

# 25



## YEARS OF FREEDOM

SOUTH AFRICA 1994 - 2019



**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 25 YEARS  
OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY**



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## Historical context

**C**olonialism was a brutal system of dispossession through wars, reinforced by policies, practices and laws such as successive hut and poll taxes that forced black people of the land, to become cheap labour on white farms and in the mines.

The Union of South Africa of 1910 consolidated the system of white minority rule, paving the way for further legalised discrimination based on race, ethnicity and gender.

The whites-only Parliament passed laws that entrenched white and patriarchal privileges, and facilitated the structural under-development of the black majority and women.

Political apartheid began long before the National Party (NP) came into power in 1948 shown by the Land Acts of 1913 and 1926 respectively; Representation of Natives Act of 1936 that removed black male voters in the Cape from the common voters' roll and placed them on a separate roll; the Group Areas Act of 1950, the Job Reservation Act of 1951 and the Promotion of Bantu Self-Government Act of 1959, to name but a few.

'Separate development' was further entrenched through a variety of laws legislating, among other things, separate houses of Parliament, racial classification of amenities, education, influx control, forced removals, citizenship (through the creation of "Bantustans") and marriages.

Apartheid colonialism used patriarchy to reinforce the subjugation of women, with such laws as the Native Administrative Act of 1927 that relegated African women – until the dawn of democracy in 1994 – to legal minors, unable to inherit, contract or represent themselves without a male guardian. Even white women only got the vote in 1930.

### First Democratic Elections – 1994

Following a long negotiation process, South Africa's first democratic election was held in April 1994 under an interim Constitution.

South Africa held its first democratic elections on 27 April 1994. Nearly 20-million South Africans queued outside voting stations to cast their ballots.

For the first time in history, all South Africans over the age of 18 – irrespective of race, colour or creed – had the right to vote. Freedom Day, 27 April, is now a national holiday. Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first democratic President on 10 May 1994.

The advent of democracy in 1994 not only meant one person, one vote, but it also saw the introduction of a Bill of Rights that provides for redress and guarantees basic human rights – including civil, political, socio-economic and environmental rights.

**T**he interim Constitution divided South Africa into nine new provinces in place of the previous four provinces and 10 “homelands”, and provided for the Government of National Unity (GNU) to be constituted by all parties with at least 20 seats in the National Assembly.

The NP and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) formed part of the GNU until 1996, when the NP withdrew. The African National Congress (ANC)-led government embarked on a programme to promote the reconstruction and development of the country and its institutions.

The GNU implemented the Reconstruction and Development Programme, which was a socio-economic policy framework which sought to address the immense socio-economic challenges brought about by apartheid.

This called for the simultaneous pursuit of democratisation and socio-economic change, as well as reconciliation and the building of consensus founded on the commitment to improve the lives of all South Africans, particularly the poor.

It required the integration of South Africa into a rapidly changing global environment. Pursuit of these objectives was a consistent focus of government during the First Decade of Freedom, seeking the unity of a previously divided society in working together to overcome the legacy of a history of division, exclusion and neglect.

Converting democratic ideals into practice required, among other things, initiating a radical overhaul of the machinery of government at every level, working towards service delivery, openness and a culture of human rights.

It has required a more integrated approach to planning and implementation to ensure that the many different aspects of transformation and socio-economic upliftment cohere with maximum impact.

- The Commission on Restitution of Land Rights was constituted on 1 March 1995 to assist claimants in submitting their land claims, receive and acknowledge all claims lodged and advise claimants on the progress of their land claims.
- South Africa hosted and won the **1995 Rugby World Cup**. It was South Africa's first chance for the whole previously segregated country to unite behind the national team, in the sport that has been viewed as the very personification of apartheid.

### **Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996**

A significant milestone in the democratisation of South Africa was the exemplary Constitution-making process, which in 1996 delivered a document that has evoked worldwide admiration.

So, too, have been the national and local government elections subsequent to 1994 – all conducted peacefully, with high levels of participation compared with the norm in most democracies, and accepted by all as free and fair in their conduct and results. President Mandela formally opened the Constitutional Court on 14 February 1995.





**P**resident Mandela signed into law the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa on 10 December 1996. It replaced the interim Constitution drawn up at multi-party talks in 1993 to govern the transition to democracy.

The highest law in the land, the Constitution and its Bill of Rights sought to guarantee an open, transformative society in which human rights would be entrenched.

In 1996, South Africa hosted and won the **1996 African Cup of Nations**. National soccer side Bafana Bafana defeated Tunisia 2-0 in the final at the FNB Stadium in Johannesburg.

### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)**

On 15 April 1996, the TRC, under the leadership of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, began its first formal hearings in East London City Hall. The TRC was established to help deal with violations of human rights during the apartheid era.

The TRC helped inculcate a commitment to accountability and transparency in South Africa's public life, at the same time helping to heal wounds inflicted by the inhumanities of the apartheid era.

During 2003, Parliament accepted government's response to the final report of the TRC. Out of 22 000 individuals or surviving families appearing before the commission, 19 000 were identified as needing urgent reparation assistance – virtually all,

where the necessary information was available, received interim reparations.

As final reparations, government provided a once-off grant of R30 000 to individuals or survivors who appeared before and were designated by the TRC, over and above the programmes for material assistance. The final report of the TRC was published in 1998.

### **1999 National and Provincial Elections**

South Africa held its second National and Provincial Elections on 2 June 1999, which saw the ANC majority increasing to just short of two-thirds and the election of Thabo Mbeki as President and successor to President Mandela.

It saw a sharp decline in the popularity of the NP (then the New National Party [NNP]) and its replacement by the Democratic Party as the official opposition in Parliament. These two parties formed the Democratic Alliance (DA), which the NNP left in 2001.

Since 2001, participatory democracy and interactive governance have been strengthened through the practice of public participation, roving executive council and mayoral meetings, in which members of the Executive, in all three spheres of government, including The Presidency, regularly communicate directly with the public about the implementation of programmes of reconstruction and development.

**T**here are continuing programmes to project the symbolism of the struggle and the ideal of freedom. These include the Freedom Park and other symbols and monuments, and such matters as records of history, remaking of cultural and art forms and changing geographical and place names.

In 1999, the iSimangaliso Wetland Park became the first site in South Africa to be inscribed on the World Heritage List by the United Nations (UN) Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

By 2019, there were 10 World Heritage Sites in South Africa, namely: Robben Island (Western Cape); iSimangaliso Wetlands Park (KwaZulu-Natal); Cradle of Humankind (Gauteng); Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg Park (KwaZulu-Natal); Mapungubwe Heritage Site (Limpopo); Cape Floral Kingdom (Western Cape); Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape (Northern Cape); Vredefort Dome (Gauteng); #Khomani Cultural Landscape (at the border with Botswana and Namibia), and Makhonjwa Mountains, known as the Barberton Greenstone Belt (Mpumalanga).

The ethos of partnership informed the establishment of the **National Economic Development and Labour Council**. It brings together government, business, organised labour and development organisations to confront the challenges of growth and development for South Africa in a turbulent and globalizing international economy.

#### Did you know?

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 and the Bill of Rights have enshrined the right to an environment that is not harmful to health or well-being and an obligation to protect the environment, for the benefit of present and future generations.

#### National anthem

In 1997, a shortened, combined version of *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* and *The Call of South Africa* became the national anthem of South Africa.

The **Presidential Jobs Summit** in 1998 and the Growth and Development Summit in June 2003 brought these sectors together to take advantage of the conditions in South Africa for faster growth and development.

At the summit, a comprehensive set of agreements was concluded to address urgent challenges in a practical way and to speed up job-creating growth and development.

Partnership between government and civil society was further strengthened by the creation of a number of working groups through which sectors of society – business, organised labour, higher education, religious leaders, youth and women – engage regularly with the President.

In the first decade of freedom, government placed emphasis on meeting basic needs through programmes for socioeconomic development such as the provision of housing, piped water, electricity, education and healthcare, as well as social grants for those in need.

The integration of South Africa into the global political, economic and social system has been a priority for democratic South Africa.

In 1994, South Africa transitioned from being a global pariah to take its seat amongst the community of nations in Africa and the world. In the words of former President Mandela, during the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, “the irony of democratic South Africa’s late entry into international affairs is that we can reap the fruits of a world redefining itself.”



**A**s a country isolated during the apartheid period, an African country, a developing country, and a country whose liberation was achieved with the support of the international community, it remains of critical importance to build political and economic links with the countries and regions of the world, and to work with others for an international environment that is more favourable to development across the world, and in Africa and South Africa in particular.

#### Coat of Arms of South Africa

**The Coat of Arms of South Africa was introduced on Freedom Day, 27 April 2000.**

**The motto: !ke:/xarra//keis, written in the Khoisan language of the /Xam people and translates literally to “diverse people unite”.**

- South Africa hosted the 13th International AIDS Conference held in Durban from 9 to 14 July 2000. It was the first developing country to host the conference.
- The first World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was held in Durban from 31 August to 7 September 2001.
- Mr Mark Shuttleworth became the first South African in space in April 2002. He was a cosmonaut member of the crew of Soyuz mission TM34 to the International Space Station.
- The World Summit on Sustainable Development was held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002.

- Then US President George W Bush awarded Mr Mandela the Presidential Medal of Freedom, that country’s highest civilian award, in Washington on 9 July 2002.

The South African Government is committed to the African Renaissance, which is based on the consolidation of democracy, economic development and a cooperative approach to resolving the challenges the continent faces.

South Africa hosted the launch in 2002 of the African Union (AU), a step towards further unification of Africa in pursuit of socio-economic development, the Organisation of African Unity having fulfilled its mandate to liberate Africa.

- Then President Mbeki chaired the AU for its founding year, handing over the chair to President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique in July 2003.
- South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya co-hosted the 2003 International Cricket Council Cricket World Cup from 9 February to 23 March 2003. This edition of the World Cup was the first to be played on African soil.
- On 23 May 2003, South African adventurer Sibusiso Vilane became the first black African to summit Mount Everest, followed by repeated climbs a few years later.

**B**y participating in UN and AU initiatives to resolve conflict and promote peace and security on the continent – in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and Sudan – South Africa has contributed to the achievement of conditions conducive to the entrenchment of stability, democracy and faster development.

During the first decade of freedom, it acted at various times as chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Non-Aligned Movement, AU and the Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings.

It hosted several international conferences, including the UN Conference on Trade and Development in 1996, the 2000 World AIDS Congress, the World Conference Against Racism in 2001, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and the World Parks Congress in 2003. The country has also been represented in international forums such as the International Monetary Fund's Development Committee and Interpol.

### The Second Decade of Freedom

In 2004 South Africa celebrated 10 years of freedom, characterised by widespread celebrations the milestones. Government's *Towards a Ten Year Review* took stock of the first decade of freedom and documented the remarkable progress made by South Africans in rebuilding the country.

It also highlighted some of the challenges faced by the nation at the time, including some remnants of apartheid such as racism, crime, inequality and unemployment.

#### Did you know?

Since 1994 South Africa has taken the lead in a number of significant conflict resolution attempts: Burundi, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Lesotho, Sudan/South Sudan and Zimbabwe.

### 2004 National and Provincial Elections

In its third democratic elections held in April 2004, the country gave an increased mandate to government's programme for reconstruction and development, and for the entrenchment of the rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996.

It mandated government specifically to create the conditions for halving unemployment and poverty by 2014.

Following these elections, President Mbeki was appointed to a second term of office – a position he relinquished in September 2008, following the decision of the National Executive Committee of the ANC to recall him.

- In 2004, the AU decided that South Africa should host the Pan-African Parliament and it met for its second session in South Africa, the first time on South African soil, in September that year.
- Charlize Theron became the first South African to win an Oscar as Best Actress.
- Since the inception of the Expanded Public Works Programme in 2004, a total of 10.3 million work opportunities were created, to March 2019, of which 4.8 million were for young people.

After participation in the EPWP, tracer research with participants shows that only 12.4% found permanent employment, 4.8% had set up their own businesses, and 47.8% found other temporary employment and a further 14% were in further education and training. Additionally 66% of EPWP participants were women, 47% were youth and 1% were people with disabilities.



## 2006 Local Government Elections

Local government elections in 2006, which followed a long period of civic unrest as communities protested against a mixed record of service delivery, saw increased participation compared with the previous local elections, as well as increased support for the ruling party based on a manifesto for a concerted effort, in partnership with communities, to make local government work better.

- Parliament elected Mr Kgalema Motlanthe as President of South Africa on 25 September 2008.
- *Tsotsi*, a film about a young street thug who steals a car only to discover a baby in the back seat, is released. The film, directed by Gavin Hood, went on to win an Oscar as best foreign language film in 2006.
- In 2006, South Africa became the fifth country in the world and the first in Africa, to allow legal marriages between same-sex couples following the promulgation of the Civil Unions Act, 2007 (Act 17 of 2006).
- South Africa was selected for the first time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2007/08.
- The Springboks won the 2007 Rugby World Cup in Paris, France, defeating England to win the Cup for a second time.
- On 3 May 2008, Natalie du Toit qualified for the 2008 Beijing Olympics after finishing fourth in the 10-km open water race at the Open Water World Championships in Seville, Spain. She became the first amputee ever to qualify for the Olympics, where she placed 16th in the 10-km swim.

## 2009 National and Provincial Elections

South Africa held national and provincial elections to elect a new National Assembly as well as the provincial legislature in each province on 22 April 2009. Some 23 million people were registered for the 2009 general election, which was about 2,5 million more than in 2004. About 77% of registered voters took part in the election.

The results for the top five parties were as follows: the ANC achieved 65,9%; the DA 16,6%; the newly-formed Congress of the People (Cope) 7,4%; the IFP 4,5%; and the Independent Democrats 0,9% of the votes cast.

- Mr Jacob Zuma was inaugurated as President of South Africa on 9 May 2009. Shortly thereafter, President Zuma announced several changes to existing government departments and the creation of new structures within The Presidency.

The Presidency then comprised the Ministry for Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Administration and the National Planning Ministry, in keeping with the new administration's approach to intensify government delivery through an outcomes-based approach, coupled with a government-wide monitoring and evaluation system.

By June 2019, The Presidency was responsible for the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME); Statistics South Africa (Stats SA); Government Communication and Information System (GCIS); Media Development and Diversity Agency, and Brand South Africa. The Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is responsible for the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and the National Youth Development Agency.





**G**overnment adopted 14 outcomes as its focus areas. These included among other things: improving the quality of basic education and health services, strengthening the fight against crime, creating decent employment through inclusive growth, and boosting skills development.

It also included ensuring food security for all, building sustainable human settlements and an improved quality of household life, improving local government structures and an efficient and development-oriented public service.

### 2010 FIFA World Cup™

A significant milestone for South Africa in the second decade of freedom was the successful hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. The tournament, which was the first on African soil, demonstrated that South Africa has the infrastructure and capability to warrant serious investment consideration. It also showcased South Africa and its people to the world.

The first part of the Gautrain system, between Sandton and OR Tambo Airport, opened to the public on 8 June 2010. The route from Rosebank to Pretoria and Hatfield commenced operations on 2 August 2011, while the remaining section from Rosebank south to Johannesburg Park Station opened on 7 June 2012.

- South Africa became a full member of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) at the end of 2010.

### 2011 Local Government Elections

The local government elections held on 18 May 2011 were characterised by lively and respectful campaigning with all political parties free to engage with voters in all areas.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) highlighted decreased voter apathy and achieved an impressive 57,6% registered voter turnout – an improvement from the previous local government elections, which scored below the 50% mark.

The ANC won the highest number of seats and councils – 198 councils and 5 633 seats, constituting 62% of the vote. The DA came second with 18 councils, 1 555 seats and 23,9% support. The ANC and DA were followed by the IFP and Cope.

- South Africa conducted its third census by a democratic South African government in 2011. It formed part of the 2010 round of African censuses, which aim to provide comprehensive data on the continent, for improved planning and to aid development.
- In 2011, in partnership with LeadSA and with the support of the South African Interfaith Council, a campaign to promote the Bill of Responsibilities – a document that is a guide for active responsible citizenship aimed at learners and schools – was launched.

**T**he 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) was successfully held in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

The conference agreed to establish a legally binding deal comprising all countries by 2015, which was to take effect in 2020.

### **National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030**

As part of government's commitment to secure a better quality of life for all, the National Planning Commission (NPC) in The Presidency finalised the NDP: Vision for 2030 in 2011. The plan the goals to achieve the vision of a prosperous South Africa by tackling the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality by 2030.

By 2030, government seeks to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality. The plan was the product of not just the NPC but also tens of thousands of ordinary South Africans who shared their dreams, hopes and ideas for the future.

In August 2012, the Chairperson of the NPC, Minister Trevor Manuel, handed the revised NDP 2030 over to President Zuma during a Joint Sitting of both Houses in Parliament. The revised document, entitled *Our future – make it work*, is a policy blueprint for eliminating poverty and reducing inequality in South Africa by 2030.

Implementation of the plan was broken up into five-year tranches, in line with the electoral cycle, with the 2014 to 2019 Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) forming the first five-year building block of the plan. The Presidency led the formulation of the 2014 to 2019 MTSF, which included key targets from the NDP and other plans such as the New Growth Path, National Infrastructure Plan and Industry Policy Action Plan.

The Presidency and National Treasury work with government departments to clarify roles and responsibilities, ensure that plans and budgets are aligned, and develop clear performance indicators for each programme.

Government will focus on areas where implementation of existing policies needs to improve and will hold focused discussions to overcome obstacles to implementation. It will also engage with other sectors to understand how they are contributing to the NDP's implementation and to identify any obstacles they face.

The 2019 to 2024 and 2024 to 2029 planning cycles will be used to initiate the remaining activities and will be informed by a performance review of the previous cycle.

The objective of a better life for the people of South Africa, the continent of Africa and the world at large was at the heart of the country's successful hosting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's 17th Conference of the Parties in Durban towards the end of 2011.

Aware of the fact that Africa is the continent most affected by the impact of climate change, South Africa was committed to ensuring that Durban delivered a fair and balanced outcome that would help secure the future of our planet.

While government programmes over the past 25 years have cushioned millions of South Africans against the devastating impact of poverty, levels of poverty remain high and inconsistent with government's stated vision and developmental goals. The NDP: Vision 2030 requires that absolute poverty be eradicated from 39% of people living below the poverty line of R419 (in 2009 prices) to zero in 2030.

**T**he resulting Durban Platform outcome was a coup for South Africa and the African continent. South Africa has continued to build on its international profile. On 1 January 2011, South Africa began its second term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2011 and 2012.

South Africa serves alongside the five permanent members, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and elected members Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Gabon, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria and Portugal. In January 2012, the UNSC President saw the adoption of Resolution 2033 that provides for closer cooperation between the UN and the AU.

In the conduct of its international relations, South Africa is committed to garnering support for its domestic priorities, promoting the interests of the African continent, enhancing democracy and human rights, upholding justice and international law in relations between nations, seeking the peaceful resolution of conflicts and promoting economic development through regional and international cooperation in an interdependent world.

- On 8 January 2012, Africa's oldest liberation movement, the ANC, celebrated 100 years of existence. This was a historic achievement, not only for the movement, but also for South Africa, the continent and the world. Thousands of ordinary South Africans, political and religious leaders attended the centenary celebrations which were held in Mangaung, Free State, the birthplace of the ANC.
- On 25 May 2012, the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Organisation announced that the SKA Project would be shared between South Africa

and Australia, with a majority share coming to South Africa.

- In July 2012, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, then Minister of Home Affairs, was elected as the first female head of the AU Commission and the first person from South Africa to hold this position. In September 2012, she received the UN South-South Award for Global Leadership.
- In November 2012, South Africa was elected by the members of the UN General Assembly to the UN's 47-member Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is one of the principal organs of the UN, alongside the Security Council and General Assembly.

South Africa completed its two-year non-renewable, non-permanent membership of the Security Council on 31 December 2012, and immediately assumed the membership of ECOSOC on 1 January 2013. South Africa last served in ECOSOC from 2004 to 2006.

- The introduction of Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements in 2012 to improve teaching and learning, provided structure to subject matter content, details on teaching and learning objectives, assessment specific to grades and subject area, reduced teachers' administrative load, within the context of clear guidance and consistency for teaching; and contributes to curriculum stability.





Released in September 2012, the World Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Report 2012/13* confirmed that South Africa remained the most competitive economy in sub-Saharan Africa. On 30 October 2012, Stats SA released the Census 2011 results.

The census, which analysed the country's demographics, population distribution and access to services, average household size, income, migration, and mortality, was the third national population and housing count in post-apartheid South Africa. Results showed that the country's population grew to 51,8 million people from 44,8 million in 2001, representing a 15,5% increase over the last decade.

In December 2012, then President Zuma was re-elected as the president of the ANC during the ruling party's congress in Mangaung. Mr Cyril Ramaphosa was elected as the party's deputy president.

In 2012, the South African Reserve Bank issued new banknotes bearing the face of former President Nelson Mandela.

In July 2013, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was appointed executive director of the UN Women Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, and Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, was appointed director in the UN Development Programme's Bureau for Development Policy.

- In 2013, the Department of Home Affairs started rolling out the new smart identity cards to replace the green barcoded ID book.

### Passing of Madiba

While receiving intensive medical care at home for a lung infection after spending three months in hospital, South Africa's first democratically elected President and anti-apartheid icon, Madiba, died on 5 December 2013, at the age of 95.

Mr Mandela led South Africa's transition from white-minority rule since 1994, after serving 27 years in prison for his political activities. His body lay in state at the Union Buildings from 11 to 13 December. He was buried in his home town of Qunu in the Eastern Cape on 15 December 2013.

### 20 Years of Freedom

South Africa celebrated 20 Years of Freedom in 2014, which was a historic milestone for the country. The *Twenty Year Review*, which was released in 2013, and the NPC's *2011 Diagnostic Report*, highlight that poverty, inequality and unemployment continue to negatively affect the lives of many people.

### Did you know?

For the past 25 years, as part of restoring human dignity, government has worked to provide all South Africans with basic services, water and sanitation, housing, electricity, social support, education and healthcare. It has sought to build an economy that provides work and opportunity to all in pursuit of the dream of a new and equal society. It is appropriate at this time to take stock of the progress over the last 25 years in overcoming the legacy of apartheid.



**D**espite progress in reducing rural poverty and increasing access to basic services in rural areas over the past 20 years, rural areas are still characterised by great poverty and inequality. As stated in the NDP, by 2030, South Africa's rural communities must have better opportunities to participate fully in the economic, social and political life of the country.

Government's programme of radical economic transformation is about placing the economy on a qualitatively different path that ensures more rapid, sustainable growth, higher investment, increased employment, reduced inequality and deracialisation of the economy. The NDP sets a growth target of at least 5% a year, and emphasises measures to ensure that the benefits of growth are equitably shared.

### 2014 General Election

The 2014 general election was held on 7 May 2014, to elect a new National Assembly and new provincial legislatures in each province. It was the fifth election held in South Africa under conditions of universal adult suffrage since the end of the apartheid era in 1994, and the first held since the death of Nelson Mandela.

It was also the first time that South African expatriates were allowed to vote in a South African national election.

The National Assembly election was won by the ANC (62,1%). The official opposition, DA, won 22,2% of the votes, while the newly formed Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) obtained 6,4% of the vote. Eight of the nine provincial legislatures were won by the ANC.

The EFF obtained over 10% of the votes in Gauteng, Limpopo and North West, and beat the DA to second place in Limpopo and North West.

In the other six provinces won by the ANC, the DA obtained second place. In the Western Cape, the only province not won by the ANC, the DA increased its majority from 51,5% to 59,4%.

- The discovery of *Homo naledi*, an extinct species of hominin, in September 2015 became worldwide news.
- In 2015, South Africa celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Freedom Charter, which advocated for a non-racial South Africa.
- **In 2016, South Africa celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the 16 June 1976 Soweto Student Uprising and the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996.**

### 2016 Local Government Elections

The 2016 Local Government Elections were held on 3 August 2016. The ANC won 53,9% of the total votes, followed by the official opposition DA with 26,9% and the EFF with 8,2%. In 2017, South Africa celebrated five years since the launch of the NDP.

### Did you know?

The advent of democracy in 1994 not only meant one person, one vote, but it also saw the introduction of a Bill of Rights, in 1996, which provides for redress and guarantees basic human rights – including civil, political, social, economic and environmental rights. This is accompanied by a robust system of democratic governance with checks and balances, including Chapter 9 institutions **Public Protector; South African Human Rights Commission; Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities; Commission for Gender Equality; Auditor-General and Independent Electoral Commission.**





**S**outh Africa celebrated the Centenary of the late Oliver Reginald Tambo in 2017, under the theme: “Life and Legacy of OR Tambo”. He was one of the key drivers of South Africa’s liberation and one of the founding fathers of the country’s constitutional democracy. At its 54th National Conference held at Nasrec in Soweto on 18 December 2017, the ANC elected Mr Ramaphosa as its president.

Following the resignation of President Zuma in February 2018, Mr Ramaphosa was elected unopposed as the fifth President of democratic South Africa by the National Assembly on 15 February 2018. He delivered the 25th Annual State of the Nation Address in a free and democratic South Africa on 7 February 2019 in Parliament, Cape Town.

- In 2018, South Africa celebrated the centenary of two Struggle stalwarts, Tata Mandela and Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu.
- South Africa hosted its first and second South Africa Investment Conference in 2018 and 2019 respectively. The country also hosted the Jobs Summit on 4 and 5 October 2018.

### 2019 National and Provincial Elections

On 8 May 2019, the country held its sixth National and Provincial Elections. The ANC won 57,50% of the total vote, followed by the official opposition DA with 20,77% and the EFF with 10.79%.

In 2019, South Africa celebrated 25 Years of Freedom and released the Towards a 25 Year Review document.

- On 25 May 2019, Mr Ramaphosa was inaugurated as the President for the sixth democratic administration.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Major achievements of the democratic government include the following:

- South Africa remains a beacon of peaceful democratic transition in Africa and the world.
- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 remains one of the best in the world.
- The culture of human rights is well-entrenched and protected.
- The country is anchored on the democratic pillars such as Parliament, an independent Judiciary and the Chapter 9 institutions. Access to Early Childhood Development has been expanded.
- Life expectancy has increased from 54 years in 2005 to 64.6 years in 2019, despite the devastation of HIV and AIDS.
- Near universal access to basic education for young children aged 7 to 14 years.
- The General Household Survey of 2018 shows that 31% of persons benefited from a social grant. Social grants are now the second most important source of income (45.2%) for households after salaries (64.8%). They are the main source of income for one-fifth of households nationally.
- South Africa is a major role player in the SADC region, continent of Africa; BRICS and the UN.



**T**he advent of democracy in 1994 not only meant one person, one vote, but it also saw the introduction of a Bill of Rights that provides for redress and guarantees basic human rights – including civil, political, social, economic and environmental rights.

This is accompanied by a robust system of democratic governance with checks and balances, including Chapter 9 institutions. During 25 years, South Africa introduced a social wage, derived from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, to restore the dignity of people and their access to basic services, focusing on the poor and vulnerable.

After centuries of education for underdevelopment, the 25 years saw the dismantling of Bantu education, with near universal access to basic education, and the expansion of access to further and higher education.

Through government programmes, assets such as houses, libraries, schools, clinics and roads have been transferred to the masses. Labour rights have also been expanded by improving the livelihoods and levels of income of the people, including the introduction of the National Minimum Wage (NMW).

The NMW Act, 2018 (Act 9 of 2018) which came into effect on 1 January 2019, among other things, stipulates a national minimum rate of R20 per hour or R3 500 per month, depending on the number of hours worked.

After decades of stagnation, the economy grew marginally, resulting in the creation of jobs and building of massive socio-economic infrastructure. However, structural unemployment and inequality, which are a major stumbling block in eradicating poverty, persist.

#### Did you know?

- Michelle Nkamankeng (born 2008), from Johannesburg, has made history by becoming the youngest author in South Africa and Africa, and also by being in the top 10 of the world's youngest authors.
- In November 2019, the Springboks beat England 32-12 in Yokohama, Japan, to win their third Rugby World Cup.
- Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi was crowned Miss Universe 2019 in Atlanta, USA.

## ABOUT ELECTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africans vote in National and Provincial Elections every five years. In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, 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 the Legislature led by the Speaker, and Provincial Government led by the Premier and Members of the Executive Council (MECs).

### 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.

## NAME CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Since 1994, the names of places, streets and airports changed to reflect the ethos of the new democratic dispensation.

- **Limpopo:** Bela-Bela (formerly Warmbaths); Lephalale (Ellisras); Modimolle (Nylstroom); Mokopane (Potgietersrus); Musina (Messina);

Polokwane (Pietersburg); Senwabarana (Bochum); Mogwadi (Dendron); Morebeng (Soekmekaar); Modjadjiskloof (Duiwelskloof) and Mookgophong (Naboomspruit).

- **Mpumalanga:** eMalahleni (Witbank); eManzana (Badplaas); KwaDukuza (Stanger); Mashishing (Lydenburg); Makhazeni (Belfast); Emgwenya (Waterval Boven); eNtokozeni (Machadodorp); Mbombela; (Nelspruit); eMkhondo (Piet Retief); Thuli Fakude (Leandra) and Emjane (Hectorspruit).
- **Free State:** Mamafubedu (Petrus Steyn), Hlohlolwane (Clocolan) and Intabazwe (Harrismith).
- **Eastern Cape:** James Calata (Jamestown); Maletswai (Aliwal North); Cacadu (Lady Frere); Komani (Queenstown); Khowa (Elliot); KwaBhaca (Mount Frere); MaXesibeni (Mount Ayliff); Dikeni (Alice) and Makhandia (Grahamstown). These included correcting historical misspellings: Bisho to Bhisho; Cala to Kala; Engcobo to Ngcobo; Idutywa to Dutywa, and Umtata to Mthatha. Airports changed as follows: Ben Schoeman Airport to East London Airport (1994), HF Verwoerd Airport to Port Elizabeth International Airport (1994) and KD Matanzima Airport to Mthatha Airport (2004).
- **KwaZulu-Natal:** eMthonjaneni (Melmoth).
- **Gauteng:** Sophiatown (Triomf).
- **Western Cape:** Bo-Kaap (Schotchkloof). The D.F. Malan Airport was changed to Cape Town International Airport in 1994.
- **North West:** Mahikeng (Mafikeng).

## Sources:

- *South Africa Yearbook*, produced by the GCIS.
- *Towards A 25 Year Review (1994-2019)*, produced by the DPME.
- [www.elections.org.za](http://www.elections.org.za)
- [www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za)

## BY 2044, WHEN SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

*South Africa will be one of the locomotives for growth and shared prosperity in the Africa We Want, after having been at the forefront of lighting and powering Africa, feeding Africa, industrialising Africa, integrating Africa, and improving the quality of life for Africans.*

*South Africa's citizens will learn in, tour, work, do business, trade and engage with other African nations, whilst also donning a welcoming face and heart to other African nationals.*

*Our country would have eradicated hunger within five years and poverty, within a generation.*

*Our people would have benefitted from the fully swung open doors of learning and culture and will look back at the past, and marvel at the folly of divisions based on gender, race, religion, ethnicity and language, as they unite in a non-racial cohesive and diverse society bound by a common African identity and social compact.*

*Our country would have built at least two new cities which would have been based on African values and the successful design elements of ancient African cities so as to secure non-racial, non-sexist and class neutral human settlements and sustainable development.*

*Our society will know no gender-based violence and all girls, women, and people of different gender identities will be empowered as equal citizens active in all spheres and levels of human endeavour and the economy.*

*Our beloved country will be inclusive and more equitable with all of her citizens sharing and having access to all services and assets to participate in the economy and grow it together.*

*This we shall achieve together in harmony and peace, side by side, and in partnership with our people and their institutions as well as the broad civil society; trade unions; faith based sector; traditional leaders and healers; and private sector with the support of our brothers and sisters on the continent as well as our friends in the rest of the world.*





