

National and Provincial Elections

- South Africans vote in National and Provincial Elections every 5 years.
- In terms of the Constitution the elections must be held within 90 days of the expiry of the sitting National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures.
- The election date is proclaimed by the President of the Republic of South Africa.

What are National and Provincial Elections?

- National and provincial elections are two different elections to choose representatives to the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures. Although they are different elections, they are held on the same day.
- Elections are an important way for people to debate and decide on their country's future.
- Elections also provide an opportunity for voters to put to use their constitutional rights.



What is the difference between National and Provincial Government?

- **National Government** makes and carries out laws and policies for the whole country.

It is made up of:

- Parliament led by the Speaker; and
- National Government led by the President and Ministers.

- **Provincial Government** makes and carries out laws and policies that affect the province only.

It is made up of:

- Legislature led by the Speaker; and
- Provincial Government led by the Premier and Members of the Executive Council (MECs).



Ensuring free and fair elections



SOUTH AFRICA

What are you voting for in National and Provincial Elections ?



National vote: You are voting for a political party to represent you in the National Assembly.

Provincial vote: You are voting for a political party to represent you in the Provincial Legislature.

What electoral system is used in South Africa for the National and Provincial Elections?

- The Proportional Representation (PR) system is used in South Africa for National and Provincial Elections
- The PR system awards seats to political parties according to the percentage of votes each party receives in an election.
- Political parties submit a list of candidates to the IEC for the National Assembly and the Provincial Legislatures. Candidates are listed in their order of preference.
- On Election Day, voters vote for the political party of their choice, not individual candidates.
- After counting, political parties are allocated seats according to the percentage each party received.



Advantages and disadvantages of the PR electoral system

- An advantage of the PR electoral system is that it makes sure that smaller political parties are included and represented. This means that the legislatures are made up of people with different interests.
- A disadvantage of the PR electoral system is that voters do not directly elect their political representatives to legislatures. Political party leaders decide who will represent voters in the legislatures. So the extent of accountability is weaker between voters and political representatives.



About the Electoral Commission (IEC)

The Electoral Commission is an independent, impartial institution established by Chapter 9 of the Constitution. It manages national, provincial and municipal elections. It makes sure these elections are credible, free and fair.

National Office

Tel: 012 622 5700

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www.elections.org.za

Contact centre: 0800 11 8000 (during elections)

Contact Provincial Offices

Eastern Cape: 043 709 4200

Free State: 051 401 5000

Gauteng: 011 644 7400

KwaZulu-Natal: 031 279 2200

Limpopo: 015 283 9100

Mpumalanga: 013 754 0200

North West: 018 391 0800/5

Northern Cape: 053 838 5000

Western Cape: 021 910 5700

SMS your ID number to 32810 to check if and where you are registered (R1 per SMS).

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