



THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Parliamentary briefing: Youth and
Women in Elections
13 June 2006

1

Constitutional Mandate



- The Commission was established in terms of Chapter 9 of the Constitution (Act 108 of 1996) to:
 - ▶ 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.

2

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

3

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;

4

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

5

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)

6

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

7

National, Provincial & Municipal Elections (Continued)



Municipal Elections

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

8

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.

9

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

10

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

11

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

12

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

13

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

14

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

15

LGE Candidates

Year	2000	2006
■ PR & Ward Male	21,542	29,471
■ PR & Ward Female	8,565	15,718
■ Total	30107	45,189

16

2006 LGE Candidates (Cont)

Candidates in the age group 18 to 35 years

- PR 5668
- Ward 6206
- Total 11874

17

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%

18

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 %

19

Councillor Gender Breakdown

LGE 2000

	Male	Female
PR	2681	1630
Ward	3116	637
Total	5797	2267

20

Councillor Gender Breakdown (cont)

LGE 2006

	Male	Female
PR	2565	1889
Ward	2470	1425
Total	5035	3314

21

Voter Education



- The IEC runs education programmes to increase awareness on elections related matters. These include:
 - education for people with special needs.
 - mass education through stakeholder management, outreach programmes and democracy development education, and
 - the schools voter education project.

22

Voter Education



In 2005-6, a total of 1753 Municipal Field Coordinators 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

23

Schools Voter Education Project



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

24

Communication



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

36

- 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

37

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