



GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE

April 2014



Vote and make your mark as a public servant



Election periods are typically times when the nation focuses on the performance of government and the contribution of the Public Service to the country's development.

In the build-up to the May 7 election and the end of the political term that began in 2009, government has, in the spirit of celebrating 20 Years of Freedom, outlined its impressive record of ensuring that South Africa is a much better place to live in today than it was in 1994.

President Jacob Zuma has led the effort to tell the good story South Africa has developed since 1994 – a story that has drawn many impressive chapters from the work done by the current administration since it defined safety and security, health, education, decent work and rural development and land reform as key priorities five years ago.

South Africa's good story since 1994 has been one of restoring the dignity of all South Africans; providing social assistance to the most vulnerable people in our economy and society; growing the economy under difficult global conditions; modernising social and economic infrastructure;

bringing once-segregated South Africans closer together as a nation, and integrating South Africa into the global community of nations.

South Africa's good story has, of course, not been plucked from thin air. It is a story that has depended greatly on the dedication of more than a million public servants whose work – in partnership with other sectors of society – has dramatically changed the way South Africa is today and South Africans feel about themselves.

And as public servants knuckle down to get the job done of transforming South Africa day by day, it is sometimes easy to forget that as public servants we will, ourselves, join the voting queues on May 7 to exercise our franchise in the privacy of the booths managed by the Independent Electoral Commission.

Public servants are therefore one of the constituencies to which government has appealed as it called on all eligible, registered voters to turn out on May 7 and make their voices heard with a sense of responsibility and the knowledge that each vote shapes our future.

Given our role in society and our daily experience of changing lives through the work we do, public servants are therefore in a special position to set an example in good citizenship to our families, communities, organisations, social networks and others by making our own voices heard on May 7.

It's interesting to note that the third-largest party in the National Assembly achieved this status – and 30 seats – on the basis of 1,3million votes in the 2009 election; 1,3million is also the number of public servants across the country, proving how influential our own votes can be, regardless of our private political choices.

This simply suggests we should take our vote seriously on May 7 – not just to honour the Struggle in South Africa and internationally that went into securing freedom for all South Africans in 1994, but also to ensure that our imprint on the future is clear.

The greatest public service we can perform on May 7 is to end the day with a clear conscience and the ability to say "I X SA".



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