




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 28 / August 2016

Special Edition: Local Government Elections.

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OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

Umzinyathi local government elections

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



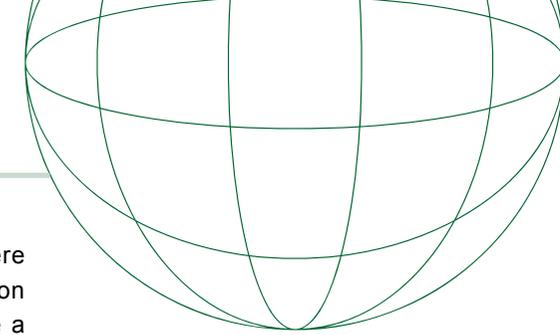
Voters queueing to vote at Sibongile township and Thangeni Secondary School.

All 56 wards within Umzinyathi District had peaceful local government elections with the participation of various political parties including the increased number of 18 independent candidates. Umzinyathi has the fastest growing number of voters since 2000. This year, the Independent Electoral Commission recorded a total number of 250 076 eligible voters across the four municipalities namely, Umvoti, Msinga, Endumeni and Nquthu.



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It was a plight of joy to many young people who came to different voting stations who were voting for the first time. Khumbulani Dladla told the Government Communication and Information System team that he was privileged to be part of the elections. "I am very pleased to make a mark as a young South African based at Dlamini informal settlements. I hope my voting today will bring the real change to a better life since we are still living in informal settlements," she said.



Sphelelo Ngema, Kwanele Buthelezi, Thembokuhle Ndlela and Mzwandile Zwane said:
"We are very happy to be voting for the first time since we can now exercise our rights as young people. We also believe that there will be changes to recreational activities that will keep young people active and do away with drug abuse. We are looking for more job opportunities in this area."



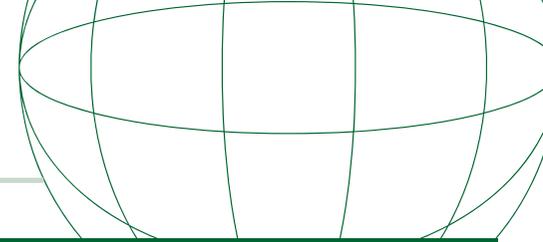
Nontobeko Kheswa said:
"I am very happy to join my parents to cast my vote today. This means a lot to me. It is my wish that after voting I see RDP houses rolled out in our village."



Nosipho Ndawonde said:
"I feel very frightened to come to the voting station since it is my first time. I am here today to cast my vote to bring speed to service delivery of Msinga. I hope to see electrification, water and jobs for young people."



Mbali Hlongwane and Sphilasonke Zulu said:
"We are very excited to be voting for the first time. Our votes can make a difference in our township. We wish to see more higher learning institutions around Dundee since there is a huge number of young people not attending school because of low intake at the local Majuba college. We are extremely enjoying ourselves and happy that we have casted our vote for the first time and we wish to see the progress of the development that has surfaced at Dundee."



Kakiso Setabane said:

“I want to see change where I stay in Sebokeng. I want to see a lot of things happen. I believe voting is the right thing to do.”



Father and son from Palmsprings said:

“We are happy to have voted today.”

OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

Local government elections in Sedibeng

By Thembi Matjokana: GCIS, Gauteng

Elections were conducted peacefully in Sedibeng District. Members of the public were hopeful and looking forward to casting their vote in all three local municipality namely Emfuleni, Lesedi and Midvaal. People showed that they still believe in voting and understand the value of casting their vote.

There was no disturbance of passing cars. Elderly people were still seen coming to vote and young people also came in huge numbers.



People came in huge numbers to cast their vote in Ward 32 in Lesabasaba.



IEC official hard at work assisting voters in Sebokeng.

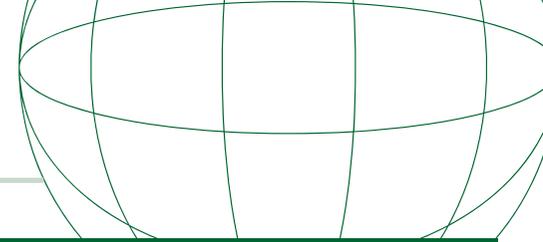


Tshepiso Molopo said:

“I am very excited to be afforded an opportunity to exercise my right to vote in today’s elections and I wish to see my dream of furthering my studies come true.”



Phahlana and Xaka said:
“We are excited to have voted.”



Zodwa Nkosi said:

“I voted today because I want to see improved service delivery.”



Menzi Makwabe said:

“I voted because I believe my vote will make the difference and to ensure that political parties deliver on their campaign promises for better future.”



Solomon Dlamini waiting to make his mark.

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Tsakane and Geluksdal Ext 3 local elections

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng

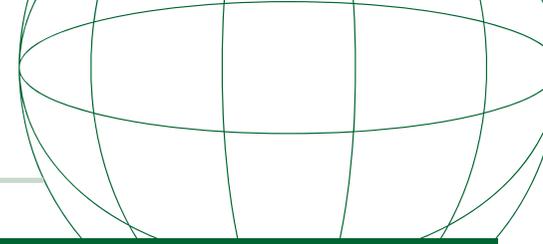


Community members of Geluksdal Ext 3 after casting their votes for local government elections.

Tsakane community members braved the cold weather to cast their vote on local government elections.

South Africa held its fifth local government elections this year. The elections are held every five years to elect leaders who will be responsible for governing municipalities for the next five years. The current term of office of municipal councils ended on 18 May 2016 and elections had to be held within 90 days. Therefore on 3 August 2016, community members from Tsakane and Geluksdal Ext 3 joined millions around the county to cast their vote on local government elections.

The success of the elections entrenches democracy and ensure citizens' participation in choosing their leaders and government to run their communities.



Christina Mashaba said:

“It feels great to have voted. I feel like I have done my civic and parenting duty by voting. I voted because I believe my vote will make a change for the best.”



Daphne Magwaza said:

“I feel fine and I hope there will be changes. Our elected candidates must deliver services. I voted because people died for us to have the right to vote.”

OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

Birch Acres local elections

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Residents waiting patiently in a queue at the Dominion Life Cathedral Church, Birch Acres, Kempton Park.

The 2016 Local Government Elections took place on 3 August 2016, facilitated by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). According to IEC officials, the voting station opened on time and all the voting materials and logistics were in place.

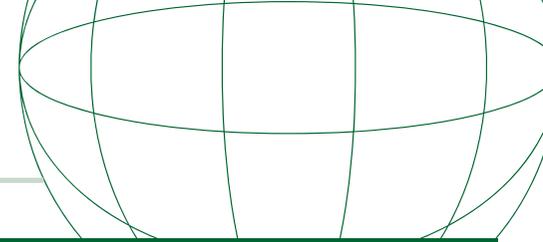
Despite the cold weather, there was a good turnout at the Dominion Life Church in Birch Acres Extension 17, which is part of Ward 13, Kempton Park.

People waited patiently for their turn to mark their crosses on the two ballot papers. The elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant women and those with little children were given first priority and the rest of those in queues seemed unperturbed. There were no serious challenges and everything was orderly. There seemed to be a cordial relationship between IEC officials, members of the security services and party agents who were closely watching the proceedings. By 13:00 there were very few young people in the queue.



Gugu Radebe said:

“I am very excited about having voted because it is my democratic right to do so and I have voted for change and a brighter future.”



Mannini Tshwane said:

“I am grateful that government has built a house for me and I also receive grant for my disabled son. We were not aware of the special vote registration.”

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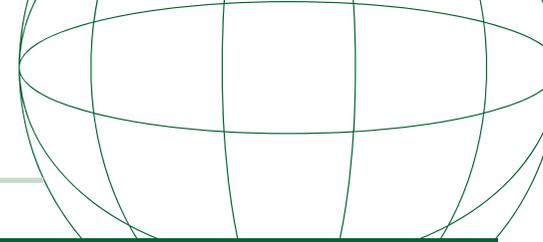
Free State residents speak out

By Mamogolo Dirane: GCIS, Free State



Pontsho Masheane and Lerato Sekao said:

“We want government to create jobs because this thing of creating own employment is not working for us.”



OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

Welkom local elections

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



Linkeng Mohapi said:

“I am just happy that I will be able to vote, which is an opportunity we did not have when I was still young.”



The community of Themba in Thabong braved the cold winter afternoon to cast their vote.



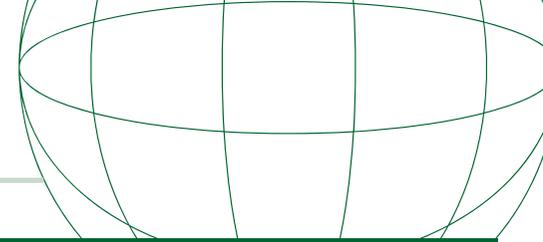
Merriam Mazamelela said:

“I wish government could give us time during the voting period and ensure that businesses close on that day as they normally do on Christmas.”



Matebello Dlamini said:

“I wish I could have come with my children unfortunately they are all working out of town. This is democracy at its best.”



Pottie and Lenie Van said:

“The voting was very smooth and well organised. It took us less than five minutes to vote. We are very satisfied with the way it unfolded.”



Dineo Mphothane said:

“The voting process was very quick and smooth, I am very happy with everything.”



Goitsemodimo Godisamang said:

“It was organised and professionally coordinated. It brought joy to me to exercise my democratic right.”

OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

Bloemfontein local elections sail smoothly

By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State

The citizens of Mangaung braved the cold weather and were queuing as early as 6:30 to vote for their political parties of choice. The turnout was very slow at some voting stations and the numbers and the cold weather was definitely the contributing factor. Generally, the voting process went very well.



The IEC voting station at the Civic Centre in Mangaung Metro.



Mangaung citizens queuing to cast their votes at Central Primary School.

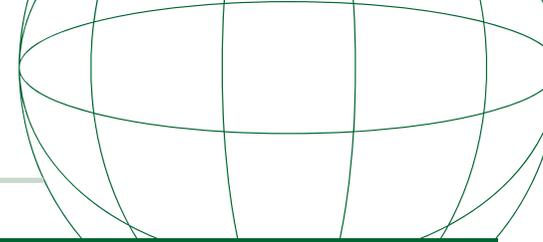


The IEC voting station at the Central Primary School in Mangaung Metro.



Vanda Reinhardt said

“As I was with a 12-month old baby, I was told that I did not have to queue. I was directed straight to the voting station and given the ballot papers. I found it very organised and the whole process only took me less than two minutes to cast my vote.”



Charity Ndzimande said:

“I am here to vote because I am able to receive free basic government services, which my forefathers never received in those days. Today’s youth are getting bursaries to further their studies.”



Elvis Nkosi said:

“I am voting because when I need government’s assistance I am able to liaise with the ward councillor for services such as water and road grading.”

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Nkomazi local elections

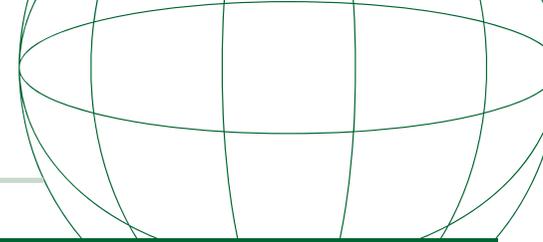
By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Community members at Buffelspruit Mahlatsi High School voting station check their names on the voters’ roll before going inside to cast their vote.



Community members queuing at Driekoppies Community Hall and Schoemansdal Matsamo Tribal Office voting station to cast their vote.



Independent Electoral Commission officials doing the final touch-ups in preparation for the opening of the voting station.

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Nkangala District local elections

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga



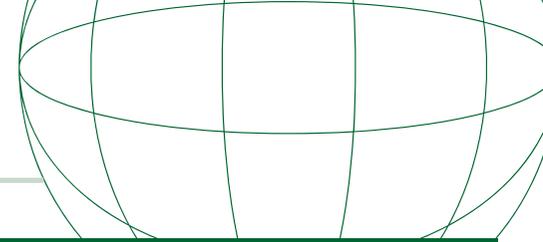
Voters gathering outside Vezimfundo Primary School to cast their votes.



Community members of Extension 5 in Botleng location casting their votes at the Zoe Bible Church.



Extension 3 community members casting their votes at Mt Calvary voting station.



OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

Gert Sibande District local elections

By Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The situation was calm but there were few voters queuing prior to the opening of the voting stations in numerous stations in Wesselton.



Extension 33 community members queuing to cast their votes.



Tembisa voting station opened on time but there was shortage of staff members from the Independent Electoral Commission.



Wesselton Primary School opened on time to accommodate voters.



Faith Mission voting station.