



BAMBISA FAMILY SOCIETY; Est: 2008

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¹IEC OBSERVER REPORT
MARCH 2024 – FEBRUARY 2025
BAMBISA VOLUNTEERS / IEC OBSERVERS

Date Submitted: 14th June 2024

By

Chairperson

Brian Martin Radebe

¹ Directors; Ms JE Rossouw (Life President); Ms SS Radebe (Life Deputy President); Mr DL Quest (Treasurer); Mr BM Radebe (Chairperson); Ms JC Jacobs (Member of Steering Committee)

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Executive Summary

A. Organisation

Bambisa Family Society, Est:2008 (BFS) is an organisation based in Eden Park, Alberton, City of Ekurhuleni in South Africa. Our mission is to strengthen and assist in building healthy and strong family relationships.

We have a presence on social media namely Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, among others, where we share updates and connect with our community of members.

B. Purpose

Our focus is on promoting family, fellowship and community wellbeing, social cohesion, and unity.

C. Activities

We hold regular meetings, our monthly meetings, affectionately referred to as BFS Sunday at a venue of a family member. During 2023 we held meetings with our stakeholders namely The Church of Scientology, Volunteer Ministers, and representatives from The Way to Happiness Foundation in Africa to discuss the upcoming 2024 National and Provincial Elections (2024).

BFS during the 2021 Local Government Elections (LGE) was awarded accreditation as an independent, non-partisan, apolitical and neutral observer mission group by the Independent Electoral Commission of SA (IEC). This is a demonstration of our commitment to civic engagement and community engagement. Our organisation plays a vital role in fostering connections, support and positive change within families and neighbourhoods.

D. Action Plan

The meeting with our stakeholder's resolved on the following: -

- 1.1. Each observer to be invited to an Observer Leadership Seminar
- 1.2. The seminar's will be held in a hybrid way, in person and individuals in the provinces can join us on social media.
- 1.3. Each observer will be issued with the IEC Bib in person, with a t-shirt to wear as well as a cap.
- 1.4. The observers were expected to complete the 19 Tools for Life – Free courses offered online.
- 1.5. Each observer was issued with The Way to Happiness booklet during the seminars.

INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

Bambisa Family Society was established on the 7th September 2008 in Eden Park and the nine (9) founding families were presented the Constitution and every person who had attended that meeting resolved to sign and adopt the Constitution.

2. Executive Committee

Life Time President General:	Ms Jorina Ethel Rossouw
Life Time Deputy President:	Ms Shemima Shokie Radebe
Chairperson:	Mr Brian Martin Radebe
Secretary General:	Ms Busisiwe Esther Rdaebe
Treasurer General:	Ms Louren Namu

Additional Members – Head of Portfolio's

Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture Ministry:	Mr Sonwabo Mhlaba
Social Ministry:	Ms Puleng Mohanoe
Cell / Group Ministry:	Ms Gloria Mbomvu
Imvuselelo / Revival Ministry:	Mr Clement Theletshane
Children / Masuphatsila Ministry:	Ms Victoria Moshwadiba
Missions Ministry:	Mr Brian Martin Radebe
Women Ministry:	Ms Annerley Saayers
Young Ladies and Youth Ministry:	Ms Louren Namu
Hospital, Rehabilitation and Prison's Ministry:	Mr Malwande Nompolweni
Counselling Ministry:	Ms Thembisile Theletsane

Vision

We are an apolitical, non-religious, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, united, and prosperous movement.

Apolitical

We participate in civil, society, family and active in local ward committee structures at Local Government level.

Non-Religious

We believe in The Way to Happiness lifestyle and use it as our ethical compass.

Non-Racial

We are Africans, affectionately known as South Africans

Non-Sexist

We support the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women and the girl child and in addition believe in women and youth empowerment.

Democratic

We elect leaders at all structures democratically except for the Lifetime President and Lifetime Vice – President

United

We are united in our diversity.

Prosperous

We see one South Africa

BFS Mission Statement

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” – Ephesians 5:21

BFS Projects**PROJECT 1****Non-Racialism**

BFS is committed to the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 and its objectives of building a New South Africa, free from racism and oppression (Black / African or White / European).

PROJECT 2**Non-Sexism**

BFS also believes in equality among men; women; girls; boys and we further believe in an African ideology of human equity and care based on the notion that human beings and their value are reciprocal and shared by ALL.

PROJECT 3**Family Empowerment**

BFS was officially launched on the 7th September 2008 in City of Ekurhuleni, Alberton, Eden Park, Gauteng, RSA. The nine (9) founding families signed and resolved to adopt the Constitution presented. The main aim for the establishment of the society was to achieve Family Financial Independence in our Lifetime.

PROJECT 4**Youth Empowerment**

BFS supports youth owned and managed companies. Any funds raised assist with registrations of co-operatives, small and medium sized enterprises (SME's).

PROJECT 5

Community Support

Brelly Radebe understood “UBUNTU / BOTHO”, which is central to our Nation Building & Social Cohesion initiatives in South Africa. He adopted an orphanage secretly in Kwa-Thema and sponsored this orphanage out of his own pocket, so BFS continues to raise funds for children at the home living with HIV/Aids.

PROJECT 6

Family Awareness / Social cohesion

BFS will use all funds raised for the eradication of among others: -

- ❖ Child-Headed Households
- ❖ Home Alone
- ❖ Patriarchy
- ❖ Rape Culture
- ❖ Femicide
- ❖ Depression
- ❖ Substance Abuse
- ❖ Imperialism
- ❖ Gangsterism
- ❖ Arrested Development
- ❖ Racism
- ❖ Prejudice
- ❖ Prostitution and Human Trafficking
- ❖ Tribalism
- ❖ Male Chauvinism
- ❖ Dependence
- ❖ Self-Pity
- ❖ Low-self Esteem
- ❖ Occultism
- ❖ Colonialism of a Special Type
- ❖ Inequality
- ❖ Unemployment, etc.

BFS Programs

On the 15th October 2016 during a BFS Sunday meeting in Tshwane, Eersterust in the residence of Aunty Quennie and the late Oom Bruce Campbell the meeting took three resolutions namely, establishment of Bambisa Family Ministries International, secondly the adoption of a Program of Action (POA) and thirdly the nomination of Family Ward Committee Members for the upcoming and future Local Government Elections.

BAMBISA FAMILY MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A. Bambisa Social Ministry

- ❖ Drug and Substance Abuse Education
- ❖ Health and Wellbeing
- ❖ HIV/AIDS and Child Headed Households



- B. Bambisa Sports, Arts, Recreation and Culture Ministry
- ✚ Celebrating and nurture natural God-given talents
 - ✚ Training and Skills Development
 - ✚ Participating in cultural and traditional activities (Music, Dance, Arts, Instruments, etc)
- C. Bambisa Leaf / Branch / Family Group Ministry
- ❖ Business Networking, Recruitment Drive and Work-Readiness Sessions, Entrepreneurship programs among youth, women and people living with disabilities.
 - ❖ Voter Education and Participatory Democracy
 - ❖ Election and co-ordination of BFS Leaf (Family Unit), BFS Branch (Ward Level), BFS Family (Municipality / District Level)
 - ❖ Building strong relationships and synergies with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), a Chapter 9 Institution
- D. Bambisa Imvuselelo / Revival Ministry
- ✚ Membership recruitment, growth and maintenance (Old & New members)
- E. Bambisa Children / Masuphatsila Ministry (2 – 13 years)
- ❖ The Way to Happiness Foundation
 - ❖ Religious Teachings (Bible, Torah, Koran, etc)
 - ❖ Building close relationships and synergies with the Auditor General (AGSA) and CLR Commission, Chapter 9 Institutions
- F. Bambisa Missions Ministry
- ✚ International growth and outreach programs in Southern Africa (SADAC) to as far as Northern Africa (Israel), China, India, Brazil and Russia (BRICS) nations.
 - ✚ Building close relationships and synergies with the Human Rights Commission, IEC, Chapter 9 Institution and Institutions Supporting our Democracy (ISD's)
- G. Bambisa Women's Ministry (Women's League)
- ❖ Women empowerment
 - ❖ Educational support, crowd funding, bursaries, scholarships, internships, learner ships and entrepreneurial support
 - ❖ Elections and co-ordination of BFS Provincial and National structures
 - ❖ Building strong partnerships and synergies with the Commission for Gender Equality, a Chapter 9 Institution
- H. Bambisa Young Ladies and Youth Ministry – Youth League (14 – 35 years)
- ✚ Youth and Women Empowerment
 - ✚ Development of credible community leaders and local leaders supporting the development of our young Constitutional Democracy
 - ✚ Institutional support of historic African organizations, community based and faith-based organizations.
 - ✚ Building of strong working relationships and synergies with Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, Tshepo 1million, SAYOUTH and the Presidency's Youth Employment Services (YES) initiatives

- I. Bambisa Hospital, Mental Health Care and Prison Ministry
- ❖ Visits and support to communities and family members in corrective behaviour and health institutions (Hospitals / Correctional Facilities, etc.).
 - ❖ Building strong relationships and synergies with the South African Human Rights Commission, a Chapter 9 Institution

J. Bambisa Counselling Ministry

- ✚ Family dispute mediation and conflict resolutions
- ✚ Marriage counselling
- ✚ Lobola negotiations
- ✚ Pre and Post Marital Counselling
- ✚ Courting advice and coaching
- ✚ Grief Counselling
- ✚ Life Skills Coping
- ✚ Stress Management
- ✚ Study Skills
- ✚ Trauma and Negative Incident Reduction
- ✚ Career Choices
- ✚ Career Development
- ✚ Personal Development
- ✚ Life Design
- ✚ Predictive Change Management
- ✚ Culture and Strategy alignment
- ✚ Performance Management
- ✚ Change Management
- ✚ Talent Scouting

BFS Structure

	
<p>Bambisa Family Society, Est: 2008</p>	<p>Bambisa Family Ministries International, Est: 2016</p>
<p>Executive Council</p>	<p>Advisory Council</p>
<p>(MCEC)</p>	<p>(MPAC)</p>
<p>Chairperson</p>	<p>Lifetime President</p>
	<p>Lifetime Deputy President</p>
	<p>Secretary</p>
	<p>Treasurer</p>
<p>Member of Savings and Investment Accounts</p>	<p>Heads of Ministries</p>
<p>Signatory to Savings Account 1</p>	<p>Social Ministry</p>
<p>Signatory to Savings Account 2</p>	<p>Sports, Arts, Recreation and Culture</p>
<p>Signatory to Savings Account 3</p>	<p>Leaf, Branch and Family Group</p>
<p>Signatory to Investment Account 1</p>	<p>Imvuselelo / Revival</p>
<p>Signatory to Investment Account 2</p>	<p>Children / Imbokodo</p>
<p>Signatory to Investment Account 3</p>	<p>Missions</p>
	<p>Women</p>
	<p>Young Ladies and Youth</p>
	<p>Hospital, Mental Health Care and Prison</p>
	<p>Counselling</p>
<p>Members of the Chairperson’s Executive Council</p>	<p>Members of the Presidential Advisory Council</p>
<p>MCEC</p>	<p>MPAC</p>

BFS Observer Report (PDF Attach)

IEC 2024 NPE Observer Report													
BAMBISA FAMILY SOCIETY, EST-2008													
Bambisa Observer		IEC Officials		Observer Area		Question 1		Question 2		Question 3		Question 4	
Name	Surname	Presiding Officer	Deputy Presiding Officer	Ward	Postcode	Province	City/Town	How many Party Agents	How many Voters	How many Voters	How many Voters	Did you observe any irregularities?	Question 7
Brian	Rudabe	Nicaza Neamato		84	3300020	Eastern	Gauteng	4	ANC, DA, MK & Actoria	142	668	Yes	The election was free and fair, the morning was slow between 7am - 8am because of network. The Presiding Officer was not practicing in making a decision, however she did go outside to communicate the challenge to voters in the queue, kept them calm. The ballot facilities were clean and orderly. Majority of the IEC staff was not uniformed, jerseys arrived at 12:45. Most voters not allowed to vote, who were not registered at the station, one had his ID on his cell phone and turned away.
Brian	Rudabe	Mpho Mayiza		84	3306100	Eastern	Gauteng	3	ANC, DA, EFF, Mahabedi Foundation Observer - Justice Kutibe	65	342	Yes	The voting station was better organized, however the table on the table were blue and yellow, may be colours that associate with political parties. Voter education, but it influences may be the reason why a few voters at this voting station changed their votes, mostly on the provincial vote. The IEC official would inform party agents and myself before issuing a new ballot. Party agent from both EFF and ANC were disruptive, one also came in to start her shift as a party agent fully dressed in party regalia and a smart electrical officer intervened and did not let her vote but just look off the register in the venue. At around 15:30 pm there were just 4 voters in the queue to vote, however 13 not registered, 3 need to be verified by PO. The 3 were found to have registered outside of the voting station. The political parties especially the ANC and EFF seldom use underhand tactics at this voting station, no respect for IEC boundary and code of conduct.
Brian	Rudabe	Jeanette Mogggi	Zeleni	84	3300026	Eastern	Gauteng	3	ANC, DA, MKP, Mahabedi Foundation Observer - Mandy	294	4113	Yes	The assigned voting station in Ward, registered voters were 2038. The staff complement was 21 staff in total. There was an interim ballot paper issuer, clear conductor. The electoral staff were 3x RPO, 3x DPO, 1x PO & Counting Officers. The station closed around 21:42 and counting started at 21:50. The DPO was very firm, patient and confident under the pressure political party agents tried to exert on him, he stood by ground especially with decisions on spoilt ballots and how the rules were applied for spoilt ballots by the IEC. The voters were allowed to cast their vote and by the time the station closed there were no person standing, in fact on average 294 votes per hour at this station but the last hour only 46 voters cast their vote.
Kamal	Soma	Nicaza Neamato	Elizabeth - District Manager	84	3300020	Eastern	Gauteng	4	ANC, DA, MK & Actoria	238	350	Yes	The signage in the hall was poor, the voters were rushed to vote and complete the ballot forms issued. There were only 6 voting boots, not enough for the staff of voters. Training of IEC staff and we could observe it. The team was unprepared to handle the voter turnout. The same team was used for counting and not given enough or adequate breaks, this led to inconsistencies as a result of fatigue. Some voters were given two instead of three ballots. System failures also was a challenge. Some of the party agents left before counting results were confirmed. The ballots were supposed to be taken to the operation centre for counting and there was no transport provided, so the ballots travelled in a private vehicle - Reg Num BIK95W GP, White Ford Fiesta. The vehicle was accompanied by SAPS. The overnight counting conditions were poor, no breaks in between the counting and the air conditioner was not working and the venue turned very cold/dry. There were no vehicles, not even a letter to voters to come in to be kept awake or warm.
Pashan	Bechan	Nicaza Neamato	Elizabeth - District Manager	84	3300020	Eastern	Gauteng	4	ANC, DA, MK & Actoria	238	350	Yes	No. The IEC staff were undertrained. There was no voter education signage, no marking for the line directing voters and only 4 voting boots. The administration and record keeping for spoilt ballots not up to date and because of that ballot paper is created in anticipation that some voters return to cast their votes more than once.
Kuthungani	Rabumbe	Thozama Mathuzama		77	3295114	Tswane	Gauteng	No	More than 3	163	163	Yes	Yes - The first hour saw 13 voters, second hour 60, 45 and the fourth hour 65 voters. The IEC staff helped those who could stand and vote. By themselves, those who were blind were also assisted, as well as those who could read but were unable to write.
Widokanghe	Nazwa	Songello Mafaba		40	2687067	Joburg	Gauteng	6	MKP, DA, EFF, Actoria, Pasa Mazisi & EP	240	240	Yes	Yes - The first hour of voting saw 27 voters, then 67, then 81 and the last hour saw 74 when I left my shift at 13:00pm. There were 5 SAPS and 4 Metro police present. The voters were impatient due to the system failure and network problems but when it came back everything went smooth and some voters were escorted manually.
Dhooangetzozo	Mshali	Mimapho Caroline Mjola		57	3298507	Tswane	Gauteng	5	MKP, ANC, DA, EFF & Actoria	264	264	Yes	Yes - The first hour I left my shift I spent there my observation the staff were polite and helpful. The first hour of voting was a little slow due to a ballot paper that got stuck between the voting counting box. The PO asked the police to come in and other party agents reached the decision to put a temp tape in that specific box and use a second box. Otherwise aside from this incident everything went well and smooth.
Resogaditlwe	Mmaphahle	Lazarus Mmota		20	3280179	Joburg	Gauteng	4	EFF, ANC, DA & MKP	214	214	Yes	Yes - The morning was a bit slow due to EC verifying that you are registered and on the system but overall they worked well with things being expedient for every voter coming to the station to vote. I was really impressed and this stood out for me, how they assisted the elderly to vote and make sure their votes were in the ballot box. Everything was done patiently and on time, voters were allowed to vote and the process was fair. The PO kept the voters informed of the challenges during the morning hours but overall it was a great hour experience.
Nompumelelo	Kubayi	Simgahle Tshabalala		51	3281965	Joburg	Gauteng	5	EFF, ANC, MKP, PP & Actoria	91	91	Yes	Yes - The first hour there were 47 voters who voted, then 23, 21 between 8pm and 9pm when the station closed. The evening was slow due to most voters came during the day, the verification process was done correctly, they worked with integrity and allowed the party agents to voice out their concerns as they approached anyone who helped them.
Ajanda Gift	Mahaza	Nthabiseng Ntshole		84	3303515	Eastern	Gauteng	4	MKP, ANC, EFF & DA	240	240	Yes	Yes and No - Some people who wished to cast their votes didn't get the opportunity a democratic right, simply because the IEC closed the station at 8pm. The first hour there was 26, then 102 and between 8pm and 9pm there were 116 voters in the queue and the queue was cut because of the 8pm closing time.
Marica Letsh	Mabanda	Phindile Mabasa		79	9665107	Tswane	Gauteng	Yes	More than 3	184	184	Yes	Yes - voters were allowed a free and fair chance to vote, there were those who were not standing by themselves to vote, they were assisted, from 8:30 pm they stopped working due to their national ballot papers were finished and their scanner was having problems, so before another ballot paper was opened, they had to scan the ballot papers while the machine started working again. Everything went well at this station during my four hour shift from 7am - 11am.
Dimakatso	Matsie	Thabo Hongwane		64	8673001	Tswane	Gauteng	Yes	More than 3	64	64	Yes	Yes - Started my shift at 8pm and the first hour 44 voters, then 54, then between 8pm to 9pm 6 voters and the voting station did not close at 8pm, they allowed voters to come in. The voting process was smooth, voters were allowed to cast their votes, voters who needed assistance were assisted, especially voters with disabilities and the elderly and sick who could stand for long hours were given assistance.
Alicia	Makulele	T Mdaudi		71	3295126	Tswane	Gauteng	Yes	More than 3	144	144	Yes	Yes - my shift started at 8pm and the first hour 40 voters, then 53, between 8pm and 9pm 45 voters cast their votes. The process was slow voters had to wait long in a queue due to verification of ID's, making sure that people are using the right station.
Maria Precious	Rapheiso	Charmaine Moody		89	3284893	Joburg	Gauteng	Yes	1 - DA	164	164	Yes	Yes - No shift started from 8pm - 11pm. First time voters and the elderly were assisted and everything went smooth.
Rustian Rambu	Sharmaine	Numbung Mashilo		71	3289081	Eastern	Gauteng	Yes	More than 3	232	232	Yes	Yes - No shift started from 8pm to 11pm. First time voters and the elderly were assisted and everything went smooth.
Thabang Ramadimeng	Lokakakala	Phindile Mabasa		79	9665107	Tswane	Gauteng	Yes	More than 3	184	184	Yes	Yes - The challenges we had at the registration started 30 minutes late due to network issues but after that everything went smooth between 7am 12 voters cast their votes, then 27, 45 and between 10am - 11am 100 voters cast their votes at the station.
Hope	Zitha	Johannes Bhele		33	3294913	Joburg	Gauteng	No	More than 3	141	141	Yes	Yes - The voting station did not close because there were still people in the queue and the last person was assisted at 22:30 pm.
Martin Janzer	Kubeka	Nokuthula Ngweni		8	3289016	Eastern	Gauteng	5	ANC, DA, MKP, Rise Mzansi & EP	200	200	Yes	Yes - I started my shift at 8pm and observed around plus minus 35 voters per hour cast their vote, 200 voters during my four hour shift. The IEC staff were excellent because of various highlights I observed such as the staff going beyond the closing time to ensure that every citizen had a chance to vote. The weather was cold, there were voters who still had a desire to cast their votes after closing time. The voters cast their votes around 10:30 pm. The venue had no heaters for the IEC staff. The IEC staff prioritised the elderly and gave them preference, a great act of humanity (Dobins). There were instances where the system was slow due to network and/or overload of data, but the IEC staff were professional and gave an excellent account of themselves.
Jusaid	Kennedy	Nicky Samuels		82		Cape Town	Western Cape	Yes	More than 3	178	178	Yes	Yes and No - The IEC staff tried everything in their power to have a free and fair election, below we list the challenges as well as resolving among a few areas in our community. The parties in the Western Cape had numerous groups who were unhappy with the manner in which the IEC handled the voting. One group was from the Al-Quds (SA) and one group was a group of political parties, who requested the following: Urgent request in terms of section 55 of the Electoral Act 71 of 1998 and combined request for conduction postponing the 8pm deadline for voting stations and a demand for a review. The report include: The voting stations visited was Imperial, Littlewood, Eastridge Community Centre, Hagenwood, Freedom Park and Telling. The IEC tablets died and numbers changed, there were issues with totals. At Telling Community Centre the tablets were faulty and totals and numbers kept changing. The voters at the above voting stations and the party agents were unhappy in general.
Busidwe Esther	Rudabe			85	3303031	Eastern	Gauteng	Yes	More than 3			Yes	Yes - The following the ID was collected in the Ward family, 10mg Hope Dancans, Nchabing Primary School and Letisa Primary School. The primary challenge was the scanners, long queues and voters standing for long hours in the outdoor site. Voters arrived at the wrong ID and when turned away, causing frustration because it was still in the same Ward. The voters who were turned away ended up not voting.
Annerley	Sayers	Zurymia Arendse		79	9709131	Cape Town	Western Cape	Yes	3 - Good, PA & DA	1453	1453	Yes	Yes - There were short queues and short waiting periods. The disabled and elderly were given assistance to vote. Between 8am - 9pm an international voter was turned away because he did not register to vote in the Ward and he was advised to visit his last residence he voted at in the country. One person was turned away because he was not registered. Between 8am - 9am there were those who registered voters whose names were not on the voters roll. There was also a shortage of ballot boxes and this was reported.
Annerley	Sayers	Zurymia Arendse		79	9709131	Cape Town	Western Cape	Yes	8 - Good, PA, DA, ARA, ANC, EFF, ACP, A.D.A.	2066	2066	Yes	Yes - This was my second four shift from 8pm. I observed an increase in voters turning up. The more problems reported with the VMD devices, registered voters names appeared on the device but were not on the voters roll. The voters details were taken to update and there were a case of registered voters whose names were not cleaned for specific voting stations. Voters complained, especially Mr Ndebele who was registered at voting station but he agreed that he was not directed to the correct sub-station where his name appeared. The issue was addressed and an objection was lodged with the DPO and the issue was resolved amicably. The second grievance was from the City of ARA who felt that their party agents were not allowed to witness counting. The matter was handled by the DPO and an objection was lodged and resolved.
Shemima	Rudabe			79	3309610	Eastern	Gauteng	Yes	More than 3			Yes	Yes - I was registered for a home visit and on the 27th May a group of 6 people, 3 were IEC staff and three were party agents from the ANC, EFF and one related to identity which party they were from. This was very suspicious and I was not happy to allow strangers into the house with me. I called my partner, he called Mr Ndlovu Mank, who confirmed that IEC officials must be accompanied by SAPS and if not accompanied, we should not allow them access. My son called and requested to speak to the regional manager and my husband who were at the gate did not take my calls anymore. The next day I went to the voting station and was allowed to go to my health and was very disappointed that I was not allowed a home visit and applied for one, due to being an elderly citizen and for health reasons. The following day everything was smooth.
Victoria Portia	Moshwadiba	Phamela R Mshole		76	3300263	Eastern	Gauteng	Yes	More than 3	526	526	Yes	Yes - Every voter was directed the right way, checked on the VMD as well as on the voter's roll. VMDs were sometimes slow or shut down. The disabled, elderly were given preference and moved ahead in the queue. The voters were patient. The IEC staff had a good working relationship with observers and party agents present. During counting all cell phones were taken. IEC staff opened the boxes and counted started. The ballot boxes were transported by SAPS after everything was counted, sealed and sealed.

Recommendations

- The IEC to consider our dedicated esteemed observers for the upcoming 2026 Local Government Elections as staff members.
- The relationship with the educators (school principals and SADTU members) and the IEC to be terminated especially for positions of Presiding Officers and Deputy Presiding Officers
- The IEC to partner with us in between election season to hold workshops in faith-based institutions, schools for a massive voter education campaign and registration of 16-year-old first time voters for the upcoming LGE and next NPE.
- The IEC did not have a clear message, especially when it came to voters registered outside their voting station and this clearly caused some confusion.
- The IEC is not doing enough when it comes to developing a well-planned campaign strategy that targets key demographics and voter groups.
- The IEC is not building a strong grassroots movement by engaging with voters on the voter's roll, listening to their concerns and building a network of supporters.
- The IEC needs to secure funding and perhaps set up a fund for observers to be funded via the IEC or parliament.
- The IEC needs to assemble a strong team as staff members during the elections from the pool of unemployed youth, graduates, and our pool of observers for the 2021 and 2024 elections.
- The IEC needs to build better relationships with the media to secure positive coverage and debate opportunities outside an election season and inside the election cycle.
- The IEC must mobilize voters to vote through effective get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts and use observer organisations with experience.
- The IEC needs to keep in mind that a successful election requires careful planning, strategic execution, and a strong connection with the electorate.

THE END