092	58 802	0%
Total	23 181 997	25 390 150	26 756 649	27 782 477	16.56%

The Electoral Commission not only embarked on initiatives to increase the number of voters but also to increase the number of voters with address details reflected on the voters' roll.

The online voter registration platform remained available throughout the preparatory stages of NPE 2024. In this vein, the Electoral Commission undertook projects targeting youth nationwide. The introduction of the online voter registration self-service contributed to the increased rate of registration by younger voters in the country, as well as by citizens who reside outside the Republic.

By the second voter registration weekend, young persons under the age of 29 had accounted for 47% of those who used the online voter registration portal. This portal had the greatest usage in Gauteng at 99 522 recorded voter registrations, followed by KwaZulu-Natal at 43 240 and the Western Cape at 33 822. More women (58% or 139 313) used the online portal than men.

"No address" list

An opportunity was made available to voters who appeared on the certified voters' roll without an address to provide their address details on Election Day. The VMDs allowed voters to instantaneously update their address details and continue with the voting process when their addresses located them within that ward. On Election Day, 34 627 voter addresses were collected.

Registration of citizens living abroad

The establishment of the international segment of the voters' roll provided citizens who are ordinarily resident outside the Republic with an opportunity to register as voters. Those who wished to exercise this right were required to register online, for the first time, or in person either in South Africa or at one of South Africa's 110 diplomatic missions, including embassies, high commissions or consulates in 102 countries. These citizens had to meet the normal requirements for registration in addition to being in possession of a valid South African passport. Efforts were made to inform as many South Africans living abroad as possible of this opportunity and to explain to them how they could participate.

A voter registration event for South African citizens abroad took place at all South African diplomatic missions from 26 to 28 January 2024, ahead of the close of the voters' roll for NPE 2024. The voter registration weekend abroad entailed the opening of the diplomatic missions from 08h00 to 17h00 to allow citizens unable to register online through the Electoral Commission portal to apply in person for voter registration.

The international voter registration process was finalised following the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) on registration and voting at diplomatic missions abroad. The agreement gave effect to the Electoral Act of 1998, which makes provision for all eligible South African citizens to register and vote in national elections. DIRCO has assisted the Electoral Commission with the registration and voting of citizens abroad since 1999.

The international segment of the voters' roll for out-of-country voters had 55 699 registered voters, and an additional 20 856 voters who informed the Chief Electoral Officer of their intention to vote outside of the country, bringing the total of potential voters out-of-country to 76 555.

Registration of offenders

All offenders, irrespective of the sentence imposed or the type of offence committed, are entitled to apply for registration to vote in an election for the National Assembly or provincial legislature. In this regard, Section 7 of the Electoral Act states that, for the voters' roll, incarcerated

offenders are not ordinarily resident at the place of incarceration but "at the last home or place where they normally lived when not imprisoned or detained". The Electoral Commission, with the assistance of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), provided facilities for offenders to apply for registration between 30 January and 1 February 2024.

There were 25 883 offenders who took the opportunity to apply for registration at 235 correctional facilities. It is worth pointing out that an offender who applied for registration as a voter would be registered against the ward of their home, where they would ordinarily have been resident before incarceration.

Table 17: Registration of offenders per province

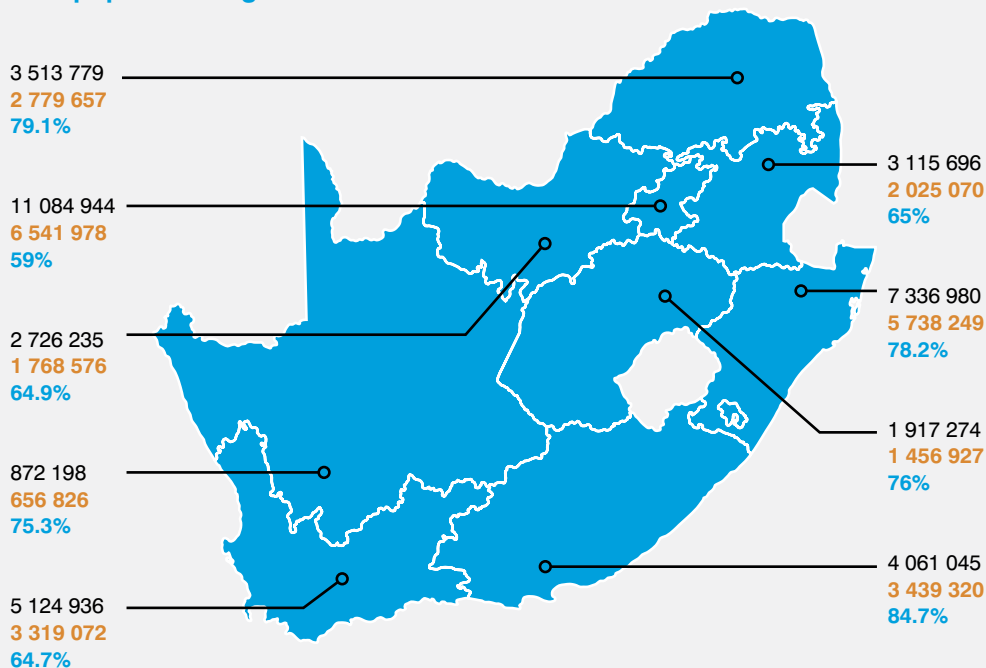
Sum of registrations									
EC	FS	GP	KZN	LIMP	MPU	NW	NCape	WC	Total
4 283	1 335	4 254	5 736	2 780	1 045	2 097	986	3 367	25 883

Registration of members of the security forces

A feature of national and provincial election law is the provision that establishes a special dispensation for members of the security forces on official duty outside the Republic. In engagements with SANDF and SAPS, the Electoral Commission availed the online voter registration portal for these members of security forces deployed outside the Republic or those returning from such deployments.

Figure 24: NPE 2024 certified voters' roll by province

Voting age population
Certified voters' roll
% of population registered



Out of country:
2019: 7 092
2024: 55 699

The increase in the number of voters abroad can be attributed to the online registration system

Proclamation and election timetable

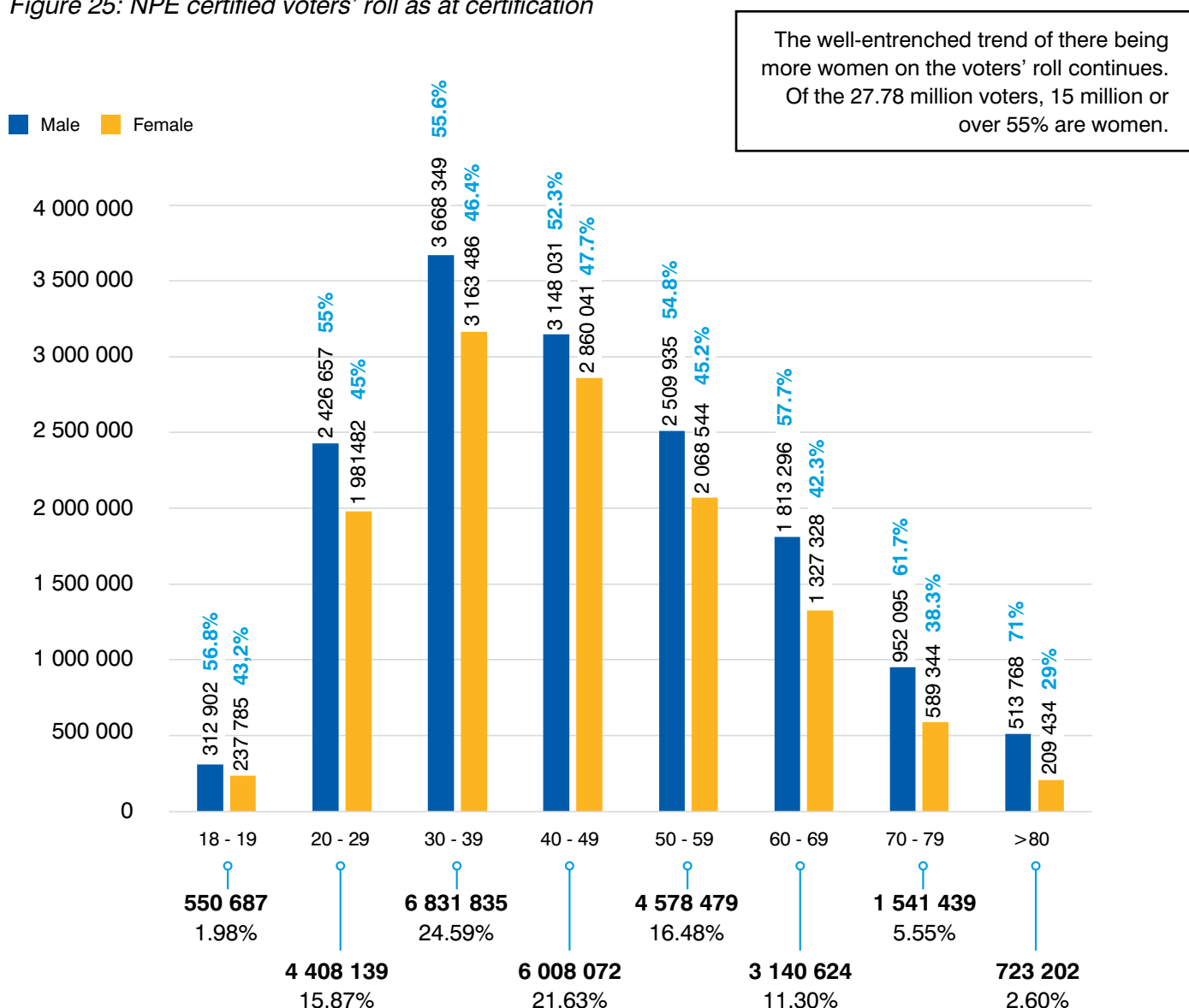
The President and the nine Premiers each published a proclamation setting the election date of 29 May 2024. These proclamations were published on 23 February 2024. The setting of the Election Day and its subsequent proclamation was published after consultation with the Electoral Commission.

An election timetable provides electoral milestones and due dates and times for performing certain functions, such as the certification of the voters' roll, submission of candidate lists, close of special voting applications, and objections to candidates, among others. The election timetable for NPE 2024 was published on Saturday, 24 February 2024.

Certification of the voters' roll

In terms of Section 24(2) of the Electoral Act and consistent with the provisions of the election timetable, the Chief Electoral Officer certified the voters' roll on 12 March 2024.

Figure 25: NPE certified voters' roll as at certification



The following are facts about the certified voters' roll for NPE 2024:

- A record 27 782 477 eligible South Africans were registered to vote in the election
- The registered population represented 66.2% of the total voting-age population of 41 953 191,

based on the estimated voting-age population data provided by Statistics South Africa

- Women represented 55% of the total registered population
- The voters' roll recorded a net growth of 1 025 828 voters (or 3.6%) since NPE 2019.

Table 18: NPE 2024 certified voters' roll – provincial and gender breakdown

Province	Female	% of prov total	Male	% of prov total	Total	% of total
Eastern Cape	1 951 491	56.74%	1 487 829	43.26%	3 439 320	12.38%
Free State	807 820	55.45%	649 107	44.55%	1 456 927	5.24%
Gauteng	3 451 073	52.75%	3 090 905	47.25%	6 541 978	23.55%
KwaZulu-Natal	3 240 549	56.47%	2 497 700	43.53%	5 738 249	20.65%
Limpopo	1 626 567	58.52%	1 153 090	41.48%	2 779 657	10.01%
Mpumalanga	1 109 398	54.78%	915 672	45.22%	2 025 070	7.29%
North West	937 281	53.00%	831 295	47.00%	1 768 576	6.37%
Northern Cape	351 605	53.53%	305 221	46.47%	656 826	2.36%
Western Cape	1 838 054	55.41%	1 479 018	44.59%	3 317 072	11.94%
Out of Country	31 195	53.05%	27 607	46.95%	58 802	0.21%
Total	15 345 033	55.23%	12 437 444	44.77%	27 782 477	

The voters' roll has grown by 34.5% since its establishment in 1999, when it recorded 18 172 751 voters, after taking into account deaths and voter deregistration (where applicable).

- The largest age category on the voters' roll is the 30-to-39-year band, with 6 831 835

persons, representing 24.59% of the registered population

- The second-largest age category on the voters' roll is the 40-to-49-year band, with 6 008 072 persons, representing 21.63% of the registered population.

Table 19: NPE 2024 certified voters' roll – age and gender breakdown

Age Band	Female	Male	Total	%
>=18 <=19	312 902	237 785	550 687	1.98%
>=20 <=29	2 426 657	1 981 482	4 408 139	15.87%
>=30 <=39	3 668 349	3 163 486	6 831 835	24.59%
>=40 <=49	3 148 031	2 860 041	6 008 072	21.63%
>=50 <=59	2 509 935	2 068 544	4 578 479	16.48%
>=60 <=69	1 813 296	1 327 328	3 140 624	11.30%
>=70 <=79	952 095	589 344	1 541 439	5.55%
>=80	513 768	209 434	723 202	2.60%
Total	15 345 033	12 437 444	27 782 477	

12. Party Registration and Political Liaison

Party registration

Political parties are a key platform of representation in a democracy. A political party intending to contest an election must be registered with the Electoral Commission in terms of Section 15 of the Electoral Commission Act. Before LGE 2021, a political party could only elect to register on a national or municipal level. However, the legislation has since been amended to allow political parties to register as follows:

1. Registering nationally as a political party enables the party to participate in all elections of the national and provincial legislatures and municipal councils, subject to the additional requirements to contest
2. Registering provincially as a political party enables the party to participate in elections for that provincial legislature and all the municipal councils in that province
3. Registering as a political party in a particular district municipality enables the party to participate only in elections for that district council and for the local councils falling within the area of that district municipality
4. Registering as a political party in a particular metropolitan or local municipality enables the party to participate only in elections for that metro or local municipality.

A political party that intends to register must furnish an application setting out the name, abbreviated name, logo, contact details, and the names of the party's executive.

The application must be accompanied by the following:

1. Proof of publication of a party's intention to register as a political party in the Republic (for example, an advert in the *Government Gazette* for all national registrations or an advertisement in a newspaper circulating in the area of the municipality for a metro or local municipality)
2. Constitution of the political party, which must contain the executive structure and functions of office bearers, the decision-making process, and minimum requirements for membership and internal disciplinary procedures, among other content
3. Deed of foundation, which must contain the names, identity numbers and signatures of 1 000 voters in the case of national registration, 500 voters in case of provincial, and 300 voters in the case of district or metro registration
4. Fee of R5 000 for national-level registration, R3 000 for provincial and R2 000 for district/metro-level registration.

In the lead-up to NPE 2024, 381 political parties were on the party register at a national level. There were 70 political parties and 11 independent candidates that met the requirement to contest NPE 2024. The National Assembly elections were contested by 52 of the 70 parties. Two of the 11 independent candidates who contested were women, and nine were men. Overall, 81 unique contestants (70 political parties and 11 independent candidates) were on the NPE 2024 ballot papers. There were 14 886 individuals who stood as contestants (14 875 representing 70 political parties and 11 independent candidates). There were 887 seats contested in the National Assembly and the nine provincial legislatures combined.

The 52 parties represent an increase of four parties from the 48 in 2019. There was also a record number of parties contesting provincial elections, with the largest number of parties contesting in Gauteng (45) and the smallest number contesting in the Northern Cape (24).

Table 20: Party registration vs representation 2009 to 2024

Year	Registered at national level	Contested	Did not contest	Represented (at national and/or provincial level)	Unrepresented
2009	117	40	77	14	26
2014	152	45	107	15	30
2019	299	78	221	15	63
2024	381	70	311	20	50

Candidate nomination general requirements

With the introduction of individuals as contestants (commonly called independent candidates or independents) requirements for NPE 2024 were threefold: first, there were specific requirements for independents; second, separate requirements for unrepresented political parties; and third, a common set of requirements applicable to national and provincial elections.

The deadline for submitting the list of candidates, supporting documentation, and election deposits was 8 March 2024. Political parties could submit both regional and national lists for the National Assembly. Independents could choose to contest regional and/or provincial elections. A political party could contest a compensatory election and at least one regional election. Lists of candidates could not exceed the number of determined seats for the legislature.

Quotas for the 2024 National and Provincial Elections

An independent had to submit at least 1 000 signatures of persons registered as voters who supported their candidature in each region in which they chose to contest an election for the National Assembly. Such supporters could be registered in any province. Where an independent candidate chose to contest an election of a provincial legislature, 1 000 signatures of registered voters supporting their candidature were required. Such supporters could only be registered within a province in which they contested.

To contest a regional seat in the National Assembly, unrepresented political parties had to be endorsed by signatures of voters registered on any segment of the voters' roll, equivalent to 15% of the quota of votes per seat in the previous election.

Table 21: NPE 2024 regional quotas

Region	Quota	15%
Eastern Cape	77 713	11 657
Free State	75 602	11 340
Gauteng	92 601	13 890
KwaZulu-Natal	86 967	13 045
Limpopo	75 529	11 329
Mpumalanga	79 499	11 925
North West	71 016	10 652
Northern Cape	68 474	10 271
Western Cape	88 008	13 201

Similarly, for an unrepresented political party seeking to contest a provincial legislature, a political party had to be endorsed by signatures of voters registered in

that province, equivalent to 15% of votes per seat in the previous election for that provincial legislature.

Table 22: NPE 2024 provincial quotas

Region	Quota	15%
Eastern Cape	30 847	4 627
Free State	28 571	4 286
Gauteng	58 378	8 757
KwaZulu-Natal	44 424	6 664
Limpopo	29 044	4 357
Mpumalanga	39 243	5 886
North West	28 084	4 213
Northern Cape	12 797	1 920
Western Cape	47 843	7 176

Table 23: Comparison of contesting candidates for NPE 2014 to 2024

Election	Party	Independent	Total	% change for total
2004	8 138	0	8 138	
2009	9 130	0	9 130	12.2%
2014	8 651	0	8 651	-5.2%
2019	14 936	0	14 936	72.7%
2024	14 875	11	14 886	-0.3%

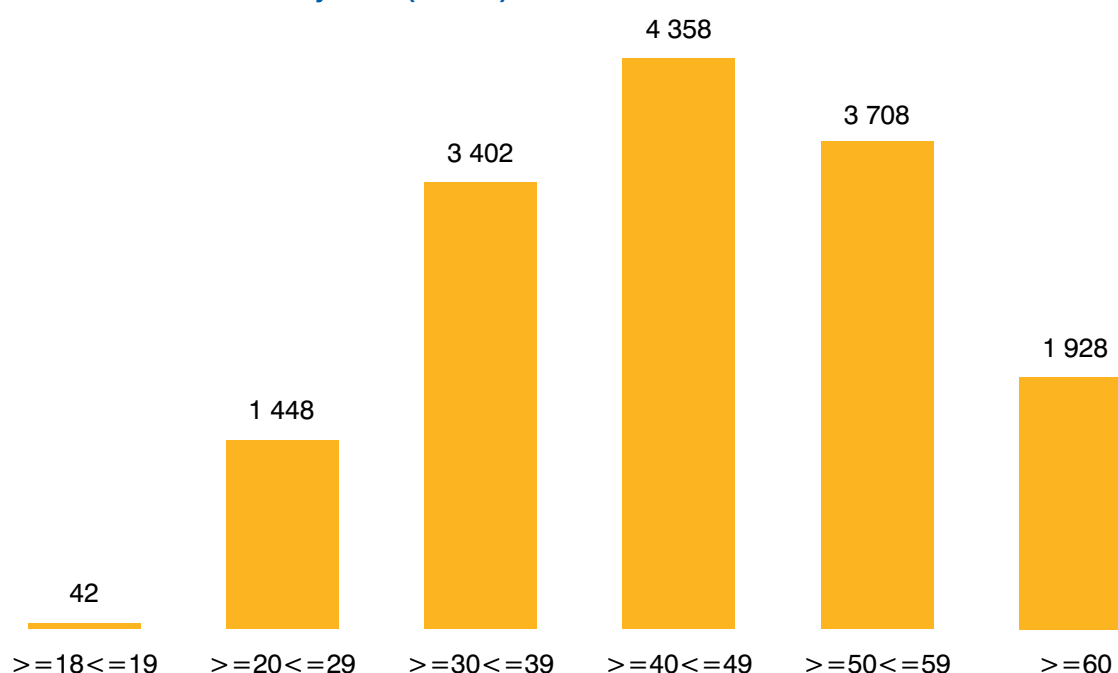
Table 24: Candidate nomination statistics NPE 2024 vs NPE 2019

Candidate nomination statistics:	2019 NPE	2024 NPE
Total number of candidates	14 936	14 886
Total number of national candidates	3 536	4 271
Total number of regional candidates	4 632	3 700
Total number of provincial candidates	6 768	6 915
Number of female candidates	6 537	6 234
Number male candidates	8 399	8 652
Average age of the candidates	43 years	45 years
Youngest candidate	18 years	18 years
Oldest candidate	90 years	84 years

In total, 70 political parties complied with the requirements to contest the 2024 NPE, of which 52 contested the National Assembly. Two women and nine men made up 11 independent candidates who qualified to contest, bringing the total number of contestants to 81.

Figure 26: Candidates by age for the NPE 2024

Online Candidate Nomination System (OCNS)



The Online Candidate Nomination System (OCNS) and the introduction of an online signature module were used for NPE 2024. The benefits of the OCNS for parties and independent candidates can be summarised as follows:

1. Parties had better control over the capturing of their nominated candidates
2. Contestants (political parties and independent candidates) did not have to physically submit their nomination documentation at an Electoral Commission office
3. Contestants were able to confirm the eligibility of candidates at the point of capture
4. Acceptance of nominations was generated by the system and only needed to be signed by the candidate before being scanned back into the system
5. Capturing could commence before the opening of nominations. However, the final submission of candidates could only be made in line with the election timetable published for NPE 2024
6. A facility to upload the candidate list from an Excel spreadsheet was provided to prevent parties from duplicating efforts. In addition:
 - a. Reports generated by the OCNS would enable monitoring of the process of candidate nomination by parties and independent candidates
 - b. Election deposits were calculated by the OCNS based on the indication of which elections were to be contested
 - c. Payment could be made electronically through an online payment gateway.

Political Liaison Committees (PLCs)

One of the functions of the Electoral Commission is to establish and maintain liaison and cooperation with political contestants. To facilitate such liaison and cooperation, the Electoral Commission established PLCs in terms of the Regulations on Political Liaison Committees of 1998. These regulations were amended in 2023 to include independent candidates and the renaming of the Party Liaison Committee to the Political Liaison Committee.

These committees serve as vehicles for consultation and cooperation between the Electoral Commission and represented political parties and independent representatives on electoral matters. The PLCs also serve as a valuable platform for electoral dispute resolution. The following are among the examples of the common types of issues discussed at PLCs:

1. Proposals for electoral legislative amendments: When the Electoral Commission considers any

legislative changes, the National PLC (NPLC) is consulted

2. Delimitation of voting district boundaries: PLCs in the municipal sphere of government are consulted on the boundaries of voting districts and on the location of voting stations
3. Recruitment of presiding officers: The names of recruited presiding officers are placed before municipal PLCs to allow political parties and independent candidates to satisfy themselves that the recruited persons are qualified to take office in terms of the pre-agreed criteria for recruiting such officials.

It is a standing arrangement that PLCs be given ample opportunity to submit written objections to a proposed presiding officer where appropriate.

In the build-up to NPE 2024, the following organisations, among others, had engagements with the national PLC on election-related matters:

1. Department of Home Affairs (DHA)
2. Information Regulator
3. Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
4. Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA)
5. National Joint Operations and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS)
6. Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)
7. Microsoft.


The Regulations on Political Liaison Committees state that only registered political parties contesting an election or represented in a legislative body, and independent candidates contesting an election or represented in a legislative body, may attend PLC meetings.

Unlike in previous elections where PLCs held face-to-face meetings, such meetings were mainly conducted online.

PLCs continued to meet on Election Day and during the results-capture process at the National ROC, discussing electoral matters requiring resolution before the declaration of the result.

There were 1 247 PLC meetings across the national, provincial and municipal spheres between 1 January and 29 May 2024, which is the period of heightened activity relating to preparation and conduct of NPE 2024.

DELIVERING THE ELECTIONS



The National ROC served as the central hub of activity over the election period and enhanced the transparency of the election process. The ROC is where election officials, political parties, the media and other stakeholders come together under one roof for the week of elections.

For NPE 2024, the National ROC was located at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, Gauteng. The National ROC was transformed into a high-tech, world-class business centre.



13. Ballot Paper, Ballot Boxes and Other Election Materials

The proclamation of an election signifies the earnest commencement of the election phase.

The Electoral Commission activates electoral activities geared towards the realisation of the efficient conduct of an election. In this phase, candidates are nominated. This results in the approval and production of ballot papers. All electoral supplies are distributed to various warehouses and prepared for eventual delivery to a point of service, which is a voting station.

Production planning of election material, including ballot papers, began as early as 18 months before the election when the Bill of Materials (BOM) detailing the physical items required for use at voting stations was developed.

The material quantities were calculated to service each voting station in accordance with the number of registered voters at that station, as well as the number of approved special vote home visit teams.

Results slips record the votes received at voting stations on election day and account for the results of NPE 2024. In addition to the normal results slips used at voting stations, the Electoral Commission made available results worksheets in an A3 laminated format. These worksheets assisted with the vote counting process and the recording of the election results at each voting station, as the worksheets minimised the erroneous data captured on the results slips.

The Electoral Commission's eProcurement system, VotaQuotes, was used extensively to procure the ballot boxes and other election materials. This system offers a transparent and fair method of competitive bidding for suppliers and yields good results overall.

The Electoral Commission established a well-defined distribution network between its suppliers and the nine

provincial warehouses. A long-term road distribution and warehousing service provider was contracted to provide the necessary vehicles and resources to transport materials between sites and support the Electoral Commission with various warehouse services (for example, forklifts and temporary warehouse capacity) since the organisation does not own trucks or heavy equipment.

A secondary distribution network was established to service the 290 municipal areas during the election period. This secondary network assisted with the onward distribution and delivery of election material to local storage sites.

Distribution costs were contained by having suppliers deliver bulk materials directly to provincial warehouses in predetermined quantities. Handling costs were minimised by carefully designing material parcels and packages. As far as possible, items were prepacked at the point of production for direct use at the voting station.

The most practical and cost-effective means of transport available in each area was used. Where necessary, the Electoral Commission, in collaboration with SAPS and local security service providers, ensured the safeguarding of election material at local storage sites to further enhance the integrity of the elections.

Approximately 2 134 tons of logistics material was distributed for NPE 2024, of which about 260 tons were distributed for voter registration purposes, and about 1 874 tons were distributed for election purposes.

Upon completion of the election process, all electoral material and valuable equipment were returned to the Electoral Commission's storage sites.

For NPE 2024, approximately 87.8 million ballot papers were produced to serve 27 782 477 voters—29 324 500 national ballots (including ballots for citizens voting from South African diplomatic missions abroad), 29 224 500 provincial ballots and 29 224 500 regional ballots. The ballot papers were printed on standard 80 gsm bond paper in South Africa. Approximately 995 tons of locally sourced paper was used.



Ballots were printed in full colour and included the name, logo, abbreviated name of each participating party and the photograph of the party leader or independent candidate. The ballots were not numbered but were produced in stapled books of 100 ballots, with numbered counterfoils to improve controls and counting accuracy. Each ballot was detached from the counterfoil when issued to the voter.

The number, allocation, quality, distribution and verification of ballot papers were closely managed at every step. The Federation of Printing, Packaging, Signage and Visual Communication, commonly known as Printing SA (PIFSA), was appointed to assist the Electoral Commission during the ballot paper production and printing project to provide quality assurance. These services ensured that the printing and finishing of ballot papers for NPE 2024 was carried out according to specifications and complied with the quality standard for printing security materials.

The packaging of ballot papers required special labelling, scanning and distribution management to ensure that the correct ballots were delivered to the right place, at the right time and in the right quantities. The printers delivered the ballot papers directly to warehouses under security escort. The Electoral Commission developed a Ballot Paper Tracking (BPT) system to assist with the effective distribution management and tracking of ballot papers from the printing floor to the voting stations.

Ballot paper design

The Electoral Act empowers the Commission to determine the design of the ballot paper to be used in an election. The preeminent consideration in designing the ballot paper is to enable easy identification of the party or candidate of choice by the voter, to facilitate the selection of that party or candidate with confidence and to minimise risks of spoilt ballots. Traditionally, to dispel perceptions of partiality, the Electoral Commission has used a random draw to determine the first party on the ballot paper, with all parties following in alphabetical order.

For the first time in South African election history, the inclusion of independent candidates has occasioned a second ballot in the election of the National Assembly.

This second ballot was used in the regional elections for seats in the National Assembly, and it contained both parties and independent candidates that met the requirements to contest.

Item 13 to Schedule 1A of the Electoral Act provides that the Electoral Commission must produce separate ballot papers for each regional election of members to the National Assembly, the compensatory seats of

members to the National Assembly and of members to each provincial legislature.

The NPE 2024 ballots were redesigned after broad consultation with electoral stakeholders and the South African printing industry. Improvements were made to accommodate the length of the ballot. For that purpose, the Electoral Commission adopted a Design Concept for National and Provincial Elections Ballot Papers in fulfilment of Section 68 of the Electoral Act.

The ordering of the sequence of identifiers for the national ballot was as follows:

1. Full name of a political party arranged in alphabetical order using the top party draw and method to separate parties with established confusing identifiers
2. Picture of the leader of the political party on record with the Electoral Commission
3. Abbreviated name of the political party where one has been registered, and where a political party does not have a registered abbreviated name, the space is left blank
4. Registered logo of the political party
5. The word "INDEPENDENT" is used across the space for the abbreviation and logo in the case of an independent candidate.

Following consultation between the Electoral Commission and Blind SA, an enhanced UBT was designed and produced to improve the usability of the template and facilitate independent voting by visually impaired persons. Two types of UBTs were produced. One template was designed to fit a double-column national ballot, with 52 contesting parties, while the other template was designed to fit all single-column provincial and regional ballots, with a maximum of 45 contesting parties and independent candidates. In addition to the Braille numbering on the UBT, all the ballots were produced with the bottom left-hand corner cut off as a tactile orientation feature to assist voters in positioning the paper correctly in the template.

Furthermore, the Electoral Commission printed ballot posters that provided images of the ballots in a particular voting station. The poster images guided voters at voting stations to orient themselves with the placement of their party or candidate of choice on the ballot paper. The poster images also ease and speed up the voting process, as voters gain familiarity with NPE 2024 ballot papers before the ballot papers are handed to them for voting purposes.



SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL



Alliance of Citizens For Change	A.C.C.	
Allied Movement For Change	AM4C	
Azanian People's Organisation	AZAPO	
African National Congress	ANC	
Build One South Africa with Mmusi Maimane	BOSA	
CITIZANS	CITIZANS	
Congress of The People	COPE	
Conservatives In Action	CIASA	
Democratic Alliance	DA	
Democratic Liberal Congress	DLC	
Economic Freedom Fighters	EFF	
Economic Liberators Forum South Africa	ELF-SA	
Forum 4 Service Delivery	F4SD	
Free Democrats	FREE DEMS	
GOOD	GOOD	
#HOPE4SA	#HOPE4SA	
Inkatha Freedom Party	IFP	
National Coloured Congress	CCC	
National Freedom Party	NFP	
Northern Cape Communities Movement	NCCM	
Organic Humanity Movement	OHM	
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania	PAC	
Patriotic Alliance	PA	
People's Movement For Change	PMC	
Referendum Party	RP	
Rise Mzansi	RISE	

30 YEARS OF ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY

CHOOSE ONE PARTY ONLY

VOTE

YOUR DEMOCRACY OWN IT

Sizwe Ummah Nation	SUN	
South African Rainbow Alliance	SARA	
South African Royal Kingdoms Organization	SARKO	
Umkhonto Wesizwe	M.K.	
United Africans Transformation	UAT	
United Democratic Movement	UDM	
United Independent Movement	UIM	
Vryheidsfront Plus	VF PLUS	
XILUVA	XILUVA	
Abantu Batho Congress	ABC	
Able Leadership	AL	
Action Alliance Development Party	AADP	
ACTIONS	ACTIONS	
Africa Africans Reclaim	AAR	
Africa Restoration Alliance	ARA	
African Christian Democratic Party	ACDP	
African Congress For Transformation	ACT	
African Content Movement	ACM	
African Heart Congress	AHC	
African Independent Congress	AIC	
African Movement Congress	AMC	
African People's Convention	APC	
African People's Movement	APMO	
African Transformation Movement	ATM	
AL JAMA-AH	ALJAMA	
All Citizens Party	ACP	

Ballot boxes and other election materials

In keeping with its commitment to the environment, the Electoral Commission made use of recyclable cardboard ballot boxes, cardboard voting booths and cardboard tables and chairs. These items are relatively inexpensive to produce, economical to transport, and require neither high-volume storage nor maintenance after the elections.

The final bill of materials (BOM) used at voting stations on Election Day contained 28 items. These general materials included the following:

- 204 000 ballot boxes
- 69 876 special voting ballot boxes
- 32 805 stationery packs
- 28 666 identification sticker booklets
- 100 250 voting compartments
- 28 666 document storage boxes
- 6 000 packs of cardboard tables and chairs
- 17 000 packs of 20 voting station arrow signs
- 29 000 sets of 15 table marking signs
- 64 000 universal ballot templates
- 23 292 segments of the voters' roll (approximately 2.3 million pages).

Security materials were handled separately from the general electoral material deliveries. These items were designed and applied to safeguard the integrity of the voting process and included the following:

- 250 000 security stamps to validate ballot papers
- 1 000 000 security seals to seal ballot boxes to ensure the integrity of the contents
- 230 000 indelible ink pens to mark voters' thumbs to indicate that they had participated in the elections
- 68 000 rolls of security tape to seal ballot boxes containing marked ballot papers after counting for safe storage for the legally prescribed six months.

14. Special Voting

The following categories of registered voters were eligible to apply to cast special votes in NPE 2024:

1. Persons who were physically infirm, have disabilities or were pregnant
2. Election officials and security service personnel involved in the election
3. Registered voters unable to vote in the voting district in which they were registered to vote on Election Day owing to their intended absence
4. Registered voters outside the Republic.

Persons who were physically infirm, have disabilities or were pregnant were allowed to apply for and cast a special vote by home visit inside and outside of the voting district of registration. Registered voters intending to cast a special vote owing to their intended absence from their voting district on Election Day, including election officials and security personnel, were required to cast a special vote at the voting station serving the voting district in which they are registered.

Registered voters inside the Republic who intended to apply for a special vote could do so by applying online, by SMS or by visiting the relevant municipal office of the Electoral Commission between 15 April 2024 and 3 May 2024.

Special voting outside the country took place on Friday, 17 May 2024 at some diplomatic missions and Saturday, 18 May 2024 at other diplomatic missions. Voting in London, United Kingdom, was on 18 and 19 May 2024 to accommodate high registration volumes at the diplomatic mission.

Before NPE 2024, the Democratic Alliance (DA) took the Electoral Commission and DIRCO to the Electoral Court regarding the use of honorary consuls as voting stations abroad.

The Electoral Court ruled in favour of the DA and ordered that the Electoral Commission use all DIRCO honorary consuls as voting stations in NPE 2024. However, the Electoral Commission sought leave to appeal the ruling, which had the effect of suspending the order of the Electoral Court. The appeal was not heard before NPE 2024 out-of-country voting days. Out-of-country voting thus occurred at embassies, high commissions and consulates – excluding honorary consuls. The matter is still pending before the Supreme Court of Appeal.

Table 25: Proportion of special votes cast in South Africa in relation to total votes cast

Year	Number of special votes cast in South Africa	Percentage of total vote
2004	651 438	4.11%
2009	743 609	4,15%
2014	388 546	1,7%
2019	775 291	3%
2024	1 143 975	7%

There were 1 682 316 registered voters who applied for and were approved for a special vote inside the Republic in NPE 2024, of which 656 103 (39%) were applications for home visits and 1 026 213 (61%) were for voting station special votes. Of the total number of applications, 1 143 975 registered voters cast a special vote on 27 and 28 May 2024. The special vote turnout was 68% and the proportion of special votes in relation to total votes cast was 7%.

The number of special votes cast in the Republic was considerably higher than in NPE 2019 (775 291 special votes were cast) and NPE 2014 (388 546 special votes were cast).

Voters registered at the South African diplomatic mission where they intended to vote were not required to notify the Chief Electoral Officer of their intention to vote abroad. However, voters not registered at the diplomatic mission where they intended to vote were required to notify the Chief Electoral Officer of their intention to vote abroad and the diplomatic mission they intended to vote at between 23 February 2024 and 22 April 2024. There were 55 699 voters who registered abroad for NPE 2024. In addition, the Electoral Commission received 20 856 notifications of intention to vote abroad (VEC10s). Accordingly, 76 555 voters were eligible to vote abroad in NPE 2024.

Of the total number of approved notifications to vote abroad, 39 114 votes were cast at 110 diplomatic missions abroad on 17, 18 and 19 May 2024. The number represented a voter turnout abroad of 51%, compared to 67% in NPE 2019 and 69% in NPE 2014. However, whilst voter turnout was down, the number of votes cast abroad in NPE 2024 (39 114) was substantially higher than in NPE 2019 (19 909) and NPE 2014 (18 446).

The highest number of votes cast abroad in NPE 2024 was:

- 13 410 in London, United Kingdom
- 3 889 at The Hague, Netherlands
- 2 070 in Dublin, Republic of Ireland
- 1 650 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- 1 252 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

By law, all votes cast abroad had to be returned to the Chief Electoral Officer by 21h00 on 29 May 2024 (Election Day) for counting. All diplomatic packages were returned for counting on time.



15. Election Day

Election day occurred on 29 May 2024 at 23 292 voting stations across South Africa that opened at 07h00 and closed at 21h00. A total of 16 291 516 registered voters cast their ballots out of 27 782 677 registered voters on the certified national common voters' roll for the 2024 elections. This represented a voter turnout of 58% in elections 2024, compared with 66% in 2019, 73% in 2014, 77% in 2009, 76% in 2004, and 89% in 1999.

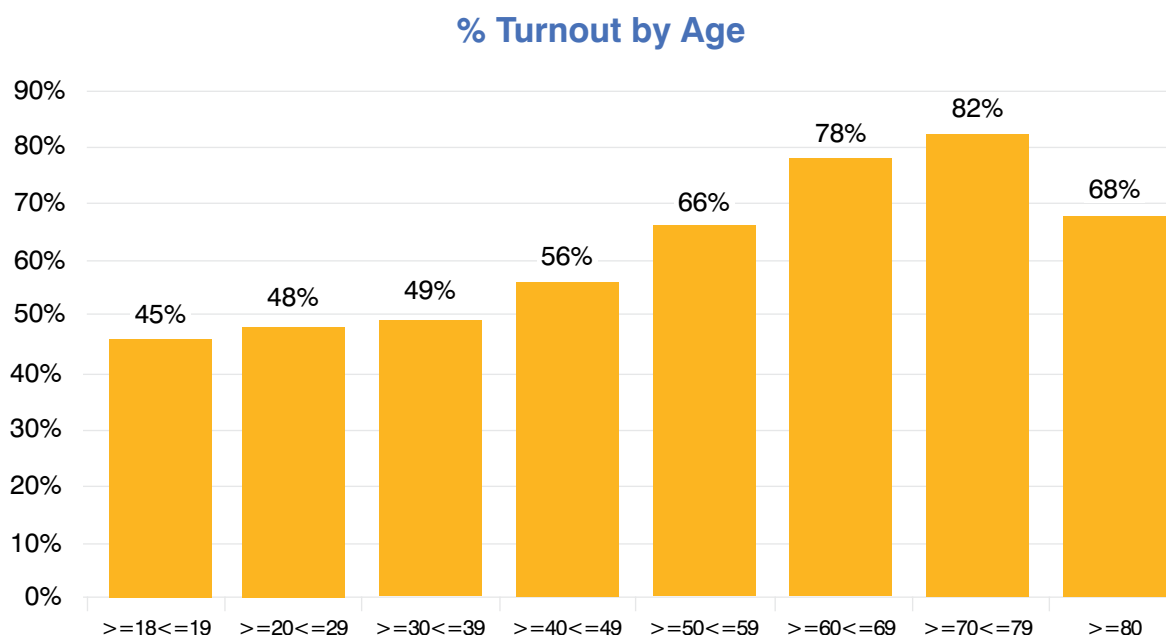
Evidently, the highest number of registered voters voted in elections 2014, compared with other national and provincial elections. Voter turnout in elections 2024 was at the lowest level since elections 1999. Encouragingly, the proportion of ballots that were spoilt by voters is on a steady decline compared with prior national and provincial elections.

Table 26: Key outcomes of NPE 1999 to NPE 2024

Election	Registered voters	Total votes cast	Voter turnout	% Spoilt votes	Number Section 55 objections	Number of days to announce results	Elections declared free & fair?
2024	27 782 677	16 291 516	58%	1.10%	110 (35 recounts)	4	Yes
2019	26 756 649	17 671,615	66%	1.27%	56 (3 recounts)	3	Yes
2014	25 388 082	18 654 771	73%	1.29%	20	3	Yes
2009	23 181 997	17 919 966	77%	1.31%	25	3	Yes
2004	20 674 923	15 863 558	76%	1.48%	8	3	Yes
1999	18 172 751	16 228 462	89%	1.55%	Unknown	3	Yes



Figure 27: Percentage voter turnout by age in NPE 2024



Registered voters were required to present their bar-coded identity document, smart identity card, or temporary identity certificate to voting officials to vote. The voter's name was then marked off the voting district segment of the voters' roll to indicate that the voter had voted. If a registered voter did not have a recorded address on the voters' roll, the voter was required to provide their address to a voting official before voting. The voter's left thumb was inked with indelible ink. A ballot paper for each of the national, regional and provincial elections was issued, and the voter voted once in each election by placing their marked ballots in the ballot box before leaving the voting station.

The scanning of voters' identity documents or cards by voting officials when the voters presented themselves to vote at voting stations was initiated in NPE 2009 and has remained since. Whilst not a legal requirement in the voting process, this practice allowed voting officials to locate the names of voters more efficiently on the voters' roll, to ensure that voters did not attempt to vote multiple times in the elections, and to determine ballot paper eligibility in

the case of a Section 24A (of Electoral Act) vote. Moreover, scanning of voters' identity documents allowed the Electoral Commission to analyse the demographics of voters (age, gender and time of voting) after the elections. There were 9 174 108 of 16 291 516 registered voters' identity documents scanned (56%) using VMDs. While not all scanners were consistently operational at all voting stations and not all voters' identity documents were scanned, this number allowed for the extrapolation of data to determine the demographic participation rates of voters as well as a reflection of voting times.

The gender split of voter participation on 29 May 2024 was 58% women and 42% men. This split is broadly in line with prior elections.

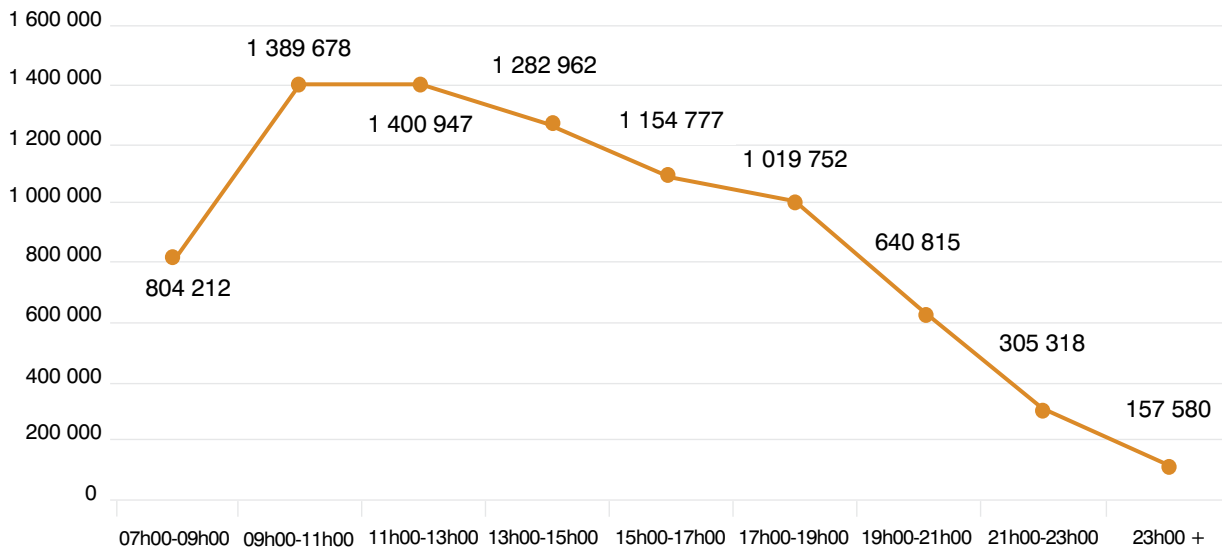
Voter turnout by age is shown in the figure above. A higher proportion of older voters turned out to vote in NPE 2024 compared with younger age groups, which is also broadly in accordance with prior elections.

Voting volumes by time

The time that voters voted at their voting stations in NPE 2024 shows a similar pattern to LGE 2021, with a slow start to the day and voting spread across the

entire voting day. The time is notably different from NPE 2019 and LGE 2016, when most voters voted by midday.

Figure 28: Voting times in NPE 2024



Section 24A voting

Section 24A of the Electoral Act permits voters to cast their votes outside the voting district in which they are registered. Before NPE 2024, a voter could apply for a Section 24A vote on Election Day at the voting station where they intended to vote. However, following allegations of attempts to vote multiple times in NPE 2019, the Electoral Act was amended in 2020 to require a voter to tender notification during a period stipulated in the election timetable in advance of Election Day should the voter intend to vote outside of the voting district where they are registered to vote. This adjustment to the Section 24A provision is a necessary control measure to fortify the integrity of the electoral process.

If a voter elected to vote in the same province as they were registered to vote, the voter received the national, regional and provincial ballot papers. However, if a voter chose to vote outside the province where they were registered to vote, they only received a national ballot paper.

There were 387 217 voters who notified the Electoral Commission of their intention to vote in terms of Section 24A. However, only 221 960 (57%) votes were cast on 29 May 2024 in terms of Section 24A, which was only 1% of the votes cast in NPE 2024.



Voting of prisoners

Prisoners registered to vote are permitted to vote in national and provincial elections. Mobile voting stations staffed by voting officials were dispatched to all prisons on Election Day. Party and independent candidate agents are permitted to accompany voting officials. Prisoners received the national, regional and provincial ballots. Votes cast by prisoners were transported by voting officials to the main voting station in the same voting district as the prisons. The ballots cast were counted with the other ballots cast at the main voting station.

16. Electoral Justice

Election conflict prevention

To prevent, mitigate and manage election-related conflict and potential violence, in late 2023, the Electoral Commission launched a programme in collaboration with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). This programme sought to engage civil society, particularly women and youth, in conciliation and electoral violence prevention processes ahead of NPE 2024. The programme had the following objectives:

1. To enhance the leadership and conflict management capacities among key players, such as coordinators and community-based panellists of provincial conflict resolution structures
2. To revive existing peace infrastructures and connect its work to that of the provincial conflict resolution panels
3. To support regional and international peer exchange between the Electoral Commission and other election management bodies to share best practices pertaining to election integrity, prevention of electoral conflict and electoral conflict management.

In the months before NPE 2024, the programme trained over 1 200 individuals from within the Electoral Commission, SAPS, civil society organisations and political parties (mainly via the Political Liaison Committee structures at the provincial level).

Moreover, the programme established an advisory support structure for provincial coordinators that ran over the election period until June 2024, when the workload of provincial coordinators shifted from preventing conflict and violence to managing electoral conflict.

Elections security

Election security for NPE 2024 was organised, planned and coordinated with the involvement of the national security cluster through the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS).

NATJOINTS established a Priority Committee on Elections that included various relevant departments of government and State-owned institutions that play a role in ensuring security during the elections and that elections are held in a peaceful environment.

The Electoral Commission and SAPS co-chaired the Priority Committees on Elections. The committees are mandated to ensure proper planning and coordination of security

during the election period – from voter registration until the announcement of the results.

The security materials and equipment were distributed and transported under a security arrangement with the assistance of SAPS. The voting materials were transported from various destinations to the nodal secure points. The SAPS and other security cluster role players assisted the Electoral Commission to ensure that the security materials were safely escorted to the voting stations.

The Electoral Commission deployed contracted private security personnel at storage facilities and its offices countrywide to safeguard election material and personnel. SAPS bolstered and complemented the deployed security personnel at the storage facilities and offices to ensure that the voting material and personnel were safe and secure. The SAPS deployed static members with vehicles and ensured police visibility at the offices and storage facilities where necessary. Minimal interruptions took place during the period, including an unauthorised access attempt. However, the incidents were properly contained and did not cause any serious security breaches.

Deployment of police at voting stations

SAPS deployed officers to each voting station during the elections to ensure no voting disruptions. However, the presiding officer remained in charge within the boundaries of the voting stations and would request SAPS officers to assist if required. Various specialised SANDF and SAPS units, including air support units, were on standby if a specialised intervention was required due to any circumstance, such as flooding. No such interventions were required during NPE 2024, although a few isolated security incidents were managed.

Safeguarding of Results Operations Centres (ROCs)

The SAPS also deployed their personnel and security equipment to the National ROC at the Gallagher Convention Centre and all nine provincial ROCs to complement the private security personnel deployed by the Electoral Commission at the ROCs. Event Safety and Security Planning Committees (ESSPC) were established at all ROCs to plan and coordinate the protection and safeguarding of the events at the ROC's facilities. Accreditation of personnel desiring access to the ROC facilities was implemented, and no security breaches were encountered.

Training of SAPS personnel

The Electoral Commission developed training materials and provided training to assist SAPS members deployed at the voting stations. The Security Guide was produced to provide security guidelines during the elections for both Electoral Commission personnel and the security forces.

The Security Guide, of which some 150 000 copies were printed and distributed to SAPS personnel, provided a high-level overview of the election process, including details of the objectives of the provision of security for the elections, requirements of the Electoral Code of Conduct, the outlined roles and functions of key role players, and the regulations for activities permissible outside voting stations.

Electoral Code of Conduct and the Directorate for Electoral Offences

The Electoral Commission anticipated that NPE 2024 would be fiercely contested and that, as a result, it would require stringent enforcement of the Electoral Code of Conduct.

The Directorate for Electoral Offences was mandated to:

1. Investigate all complaints of alleged transgressions of prohibited conduct and provisions of the Electoral Code of Conduct
2. Obtain statements, affidavits, documents and other evidentiary proof and evaluate them to verify the veracity of the complaints and infringements
3. Compile a file with all the relevant information and evidence in relation to every complaint, and make recommendations to the Chief Electoral Officer on a case-by-case basis about whether the alleged transgressions should be referred to the Electoral Court or other law enforcement authorities for further investigation
4. Monitor the nature of the transgressions and compile a report on them.

The Electoral Commission received a substantial number of complaints regarding alleged transgressions of the Code of Conduct. Overall, 47 complaints were received, and referred for further investigation and recommendations. The Electoral Commission finalised all the complaints before the NPE 2024 results were announced.

Legal challenges

The following court cases were instituted to challenge the results of the elections.

1. *Umkhonto Wesizwe Party v Electoral Commission and Others* (CCT178/24)

The application was lodged with the Constitutional Court, in which the applicant sought to interdict the first sitting of the National Assembly together with an order declaring that NPE 2024 was not free and fair and was to be set aside, with a fresh election to be conducted. This application was opposed by the Electoral Commission. The Constitutional Court dismissed this application on the grounds that the challenge of the impugned decisions did not engage the Constitutional Court's exclusive jurisdiction and that sufficient justification was not provided for the delay in launching the application.

2. *Umkhonto Wesizwe Party v Electoral Commission and Others* (34/2024EC)

The application was lodged with the Electoral Court, in which the court was sought to declare that the results of NPE 2024 were not free and fair and were therefore invalid. The applicant further sought an order that NPE 2024 be set aside and a new national and provincial election be conducted within 90 days of such order. The relief was sought on the grounds of alleged irregularities during NPE 2024. The Electoral Commission opposed the application, which was subsequently withdrawn by the applicants, and costs were awarded to the Electoral Commission.

3. *Umkhonto Wesizwe Party v Electoral Commission and Others* (39/2024EC)

The application was lodged with the Electoral Court, in which the court was sought to declare that the results of NPE 2024 were not free and fair and were therefore invalid, as well as an order that NPE 2024 be set aside and a fresh national and provincial election be conducted within 90 days of such order. The relief was sought on the grounds of alleged irregularities during the elections. The Electoral Commission opposed the application. As of May 2025, the matter was still before the Electoral Court.

4. *African Transformation Movement v Electoral Commission and Others* (35/2024EC)

The application was lodged with the Electoral Court, in which it was sought that the court declare that NPE 2024 was not free and fair and that the provisions of Section 24A of the Electoral Act be declared unconstitutional on the grounds that these provisions limit the right to vote. Section 24A provides that a registered voter may only vote outside the voting district they are

registered in upon notice to the Chief Electoral Officer. The Electoral Commission opposed this application. The Electoral Court dismissed the application without an oral hearing on the basis that the applicants failed to produce any credible evidence or factually make a case for the relief sought. The court further held that it is premature to challenge the results of the election without complying with the procedure provided for in Section 55 of the Electoral Act.

5. *African Restoration Alliance v Electoral Commission (32/2024EC)*

The application was lodged with the Electoral Court, in which the applicant sought to appeal the Electoral Commission's decision not to uphold the objections lodged by the applicant with the respondent in terms of Section 55 of the Electoral Act. The Electoral Commission opposed the application. The Electoral Court dismissed the application without an oral hearing on the basis that the applicants' delay in bringing the application was unjustified and that the application held little prospect of success.

17. Election Observation

In terms of Section 84 of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission may accredit any juristic person who applied for accreditation as an observer in an election after considering the application and any other information submitted by the applicant. The Electoral Commission is required to determine whether:

1. The accreditation of the applicant will promote conditions conducive to free and fair elections
2. The persons appointed by the applicant will:
 - a. Observe the elections impartially and independently of any registered party or candidate contesting the elections
 - b. Be competent and professional in observing the elections
 - c. Subscribe to a Code of Conduct that governs observers, issued by the Constitution in terms of Section 99.

The Electoral Commission commenced the process of inviting applications for accreditation for both domestic and international organisations in October 2023. The Electoral Commission developed an online system to enable applications, relevant documentation and the details of observers to be submitted remotely. There were 398 applications received and considered by the Electoral Commission. Of these applications, 191 organisations were approved and accordingly accredited as observers for NPE 2024. Of the accredited organisations, 23 were international institutions, and 174 were domestic.

Following NPE 2024, 80 of these accredited organisations submitted their observation reports. The reports were very positive and complimentary of the work of the Electoral Commission. Positive feedback was received on the ROCs, especially the technological innovations used to display the results at the National ROC.

The reports raised areas for improvement and made recommendations accordingly. The following are some of the issues raised in the reports:

1. Delays in legislative amendments had an impact on voter education
2. Three ballots in these elections confused some voters, and they did not understand what the third ballot represented
3. Long queues because of the newly introduced ballot paper
4. Concern with the malfunctioning of the Voters' Roll Application on the VMD and how voting station staff dealt with the malfunctions
5. Electoral staff's ability to handle difficult voters, party agents, and other persons at the voting station
6. Concerns about voters whose names seemed not to appear on the voters' roll.

18. Counting and Results

Voting stations closed at 21h00 on Election Day, and no further voting was allowed unless a voter was already in the queue at 21h00. Most voting stations closed at 21h00, and ballots were counted at the same venues.

Special votes cast on special voting days of 27 and 28 May 2024 were collected for the voting districts where votes were cast, placed in ballot boxes for special voting, and were kept in secure storage. Before the close of voting stations on Election Day, special vote envelopes were removed from their ballot boxes, the details of voters checked against the voters' roll, and a record was kept of such applications. In the double-envelope system used for special voting, the outer envelope was removed and kept aside, and the inner envelopes with their ballots were mixed in the ballot boxes with votes cast on Election Day. The ballot boxes were then opened at the start of counting to ensure the secrecy of special votes cast.

Ballot boxes were opened in the presence of political party agents. Ballot papers were checked to ensure that each contained an official Electoral Commission voting stamp, failing which the ballot was discarded as being spoilt. Ballots were then sorted according to contestant and counted. Counting officers completed a results slip on which the results of voting and the number of special votes cast were reconciled with the number of ballots issued during voting at the voting station.

Agents representing contestants signed off on results slips. However, the absence of a signature from a contestant's agents did not invalidate the results slips. A copy of the results slip was displayed in a prominent position at the voting station for the information of the public. The original results slip was sealed in a tamper-evident envelope that was then transported to the office of the municipal electoral officer for capturing, verification and scanning of the results slips.

Capturing and auditing of results

Presiding officers or area managers were responsible for transporting results slips from voting stations to municipal electoral offices, where results were captured, audited, and scanned. The information on all results slips was captured onto the NPE Results System by the staff of the Electoral Commission. Data capturers were required to follow a double-capture procedure to ensure the correctness of the information.

The captured results information was then audited by 670 external results auditors located at each of the municipal offices of the Electoral Commission. The auditing process involved checking the information captured against the results slips to ensure that the results information was correctly captured. If satisfied with the captured information, the auditor would enter their unique code into the Results System to approve the captured result. A consortium comprised of SNG Grant Thornton, Nexia SAB&T and SDM provided the results auditing service. The consortium was awarded the tender following an open and competitive procurement process.

To further enhance the transparency of the results process, the Electoral Commission also scanned each of the results slips at the same offices where results were captured and audited. This scan allowed political party agents, independent candidate agents, and Electoral Commission officials to access the scanned image of each results slip and cross-check the information where necessary.

Following the capture, audit, and scan of results slips, the results information was subjected to an automated exception management verification and reporting system built into the NPE Results System. Results reported as exceptions were then investigated and resolved using a workflow logic built into the system, with a time-sensitive hierarchical escalation mechanism. Once investigated and resolved, the results were updated on the results database and simultaneously displayed on the leaderboards located at the ROCs, replicated to the media and displayed on the website of the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commission adopted a de-centralised approach to the capture, audit, and scan of results slips in NPE 2024, similar to the approach used for NPE 2019,

NPE 2014, NPE 2009, and NPE 2004. This approach allowed for the efficient capture, audit and resolution of discrepancies at the municipal level, with assistance from provincial offices where necessary.

For NPE 2024, the Electoral Commission completed the results process within four days (on 2 June 2024) following the close of voting (on 29 May 2024), which was an extra day compared with prior national and provincial elections that took three days.

Objections

In terms of the electoral prescripts, the Electoral Commission is required to declare the results of elections within seven days.

To ensure that elections are free and fair and in the interests of transparency and accountability, Section 55 of the Electoral Act provides for a formalised process whereby an interested party may lodge an objection material to the result of an election. The Electoral Commission is obliged to consider and decide whether to uphold the objection. Objections may concern any aspect of the voting or counting processes, or any alleged unlawful interference with or obstruction of election activities or processes at a voting station, or interfering, influencing, intimidating or obstructing voters at a voting station.

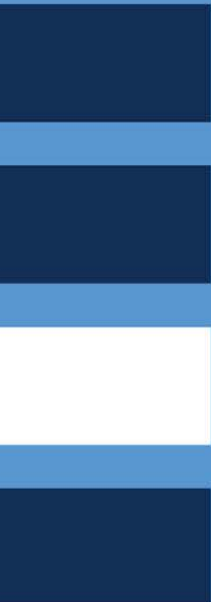
Although all Section 55 objections should be lodged by no later than 21h00 on the second day after voting, the Electoral Commission extended the deadline for lodging Section 55 objections to 18h00 on 1 June 2024 in the interest of free and fair elections. As at 15h00 on 2 June 2024, the Electoral Commission had considered all Section 55 objections. The Electoral Commission decided on 110 objections and rejected 85. Three objections were withdrawn by the initiating party or parties. The Electoral Commission upheld 17 objections, resulting in 35 recounts being ordered in the affected voting stations.

Three political parties challenged the NPE 2024 results in the Electoral Court. The relevant details of these cases are:

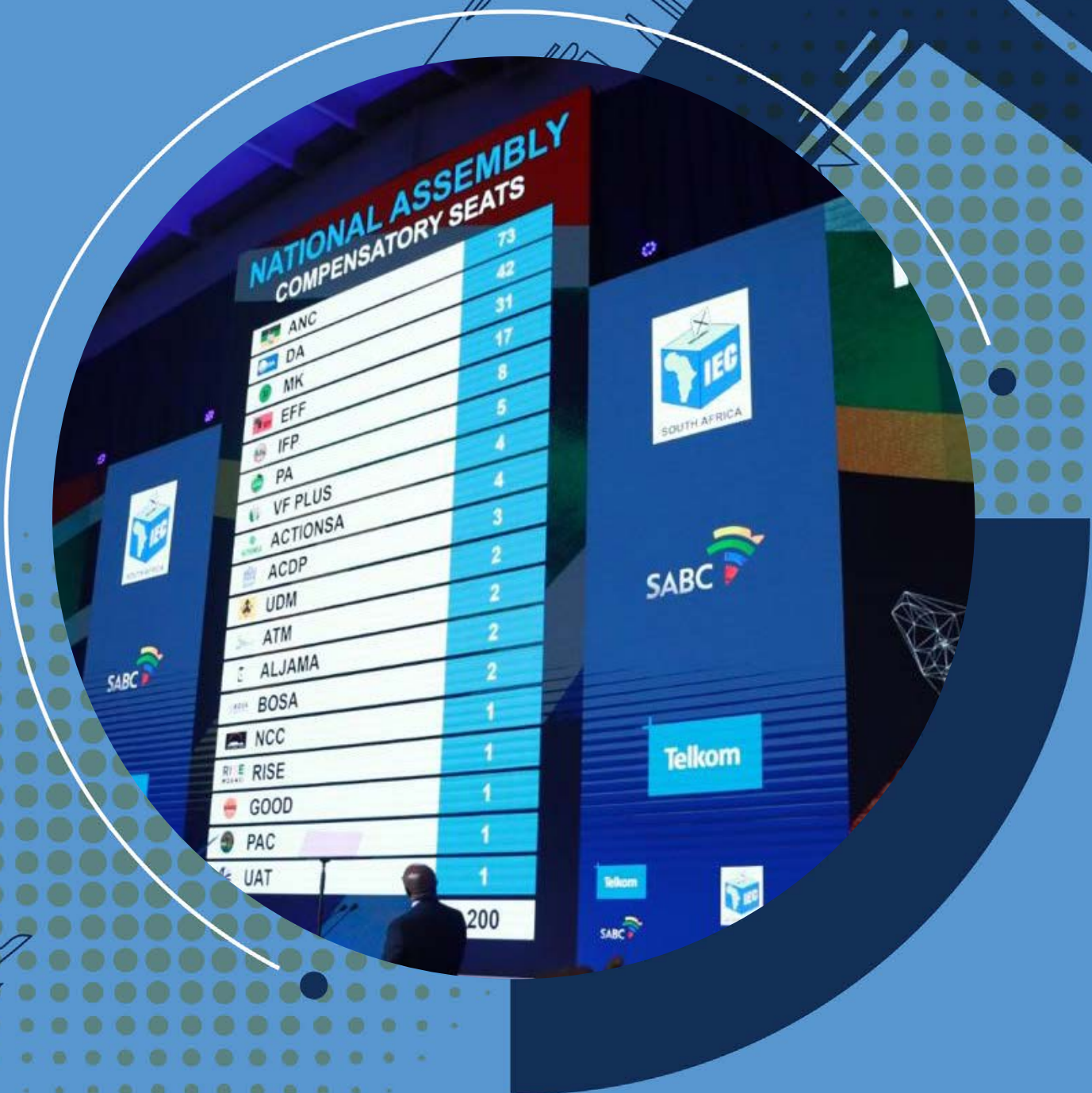
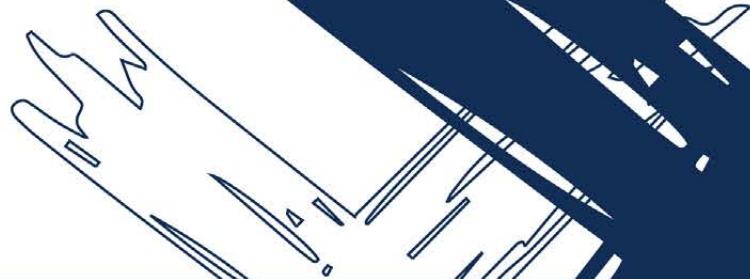
1. *African Transformation Movement // Electoral Commission and 19 Others* (Case Number: 0035/24EC)
2. *African Restoration Alliance // Electoral Commission* (Case Number: 0032/24EC)
3. *uMkhonto weSizwe // Electoral Commission, Chief Electoral Officer and Others* (0034/24EC).

The Electoral Commission opposed all three court applications.

CLOSING THE ELECTIONS



Item 16 of Schedule 1A of the Electoral Act provides that after the counting of votes has been concluded, the number of representatives of each party has been determined, and the election results have been declared in terms of Section 190 of the Constitution, that the Electoral Commission must designate from each list of candidates the representatives of each party in the legislature within two days.



19. Seat Allocation

In the final step of NPE 2024, the Chairperson of the Commission presented a list of 830 elected representatives to the then Chief Justice of South Africa Raymond Zondo on 6 June 2024. The list of representatives was also published in the *Government Gazette* on this day.

The list of 400 elected Members of Parliament (MPs) and 430 elected Members of Provincial Legislatures (MPLs) was drawn from the national, regional and provincial candidate lists submitted by contesting political parties and independent candidates as part of the election timetable in April 2024.

According to the Constitution, these representatives must be sworn into office by taking an oath or affirmation before the Chief Justice. The first sitting of Parliament must take place at a date and time determined by the Chief Justice but not more than 14 days after the announcement of the results of an election. The first sittings of the two Houses of Parliament (National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces) took place on 14 and 15 June 2024, respectively.

Demographic statistics for the 400 elected MP representatives are as follows:

Figure 29: Demographic statistics for the 400 elected MP representatives



174 or 43,5%

were women (compared to 45.25% in the 2019 NPE)



226 or 56.5% were men

(compared to 54.75% in the 2019 NPE)

MPs ranged in age from 20 to 79.

To break it down even further:

- 12 candidates were in age cohort 20-29
- 67 were 30-39 age band
- 110 were between 40 and 49
- 110 were between 50 and 59
- 90 were between 60 and 69
- 11 were 70 and above

These representatives reflect the choices, hopes, and aspirations of millions of citizens who exercised their democratic right to vote and voted in NPE 2024.



20. Research: Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2024

The Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) was carried out on Election Day by administering a survey questionnaire to voters who had just cast their votes at voting stations nationwide. The ESS is conducted in the wake of national and provincial elections and local government elections to assess the extent to which voters, on Election Day, displayed positive or negative evaluations of the various aspects of the electoral process (voting procedures, the time taken to reach voting stations, standing in queues and voting, the competence of electoral officials, satisfaction with the work of the Electoral Commission, and voter perceptions of the freeness and fairness of elections, among other aspects).

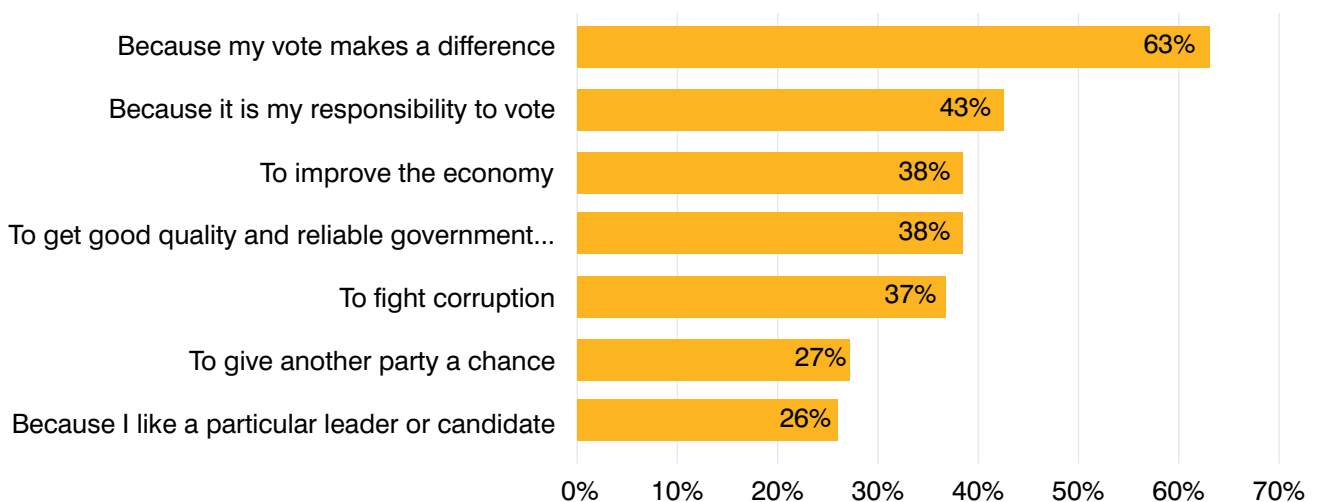
The findings of the ESS are valuable in addressing issues of concern arising from the planning, conduct and management of the electoral processes while also assisting in improving the planning and management of future elections.

For NPE 2024, a nationally representative sample of 300 voting stations was selected in proportion to race, geographic type and the number of voting stations in each of the nine provinces. Field workers at each selected voting station interviewed 50 randomly selected voters on Election Day. As a result, 12 645 (84%) interviews were conducted and completed on Election Day across all the nine provinces.

Reasons for voting

The study revealed some key reasons voters decided to cast their votes, as illustrated in the graph below. Of those who voted, 63% stated that their vote makes a difference, followed by 43% who stated that it was their responsibility to vote. Other reasons included to improve the economy (38%), to get good quality and reliable government services (38%), to fight corruption (37%), to give another party a chance (27%) and because I like a particular leader or candidate (26%).

Figure 30: Reasons for deciding to vote



Source: HSRC 2024 Election Satisfaction Survey

Satisfaction with ballot papers

Most voters were satisfied with the ballot papers used at voting stations during the election. Other notable survey content was that respondents:

1. Were very satisfied with the ballot papers used (58%) and satisfied (35%)
2. Wanted the ballot paper improved for future elections (38%)
3. Favoured changing the size of the party logos (50%)
4. Wanted to change the number of parties and candidates on the ballot paper (38%)
5. Wanted to change the size of the name party, acronym, or candidate name (36%).

Satisfaction with the performance and conduct of elections by election officials

Respondents to the ESS were asked to rate the performance of election officials on seven attributes (for example, honesty and professionalism):

1. A clear majority of the respondents gave electoral officials a positive rating on all seven attributes
2. The indicator that received the most positive evaluation from voters was 'helpful' (84%) and 'helpful to a great extent'

3. The indicator that received the lowest rating was 'impartial' and 'not at all impartial' (8%).

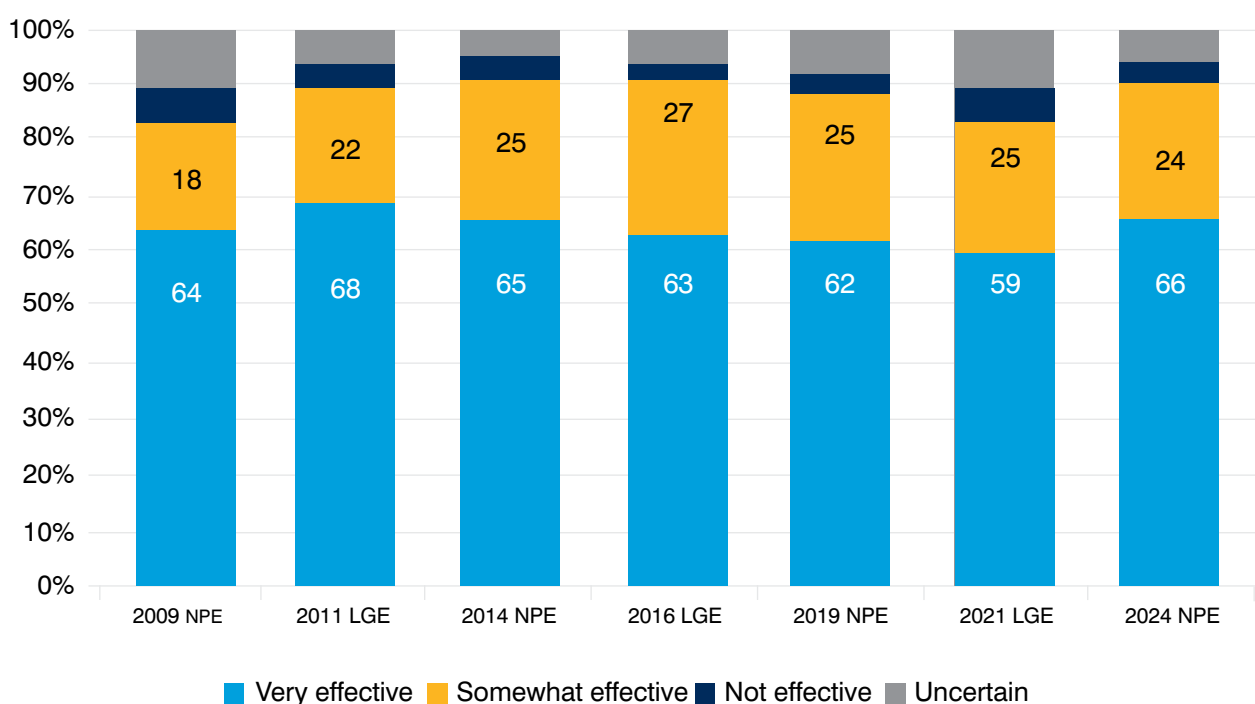
Information on voting procedures

The ESS found that voters thought the procedures inside their voting station were 'very easy' (62%) to understand and 'easy' (34%). Respondents also indicated:

1. They had far too little information about the voting procedures (13%) and too little information (10%)
2. They found that the Electoral Commission's website was very useful in providing information and education (42%) and somewhat useful (23%)
3. They found the Electoral Commission Voter Education Campaigns were very useful in providing information and education (52%)
4. They found the Voter Education Campaigns to be somewhat useful (28%).

The graph below captures and compares the responses of the 2009 and 2024 ESS participants to the question: "How effective was the Electoral Commission's voter education campaign for these elections?"

Figure 31: Effectiveness of election voter education campaigns



Source: HSRC 2024 Election Satisfaction Survey

Freeness and fairness of the elections

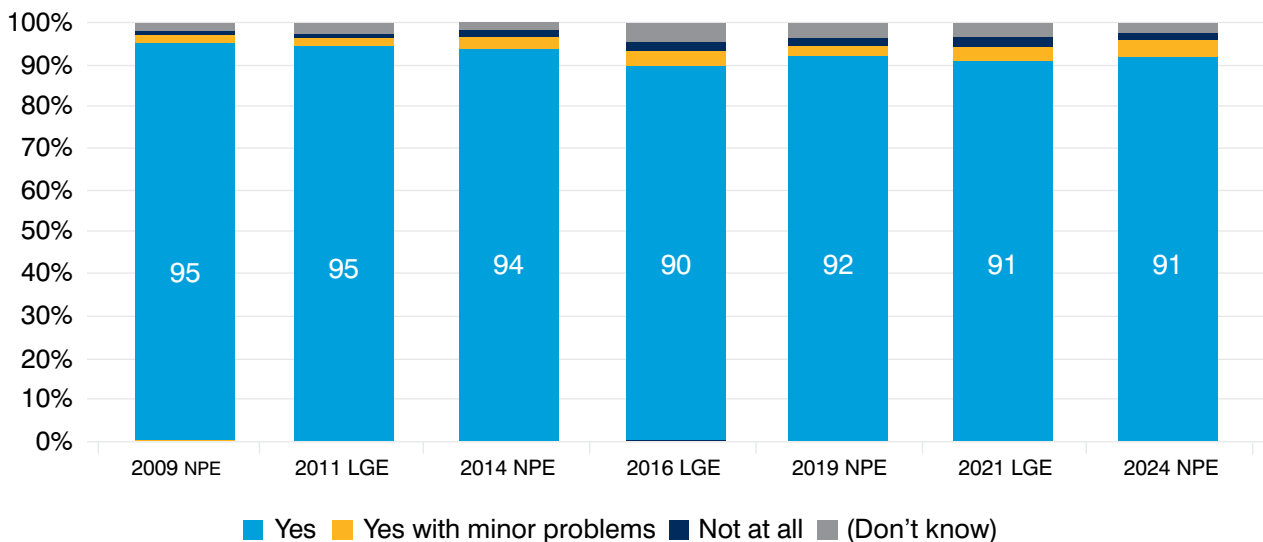
There has been a steady, though small, decline in the evaluations of the voters regarding the freeness and fairness of electoral procedures on Election Day. Nonetheless, it is clear that the evaluations of the voters continue to be overwhelmingly positive.

In general, the findings of the ESS indicated that the voters were overwhelmingly positive that NPE 2024 was free and fair. They also positively rated the conduct of Electoral Commission officials at voting stations across the country. The findings also show that trust in the Electoral Commission was high and that almost all voters felt confident in the safety and secrecy of their ballots on Election Day.

Most of the voters also felt that the Electoral Commission adequately considered the needs of vulnerable groups (for example, the elderly and persons with disabilities). However, queuing time at voting stations was notably worse than what was seen in more recent elections, which had some bearing on the evaluations of the voters.

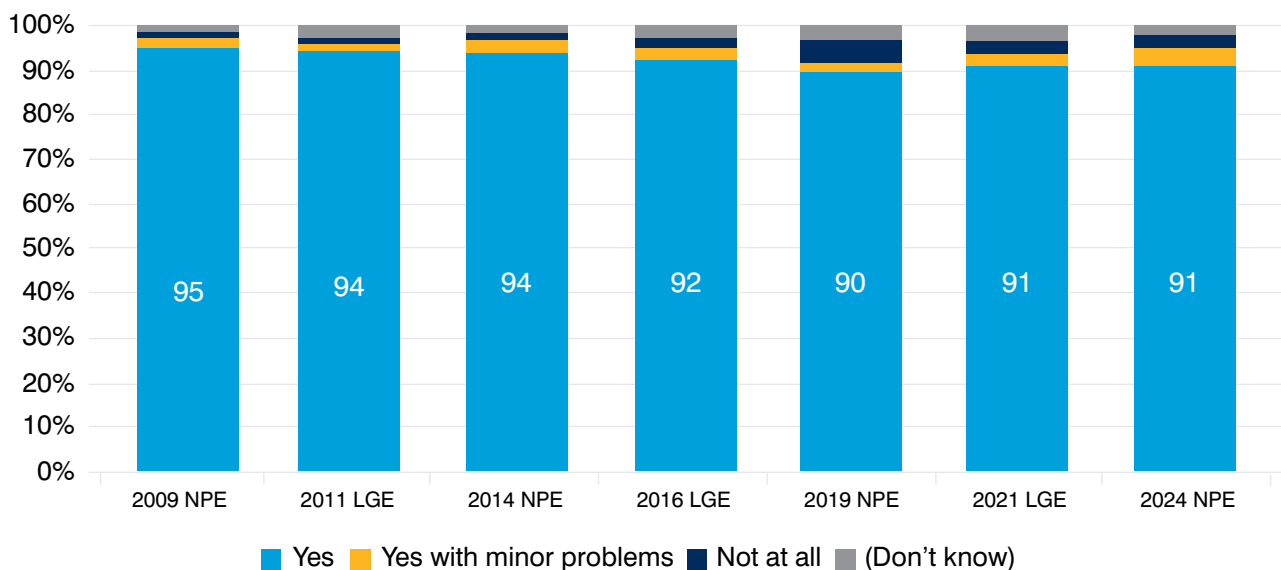
The two graphs below capture and compare the responses of the voters from 2009 to 2024 to questions regarding the freeness and fairness of the electoral procedures on Election Day.

Figure 32: “Do you think that the election procedures were free?”



Source: HSRC 2024 Election Satisfaction Survey

Figure 33: “Do you think the election procedures were fair?”



Source: HSRC 2024 Election Satisfaction Survey

21. Financing NPE 2024

The primary source of funding for the Electoral Commission is the fiscus through an annual parliamentary allocation. The Electoral Commission derives additional annual revenue from sundry income, mainly through interest earned on the short-term investment of the parliamentary allocation. The Electoral Commission was allocated R2.2 billion for the 2023/24 financial year and R2.3 billion for the 2024/25 financial year.

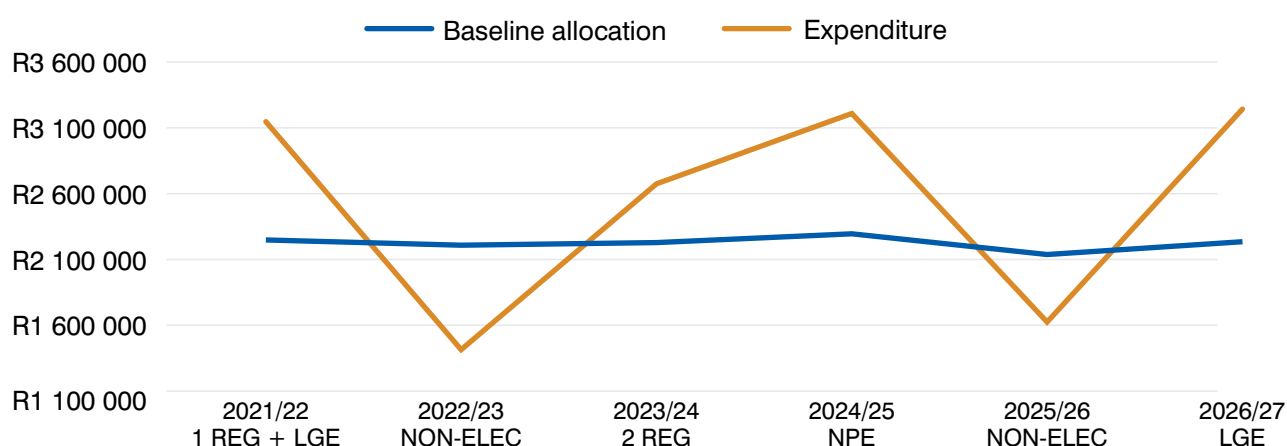
Due to global and local constraints facing the economy, the National Treasury implemented government-wide baseline budget cuts to stabilise public finances. The resultant reduction of the Electoral Commission's baseline allocations, amounting to R240 million (2023/24) and R30.4 million (2024/25), has not affected the ability of the

Electoral Commission to deliver two national registration events and NPE 2024. The delivery was largely due to the National Treasury providing a mechanism for the Electoral Commission to retain surpluses from prior years to fund election shortfalls.

The annual budget of the Electoral Commission caters for fixed costs (contractual obligations), as well as costs relating to specific electoral events and activities, such as voter registration activities and general elections. Expenditure is significantly influenced by the election cycle, peaking in the run-up to general elections and decreasing again in non-election cycles.

The figure below illustrates the relationship between the straight-lined allocations received from the National Treasury and the expenditure trends of the electoral cycle.

Figure 34: Relationship between the straight-lined allocations received from the National Treasury and the expenditure trends of the electoral cycle

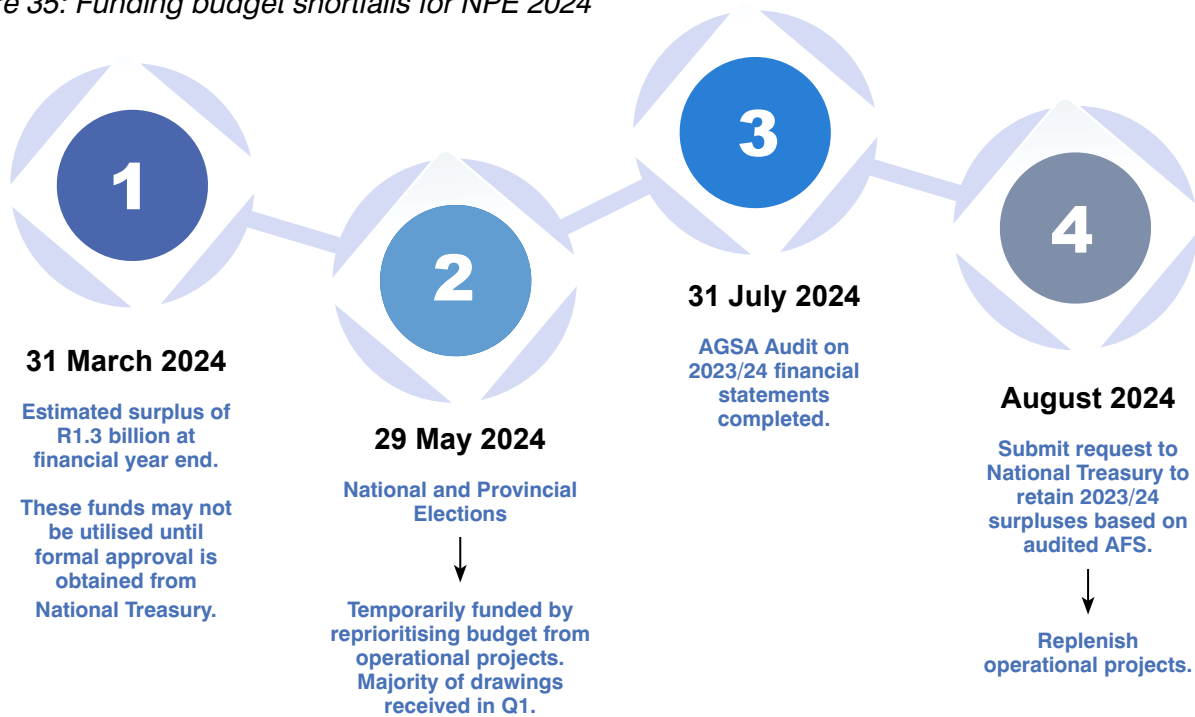


The following figure shows that the NPE 2024 budget had to be supplemented by accumulated surpluses emanating from the 2022/23 non-election year. National Treasury approval to retain cash surpluses from a prior financial year only takes place after the finalisation of audited financial statements by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) on 31 July of the following year. The surpluses accumulated ahead of NPE 2024 could therefore not be used at the time of the election in May 2024. However, as an interim funding measure, it was agreed with the National Treasury that the Electoral

Commission would reprioritise the majority of its 2024/25 budget from operational projects to fund the increased election cost in the first quarter.

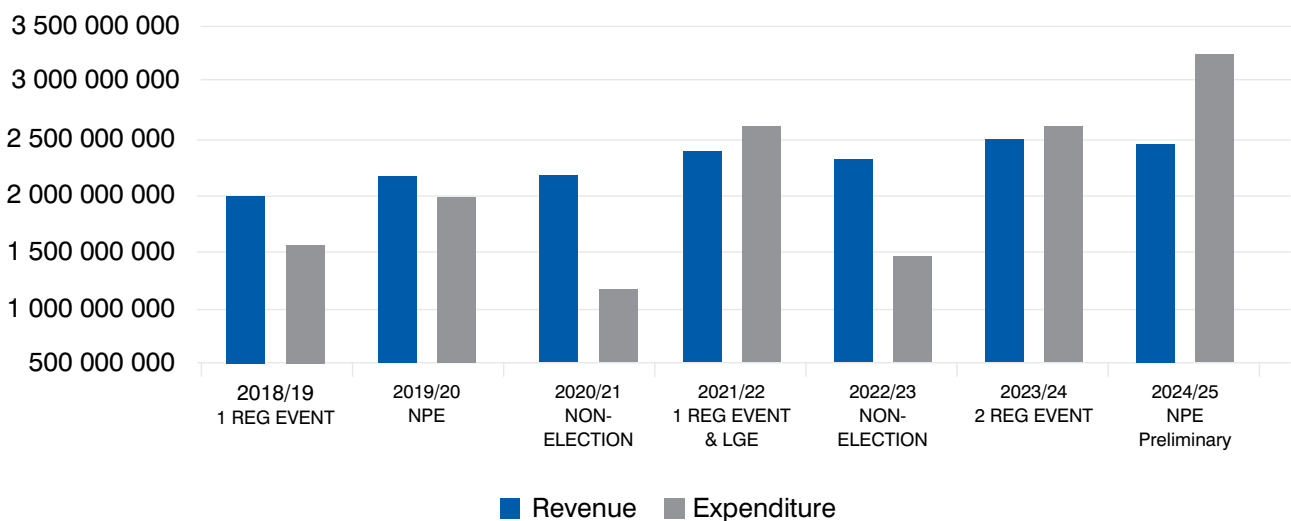
To ensure sufficient cash flows, 69% of the Electoral Commission's 2024/25 financial year drawings were received in the first four months of the financial year. The operational projects were replenished upon approval to retain the 2023/24 cash surpluses from August to September 2025. This timeline is illustrated in the following figure.

Figure 35: Funding budget shortfalls for NPE 2024



The figure above illustrates the Electoral Commission's revenue and expenditure trends over the past five years, as well as the 2024/25 preliminary adjusted budget and expenditure.

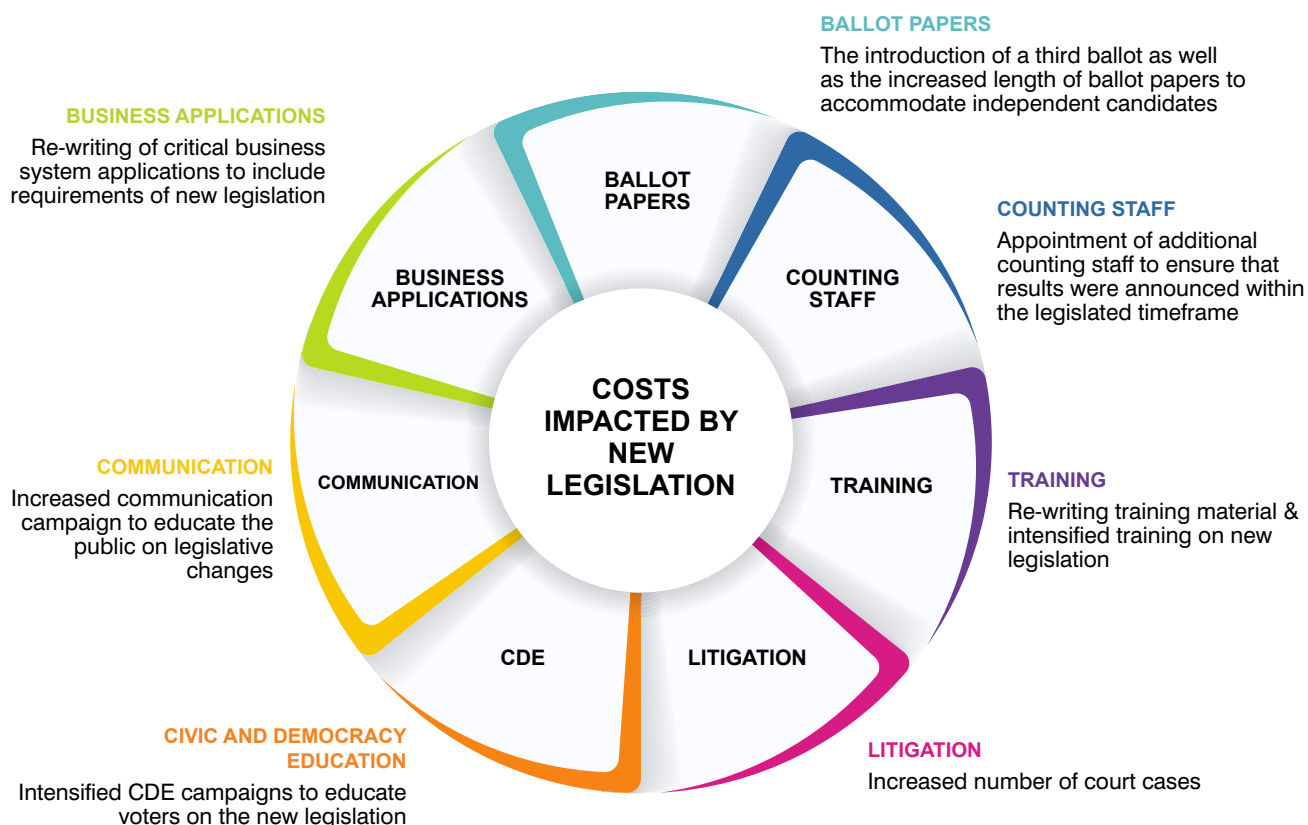
Figure 36: Completion of revenue and expenditure 2018/19 to 2024/25 (preliminary)



The 2023/24 financial year included two national registration events ahead of NPE 2024. Costs for NPE 2024 were impacted by the signing into law of the Electoral Amendment Act on 17 April 2023. The Electoral Amendment Act, which now provides for the inclusion and nomination of independent candidates in national and provincial elections, has resulted in increased costs in

areas such as ballot papers, staffing, rewriting of electoral business applications, and intensified communication and civic democracy education campaigns. The key areas impacted by the changes in legislation are shown in the figure below.

Figure 37: Election costs impacted by the Electoral Amendment Act

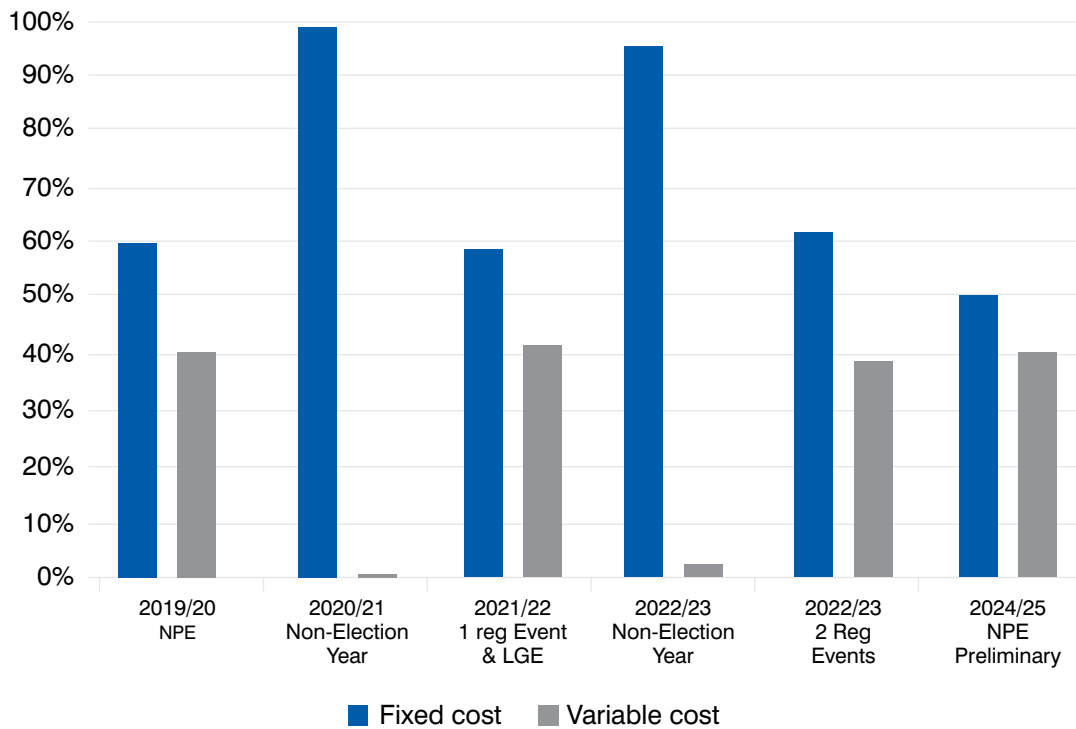


A precise costing of an election is difficult as total expenditure comprises both fixed and variable costs. The fixed portion (cost of administration) is used for the usual day-to-day functioning of the Electoral Commission and includes permanent staff salaries, permanent office rentals and other related goods and services. The fixed portion is an annual cost. Variable costs are directly related to conducting registration and electoral events and are inclusive of additional

staffing costs; election material (ballot paper printing, transportation and security); communication, CDE events and other outreach activities; voting station rental costs, training of staff and party agents, ROCs and other related costs. The total cost of any general election is rarely contained within a single financial year, as planning and preparations usually resume within 18 to 24 months from the election date.



Figure 38: Fixed and variable costs for elections between 2019/20 and 2024/25



The Electoral Commission incurred approximately 59% fixed costs and 41% variable costs for NPE 2024, based on preliminary figures. It is evident from the figure above that a non-election year (2022/23) mainly comprises fixed costs, and variable costs fluctuate depending on the level of registration and election activity taking place in a given financial year.

Key election cost drivers for NPE 2024

The key cost drivers for variable costs can be differentiated between core costs and integrity costs. Core costs are those associated with carrying out key election operations (such as logistics and staff costs). In contrast, integrity costs are generally associated with

measures taken to secure the integrity of elections, such as security arrangements for warehouses and registration and voting stations, tamper-resistant electoral materials, voter education campaigns, ICT business systems and communication campaigns. An increase in integrity costs is an indication of a changing electoral environment. Integrity costs for NPE 2024 increased mainly due to a need for increased election security, both physical security at election sites and cyber security measures, intensified communications and voter education campaigns relating to legislative changes.

The relationship between core costs and integrity costs is depicted in the following figures.

Figure 39: Core and integrity costs for NPE 2019, LGE 2021 and NPE 2024

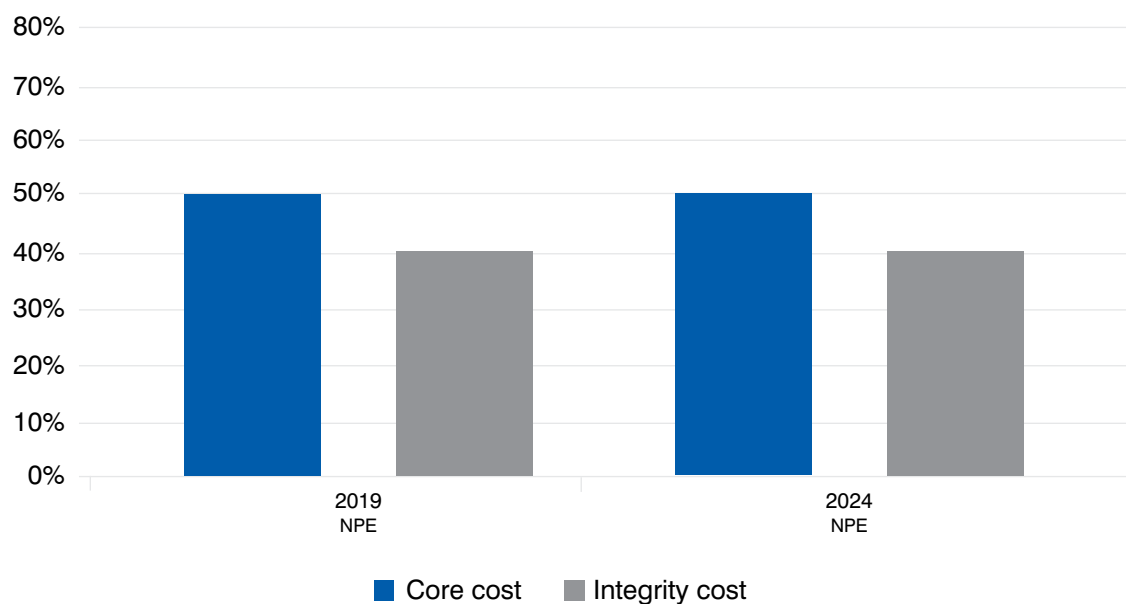
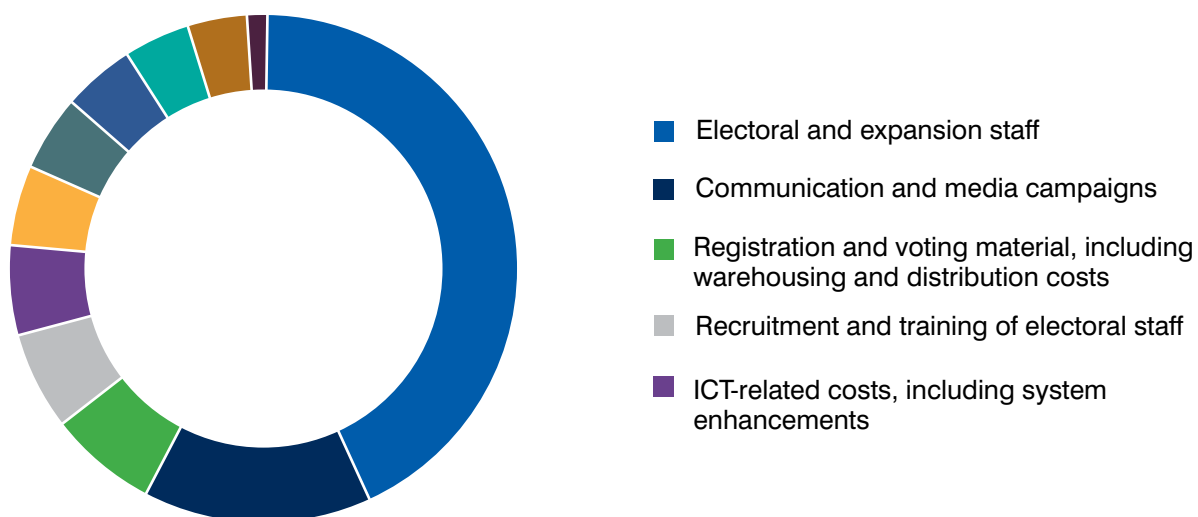


Figure 40: Key election and registration cost drivers for NPE 2024



CONCLUSION

The NPE 2024 marked a significant milestone in South Africa's democratic journey, reflecting both the resilience and complexity of the electoral landscape. The successful implementation of the revised system was a standout achievement despite the compressed timeframe for adaptation. This reform allowed independent candidates to contest seats, necessitating extensive logistics, technology, and voter education adjustments.

The Electoral Commission's ability to manage these changes seamlessly, alongside the record growth of the voters' roll to 27.78 million registered voters, underscored South Africa's commitment to electoral democracy.

The extensive use of online voter registration and the efficient handling of special and out-of-country votes further demonstrated the Electoral Commission's responsiveness to diverse voter needs and inclusive elections.

However, NPE 2024 was not without its challenges. The elections took place amid widespread voter dissatisfaction with democracy, intensified political competition with 70 parties and 11 independent candidates vying for 887 seats, and unprecedented legal and political pressures, including numerous court cases, threats of cyber attacks and misinformation campaigns.

Despite these adversities, the Electoral Commission maintained its constitutional mandate, ensuring that the elections were conducted freely, fairly and transparently. The establishment of the ROCs and the comprehensive voter education and communication campaigns played crucial roles in fostering transparency.

NPE 2024 highlighted the ongoing need for electoral reform and civic engagement to strengthen the electoral process in a complex and evolving socio-political environment.



ANNEXURES



I. ELECTION TIMETABLE

2024 NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS TIMETABLE

YOUR DEMOCRACY
OWN IT

KEY



Voters' roll-related



IEC notices



Candidate matters



Special votes

ALL CUT-OFF DATES ARE AT 17h00 UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

II. SAMPLE BALLOT PAPERS

THE NATIONAL BALLOT FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S 2024 ELECTIONS



SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL



SOUTH AFRICA				30 YEARS OF ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY				30 YEARS OF ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY			
Alliance of Citizens For Change		A.C.C.		30 YEARS OF ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY CHOOSE ONE PARTY ONLY VOTE 	Sizwe Ummah Nation		SUN		30 YEARS OF ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY CHOOSE ONE PARTY ONLY VOTE 		
Allied Movement For Change		AM4C			South African Rainbow Alliance		SARA				
Azanian People's Organisation		AZAPO			South African Royal Kingdoms Organization		SARKO				
African National Congress		ANC			Umkhonto Wesizwe		M.K.				
Build One South Africa with Mmusi Maimane		BOSA			United Africans Transformation		UAT				
CITIZANS		CITIZANS			United Democratic Movement		UDM				
Congress of the People		COPE			United Independent Movement		UIM				
Conservatives In Action		CIASA			Vryheidsfront Plus		VF PLUS				
Democratic Alliance		DA			XILUVA		XILUVA				
Democratic Liberal Congress		DLC			Abantu Batho Congress		ABC				
Economic Freedom Fighters		EFF			Able Leadership		AL				
Economic Liberators Forum South Africa		ELF-SA			Action Alliance Development Party		AADP				
Forum 4 Service Delivery		F4SD			ACTIONS		ACTIONS				
Free Democrats		FREE DEMS			Africa Africans Reclaim		AAR				
GOOD		GOOD			Africa Restoration Alliance		ARA				
#HOPE4SA		#HOPE4SA			African Christian Democratic Party		ACDP				
Inkatha Freedom Party		IFP			African Congress For Transformation		ACT				
National Coloured Congress		CCC			African Content Movement		ACM				
National Freedom Party		NFP			African Heart Congress		AHC				
Northern Cape Communities Movement		NCCM			African Independent Congress		AIC				
Organic Humanity Movement		OHM			African Movement Congress		AMC				
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania		PAC			African People's Convention		APC				
Patriotic Alliance		PA			African People's Movement		APEMO				
People's Movement For Change		PMC			African Transformation Movement		ATM				
Referendum Party		RP			AL JAMA-AH		ALJAMA				
Rise Mzansi		RISE			All Citizens Party		ACP				

SAMPLES OF THE PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL BALLOTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S 2024 ELECTIONS

PROVINCIAL

Arise South Africa ASA

African National Congress ANC

Bobhelela Party of South Africa BPSA

Build One South Africa with Mmusi Maimane BOSA

Congress of the People COPE

Democratic Alliance DA

Economic Freedom Fighters EFF

Economic Liberators Forum South Africa ELF-SA

Forum 4 Service Delivery F4SD

GOOD

Inkatha Freedom Party IFP

Mokonyane Matsubane Gerald INDEPENDENT

National Independent Party NIP

Nobu Levemore Ray INDEPENDENT

Operation Dudula OD

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania PAC

Patriotic Alliance PA

Rise Mzansi RISE

Socialist Agenda of Dispossessed Africans SADA

South African Maintenance and Estate Beneficiaries Association SAMBA

South African Rainbow Alliance SARA

Unkhonto Wesizwe MK

United Africans Transformation UAT

United Democratic Movement UDM

Vryheidfront Plus VF PLUS

Able Leadership AL

Action Alliance Development Party AAPD

ACTIONSA

African Christian Democratic Party ACDP

African Movement Congress AMC

African Transformation Movement ATM

AL JAMA-AH ALJAMA

All Citizens Party ACP

MAKE A MARK

VOTE

IN ONE BLOCK ONLY

LIMPOPO

FREE PRESIDENT OWN IT

REGIONAL

Alliance of Citizens For Change A.C.C.

Allied Movement For Change AMAC

Azanian People's Organisation AZAPO

African National Congress ANC

Build One South Africa with Mmusi Maimane BOSA

CITIZANS

Congress of the People COPE

Democratic Alliance DA

Democratic Liberal Congress DLC

Economic Freedom Fighters EFF

Economic Liberators Forum South Africa ELF-SA

Free Democrats FREE DEMS

GOOD

Inkatha Freedom Party IFP

National Freedom Party NFP

Organic Humanity Movement OHM

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania PAC

Patriotic Alliance PA

People's Movement For Change PMC

Rise Mzansi RISE

Sizwe Ummah Nation SUN

South African Rainbow Alliance SARA

Unkhonto Wesizwe MK

United Democratic Movement UDM

United Independent Movement UIM

Vryheidfront Plus VF PLUS

Abantu Batho Congress ABC

ACTIONSA

Africa Africans Reclaim AAR

Africa Restoration Alliance ARA

African Christian Democratic Party ACDP

African Movement Congress AMC

African People's Convention APC

African People's Movement APMSO

African Transformation Movement ATM

AL JAMA-AH ALJAMA

MAKE A MARK

VOTE

IN ONE BLOCK ONLY

KWAZULU-NATAL

FREE PRESIDENT OWN IT

PROVINCIAL

Alliance of Citizens For Change J.C.C.

Arise South Africa ISA

Azanian People's Organisation ZAPO

African National Congress ANC

Batho Pele Movement BPM

Build One South Africa with Mmusi Maimane BOSA

Congress of the People COPE

Democratic Alliance DA

Economic Freedom Fighters EFF

GOOD

Independent South African National Civic Organisation ISANCO

Inkatha Freedom Party IFP

Komani Progress Action KPA

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania PAC

Patriotic Alliance PA

Rise Mzansi RISE

Unkhonto Wesizwe UK

United Democratic Movement UDM

Vryheidfront Plus VF PLUS

ACTIONSA

African Christian Democratic Party JCDP

African Congress For Transformation ACT

African Independent Congress AIC

African Movement Congress AMC

African People's Convention APC

African Transformation Movement ATM

AL JAMA-AH ALJAMA

MAKE A MARK

VOTE

IN ONE BLOCK ONLY

EASTERN CAPE

FREE PRESIDENT OWN IT

REGIONAL

Alliance of Citizens For Change A.C.C.

Azanian People's Organisation AZAPO

African National Congress ANC

Build One South Africa with Mmusi Maimane BOSA

CITIZANS

Congress of the People COPE

Democratic Alliance DA

Economic Freedom Fighters EFF

Economic Liberators Forum South Africa ELF-SA

Free Democrats FREE DEMS

GOOD

#HOPEASA #HOPEASA

Inkatha Freedom Party IFP

Northern Cape Communities Movement NCCM

Organic Humanity Movement OHM

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania PAC

Patriotic Alliance PA

People's Movement For Change PMC

Rise Mzansi RISE

Sizwe Ummah Nation SUN

South African Rainbow Alliance SARA

South African Royal Kingdoms Organization SARKO

Unkhonto Wesizwe MK

United Democratic Movement UDM

United Independent Movement UIM

Vryheidfront Plus VF PLUS

ACTIONSA

Africa Restoration Alliance ARA

African Christian Democratic Party ACDP

African Transformation Movement ATM

MAKE A MARK

VOTE

IN ONE BLOCK ONLY

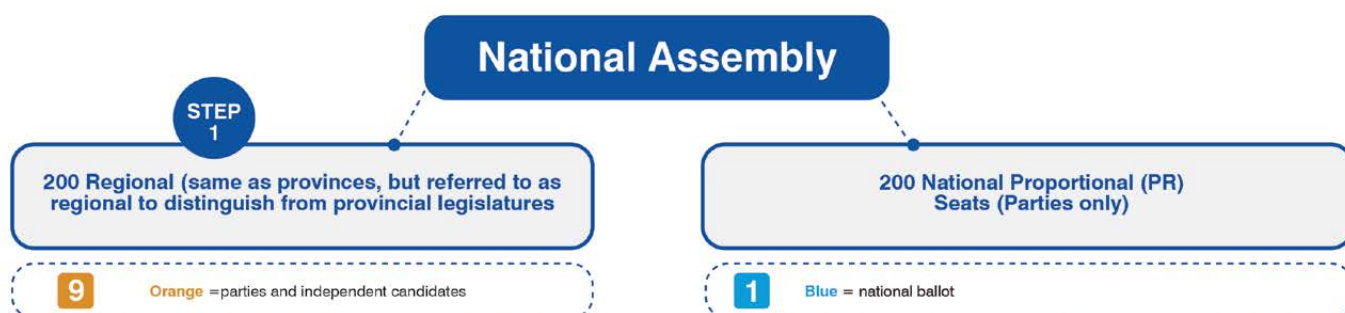
NORTHERN CAPE

FREE PRESIDENT OWN IT

III. NPE 2024 SEAT CALCULATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Seat calculation for the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures

Allocation of seats to political parties that participate in South Africa's National and Provincial elections are determined using quote calculations i.e. a fixed, limited amount or number that is officially allowed. In this instance, in line with Schedule 1A of the Electoral Act, 73 of 1998.



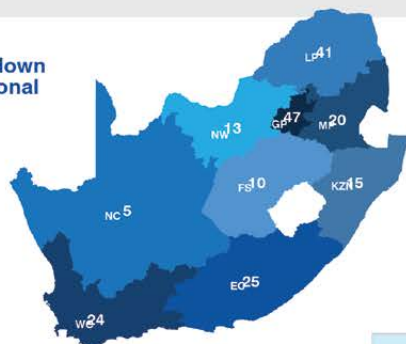
The seat calculation is done in the following manner and sequence:

Step 1 - The 200 regional list seats are determined for each region using a quota based on the number of seats allocated to the region and the valid votes cast on the regional ballot. Seats for parties and independents are then calculated using the quota. Refer to step 1 of the example.

Step 2 - The overall allocation for parties out of the 400 seats is then determined using a quota based on the valid votes across all regions, plus the valid votes on the national ballot. Seats for the parties are then calculated using the quota using. Refer to step 2 of the example.

Step 3 - The 200 national PR list seats are determined by subtracting the total number of regional seats for a party from the overall allocation for that party. Refer to step 3 of the example.

Current breakdown of the 200 regional seats



STEP 1.1

Apply quota to determine quota of votes per seat (Western Cape i.e. 24 seats used as an example below)

Total Valid Votes	
Party A	780 000
Party B	35 000
Party C	1 360 000
Party D	490 000
Independent A	104 500
Total	2 769 500

Quota (Q) formula	
$Q = \frac{\text{Total Valid Votes (Region)}}{\text{Total Seats} + 1}$	

The result, plus 1, disregarding fractions is the quota of votes per seat

From the example:	
$Q = \frac{2\,769\,500}{24 + 1}$	
$= 110\,780.00 + 1,$	
disregarding fractions	
Quota = 110 781	

STEP 1.2

Divide valid votes for each and independent by the quota and perform the calculation below

Party	Valid votes	Votes divided by quota	1st allocation	Remainder	Rank	2nd allocation	Final allocation
Party A	780 000	$\frac{780\,000}{110\,781} = 7.041$	7	0.041		0	7
Party B	35 000	$\frac{35\,000}{110\,781} = 0.316$	0	0.316		0	0
Party C	1 360 000	$\frac{1\,360\,000}{110\,781} = 12.276$	12	0.276		0	12
Party D	490 000	$\frac{490\,000}{110\,781} = 4.423$	4	0.423		0	4
Independent 1	104 500	$\frac{104\,500}{110\,781} = 0.943$	0,943	①	1	1	1
Total	2 769 500		23				24

Remaining seat allocated to the highest remainder after 1st allocation i.e. Independent 1

STEP 2

National (overall) calculation out of 400 –Parties only

STEP 2.1

Determine quota of votes per seat using both national and regional votes for parties as shown in the example on the right.

Total Valid Votes (National + Regional for Parties)	
Party A	10 309 000
Party B	658 000
Party C	20 547 000
Party D	5 959 000
Party E	164 000
Party F	50 500
Total	37 687 500

Quota (Q) formula

$$Q = \frac{\text{Total Valid Votes (N+R)}}{((\text{Total Seats} + 1) - \text{Ind Seats})}$$

The result, plus 1, disregarding fractions is the quota of votes per seat

From the example:

$$Q = \frac{37\,687\,500}{(400+1) - 1}$$

$$= 94\,218.75 + 1,$$
 disregarding fractions
 Quota = 94 219

STEP 2.2

Divide valid votes for each party by the quota and perform the calculation as shown below

Party	Valid votes (Reg + Nat)	Votes divided by quota	1st allocation	Remainder	Rank	2nd allocation	3rd* allocation	Final allocation
Party A	10 309 000	$\frac{10\,309\,000}{94\,219} = 109.415$	109	0.415	0	0	N/A	109
Party B	658 000	$\frac{658\,000}{94\,219} = 6.984$	6	1	1	1	N/A	7
Party C	20 547 000	$\frac{20\,547\,000}{94\,219} = 218.077$	218	0.077	0	0	N/A	218
Party D	5 959 000	$\frac{5\,959\,000}{94\,219} = 63.246$	63	0.246	0	0	N/A	63
Party E	164 000	$\frac{164\,000}{94\,219} = 1.741$	1	1	2	1	N/A	2
Party F	50 500	$\frac{50\,500}{94\,219} = 0.536$	0	0.536	0	0	N/A	0
Independent 1								1
Total	37 687 500		397			2		400

If there are more than 5 seats to allocate after the first round, the next 5 are done according to highest remainder after which a third allocation is done based on the highest average of votes per seat for remaining seats. In this example, the third round is not applicable.

STEP 3

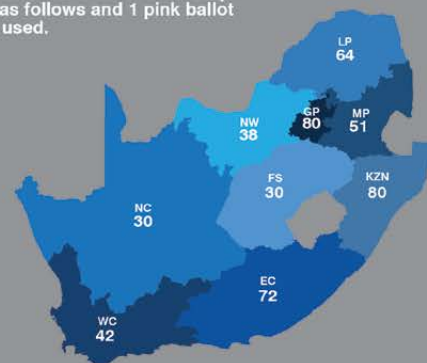
National PR List Seats

National PR list seats are calculated by subtracting all the regional list seats for a party from the total party seats for that party. Please note that Independent 1 does not participate in steps 2 & 3, but that the seat won is shown to complete the scenario.

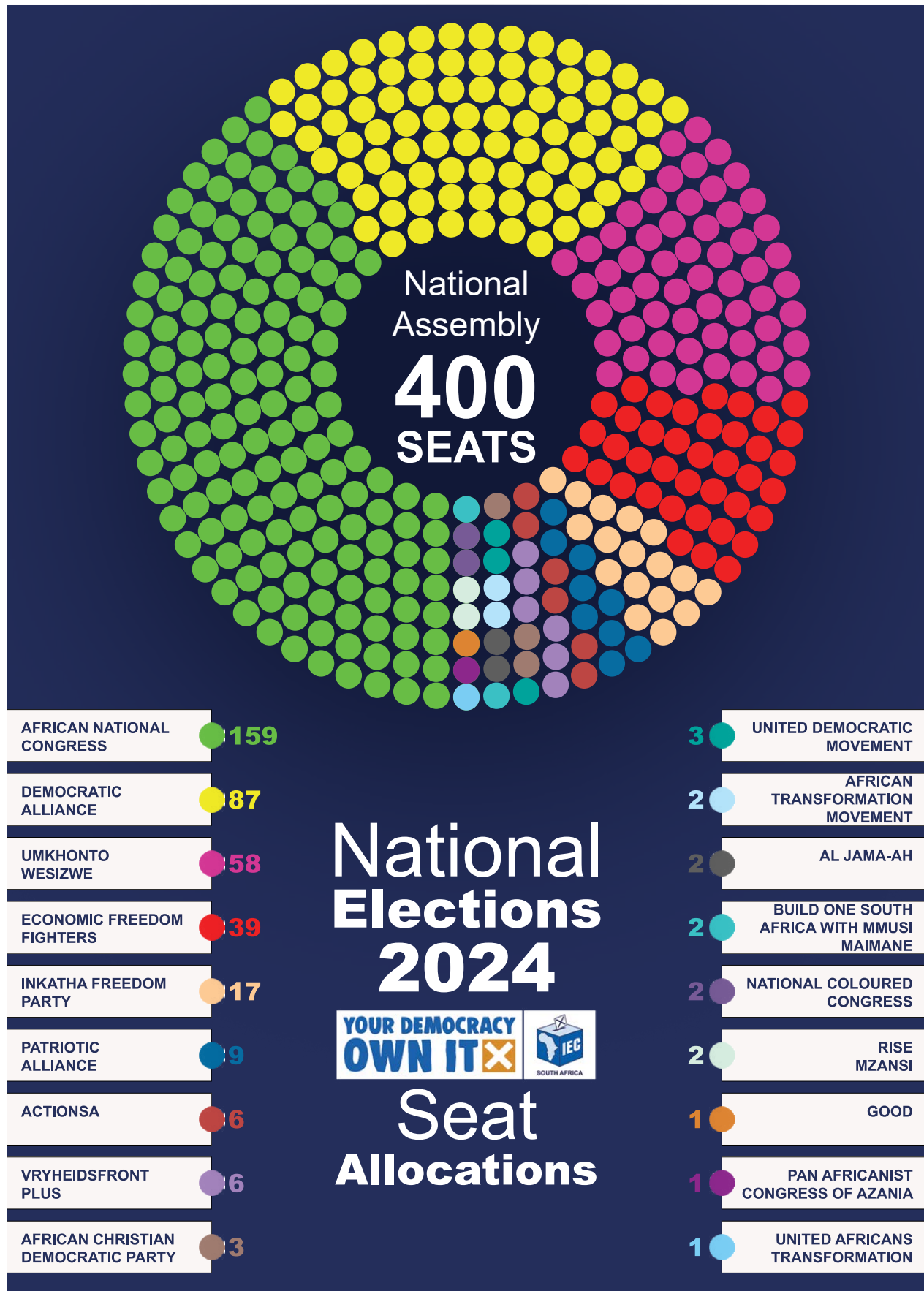
Party	Total party seats 400 (A)	Regional list seats 200 (B)	National list seats 200 (A - B)
Party A	109	78	31
Party B	7	0	7
Party C	218	121	97
Party D	63	0	63
Party E	2	0	2
Party F	0	0	0
Independent 1	1	1	
Total	400	200	200

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

Calculations for the provincial legislatures follows the same process as the regional calculations using the respective provincial legislature seats. The number of seats per province are as follows and 1 pink ballot paper will be used.



IV. SEAT ALLOCATION



AFRICAN NATIONAL
CONGRESSDEMOCRATIC
ALLIANCEUMKHONTO
WESIZWEECONOMIC FREEDOM
FIGHTERSINKATHA FREEDOM
PARTYPATRIOTIC
ALLIANCE

ACTIONS

VRYHEIDSFONT
PLUSAFRICAN CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC PARTYUNITED DEMOCRATIC
MOVEMENTAFRICAN
TRANSFORMATION
MOVEMENT

AL JAMA-AH

BUILD ONE SOUTH
AFRICA WITH MMUSI
MAIMANENATIONAL COLOURED
CONGRESSRISE
MZANSI

GOOD

PAN AFRICANIST
CONGRESS OF AZANIAUNITED AFRICANS
TRANSFORMATION

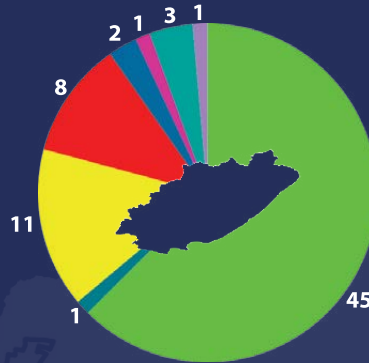
Provincial Elections 2024

**YOUR DEMOCRACY
OWN IT**

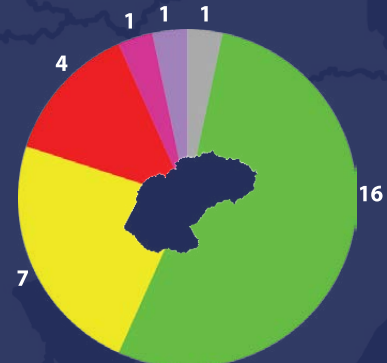
IEC
SOUTH AFRICA

Seat Allocations

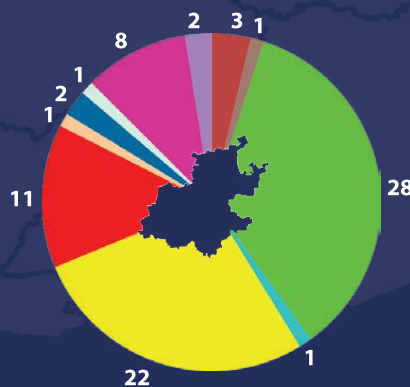
Eastern Cape



Free State



Gauteng



Scan Me
for results
NPE 2024

AFRICAN NATIONAL
CONGRESSDEMOCRATIC
ALLIANCEUMKHONTO
WESIZWEECONOMIC FREEDOM
FIGHTERSINKATHA FREEDOM
PARTYPATRIOTIC
ALLIANCE

ACTIONS

VRYHEIDSFRONT
PLUSAFRICAN CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC PARTYUNITED DEMOCRATIC
MOVEMENTAFRICAN
TRANSFORMATION
MOVEMENT

AL JAMA-AH

BUILD ONE SOUTH
AFRICA WITH MMUSI
MAIMANENATIONAL COLOURED
CONGRESSRISE
MZANSI

GOOD

PAN AFRICANIST
CONGRESS OF AZANIAUNITED AFRICANS
TRANSFORMATION

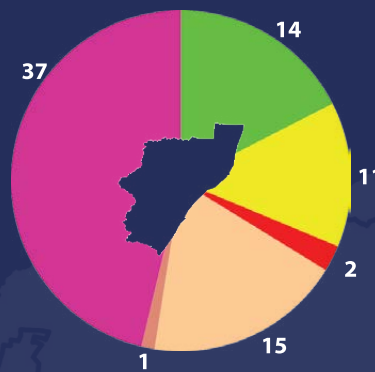
Provincial Elections 2024

**YOUR DEMOCRACY
OWN IT**

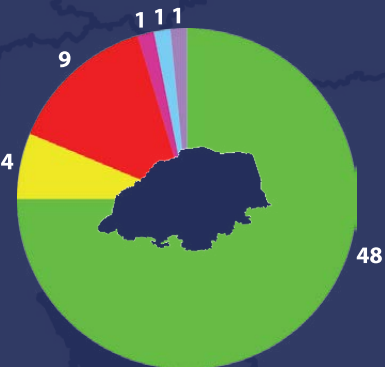
IEC
SOUTH AFRICA

Seat Allocations

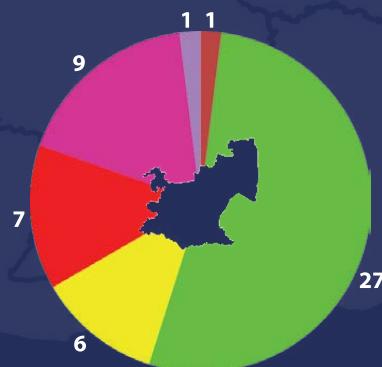
KwaZulu-Natal



Limpopo



Mpumalanga



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for results
NPE 2024

AFRICAN NATIONAL
CONGRESSDEMOCRATIC
ALLIANCEUMKHONTO
WESIZWEECONOMIC FREEDOM
FIGHTERSINKATHA FREEDOM
PARTYPATRIOTIC
ALLIANCE

ACTIONS

VRYHEIDSFRONT
PLUSAFRICAN CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC PARTYUNITED DEMOCRATIC
MOVEMENTAFRICAN
TRANSFORMATION
MOVEMENT

AL JAMA-AH

BUILD ONE SOUTH
AFRICA WITH MMUSI
MAIMANENATIONAL COLOURED
CONGRESSRISE
MZANSI

GOOD

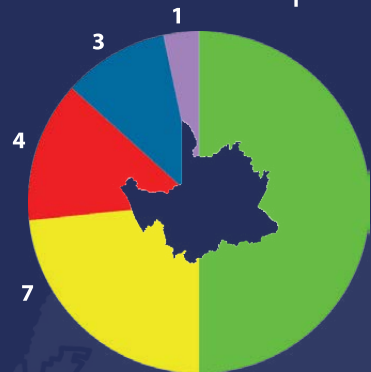
PAN AFRICANIST
CONGRESS OF AZANIAUNITED AFRICANS
TRANSFORMATION

Provincial Elections 2024

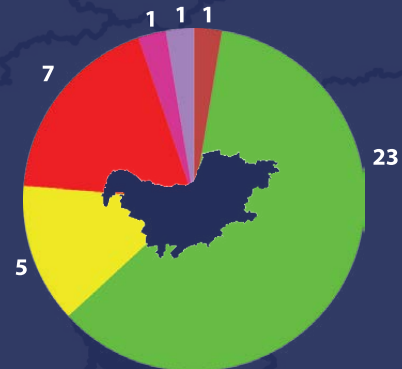
Seat Allocations

YOUR DEMOCRACY
OWN IT

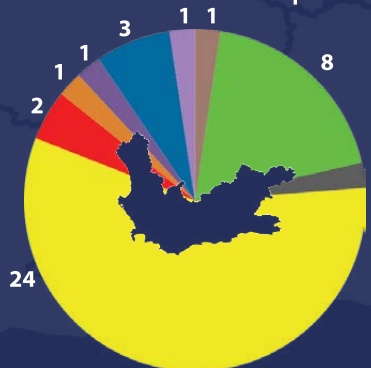
Northern Cape



North West



Western Cape



Scan Me
for results
NPE 2024

V. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAEA	Association of African Election Authorities
AD	Active directory
ANC	African National Congress
API	Application programme interface
BOM	Bill of materials
CDE	Civic and democracy education
CEO	Chief Electoral Officer
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
Commissioners	Commissioners appointed in terms of Section 6(1) of the Electoral Commission Act, Act No. 51 of 1996
DA	Democratic Alliance
DCEO	Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
DCS	Department of Correctional Services
DeafSA	Deaf Federation of South Africa
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DEF	Democracy Education Facilitator
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
DNS	Domain name system
DPO	Deputy presiding officer
ECES	European Centre for Electoral Support
EFF	Economic Freedom Fighters
EPC	Electoral project coordinator
ESS	Election Satisfaction Survey / Electoral Staff Systems
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
ICT	Information and communication technology
ID	Identity document
IEC	(Independent) Electoral Commission
JOINTS	Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure
International IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

LAN	Local area network
LGE	Local government elections
MEO	Municipal electoral officer
MOC	Municipal outreach coordinator
MP	Member of Parliament
MPL	Member of the Provincial Legislature
NATJOINTS	National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure
NCoP	National Council of Provinces
NPE	National and provincial elections
NPLC	National Political Liaison Committee
OMS	Outreach Management System
PAC	Pan Africanist Congress of Azania
PIFSA	Printing Industries Federation of South Africa
PLC	Political Liaison Committee
PO	Presiding officer
PWD	People with disabilities
ROC	Results operations centre
SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
SANCB	South African National Council for the Blind
SANDF	South African National Defence Force
SAPS	South African Police Service
SSA	State Security Agency
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
TCR	Targeted communication and registration
UBT	Universal ballot template
VMD	Voter management device
VPS	Voter Participation Survey
WAN	Wireless area network

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