

Date Printed: 04/23/2009

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JTS Box Number: IFES\_72  
Tab Number: 31  
Document Title: Why Should We Vote  
Document Date: 1994  
Document Country: South Africa  
Document Language: English  
IFES ID: CE01778



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# WHY WE SHOULD VOTE

## Have you registered for the LOCAL ELECTIONS?

**Remember:** If you do not register by April 28, you will not be able to vote in November.

### What are local elections?

We all voted for a new national government on April 27, 1994. That was a big step for the democratic process in our country. Now we have the chance to make our towns and cities democratic too.



The local government election will complete the democratic process that we all began with last year's national and regional elections. The local elections are your chance to choose local representatives.



Local government elections are your chance to choose people to represent you in everyday matters like: water and electricity supply, sewage disposal, transport, libraries, clinics and so on.

Local government is also a link to national government. The representatives you elect are your community's voice to national leaders. They help to connect your community to the rest of the country.

### Why should we vote for local governments?



I voted last year. Why do I have to vote again?



Yes! Why do we need local government if we already have national government?

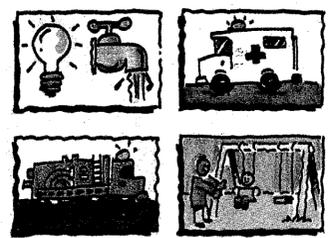


\* **National Government** plans for the whole country. It organises things like economic policy, defence and relationships with other countries.

\* **Local Government** plans the day-to-day running of towns and cities. It organises things like electricity and water supply, sewage and refuse disposal.

Local government is responsible for providing local services such as:

- water
- electricity
- sewage disposal
- recreational areas
- stormwater drainage
- traffic control
- ambulance and fire service
- refuse removal
- libraries
- sport facilities
- primary health care



It is up to us to elect people from our communities who will see that these services are provided.



We must vote for a local government to take care of our day-to-day needs.



Your vote is your democratic right!

If we have a local problem, the local government is there to help us.

### Why are local elections important?

Local government brings democracy close to people. You have a representative who lives with you - someone who shares your problems and can speak for you.

The final step in democracy is **delivery**: promises that have been made must be fulfilled. A single local government in each area can make plans that will benefit everyone who lives in that area. People from each area elect their own representatives.

We need fresh water and a proper sewerage system in our community. Who do we talk to? How can we be sure that this issue will be addressed?



We must speak to our local government. They are there to represent us.



The elections are later this year. We need to elect a local government. That will be up to us.



What do you mean by local government?



Local government is a group of people selected by us to speak for us. They listen to the problems of our communities and help us to solve them.



We can put pressure on our local government to see that the promises made at national level are fulfilled in our community.



At last we will have a say in how our communities are run.

### But why should I register?



I want to vote for a local government, but I don't see why I should have to register first.



A register of all voters is important to see that nobody votes twice.

If I put my name on a register, will people force me to vote for their party? If they see that I am voting for another party will they make my life difficult?



It is important to register so that we know how many people live in each area and what size each constituency needs to be. This is important for the providing of services.



Your vote is secret. When you register you do not have to say who you will vote for. No-one will know who you are going to vote for. Even when you actually vote, no-one will know who you are voting for.



I am a ratepayer. Am I not automatically registered as a voter?



No. It is important that you are registered on the new municipal voters' roll. The old voters' roll is outdated. Everyone must get on to the new roll.

The address you give when you register to vote will be used only for voting. It will not be used to collect rent or electricity arrears or to deduct pension arrears from pension payments, or for any other reason.

### Who can vote?

If you do not have an ID book, apply to the Department of Home Affairs. The Department will give you a temporary ID number. You can use the temporary ID number to register as a voter, but when you actually vote, you must have your ID book.

Anyone who...

- is 18 years or older on the day of voting
- is a South African citizen and has an ID number
- is registered as a voter on the new local government voters' roll in their area

...is allowed to vote.

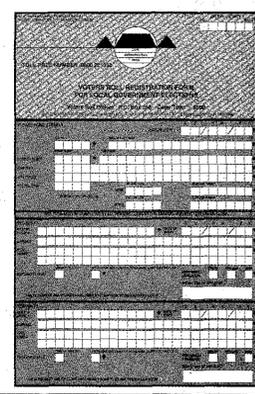
### Where do I register?

If I register as a voter here, can I vote when I go home at the end of the year?



No. You must vote in the same area as the address you give when you register.

If you do not already have a registration form, you can get one from your nearest library, clinic or other local authority offices.

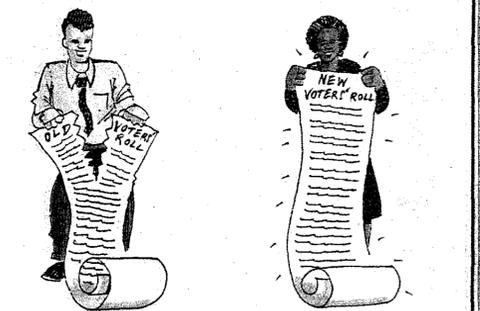


Each new local government needs a new voters' roll. The name of every person 18 years or older and the place where they live should be on the roll. In that way, every area can have its own representatives that are chosen by everyone who lives in that area. Everyone who lives in the city has the right to vote; it is the responsibility of every voter to see that their name is put on the roll by registering.

Full democracy needs full participation. New, democratic local government needs a new voters' roll that includes the names of everyone in that area.

Make sure that you register to vote!

The old voters' roll is no longer valid. Make sure that your name is on the NEW voters' roll.



It is your responsibility to get registered on the voters' roll.



### Brightening the future of 3 million children started with a single idea.

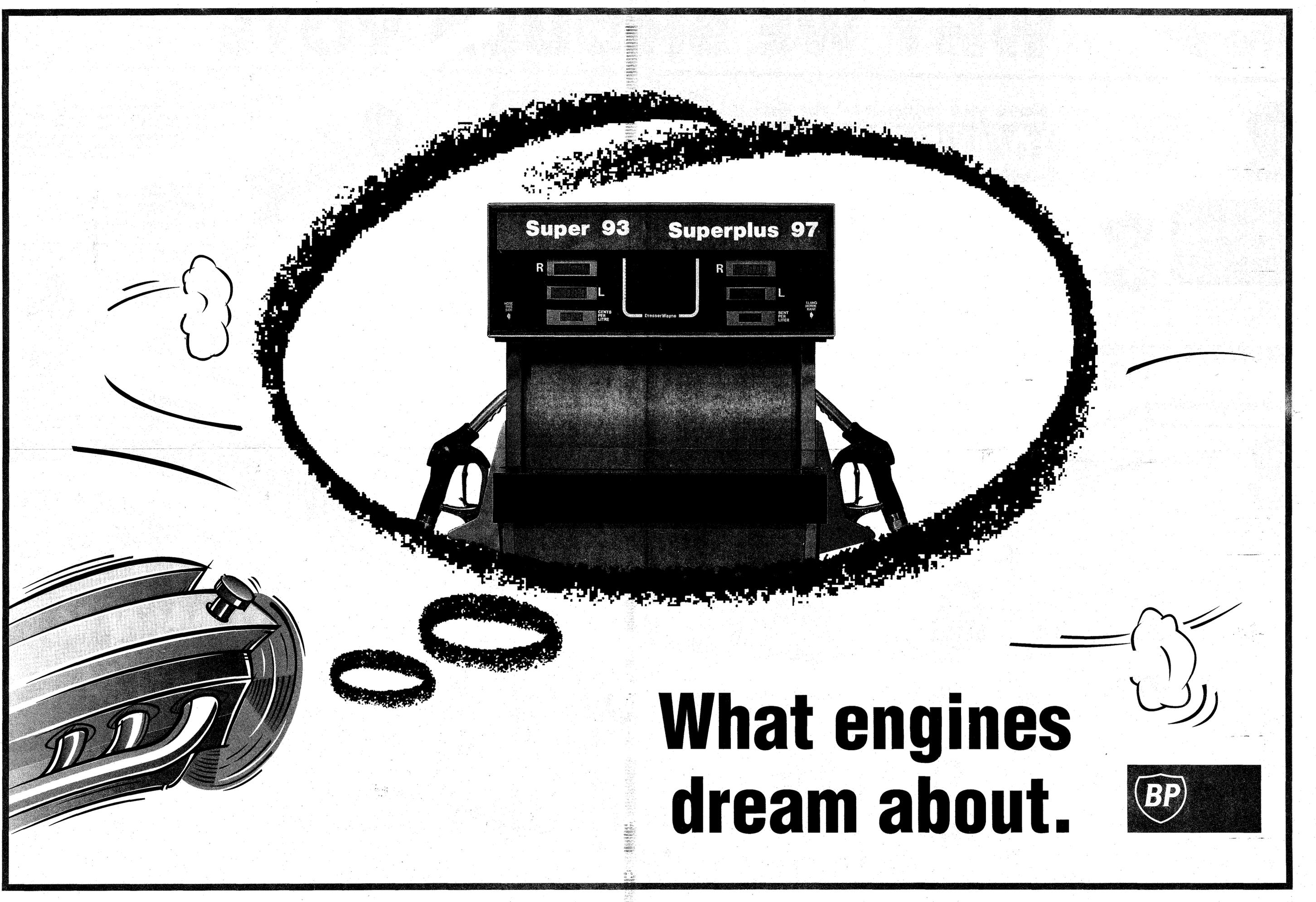
The simple but extremely powerful idea of a pyramid. At the top, the training of trainers. The trainers teach the teachers. And the teachers teach the children. The Molteno literacy project has used this education pyramid to spread literacy skills across South Africa. Through the BP Breakthrough Education Unit, BPSA has been closely involved for many years. Since the project began, millions of black children have benefited. Children whose lives are forever enriched, for all our tomorrows.



We like to keep you moving.

**IF YOU DO NOT REGISTER YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE**

ESST  
Compiled by the Educational Support Services Trust.



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