

E-HORN

East and Horn of Africa Election Observers Network



ELECTIONS

2024

E-HORN OBSERVATION REPORT



THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA
(EHORN) ELECTION OBSERVATION
MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S 2024
ELECTIONS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the invitation of the Center for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, the East and Horn of Africa Observers Network (E-HORN) participated in the observation of South Africa's General Elections on May 29, 2024. The mission aimed to assess the electoral process against international standards and national legislation, providing an unbiased analysis of the political landscape and practical recommendations for improvement. E-HORN, in collaboration with other international and nonpartisan citizen observation groups, focused on data collection to ensure impartial and fact-based findings. The technical team, consisting of two Short-Term Observers (STOs) from E-HORN, was deployed from May 27 to May 30, 2024, to observe all key election phases.

On election day, 23,292 polling stations operated from 7 AM to 9 PM, with a public holiday declared to maximize voter turnout. The Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) reported 27.79 million registered voters, marking an increase from previous elections. South Africa's proportional representation system, which included independent candidates for the first time, featured three ballots for national and provincial representation. The IEC cleared 14,889 candidates across 70 political parties and 11 independents for a total of 887 seats. Key parties included the ANC, the Democratic Alliance (DA), uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), each presenting significant contenders and influencing the political climate. The mission's findings and recommendations aim to enhance the democratic process and electoral integrity in South Africa.

In preparation for the 2024 South African General Elections, E-HORN engaged in comprehensive briefings and meetings to ensure thorough understanding and effective observation of the electoral process. Key sessions included those with the Center for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, the Elections Support Network, Southern Africa (ESN-SA), and the South African Council of Churches (SACC).

The briefing at the Center for Human Rights on May 28, 2024, provided critical insights into the human rights context of the elections, observation schedules, and logistical details. The Elections Support Network focused on the IEC procedures, addressing trust issues, potential coalition formations, public disillusionment, and pre- and post-election violence concerns. The South African Council of Churches emphasized its non-partisan educational role, deploying 2,000 observers and conducting workshops to raise awareness about the electoral system.

Additionally, the pre-election eve dialogue, organized by the Center for Human Rights, reflected on the electoral process in comparison with other African countries, highlighting youth participation and the influence of identity politics and social media. Despite efforts to boost youth engagement through the "We are the People" Voters' Festival, turnout remained low. These preparatory activities underscored the complexity and challenges of the pre-election environment, setting the stage for E-HORN's observation mission.

On May 29, 2024, E-HORN undertook a comprehensive observation mission for the South African General Elections, focusing on ensuring a systematic and impartial assessment of the election day processes. E-HORN's STOs monitored the opening of polls, voting, closing, vote counting, and results announcement, adhering to the guidelines set by the IEC.

The STOs observed that polling stations opened at 7:00 AM, with special voting conducted on May 27 and 28 for those unable to vote on the general election day. The election utilized a proportional representation system, with three color-coded ballots for national, regional, and provincial elections.





At the Midrand High School polling station, the process began smoothly, with materials confirmed and voters verified against the roll, receiving indelible ink marks before casting their ballots.

Despite minor delays, such as the late start at the Winnie Mandela voting station, the overall voting process was peaceful and orderly across observed stations. Special accommodations were made for elderly, disabled, and pregnant voters. Party agents remained compliant with regulations, and no major incidents were reported, although some voters without prior special voting applications were turned away.

The closing and counting process at the Sandton Library station was observed, with clear steps taken to ensure transparency and accuracy. Ballot boxes were opened, votes sorted and counted in the presence of observers and party agents, and results were publicly posted. Any unstamped ballots were deemed spoiled, despite objections from party agents. Overall, E-HORN's observation highlighted a well-organized electoral process, with recommendations aimed at addressing minor operational issues.

The 2024 South African General Elections, held on May 29th, marked a significant turning point in the nation's democratic journey. Despite a high number of registered voters at 27.79 million, voter turnout reached an all-time low of 58.64%. This election was historic as the ANC failed to secure a parliamentary majority for the first time since the end of apartheid, obtaining only 40.18% of the vote. Consequently, the ANC must now seek coalition partners to form a government.

The DA garnered 21.81% of the votes, the MK party received 14.58%, and the EFF secured 9.52%. Regional results varied significantly, with the ANC falling short in key provinces like Northern Cape and Gauteng, while the DA retained control in the Western Cape, and the MK party led in KwaZulu-Natal.

The National Assembly results reflected a shift towards a more competitive multi-party system, underscoring the decline in ANC dominance and the rise of other parties.





CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE SHORT-TERM OBSERVATION MISSION

Mission Overview

At the invitation of the Center for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, the East and Horn of Africa Observers Network (E-HORN) participated alongside other foreign missions in observing the South African General Elections on May 29th, 2024. The primary objective of this mission was assessing the electoral process on the basis of international standards and the South Africa national legislation and unbiased assessment of the political landscape, along with practical suggestions for enhancements.

Throughout the mission, E-HORN maintained communication with the E-HORN secretariat and other international observation missions and nonpartisan citizen observation groups such as the Elections Support Network for Southern Africa (ESN-SA) and the Center for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria.

Methodology

The methodology employed by E-HORN focused on the collection of data to facilitate fact-based, impartial analyses, findings, and recommendations. All activities conducted by E-HORN adhered to South African observer guidelines, the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance.

The E-HORN technical team comprised of two Short-Term Observers (STOs), Bina Maseno from the Elections Observation Group (ELOG) leadership and Pauline Agesa from the E-HORN secretariat. The mission was deployed from May 27th to May 30th, 2024 and was assisted by the secretariat in consolidating the STOs' findings.

The STO observed the opening, voting, and counting processes, as well as the overall environment, to ensure a comprehensive assessment.

Operational Context

Polling Stations and Voter Accessibility

On election day, a total of 23,292 polling stations were operational from 7 AM to 9 PM (05:00 GMT to 19:00 GMT). The South African government declared election day a public holiday to facilitate voter participation, ensuring that citizens had ample opportunity to cast their ballots without work-related constraints.

Voter Registration and Turnout

The Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) reported that 27.79 million South Africans aged 18 and above had registered for the 2024 elections, an increase from 26.74 million in 2019. Registered voters living abroad cast their votes on May 17 and 18, while those with special needs, including pregnant women and individuals with disabilities, voted on May 27 and 28, two days prior to the general election day.

Electoral System

South Africa utilizes a proportional representation system for its national and provincial elections, a mechanism designed to reflect the diverse political preferences of its population. In a historic first, independent candidates were allowed to participate in the elections. Consequently, voters received three ballots instead of the usual two:





- i. **National Ballot (Blue Ballot):** Used nationwide, this ballot allowed voters to choose from 52 political parties competing for 200 seats in the National Assembly.
- ii. **Regional National Assembly Ballot (Orange Ballot):** Specific to each province, this ballot enabled voters to select either a political party or an independent candidate for the remaining 200 seats in the National Assembly.
- iii. **Provincial Legislature Ballot (Pink Ballot):** Also unique to each province, this ballot was for electing representatives to the provincial legislatures, with the number of seats allocated based on the provincial population sizes.

Candidates and Parties

The IEC cleared 14,889 candidates, including 70 political parties and 11 independents, to contest a total of 887 seats in the May elections. The composition of South Africa's national legislature prior to the elections included 14 political parties represented by 400 members. These were allocated proportionally based on the votes each party had received in the 2019 elections:

- * **African National Congress (ANC):** 230 seats (57.5 percent)
- * **Democratic Alliance (DA):** 84 seats (21 percent)
- * **Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF):** 44 seats (11 percent)
- * **Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP):** 14 seats (3.5 percent)
- * **Other Parties:** 10 parties held the remaining 28 seats.

Presidential Election Process

South Africans do not directly vote for the president but instead vote for political parties and independent candidates who fill the 400 National Assembly seats. The 400 then vote for a president. If a party secures more than 50 percent of the seats, their candidate typically becomes president. The president can serve up to a two five-year term.

Political Climate and Historical Election Results

Opinion polls suggested a potential decline in ANC support, with projections around 40 percent, indicating the possibility of the ANC losing its majority. If this scenario materialized, the ANC would need to negotiate with other parties to form a coalition government. Despite this, the ANC was not expected to be entirely removed from power unless they performed significantly worse than anticipated.

Historically, ANC had dominated South African politics since the end of apartheid in 1994, with the following historical voter turnouts and results:

- 1994: 62.5 percent of the vote with an 86 percent turnout.
- 1999: 66.36 percent of the vote with an 89 percent turnout.
- 2004: Nearly 70 percent of the vote with a 76 percent turnout, securing Thabo Mbeki's second term.
- 2009: Jacob Zuma's election with nearly 66 percent of the vote following Mbeki's resignation.
- 2014: 62 percent of the vote.





- 2019: 57.5 percent of the vote with a voter turnout of 66 percent

Key Parties and Leaders in the 2024 Election Runup

African National Congress (ANC) – Cyril Ramaphosa (71): According to recent opinion polls, ANC support stood at approximately 43.4 percent. The ANC was projected to win majorities in seven of South Africa's nine provinces but faced potential defeats in KwaZulu-Natal, Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party's stronghold and in the Western Cape to the DA.

Democratic Alliance (DA) – John Steenhuisen (48): The DA polled second with about 18.6 percent, campaigning to "rescue South Africa." The DA maintained a majority in the Western Cape, with Cape Town as its capital, securing 55.45 percent of the vote in the province during the 2019 elections.

uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) – Jacob Zuma (82): The MK party, polling at 14.1 percent, emerged as a significant force. Despite Zuma being barred from running for parliament due to his 2021 contempt of court conviction, he remained the party's figurehead.

Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) – Julius Malema (43): Polling at 11.4 percent, the EFF, led by Julius Malema, continued to play a critical role in the anti-establishment movement. Malema, a former ANC member, founded the EFF in 2013 after being expelled from the ANC.





CHAPTER TWO

PRE-ELECTIONS ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

In preparation for the 2024 South African General Elections, a series of briefings and meetings were held to equip the East and Horn of Africa Observers Network (E-HORN) team with the necessary information, materials, and logistical arrangements. These meetings include sessions held with the Center for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, the Elections Support Network, Southern Africa (ESN-SA), and the South African Council of Churches (SACC).

A. Briefing at the Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

Date: 28th May 2024

Overview: The E-HORN team met with the Center for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. This session was crucial for understanding the broader human rights context within which the South African elections were being conducted.

Key Points:

Introduction and Accreditation: Observers were introduced to the Center for Human Rights' work and received materials and accreditation from the Electoral Commission of South Africa.

Observation Schedule: The team was briefed on the observation schedule, including the names and locations of the targeted voting stations and logistical arrangements. The targeted Voting stations were listed as:

- ⇒ Midrand High School, Midrand Municipality, Johannesburg
- ⇒ Winnie Mandela High School, Olifantsfontein, Johannesburg
- ⇒ Moses Molelekwa Arts and Computer Center, Olifantsfontein
- ⇒ Agnes Chidi Primary School, Mamelodi, Pretoria
- ⇒ Sandton Library, Nelson Mandela Square, Johannesburg

High-Level Study Mission: The E-HORN team was introduced to the high-level study mission from Yiaga Africa, Nigeria.

B. Briefing by the Elections Support Network, Southern Africa (ESN-SA)

Focus Areas:

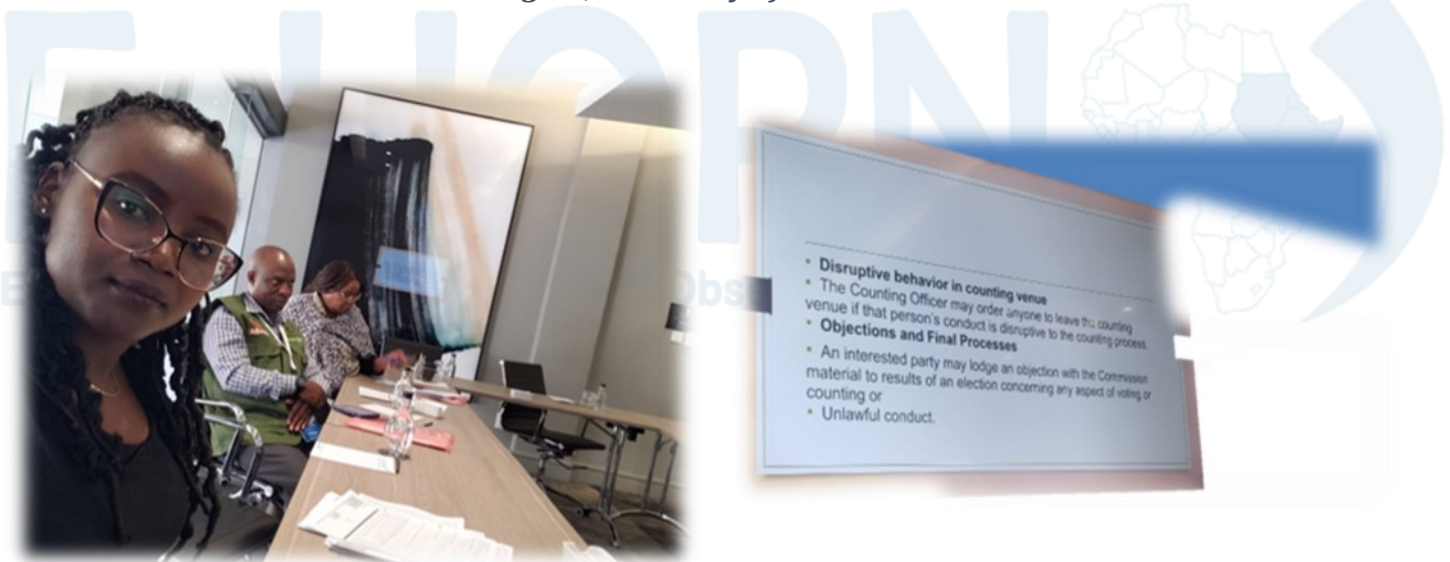
IEC Observer Handbook: Detailed instructions on the voting procedures and the use of the IEC observer handbook.

South African Political Terrain: A contextual framework was provided by Anne Chikwana and Ellias Phaahle of the University of Johannesburg, highlighting the political dynamics and historical significance of the 2024 elections.





IMG 1: Bina Maseno with the Yiaga team during the briefing by the Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria



IMG 2:EHORN Attending a briefing by the ESN-SA



IMG 3: Context on the position of the church on the 2024 elections





Key Issues Discussed:

Trust in the Independent Electoral Commission:

- ⇒ Allegations by the uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party of collusion between the IEC and the ANC.
 - IEC's clarification on ballot storage at Chesterville and Hammersdale was contested by MK.

Watershed Elections:

- The unprecedented uncertainty over election outcomes.
- Potential coalition formations, with the ANC likely to ally with the EFF, while coalitions with the DA were deemed improbable due to ideological differences.

Public Disillusionment:

- Rising unemployment, economic challenges, and corruption under ANC leadership.
- Anti-foreign campaigns by MK, blaming the influx of foreigners for the increased unemployment.

Constitutional Court Ruling - Jacob Zuma:

- Con-Court's ruling barred Jacob Zuma from contesting elections until 2026 due to his criminal conviction.

Pre- and Post-Elections Violence:

- Formation of the MK party by Jacob Zuma and subsequent tensions in Kwazulu Natal and Gauteng provinces.
- Charges against MK leader Visvin Reddy for inciting violence, leading to heightened police vigilance.

C. Position of the Church

South African Council of Churches (SACC):

- The SACC emphasized the church's non-partisan role, focusing on educating the masses about the political landscape to make informed decisions.
- The SACC conducted workshops to create awareness about the amended section 22A of the Electoral Act and the three-ballot system.
- The church had deployed 2,000 observers to monitor pre-election and election activities.

Church's Educational Efforts:

- Workshops on the new electoral system, including the introduction of independent candidates and the three-ballot system.
- Awareness campaigns on the proliferation of political parties, stressing the importance of understanding each party's ideology.





D. The Pre-Election Eve Dialogue

Organized by: Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

Objective: Reflect on South Africa's electoral process and compare it with other African countries, focusing on youth participation.



IMG 4: The Pre-Election Eve Dialogue by Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

Panel Discussions:

Panel Questions	Contributions
What is the South African pre-election context and how does it contrast with other African countries?	Promises to address corruption, unemployment, inequality, and mismanagement of state resources dominated campaigns.
What are young people's views on democracy in Africa?	Shift towards issue-based voting rather than identity politics, although empowerment of youth remains a challenge.
How do identity politics influence voting?	Politics in Africa, including Nigeria, are heavily influenced by tribal affiliations, impacting resource distribution and political alignment.
How has social media and other media influenced perspectives and protecting the vote?	Nigeria has strict regulations against misinformation, while South Africa uses fact-checking to maintain procedural certainty.





E. The Voters' Festival

Organized by: "We are the People"

Date: 28th May 2024

Objective: Encourage youth participation in the elections through a concert featuring musicians, poets, and artists.

Outcome: Despite efforts to promote patriotism and voter turnout, the event saw low attendance from the youth demographic.



IMG 5: The organizers of the Voters' festival encouraging youths to turn up and vote on 29th May 2024





CHAPTER THREE

ELECTION DAY PROCESSES

Introduction

This section outlines the guidelines and approach for Short-Term Observers (STOs) from the East and Horn of Africa Observers Network (E-HORN) during the 2024 South African General Elections. The objective was to ensure comprehensive, impartial, and systematic observations from the opening of the polls to the announcement of results.

The STOs were responsible for monitoring various aspects of the election day process, focusing on the opening of polls, voting process, closing of polls, counting of votes, and the announcement of results. Elections in South Africa are conducted every 5 years, with the proportional representation as the democratic system. Electoral processes are conducted by the Electoral Commission of South Africa guided by the Elections Act and the Constitution of South Africa 1996.

In 2020, the Constitutional Court ruled on the amendment of the Electoral Act as it locked out candidates who were not in political parties from elective positions. A new ballot was introduced, leading to the distribution of the 400 national votes. The three ballots that were used in the 2024

To vote, one was required to be a citizen of South Africa, a registered voter, 18 years and above, have an identification document.

Special Voting

29th May 2024 was the designated day for South Africa to vote for their representatives in the three positions. However, special voting was conducted on 27th and 28th May 2024 for voters who were unable to vote in the districts they registered in. By law, a South African can apply for a special vote if they cannot travel to their voting station due to disability, pregnancy or physical infirm.

The notice to apply for special voting was issued by the electoral commission and voters were allowed to apply from 15th April 2024 to 3rd May 2024. However, the special vote could only be cast for representation to the national assembly. The voting stations were opened at 7.00 am and closed whenever all the persons who had registered had cast their votes but not later than 9pm. After marking the ballot in secret, the voter placed it in an unmarked envelope which was placed in another unmarked envelope and the name of the voter, their district and ID number written and dropped in the ballot box, and the voter's name marked off the roll. The votes were opened on 29th May during the counting process.

EHORN findings from the Voting Process of 29th May 2024

Opening of the polling stations

The EHORN team arrived at the Midrand High School at 6.00 am on 29th May 2024 to observe the opening process. The Electoral Commission team had a briefing on what to expect and how to escalate issues. The team, alongside observers and party agents confirmed whether all material were available, including ballot papers, ballot boxes, indelible ink, voting booths, voting devices and the manual voters' roll. All ballot boxes were assembled and sealed in the presence of observers and party agents.

At 7.00 am, voters who had been on the queue as early as 6.00 am were allowed to get into the voting station where their name, starting with the surname was checked on the voting device/voters' roll.





Once confirmed, indelible ink was applied to the left index finger and the voter was issued with three ballot papers for the three positions. The voter then proceeded to the booth where they marked their ballot papers then dropped them in the ballot boxes.

In the Gauteng province, the national ballot paper had **26** political parties, the regional had **44** political parties and independents and the provincial had **45** political parties and independents. The ballot papers were color-coded such that the national ballot papers were blue, the regional orange and the



IMG 6: Observing the opening and set-up of the voting station

vincial were pink.

pro-





IMG 8: Voters exercising their constitutional right

- ◇ Voters cast their vote peacefully and left the station
- ◇ When a voter's name was not found in the roll in one sub- station, the voter was referred to the other sub-stations within the voting station
- ◇ The disabled and aged voters were allowed to have their own assistant

Observation in other voting stations

- ◇ At the Winnie Mandela voting station, voting was delayed and the first sub-station allowed voters to vote at 8.00 am. By 9.00 am, the polling officer and other officials were confirming materials for sub- station three at the voting station
- ◇ From the five voting stations observed, the voting process was peaceful
- ◇ Voters adhered to voting procedures and queued to await their turn to vote
- ◇ The elderly, disabled, pregnant women and mothers with young children were prioritized at the voting stations
- ◇ In cases where a voter needed assistance in voting, the polling office assisted the voter in the presence of party agents
- ◇ Party agents adhered to the rules by remaining in their assigned positions and recording the proceedings
- ◇ Political parties had pitched their tents outside the voting stations to try and convince the undecided voters to vote for them.
- ◇ At every voting station, the Electoral commission official announced to everyone how many ballot papers were issued to every voter and voters were requested to ensure that the ballot papers were stamped. On further enquiry, the polling officer informed observers that this step was crucial as it would clear any doubt about the spoiled votes during the counting process
- ◇ Security officers were stationed at each polling station observed even though no major incidents were reported.





IMG 9: Tents set up by political parties on Election Day



IMG 10: Party agents observing a visually impaired voter being assisted to vote at the Moses Molelekwa voting station

Closing and Counting

- ◇ The EHORN observation mission observed the closing and counting of votes at the Sandton Library voting station. Observations were recorded as follows;
- ◇ The voting process was closed at 9.00 pm. No voters were on the queue and officials took a 30 minutes break before the counting process.
- ◇ The national ballot boxes were opened and all the ballot papers poured on the table. The same was done for the provincial and regional ballot boxes. Observers and party agents were not allowed to take pictures.
- ◇ The electoral commission officials were divided into 3 groups and each group was assigned at the three tables
- ◇ Officials began by unfolding the ballot papers
- ◇ The ballots that were not stamped were put aside as spoilt
- ◇ All the stray ballot papers were put at their correct table
- ◇ The ballot papers were then sorted and assigned to the political party
- ◇ The envelopes of the special votes cast on 27th and 28th May 2024 were opened in the presence of observers and party agents and the ballot papers assigned to the political party voted for
- ◇ The officials then proceeded to count the votes for each political party





- ◇ Observers and party agents freely moved from one station to the other
- ◇ After counting, officials counter-checked to ensure the numbers added up. The officials recorded the numbers
- ◇ The results were then announced and posted at the voting station entrance
- ◇ All ballots were returned into the ballot boxes, sealed and a copy of the official results attached to each ballot box
- ◇ The ballot boxes were then transported by the polling officer to the regional tallying center



IMG 11: Final results at the Sandton Voting Station

Incidents

- ◇ Voters who had not applied for special voting and had turned up to vote were turned away because they did not appear in the voters' roll.
- ◇ Delays in opening of some of the voting station such as the Winnie Mandela secondary school
- ◇ The Voter Devices (VD) did not work during the day in all the voting stations observed and name verification was done using the manual voters' roll. The VDs were only functioned at the beginning of the voting process and at the end of the voting process
- ◇ At the Sandton Library voting station, the party agents lodged an objection to ballot papers that had not been stamped being declared as spoilt. They argued that it was not the voter's fault the ballot paper was not stamped but rather the IEC clerk who was in charge of stamping the ballot papers. The PO clarified that all voters were directed to confirm that their ballot papers were stamped as the clerks were human and could error.





CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS OF THE 2024 SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS

Overview

The 2024 South African general elections, held on May 29th May 2024 saw a significant turnout and marked a pivotal moment in the country's democratic process. With 27.79 million registered voters, the elections were keenly observed both domestically and internationally.

Election Outcome

For the first time since the end of apartheid in 1994, ANC failed to secure a parliamentary majority (50% plus 1). With 40.18% of the vote, the ANC would need coalition partners to form a government. The DA (main opposition party) received 21.81% of the votes, the MK party 14.58%, and the EFF 9.52%.

1994		1999		2004		2009		2014		2019		2024	
MANDELA		MBEKI		MBEKI		ZUMA		ZUMA		RAMAPHOSA		COALATION	
ANC	62.50%	ANC	66.36%	ANC	69.69%	ANC	65.90%	ANC	62.15%	ANC	57.50%	ANC	40.18%
NP	20.39%	DP	9.56%	DA	12.37%	DA	16.66%	DA	22.23%	DA	20.77%	DA	21.81%
IFP	10.54%	IFP	8.58%	IFP	6.97%	COPE	7.42%	EFF	6.35%	EFF	10.79%	MKP	14.58%
FF Plus	2.17%	NNP	6.87%	UDM	2.28%	IFP	4.55%	IFP	2.40%	IFP	3.38%	EFF	9.52%
DP	1.73%	UDM	3.42%	NNP	1.65%	UDM	0.85%	NFP	1.57%	FF Plus	2.38%	IFP	3.85%
Others	4.69%	Others	5.22%	Others	7.04%	Others	4.62%	Others	5.30%	Others	5.18%	Others	10.06%
T-Out	86.87%	T-Out	89.30%	T-Out	76.73%	T-Out	77.30%	T-Out	73.48%	T-Out	66.05%	T-Out	58.64%

Table 1: Political Party Performance and Turnout since Independence

Voter Turnout

Despite a record 27.79 million registrations, only 16.2 million votes were cast, a voter turnout of 58.64% – the lowest in South Africa's 30-year democratic history. This was a trend of declining voter participation from nearly 90% in 1999 to 66% in 2019.

Results by Provinces

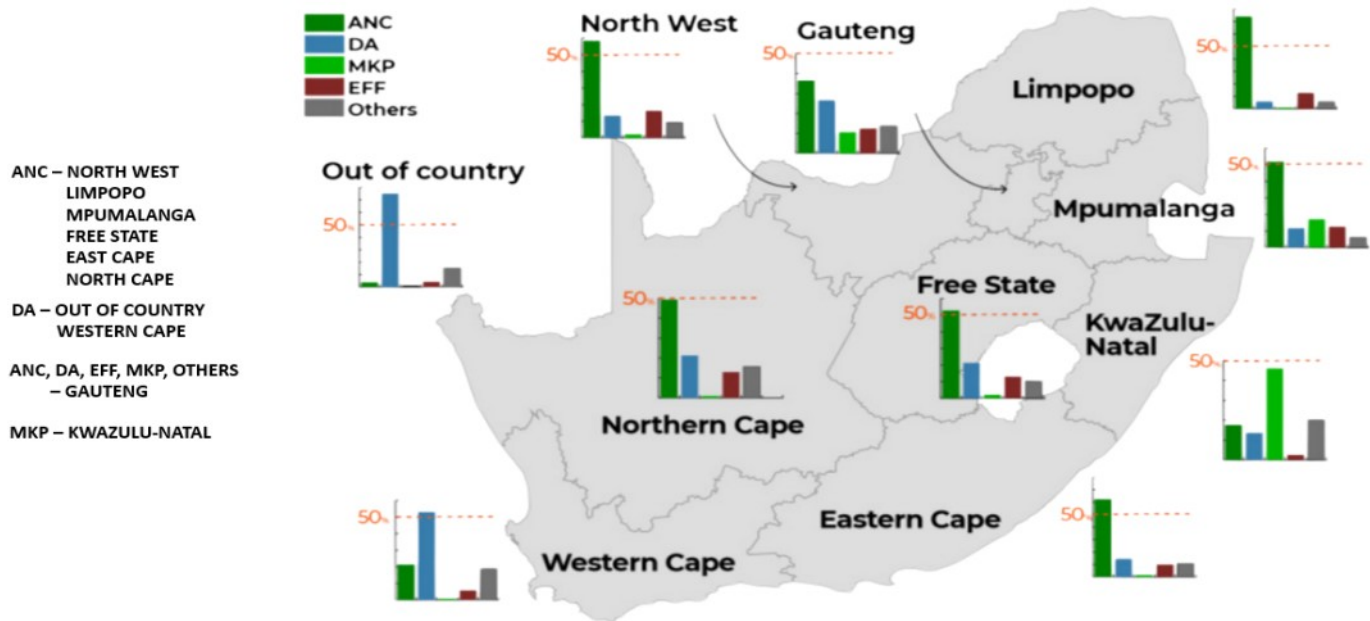
The ANC secured more than 50% of the votes in five of South Africa's nine provinces:

- Limpopo: 74%
- Eastern Cape: 62%





- North West: 59%
- Free State: 53%
- Mpumalanga: 52%



In the Northern Cape (49%) and Gauteng (36%), the ANC fell short of a majority, necessitating coalition partners to govern. The Democratic Alliance (DA) continued to govern the Western Cape with 53%, and the MK party received the highest votes in KwaZulu-Natal with 46%, compared to the ANC's 18%.

National Assembly Results

The election results for the National Assembly highlighted a shift in South Africa's political landscape

Provincial Legislature Results

The provincial legislature results reflected significant regional variations:

Next Steps

Following the IEC's announcement of results, several procedural steps would be followed to form a government:

- ♦ **Allocation of Seats:** Proportionate allocation of seats in the 400-member National Assembly.
- ♦ **First Sitting of the National Assembly:** Within 14 days, members would be sworn in and the speaker elected.
- ♦ **Election of the President:** The National Assembly would elect the president, who appoints the cabinet and forms the government.
- ♦ **Formation of Government:** The president would appoint ministers and forms the government, ensuring a smooth transition of power.





PARTY	SEATS	PERCENTAGE
African National Congress (ANC)	170	42.5%
Democratic Alliance (DA)	96	24%
Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)	56	14%
uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK)	28	7%
Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)	16	4%
Other Parties and Independents	34	8.5%

Presidential Election Outcome

With the ANC failing to secure an outright majority, coalition negotiations were underway. The ANC's 170 seats fell short of the 201 needed to appoint the president unilaterally, necessitating alliances with

Province	ANC Seats	DA Seats	EFF Seats	MK Seats	Others Seats
Eastern Cape	25	15	10	-	13
Free State	14	8	5	-	3
Gauteng	32	25	16	-	10
KwaZulu-Natal	15	10	-	20	7
Limpopo	20	9	14	-	6
Mpumalanga	16	10	7	-	7
North West	16	8	5	-	4
Northern Cape	14	8	5	-	3
Western Cape	15	25	8	-	9

smaller parties and independents.

Key Takeaways

- ◆ **Decline of ANC Dominance:** Reflected declining public confidence amid economic challenges and corruption scandals.
- ◆ **Rise of the DA and EFF:** Signified a shift towards a more competitive multi-party system.
- ◆ **Emergence of MK:** Indicated regional shifts in political loyalty, especially in KwaZulu-Natal.
- ◆ **Increased Political Diversity:** Highlighted a more fragmented and representative National Assembly.

Implications for Governance

The election results introduced complexities in policy-making and governance, with the ANC needing to navigate coalition politics. The outcome necessitated strategic coalition-building, potentially leading to significant policy shifts.





RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on observations and analysis during the 2024 South African General Elections, the East and Horn of Africa Observers Network (E-HORN) provides the following recommendations to enhance the democratic process and ensure the integrity of future elections:

Strengthen Voter Education and Engagement:

Intensify voter education campaigns to address low turnout, particularly among the youth. Initiatives such as the "We are the People" Voters' Festival should be expanded and made more engaging to encourage greater participation.

Use diverse media platforms, including social media, to reach a broader audience and provide clear, accessible information about the electoral process.

Improve Polling Station Operations:

Ensure all polling stations open on time and are adequately staffed and supplied to avoid delays. Consider implementing a system for real-time monitoring and quick response to operational issues.

Provide additional training for election officials to handle special accommodations efficiently and ensure compliance with regulations.

Enhance Transparency and Trust in the Electoral Process:

Increase transparency in the vote counting process by allowing more extensive observation by nonpartisan groups and implementing measures to ensure the accuracy and credibility of the results.

Address public disillusionment and trust issues by improving communication from the IEC regarding procedures and safeguards in place to ensure fair elections.

Address Pre- and Post-Election Violence:

Develop and implement comprehensive strategies to prevent and respond to election-related violence, including establishing rapid response teams and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Collaborate with civil society organizations and community leaders to promote peaceful elections and mitigate tensions.

Support Political Diversity and Coalition-Building:

Encourage political parties to engage in constructive dialogue and coalition-building to reflect the increasingly diverse political landscape and ensure stable governance.

Provide platforms for smaller parties and independent candidates to voice their policies and engage with the electorate, fostering a more inclusive political environment.

Review and Reform Electoral Legislation:

Conduct a thorough review of electoral laws to identify areas for improvement, particularly regarding the inclusion of independent candidates and the proportional representation system.

Consider reforms that enhance the accountability of political parties and candidates, such as stricter regulations on campaign finance and transparency.





CONCLUSION

The 2024 South African General Elections marked a pivotal moment in the nation's democratic evolution, highlighting both significant achievements and areas needing improvement. E-HORN's observation mission provided valuable insights into the electoral process, noting a generally well-organized election with areas for enhancement.

The election underscored the ANC's declining dominance and the rise of a more competitive multi-party system, reflecting the evolving political landscape. This shift necessitates robust coalition-building and strategic partnerships to ensure effective governance. The low voter turnout, despite a high number of registered voters, signals the need for intensified efforts in voter education and engagement.

E-HORN's recommendations aim to address these challenges by enhancing transparency, operational efficiency, and public trust in the electoral process. By implementing these suggestions, South Africa can continue to strengthen its democratic institutions and promote a more inclusive and participatory political environment.

The successful conduct of these elections, despite some operational and logistical issues, demonstrates South Africa's commitment to democratic principles. Moving forward, it is crucial for all stakeholders, including the IEC, political parties, civil society, and the electorate, to work collaboratively towards improving the electoral system and ensuring that future elections are even more transparent, fair, and representative of the will of the people.

E-HORN remains dedicated to supporting democratic processes across Africa and will continue to provide unbiased and constructive feedback to enhance electoral integrity and political stability in South Africa and beyond.

East and Horn of Africa Election Observers Network





ANNEXES

STO Observation Tool

Election Day Observations

You will be monitoring from the opening of the polls to the closing and the announcement of results.

Pay attention to the following:

1. Opening of Polls

- o **Punctuality:** Check if polling stations open on time.
- o **Presence of Materials:** Ensure all necessary materials (ballot papers, voter lists, polling booths) are present and in adequate supply.
- o **Polling Station Setup:** Verify that the station is set up correctly, ensuring voter privacy and accessibility.

2. Voting Process

- o **Voter Identification:** Observe the process of verifying voter identity and registration.
- o **Ballot Issuance:** Ensure voters receive the correct number of ballots and instructions.
- o **Assistance to Voters:** Note if assistance is provided impartially and appropriately.
- o **Security:** Observe the presence of security personnel and their interaction with voters and officials.
- o **Queue Management:** Check if voters are able to vote without undue delay.

3. Closing of Polls

- o **Punctuality:** Ensure polls close at the designated time unless extended officially.
- o **Sealing of Ballot Boxes:** Observe the sealing process of ballot boxes.
- o **Documentation:** Check if the number of voters and unused ballots are accurately recorded.

4. Counting of Votes

- o **Transparency:** Ensure the counting process is transparent and in the presence of party agents and observers.





- o **Accuracy:** Verify that ballots are counted accurately and without bias.
- o **Documentation:** Observe the recording of results and ensure they match the counted ballots.

5. Announcement of Results

- o **Transparency:** Ensure results are announced in a clear and accessible manner.
- o **Dispute Resolution:** Note the handling of any disputes or recounts.

A). The Approach

- ⇒ The team should ensure that they have observed opening in at least one polling station.
- ⇒ Immediately you arrive at the polling station note down the name of the polling station
- ⇒ As a team go straight inside the polling station and introduce yourself
- ⇒ Have the Team Leader/ Team Member introduce the team to the Presiding/Deputy Presiding Officer stating clearly the name of the institution (EHORN) and the purpose for your visit.
- ⇒ Have one team member at a time ask the Presiding/Deputy Presiding Officer questions as you all record on your note books
- ⇒ Each member of the team should look out for any incident that may be observed on the E-day.

B). Standard Questions (Team Leader/ Team Member to ask the PO/DPO) Record the responses in your notebook)

- ⇒ What time did the Polling Station open? (If it opened late, probe for reasons for late opening)
- ⇒ How many positions are being voted for? (Note there are 3 ballots)
- ⇒ How many people are registered in the Polling Station as per the register?
- ⇒ Which parties/independents' agents were present during the opening of the Polling Station?
- ⇒ How many voters have voted so far (record the time and the number of voters who have voted as at that time?)
- ⇒ Are there voters who have been assisted to vote? (If the response is yes, probe further to establish how many have been assisted to vote, why they required assistance and who assisted them)
- ⇒ Are there any problems encountered so far with regard to the voting process?
- ⇒ Are there voters who have been turned away? If yes why?





C). Team Observations (teams should make their own observations and discreetly notify the Presiding/Deputy Presiding Officer of anything that requires their intervention)

Observe whether:

- ⇒ The secrecy of the ballot is being observed
- ⇒ The arrangement of the Polling Station allows free movement of voters
- ⇒ The Polling Station is well demarcated and whether the signs are clear.
- ⇒ The parties/ independents' agents are present and if so which ones
- ⇒ Are there any irregularities observed.
- ⇒ Was there any violence, intimidation, or improper behaviour by anyone
- ⇒ Other observers present and if yes from which organizations.

Lastly give a vote of thanks to the PO/DPO and proceed to the next Polling Station

D) Observation of Closing and Counting Process

- ⇒ The team to observe counting in at least one Polling Station
- ⇒ Note the name of the Polling Station in which counting is being observed
- ⇒ Observe and record any irregularities or other observations pertaining to vote counting
- ⇒ Record the results as announced by the Presiding/Deputy Presiding Officer in the following table

Name of the Party/Independent	Position	Total Valid Votes
Rejected Votes <input type="text"/>	Spoilt Votes <input type="text"/>	Disputed Votes <input type="text"/>

E). Team Leader to consolidate the team's observations for sharing and preparation of a preliminary report immediately the team is back in the office.





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