



government  
communications

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS UPDATE 1 KEY MESSAGES

### **BRIEF:**

On 08 May 2019 South Africa will hold its sixth democratic national and provincial elections. The 2019 National Elections hold a special significance for South Africans as it marks the celebration of 25 Years of Freedom since the first democratic elections on 27 April 1994.

As the country celebrates its 25 Years of Freedom, citizens are encouraged to exercise their democratic right and vote. Each and every vote contributes to strengthening our democracy.

A vital part of any democracy is to guarantee that voting takes place in an atmosphere which is considered free and fair. Ensuring free and fair elections is the primary responsibility of the IEC. At the same time government has a major role to play in ensuring citizens can safely and securely cast their vote.

You are eligible to vote if you are:

- A South African citizen and are registered to vote;
- At least 18 years old; and
- In possession of a green bar-coded ID book, smart ID card or temporary identity certificate.

Registered voters can SMS their ID number to 32810 to check their voting station.

The Department of Home Affairs will extend operational hours at frontline offices from the 6 to 8 May to assist eligible voters to collect identity documents or to apply for new Identity Documents or Temporary Identity Certificates.

Home Affairs frontline offices will be open from 08h00 to 19h00 on 6 and 7 May. Home Affairs frontline offices will also provide public services on Election Day, from 07h00 until 21h00.

Voters can call 0800 6011 90 toll free for more information.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<p><b><i>South Africa has a good story to tell in our history of free and fair elections.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have had regular, credible and free and fair national and local elections since 1994.</li> <li>• The IEC is an independent body established to promote and safeguard our democracy.</li> <li>• It has a solid reputation and a positive track record of conducting elections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Electoral Act allows for accredited neutral observers to monitor the elections.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Government welcomes the 48-member SADC team who will observe the upcoming elections.</li> <li>• They are deployed throughout all nine provinces to ensure that the election on 8 May is free and fair.</li> <li>• The Electoral Act also allows for political parties contesting the elections to have representatives at voting stations to ensure compliance with voting procedures and monitor the counting process.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Our democracy remains strong and vibrant.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our struggle for freedom secured the right for all South Africans to be active participants in our democratic system.</li> <li>• The right to vote is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution.</li> <li>• Government has declared 08 May a national holiday to enable all eligible citizens to cast their vote.</li> <li>• Government appeals to employers to allow workers time off so that they can exercise their democratic right to vote.</li> <li>• Government encourages all South Africans, especially young and first-time voters, to exercise their democratic right to vote.</li> <li>• We call on all South Africans to honour our history and continue to strengthen the legitimacy of our democracy.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Millions of voters are registered to vote in the upcoming election.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 26,7 million people have registered to vote in the 08 May national and provincial elections.</li> <li>• This represents 74.5 per cent of the eligible population.</li> <li>• 774 094 voters have been granted permission to cast a special vote on 6 and 7 May 2019.</li> <li>• It is encouraging that overall registration levels remain high by international standards for countries with a voluntary registration system.</li> <li>• Voters will be able to cast their votes at one of the 22 924 voting stations country wide.</li> <li>• Registered voters can SMS their ID number to 32810 to check their voting station.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Measures are in place to ensure a safe and secure election.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS), has put in place safety and security measures to create an environment for free and fair elections from 6 to 8 May 2019.</li> </ul>

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All law enforcement agencies in the country, supported by key role players from the respective safety and security structures, remain committed to deliver safe and secure elections.</li> <li>• Since the 1994 general elections, the security cluster in our country has assisted in ensuring safe and free and fair elections.</li> <li>• The South African Police Service will ensure increased visibility throughout the election period through focused deployments of personnel throughout the country.</li> <li>• Security personnel deployments at each voting station will act decisively against anyone found to intimidate, incite or perpetrate violent acts during the elections.</li> <li>• Plans are in place so all voting stations in the country will be accessible and open on voting day.</li> <li>• We will create the space for South Africans to exercise their democratic right to vote.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>All relevant spheres of government are working together.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The safety and security of the elections will be managed and coordinated through the National, Provincial, District and Local Joints Operational and Intelligence Structures of the JCPS Cluster.</li> <li>• These JOINTS structures consist of the SANDF, SAPS, Home Affairs, IEC, the Demarcation Board, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the State Security Agency and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• The Department of Correctional Services will be deploying voting officials in the 243 correctional facilities around the country to allow all the registered inmates with relevant identification documents to exercise their constitutional right to vote.</li> <li>• A protocol has been established between the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, SAPS Detectives and the NPA to prioritise all election related cases.</li> <li>• The South African National Defence Force is on stand-by to provide support to the IEC.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>The Department of Home Affairs will provide services during the elections period.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Home Affairs will extend operational hours at frontline offices from the 6 to 8 May to assist eligible voters to collect identity documents or to apply for new Identity Documents or Temporary Identity Certificates.</li> <li>• Home Affairs frontline offices will be open from 08h00 to 19h00 on 6 and 7 May.</li> <li>• Home Affairs frontline offices will also provide public services on Election Day, from 07h00 until 21h00.</li> <li>• Voters can call 0800 6011 90 toll free for more information.</li> </ul>

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voters are encouraged to collect their smart cards and green bar coded ID books.</li> <li>• Voters who have lost their ID's can apply for Temporary Identity Certificates which are issued on the spot.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Many people sacrificed their lives for your right to vote.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important that those who have registered to vote cast their ballot on election day.</li> <li>• This right to vote is a central part of any democracy.</li> <li>• It is a right which thousands of men and women fought and died for.</li> <li>• We owe it to them to make sure our voices are heard on the future direction of the country.</li> <li>• As a voter, you have to choose which political party can best serve your needs and improve your life.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Every vote counts.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our democracy depends on active citizens to renew it and make it stronger.</li> <li>• The elections are an opportunity for all South Africans, especially the youth to use their vote to help move our country forward.</li> <li>• With your vote, you can influence which policies are implemented and how decisions are made.</li> <li>• Your vote can ensure that public representatives prioritise issues facing young people, including the creation of jobs.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Together we can build on the achievements of the past 25 years.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019 millions of South Africans will once again get an opportunity to build on the gains we have made since 1994.</li> <li>• Since 1994 government has consistently worked on improving the lives of all South Africans.</li> <li>• We have advanced peoples' socioeconomic rights such as housing, water, education, social development and healthcare to all.</li> <li>• However, more still needs to be done to address the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment.</li> </ul>