



THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Parliamentary briefing: Youth and Women in Elections 13 June 2006

Constitutional Mandate



- The Commission was established in terms of Chapter 9 of the Constitution (Act 108 of 1996)
 - Manage elections of national, provincial and municipal legislative bodies;
 - Ensure that those elections are free and fair; and
 - Declare the results of those elections within a the prescribed period.

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Constitutional Mandate



- Independent
 - Subject only to the Constitution and the Law
 - Impartial
 - Exercise and perform their functions without fear, favour or prejudice
- Other state organs obliged to assist and protect these institutions to ensure their independence, impartiality, dignity and effectiveness

Legislative Mandate



- The Electoral Commission Act The Electoral Commission Act (Act No. 51 of 1996) further expands on the functions of the Commission to include,
 - ▶ promotion of conditions conducive to free and fair elections;
 - ► promotion of knowledge of sound and democratic electoral processes;
 - ▶ compile and maintain voters' rolls;
 - compile and maintain a register of parties;

Legislative Mandate (Continued)



- Develop and promote development of electoral expertise and technology
- Continuously review electoral legislation and propose electoral legislation
- ► Promote voter education
- ➤ Promote cooperation with and between persons and institutions and government admin to achieve IEC objectives
- ► Declare results within seven days of an election

Legislative Framework



- The Electoral Act (Act 73 of 1998)
- The Municipal Electoral Act (Act No.27 of 2000)
- The Local Government: Municipal Structures Act (Act No. 117 of 1998)

National, Provincial & Municipal Elections





National & Provincial Elections

- Since 1994, 2 national and provincial elections were held in 1999 and in 2004
- Closed Party List PR System
- 10 elections on one day
- Voters receive two ballots (national & provincial)
- 400 seats in National Assembly

National, Provincial & Municipal Elections (Continued)





Municipal Elections

- 2 Municipal elections have been held (2000 and 2006)
- 283 Municipalities
- · Closed List PR and ward constituency

Voters' Roll



- South Africa first developed a national common voters' roll in 1998 in preparation for the national and provincial elections in 1999.
- During the 1999 elections, there were 18 172 751 voters on the voters' roll.
- This figure has increased steadily to 21,054,957 in the last municipal elections.

Voter Registration Age Breakdown



New Registration November 2005 <= 35 - 342 275 out of 413 660

Total Voter Registration 21 054 957 <= 35 - 8 899 915

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Voter Registration Age & Gender Breakdown



Age Band	Female	Male	Total
18 -19	220,316	196,314	416,630
20 -25	1,484,357	1,298,745	2,783,102
26 -35	2,989,357	2,710,826	5,700,183
36 -39	1.079.818	915.241	1.995,059

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Voter Registration Age & Gender Breakdown (Cont)



Age Band	Female	Male	Total
40 -49	2,327,738	1,945,471	4,273,209
50 -59	1,550,397	1,282,832	2,833,229
60 -69	999,253	686,643	1,685,896
70 -79	638,958	321,634	960,592
80 +	283,924	123,133	407,057
Grand			
Total	11,574,118	9,480,839	21,054,957
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Recruitment of Electoral Staff



Total of 170 193 persons recruited as electoral staff for 2006 LGE

- Unemployed 125 134 vs 45 059 Employed
- Teachers 28 602 vs 141 591 Non teachers
- Youth <=35 Years 110 159 Persons

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Recruitment of Electoral Staff



Electoral Staff

Female Male Unknown Total 113 128 56 908 157 170 193

Presiding Officers

Female Male Unknown Total 9486 9385 2 18 873

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Political Parties



- 19 political parties participated in the 1994 national and provincial elections. The figure dropped slightly in 1999 to 16 political parties but increased again in 2004 to 21.
- By 2006, a total of 155 parties registered.
- The 2006 municipal elections were contested by 97 political parties and 664 independents.
- 45 189 candidates nominated for LGE 2006

LGE Candidates

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Year	2000	2006
■ PR & Ward Male	21,542	29,471
PR & Ward Female	8,565	15.718

■ Total 30107 45,189

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2006 LGE Candidates (Cont)



Candidates in the age group 18 to 35 years

- PR 5668Ward 6206

■ Total 11874

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Voter Turn Out



- 1994 National and Provincial elections 86.86%.
- 1999 National and Provincial elections 89.30%
- 2000 Municipal elections 48.07%
- 2004 National and Provincial elections 77%
- 2006 Municipal elections 48.40%.

Voter Turn Out (Continued)



- In the 2006 municipal elections 60% of the voters were female, whilst 40% were male.
 Percentage of total number of voters that voted in
- age group:
 - 18 39 years: 39.5 %

Councillor Gender Breakdown



LGE 2000

	Male	Female
PR	2681	1630
Ward	3116	637
Total	5797	2267

Councillor Gender Breakdown (cont)

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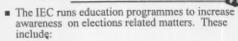


LGE 2006

	Male	Femal
PR	2565	1889
Ward	2470	1425
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- Total 5035

Voter Education



- education for people with special needs.
- mass education through stakeholder management, outreach programmes and democracy development education, and
- the schools voter education project.

Voter Education



In 2005-6, a total of 1753 Municipal Field Co-ordinators and field workers have been engaged to assist in the voter education initiatives

Over 5 million voter education booklets in all official languages covering the different types of elections developed, produced and distributed

Schools Voter Education Project

- The Commission implemented the Schools project in 2001, as a first step to infuse electoral
- The pilot project was implemented in 535 schools in all the provinces.

democracy into the mainstream of learning.

■ The pilot project has now accomplished its purpose but now requires to be implemented on a systemic basis throughout all areas of learning and teaching.

Communication

- 100
- Multi media Advertising Campaign on the public broadcaster (TV and radio) and community radios
- Emphasis on Youth
- Khuza Awards

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- The purpose is to build a core of skilled election officials.
- First nine unit standards have already been registered with the South African Qualifications Authority within the framework of outcomes based education

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