




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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Pictorial Report: Elections 7 May 2014, eThekweni



People queuing at the voting station in Waterfall, outside Hillcrest, eThekweni on Wednesday morning.



Media briefing at Moses Mabhida Stadium: The KwaZulu-Natal Principal Electoral Officer addresses the media.

Wednesday, 7 May 2014 – a historical day in South Africa, which marked the fifth national general elections against the backdrop of the 20-year anniversary of freedom. People from all walks of life turned out in their numbers to exercise the right to vote at various voting stations in eThekweni. The elections were peaceful with no disruptions except in Sydenham when an inebriated man was arrested for drunken disorderly. Community members waiting to vote were angry at the police but the situation was calmed down very quickly. In the rest of eThekweni, voting proceeded smoothly with many “born frees” really excited to be casting their votes for the very first time.



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Umgungundlovu District: 7 May 2014



Sthembile Langa (20) studies at the Durban Institute of Technology. “It gives me pleasure to vote for the first time. I will now be able to raise my voice with confidence knowing that I have voted for the government of my choice. In the next five years I would love to see the elected government paying vigorous focus on education,” she said.



Nkululeka Mcwabe (26) from Azalia said, “An opportunity to vote means being able to exercise your democratic right. I am a bit concerned that most people seem not to understand that because I have seen people being intimidated when they campaign for their political parties even at this station. There is still more that must to be done by the IEC and political organisations on voter education. I wish for the elected government to ensure that the youth is equally represented in government so that they will have platform to raise their issues e.g. unemployment.”



Sihle Mkhize (23) said, “It is my first time to vote and I think it’s very important for everyone to exercise this right. I believe it is because of the voting process that we see development in our areas. What people need to do is to approach their elected government if they see some loopholes.”



Vuyisile Mkhize (56) said, “Voting to me means a lot of things; we are now able to speak to government if we are not happy about governance, and lot of people who did not have homes previously now own RDP houses with electricity and water. Over and above that our government still have a duty to create more work opportunities for our children.”



Percy Sfiso Cele (45) said, “Voting means emancipation of democracy and not undermining the role played by those who fought for freedom and human rights. They lost their lives so that we are able to vote. Our role is to advise leaders to correct their mistakes and do the right things at the right time.”



Themba Khuzwayo (50) said, “Voting is very important to me. I started voting during time of Mandela in 1994. Voting has assisted us with many things. We would be in a lot of trouble if government did not provide child support grants because lot of us are not working. I have already voted and I will vote in the next elections.”



Nokuthula Ngcobo (33) said, “It is important to vote because you are able to choose the government you want. Today we have a government that delivers because it was elected by the people. I would be happy if government can continue providing services in a manner that it is doing at the moment.”



Pictorial Election Report: Mashishimale Village Ward 8.
By: NE Nkuna, Limpopo

At 15:35, the people were queuing at Ward 8 in Mashishimale Village. All systems were alright, and the station opened on time.



First-time voter Malisa Lebogang said, "I am happy to vote because it is my first time. I say wow! So excited about the whole experience."



More people at in the voting queue in Mashishimale Village.



Proud first-time voters.

Police officers observing as IEC officials offload voting materials.



Modimolle and Bela-Bela – Election Day, 7 May 2014



Pauline Molekoa (35) of Phagameng, Modimolle was asked how she felt.

“I feel very happy that I was able to vote. It’s a privilege considering the fact that my fallen heroes and heroines fought and devoted their lives for our equality, freedom and democracy.” She further stated that she hoped things changed for the better such as the creation of real permanent jobs and the elimination of corruption.



Nkomo Suzan (33),

said that she felt good because she voted for her favourite party. She furthermore stated she hoped for the better in terms of service delivery such as clean drinkable water, sanitation and improved roads.

Most of the farm workers in the areas of Modimolle and Bela-Bela did not pitch up to exercise their right to vote, since their employers disallowed them. It was said that the employers would release the farm workers earlier than usual to allow them to vote. Party agents were deeply concerned because the farm labourers would have been tired and some had to travel or walk a long distance to reach their voting stations.

Modimolle residents went out in numbers to cast their votes to exercise their right to choose their desired leadership. Solomon Mahlangu, Lekkerbreek and OR Tambo voting stations were visited. Some voters felt free to voice their feelings after they voted.



Voters patiently queuing to draw their cross.



Thabang Maponya (23)

“I was also happy to have been afforded the opportunity to make my own choice of government.” He hopes that his chosen party wins and will bring positive change in youth development and job creation especially for tertiary qualified young men and women.



Francinah Monama (25) from Phagameng

“I felt overjoyed that I made it to the polling station to make my mark.” She said that they already have running water, RDP houses and electricity; it is time to finance their tertiary education.



Modimolle and Bela-Bela – Election Day, 7 May 2014

The GCIS official sought permission to take pictures from the presiding officers at all the stations visited. We went to voting stations at the Mayflower High School, Tisiteni Primary School, MP Magagula High School, Lobhengula Primary School and Lindzalokuhle Primary School.

The stations at Fernie had very short queues especially at Lobhengula P School. The fact that there were no queues, and if there were any they were short, indicated the efficiency of the voting process. The addition of more voting stations also helped to minimise the long queues.

The voting station at Mayflower High School had almost no people queuing. Those who came voted and left without queuing.



There was no queue at the Tisiteni Primary School voting station, voters just arrived, voted and left without queuing. The additional voting stations available since the previous elections helped in reducing long queues at many stations. Members of the South African Police Service were also present to assist the IEC in ensuring free and fair elections.

The queue of voters at Lobhengula Primary School.



There was no queue at the Tisiteni Primary School. Voters just arrived, voted and left without queuing.



Young voters approaching the entrance of the voting station at Lobhengula Primary School.



Entrance of the voting station at Lindzalokuhle Primary School, in Fernie. No queues, voters came, voted and left without queuing.



SAPS officials present at the voting stations.



Northern Cape Election Day, 2014



Voters queuing to cast their votes in Kimberley.



Residents of Club 2000 also taking their rights seriously. Most of the voters here were voting for the first time.



Northern Cape Premier, Sylvia Lukas, doing an interview after casting her vote in Upington.



Elderly people waiting for their chance to enter the station in Galeshwe, Kimberley.



Busy day at the entrance of a voting station in Galeshewe, Kimberley.



Election Day, 7 May 2014 – Umgungundlovu District

Elections in Umgungundlovu started well in all local municipalities without intimidation taking place except in the Umshwathi Local Municipality where members of the IFP and ANC had a fight. It has not been established what started the fight. It was reported that the local Mayor and Ward Councillor had intervened to calm the situation. The voting process proceeded without further interruptions. There are many voting stations and assistance with reducing long queues.



2014 Elections



Members of the community at Kwapata voting station waiting to vote. The queue at the station flowed smoothly.



A queue dominated by young voters at Azalea.





Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality – Election Report.



“Another first-time voter, Lucky Magoto, was excited to be voting saying, “My party will bring change to this country and in the 2016 Local Government Election my party will rule and reshuffle.”



People woke up early to queue at Namakgale, Lethabong voting station: Ward 7 of Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality.



Kgaugelo Mahlake: First-time voter had this to say, “I am so delighted to be part of this historic moment. Finally I got the chance to cast my vote so I now also have a voice.



MM Malatji said she was very proud to be voting. “This reminds me of the first time when I voted in 1994. I was doing my second year at the Naphuno Teaching College and now I am a proud teacher thanks to this democracy.”



Mr Mateo Lewele said he was happy to see the fruits of what they fought for in those difficult times. He encouraged people to vote because this right did not come cheap.



Ntate Mononela was very excited to be part of this once more in his lifetime.



Greater Bronkhorstspuit Area



**2014
Elections**

The Bronkhorstspuit area experienced violent service-delivery protests during the first quarter of this year. Public facilities and some private property were destroyed. Despite this, there was a high voter turnout during the 2014 general elections. However, the voter turnout among the youth was not as high as expected but those who turned up were very enthusiastic about voting for the first time in their lives.



Zizi Ndlovu (19) from Zithobeni said, "I am very, very happy to be here because by voting, I am raising my voice loud and clear and I am voting for the party of my choice. All I want to see after voting is service-delivery improvements."



Gugu Zwane (19) from Zithobeni Extension 2 said, "I am so excited for the experience but I am still not sure who I will vote for. I hate corruption as it is dragging our country down and I wish whoever wins will speed up job creation especially for the youth."



Jabulani Maseko (20) said, "I am happy to vote for the first time in my life because the late Nelson Mandela fought and sacrificed a lot for us to be free, to be who we want to be, and to choose a party we like. I am voting for change as I want to see more jobs for all but especially for young people."





2014 Election feedback for Ehlanzeni District Municipality

The 2014 National and Provincial elections went smoothly in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality. At Bushbuckridge, Mbombela, Umjindi and Thaba Chweu the local municipal communicator's reported that there were also no incidents.



2014 Elections



Ms Lungile Lubisi from Driekoppies Village queued to go inside to cast her vote. She wants the winning party to provide a satellite campus of the University of Mpumalanga in the Nkomazi area.



Community members of Mgobodzi Village waiting to cast their votes.