

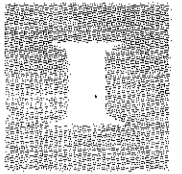
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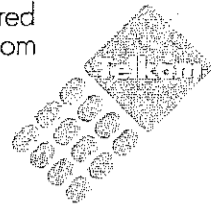


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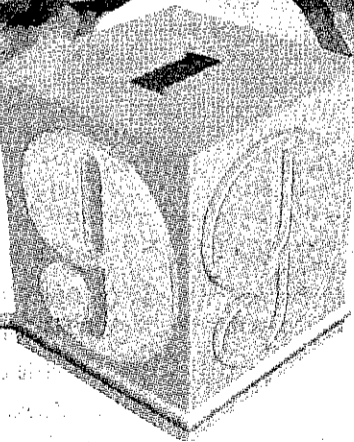
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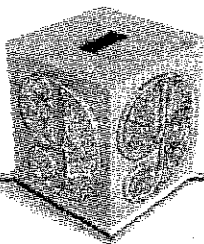
SOUTH AFRICA VOTES

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We're proud to bring you this special election report.

Keeping you in touch with your world.

BALLOT



SOUTH AFRICA VOTES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA
NELSON MANDELA

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CIRCULATION

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Weekend Argus
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SUNDAY, MAY 30 1999

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Sunday Argus
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The Star
Cape Argus
Cape Times
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The Mercury
Pretoria News

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'Build and defend your democracy'

I am deeply honoured to have the opportunity to speak to the readers of the Independent Group of newspapers. It is probably the last time I am speaking to them directly as president.

Our country and its people have made tremendous strides since 1994. Almost everyone admires the remarkable achievement we have made in strengthening and deepening our democracy. I take pride in the peaceful manner in which the preparations for the elections are proceeding.

I congratulate all South Africans for this achievement. May I single out our men and women in uniform for praise as the responsibility to ensure a free and secure election rests on their shoulders. I reassure them of mine and the government's support.

This is being chronicled very beautifully in your newspapers. I urge you to support this healthy development even more.

We have put in place a legislative and policy framework which guarantees a lega-

cy of a better life for all South Africans, black and white.

I appreciate the efforts of the Independent Group to educate and inform the electorate about the election. Equally important has been your group's contribution in promoting and abetting the national transformation project in the past five years.

Shortcomings notwithstanding, you have done an excellent job. Most of your titles have been an epitome of excellent journalism. Congratulations.

I have absolute confidence that your group will continue to play this constructive role beyond June 2 1999. I wish you success in that regard.

Finally, I urge all South Africans to go and vote on June 2 1999. This is your democracy: build and defend it. All preparations have been done to ensure you vote in conditions of peace.

Nelson Mandela

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION
BRIGALIA BAM

'Let us vote in our millions'

In 1994 you voted in your millions in South Africa's first non-racial, non-sexist and democratic general elections. On that historic chapter of our history, you exercised your individual constitutional rights to determine the future of our country along democratic lines.

With the forthcoming general elections on June 2, the Independent Electoral Commission urges you once again to play this pivotal role and partake in making South Africa a fully-fledged constitutional democracy.

We call on you as registered voters to participate in the general elections by voting for any registered political party of your choice at the voting station in which you registered for the elections.

Democracy is being strengthened with the forthcoming elections. As a registered voter you are invited to partake in shaping our democracy and in enriching it with the qualitative content that will ensure that governance is in line with the Constitution and that majority rule is safeguarded.

Whilst respecting majority rule, this democracy also protects and respects the right of minority groups to participate in the governing of the country. It also respects and protects the right of all individuals to enjoy their individual freedoms unhindered.

Our democracy seeks to build a strong sense of nationhood. It endeavours to engender a culture where human rights

are respected and protected by the Constitution and in particular by the Bill of Rights.

Your vote is a secret. No individual, party agent or member of any political party has the right to know which party you voted for as an individual. The Constitution gives you the right not to tell anyone which party you voted for and why.

The Electoral Code of Conduct defends this right during the election period and you can lodge a complaint with the Electoral Court should you feel this right has been infringed.

The IEC pledges to create a political environment that is conducive to the holding of free and fair elections. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Electoral Commission Act (Act 51 of 1996) have given the IEC this mandate.

We will do our best to fulfil it fairly, openly and in the most accessible and accountable manner attainable.

As the primary custodians of free and fair elections in our country, we have and continue to empower South African citizens to exercise their individual rights to vote on June 2.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you, the South African potential voters, for having taken a gigantic step of registering for the forthcoming general elections. Your names now appear on the country's first non-racial, non-sexist and democratic voters' roll.



Your bold step has brought us closer to our individual and collective dreams as a young democracy. Let us take these dreams even higher. Let us make our democracy work. Let us vote in our millions.

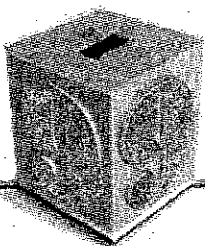
As the IEC we are ready to efficiently deliver the forthcoming elections. We are on the side of every citizen who will exercise his or her right to vote on June 2. No-one, absolutely no-one should be afraid.

Brigalia Bam

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He leans forward and says, softly,

BALLOT



SOUTH AFRICA VOTES

MY GREATEST WISH ... SOUTH AFRICANS SPEAK

We asked members of our **PEOPLE'S PANEL** around the country for their views on three election issues

1 Has SA changed for the better or worse since 1994?



● Peter Volmink (38) is an advocate and lives in Southfield in the southern suburbs of Cape Town

1 We live in a far more moral society than before 1994. For me, the question of morality is very tied up with the question of poverty. This government has taken the plight of the poor much more seriously than any other government has done. Of course there are still things to be done but this government has created possibilities for people.

2 I hope we'll get a handle on the crime problem and that we are able to produce a strong economy which can redistribute wealth.

3 The election poster I like least is the DP's "Fight Back" one. It's reactionary and has no vision. It's indicative of the DP's lack of vision for our country. I'm not particularly impressed with the other posters but the ANC poster which speaks of fighting for change strikes a chord with me because it talks of the need for more changes and the need for all of us to work together for those.



● Merilyn James is a psychologist from Krugersdorp

1 Since 1994 we've been on honeymoon, going through changes and getting used to the idea of freedom. The turning point will be June 2. It will be then that we determine what will come out of the whole thing.

2 Seeing this country work; that's what I would like to happen. South Africa is in a unique situation that's not like the rest of Africa. Only we, as South Africans, can make that change by working together, by sitting around the table and talking about our problems. I believe in reconciliation and absolute forgiveness. Let's not blame the past or stand in one place. Let's not forget but forgive and work towards a better future. Let's stop the mud-slinging and stop blaming each other.

3 I'm totally against the DP's "Fight Back" poster. It projects a very negative image and doesn't fit well. It raises my hackles.

2 What is your greatest hope for the future of South Africa?



● Fezile Buzani is a personnel officer from Ivory Park in Midrand

1 Things are much better. Africans used to be treated as second class citizens. Now they are recognised as belonging to South Africa.

2 My greatest concern is for the rural areas. There no facilities, banks, telephones or roads and the youth are misusing drugs. My greatest hope is the upliftment of the rural areas. All people must work towards and preserve this democracy. Government alone can do nothing. We have to do whatever we can, no matter how small.

3 The worst I've seen is the DP's "Fight Back" poster. I've got a problem with that: fighting back against democracy, or against who or what?



● Mthandeni Zama (24) is a graphic designer from Esplanade in Durban

1 SA has changed for the better. We are now more exposed to all races than ever before. For me that makes communication better, which is so vital for the future of our country.

2 I'm particularly concerned about the control of advertising and public relations in the hands of white agencies. We have to introduce advertising and design to black people. I think there are a lot of creative people out there who are in touch with the issues facing ordinary South Africans. I am often disillusioned to discover that ad campaigns aimed at the black market are seen through white eyes.

3 The ANC always seems to have winning posters. They are catchy and use bold type which reads better. The NP as well have done some good ones in the past, especially that "Wake up!" campaign. IFP posters are sadly useless. The PAC poster has a dreadful layout.



● Reshma Badal (46) is a medical practitioner from Clare Estate in Durban

1 Things have definitely changed for the better. I am able to enjoy freedom of thought and movement without being ostracised or victimised. I work for a state health agency and enjoy taking health care to all people, particularly in the rural areas.

2 I wish for women to enjoy equality and join the mainstream of political, economic and business life; mutual respect and dignity of women; and increasing women's skills in managing their own affairs. My hope is that we have the strength to cope with death from Aids and develop an integrated plan for SA's orphan youth community.

3 The worst is the NP's "death penalty" poster. It's disgusting. And the DP's "Guts to Fight Back" - they didn't have guts under apartheid. The ANC poster with the fallen heroes such as Chris Hani and Oliver Tambo is attractive because it represents truth and freedom to me.



● Dirk Hermann is a trade unionist from the Free State

1 South Africa's definitely got worse. The ANC's affirmative action policy makes it impossible for my people to enter the labour market and get promotion. We've changed from a government that focused only on the minority to one focusing only on the majority.

2 My greatest hope is self-determination for the Afrikaner. I also hope we can resolve ethnic conflict because that is also my greatest fear, that ethnic conflict is going to hamper development in SA.

3 Many opposition parties are fighting the election from a negative frame of mind, anti-ANC this and anti-ANC that. I'm sick and tired of it. I'm looking for a party with positive politics; such as the Freedom Front's "n span maak 'n plan". The NNP poster with Marthinus van Schalkwyk's face on it was funny. The ones I've seen in Pretoria are fading and turning red making him a blushing boerseun.



● Nontando Dlakavu is a social worker from Gauteng

1 South Africa is better now. Look at the material health care, the water and sanitation programmes and housing.

2 My greatest wish for the future is for everybody to be housed.

3 That NNP poster about Mugabe having a two-thirds majority was very bad. It's misconstruing the whole thing.



● Fleurette Rutgers (45) is an insurance clerk with The Financial Workshop, and lives in Maitland, in the northern suburbs of Cape Town

1 Education and health have really gone down into the dumps, although some rural areas do now have better health services.

2 In general I feel very morbid about the election and the future. But I hope we will all have a better life, that we'll be able to walk through our streets freely and that everyone will have a job.

3 The DP sucks but I suppose the best one is the ANC's because it's colourful and catchy.

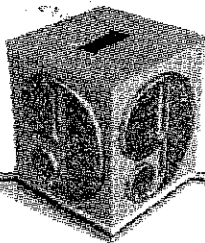
— Adrian Hadland,
Estelle Randall,
Marlan Padayachee

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"You're gonna have to sit down for this."

BALLOT



SOUTH AFRICA VOTES

Where the main parties stand

From the election manifestoes and electoral promises of nine parties, Clive Sawyer distills their positions on crime, education, health, housing and employment.

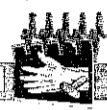
CRIME



EDUCATION



HEALTH



HOUSING



JOBS



**AFRICAN
NATIONAL
CONGRESS**

ANC promises to drastically reduce number of guns in circulation, and introduce tougher gun controls.

Harsher sentences would be introduced for serious crimes, but there would be alternative sentencing for petty crimes, including electronic monitoring systems for some people on parole and probation.

It says it would improve conditions within the police service, including reviewing working conditions, continuous training, and an emphasis on improving investigative capacity. It promises to "greatly improve" co-operation among all elements of the criminal justice system.

It would continue to take decisive action against local and international organised gangs.

ANC promises to move as rapidly as possible to "free, dynamic and compulsory" education. In moving towards this vision, it would continue to ensure the fostering of a culture of learning, teaching and service.

No pupil would be excluded from a public school because a family could not afford to pay. Resources for learning would be more equitably spread. National standards would increasingly lower class sizes to more manageable levels.

National Schools Building Programme would continue, with focus on improving infrastructure in rural areas and townships.

ANC would focus on raising the quality of school leadership teams, strengthening administrative capacity and ensuring parental involvement.

ANC promises to develop a comprehensive, affordable and accessible national public health system, financed in part by a social health insurance programme.

It outlined steps to improving health care including improving the availability of doctors and nurses, especially in clinics and rural areas. Affordable medicines would be available in line with the Government's national drugs policy.

Decisive action would be taken to attack preventable illnesses through, among other steps, an immunisation programme, and measures to combat tuberculosis.

Campaigns against the abuse of drugs, tobacco and alcohol would be developed. Priority would be given to HIV/Aids programmes.

ANC promises in the next five years to seek an "honest agreement" with the private sector and work with trade unions to channel investments into housing.

It says it would focus on developing housing on well-located land, with access to amenities, and on overcoming the apartheid human settlement patterns based on "group areas" and isolation of the majority from centres of economic activity.

At the same time, it would improve and speed up the subsidy programme, including comprehensive programmes to improve conditions of the urban poor in informal settlements.

Other affordable ways of financing houses, like micro loans, would be used.

ANC feels there should be labour-intensive investment throughout the economy, as well as the promotion of sectors that have large employment potential like tourism, manufacturing, small and large-scale agriculture and labour-intensive beneficiation of raw materials.

ANC vows to implement jobs summit resolutions, including measures to stem retrenchments, summits in all sectors of industry to develop jobs strategies, mass public works programmes and youth brigades, tax incentives, procurement and monetary policy for job creation, integrated regional development, training, and increased opportunities for self-employment, co-operatives and small business.



**NEW
NATIONAL
PARTY**

NNP promises "no mercy for criminals" and a zero-tolerance policy of arresting all criminals, even for "low-level" crimes.

NNP would reinstate the death penalty, implement heavy mandatory minimum sentences for serious crimes like carjacking and drug trafficking, and introduce double-time sentences for criminals who target women, children, the aged and the disabled.

Extra penalties would be imposed for violent crimes where guns are used or police attacked. There would be mandatory full sentencing for repeat offenders.

Life sentences would be given to second offenders for convictions for serious sexual or violent crimes.

Education is always about children and never about bureaucrats or politicians, says the NNP.

It says it believes in "quality" public education. There should be realistic but adequate funding, for among other things, the improvement of pupil-teacher ratios, and to eradicate backlogs in textbooks and other urgent classroom needs.

It believes in government support for educational institutions, recognition of the central role of teachers and parents, ending of the mass retrenchment of teachers, and empowerment of local school governing bodies.

The NNP supports the availability of mother-tongue education.

Grouping together the issues of health and welfare, the NNP says it is committed to "quality and accessible" care in these areas.

NNP would restore state hospitals to good working order.

Primary and secondary health care would be available, affordable and accessible.

Its approach of "localism" means that local communities would exercise control over their own schools, policing, welfare and health centres.

NNP says it believes that the success of housing delivery depends on four points.

There has to be access to housing for first-time home buyers.

The principle of payment for goods and services has to be honoured.

There has to be job creation to enable people to have the means to afford housing and maintain their properties.

Property rights must be guaranteed.

NNP outlines several points as the core of its job creation policy. These are sustainable economic growth in a socially responsible free-enterprise economy, flexible labour markets where individuals compete for jobs on the basis of merit, and the scrapping of the Employment Equity Act and the revision of other labour legislation.

NNP also vows to end the skewing of the playing field by the Government through the introduction of quotas and other forms of racial discrimination.

It would lower taxes and interest rates, "loosen up" exchange control and reduce government debt by privatisation, and provide for education and career-orientated training, especially for young people, women and the disadvantaged.



**INKATHA
FREEDOM
PARTY**

An IFP government will introduce a programme to cut crime by 25% in its first year in government.

Among its measures to respond to people's desire for appropriate punishment for criminals are a referendum on the death penalty, extra sentencing for the use of guns or knives, the introduction of chain gangs, and electronic security.

Policy initiatives proposed by the IFP include increasing the budget for the criminal justice system, improving police service conditions and the abolition of the police's right to strike.

IFP says education is in crisis but the solution is not to throw money at the problem.

"Indeed, as results often prove, the most important element in generating good results is often the attitude of educators and learners rather than mere resource allocation."

IFP promises to reintroduce discipline into education, putting an end to anarchy in schools. Educators will be obliged to obey a strict code of conduct. The improvement of teacher qualifications will be speeded up.

The curriculum will be redirected to "that which is economically useful", the IFP says. Community and parent involvement in school governance will be strengthened.

IFP believes in focusing on primary care, expanding government services in rural areas and attracting private care with incentives.

An IFP government will provide everyone with free immunisation, tuberculosis care, health education and selected programmes, and free health care for South Africans who have no jobs and cannot afford to pay.

The party believes that Aids requires a "completely different approach".

There should be no anonymous testing of pregnant women, people should be aware of their Aids status, and there should be continuous education in schools and through the media.

IFP believes in helping people to house themselves by enabling communities to make informed decisions about their housing priorities.

These decisions should be based on the best use of available resources, the affordability of households, appropriateness of levels of service, access to bond finance, closeness to economic opportunities and the durability of the materials used.

The IFP says it recognises that the state has insufficient financial resources to meet the needs of the homeless on its own.

It supports a housing assistance scheme to give "substantial contributions" to impoverished households to build their own homes.

IFP says it would restructure the public service to increase spending on service delivery.

Many of the present functions of the public service would be outsourced to create greater efficiency without the loss of jobs.

All government activities would be subject to performance audits and all senior public servants would be on performance contracts.

The scope, size and resources of central government would be reduced to empower governments at local and provincial level.



**FREEDOM
FRONT**

FF would reintroduce the death penalty for serious crimes including murder, armed robbery and rape.

It would bring in a law enabling the declaration of states of emergency at municipal level in areas where crime is out of control. Metropolitan police would be set up.

Police would be given better salaries and working conditions, including the establishment of a unit to treat police suffering from stress.

Special measures would be taken to protect farmers, including state aid for farmers for self-protection and the setting up of a commando system.

FF says its plan for education would ensure that qualifications would be recognised internationally.

The right to mother-tongue education would be protected, especially by ensuring the continuation of single medium schools.

The party wants to give stronger powers to management bodies and to provide for increased input and involvement for parents.

The authority of communities would be enhanced by devolving education to community level, enabling them to decide their own educational needs according to their unique circumstances of language, culture and religion.

FF health spokesman Ben van der Walt says the party endorses the constitutional principle that every person has the right of access to affordable health services.

The FF, however, rejects centralised/socialist policies which place absolute power and control over health services in the hands of the minister of health.

"This has resulted in the collapse of health services in South Africa."

The FF rejects measures like affirmative action and compulsory community service which have prompted highly skilled people like doctors, dentists and nurses to leave the country.

FF says every citizen has a right to adequate housing.

This is essential for stability, especially in South Africa, because many families are living in dreadful circumstances, which cause social problems and unrest.

The first step towards solving the problem was to create jobs, it said. "It makes no sense to provide someone with a house if that person is not able to maintain it and pay for services because of being out of a job."

The next step was to provide security. "Capital and investment will not come into the country to create jobs before the security situation in South Africa has improved drastically."

FF says it is government's responsibility to create an environment conducive to foreign and domestic fixed investment. To do this, law and order would be restored, partly by restoring the death penalty; taxes would be lowered further, and the fight against inflation would be continued.

"South Africa ranks poorly as far as competitiveness is concerned and a turnaround is urgently needed in this regard."

The Government should supply industry with state-facilitated infrastructure, tax holidays, certain centralised facilities and resources, and should make labour costs relevant to the economic parameters in which an industry operates. Labour legislation favoured the worker too much and should be reviewed.

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She sinks into her seat, without dropping her gaze.

BALLOT SOUTH AFRICA VOTES



DEMOCRATIC PARTY

DP proposes an integrated strategy to greatly improve the performance of the police, prosecutors and courts.

In the police, decision-making would be decentralised but in return the jobs of provincial and station commissioners would be on the line if they failed to deliver.

The prosecution system would be streamlined and temporary courts set up to eliminate the awaiting-trial backlog. More prisons would be built, and criminals kept in them to serve their sentences.

Victims would be put at the centre of the system, with measures to do this including the establishment of a fund for victims of violent crime, a change to the constitution to bring in a "victim's charter" of rights, and a toll-free information line for victims.

DP proposes a total overhaul of the education system to ensure a dramatic improvement in the quality of teaching.

To fight back against the very low pass rates in many schools, the DP proposes a pilot programme to give parents the power to move their children out of bad schools and take their state subsidy with them.

DP proposals for quality teaching include a "deliver or depart" policy to get rid of non-performing teachers.

"For this to happen, the Government must stand up to SADTU, which has assumed the mantle of protectors of the incompetent."

Retrenchments should be based partly on qualifications and partly on performance appraisals.

The tangle of bureaucracy governing public health should be undone and services decentralised by creating independent management units, the DP says.

User fees should be charged for those who can pay. However, some services, like preventative care, should be free.

Services should be contracted out to the private sector in competition with the public sector to promote efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Medical students should not be forced into community service, but should rather be offered incentives like bursaries and higher salaries in poor areas.

Interference in private health care should be curbed, the DP said.

DP believes in an incremental approach to housing policy which would ensure delivery to as many homeless people as possible.

Available resources should be shared between as many disadvantaged people as possible, in order for the impact of this assistance to be widely felt.

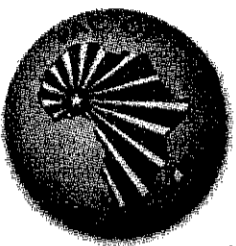
DP says it would "implement a people-centred housing development process aimed at equipping and empowering people through the transfer of skills to drive their own economic empowerment, the development of their physical environment, and the satisfaction of their basic needs".

"Tough action has to be taken against service payment boycotts," the DP says.

DP proposes to free the economy by scaling back red tape hampering job creation and entrepreneurship, speeding up privatisation and promoting foreign investment.

To fight back against the problem of massive youth unemployment, the DP proposes a direct hand-up to 2,5 million work-seekers through "opportunity vouchers".

These vouchers, each to the value of R3 000, would be given to each of 300 000 matriculants and a further 200 000 young people each year for five years, and could be traded for training and education at any accredited institution towards starting a small enterprises or in exchange for wages from an accredited employer.



PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS

PAC says it would enforce strict controls on the licensing and use of firearms.

A statutory Police Operations Audit Directorate would be set up to audit police stations to check on procedures, police conduct, progress on cases, use of human and material resources, and to support regional police planning. The directorate would also follow up hot-line reports on suspected police laxity and corruption.

PAC would pass legislation to put the burden on owners of property like buildings, plot or vehicles to ensure these were not used for warehousing stolen goods, counterfeit goods, illegal aliens, prostitution or pornography, and cutting up or changing the identification of vehicles.

PAC says it would introduce free and compulsory education, at first for all grades up to grade 12 and then phased in at tertiary level. Bursaries for tertiary education would be tax-deductible for donors.

It would halt retrenchments and unworkable redeployments, which were traumatising teachers and not contributing to desired skills. It would work closely with teachers, parents and students to transform education.

Teachers' in-service training would be properly structured and be "extensive and intensive".

A directorate would be set up in the Department of Education to ensure the voice of religious leadership was heard at schools and in the Government.

The public health sector would be strengthened and emphasis put on prevention and health promotion under a PAC government.

Incentives and encouragement would be given to health workers to do voluntary community service, particularly in areas where health services were lacking.

Community health centres would be developed and would have 24-hour doctor services, with satellite public health centres run by community nurses.

Hospital funding would not be cut because the number of referrals from clinics would grow for a long time to come.

Aids would be made a notifiable disease, and counselling would be provided to people living with Aids.

A PAC government would handle housing as part of a broader development plan which would go hand-in-hand with urbanisation and rural development policies.

The government would invest in serviced sites, in building "rent to buy" housing and would encourage self-help building schemes.

PAC land policy involves the immediate distribution of state land among the landless on the basis of one family, one plot, depending on needs.

These needs range from housing, small and medium-scale farming, industry, tourism and recreation.

It regards unemployment as a national crisis and will mobilise nation against it.

Under a PAC government, the Department of Labour would have a training and development wing, retraining workers after retrenchments, encouraging entrepreneurship and community economic empowerment clubs that focus more on manufacturing than retailing.

It would encourage citizens with money or skills to contribute time or money to training projects.

Infrastructure development, including sanitation, roads, communication and electricity would be used for job creation.

The PAC would provide incentives for private-sector investment in rural areas in order to promote rural economic growth.



AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

ACDP believes in a holistic approach to the battle against crime and corruption, with all South Africans taking responsibility for their own neighbourhoods, towns and cities.

"The ACDP will lead the way with its tough policies on crime and its insistence on individual responsibility and accountability."

Among measures would be a return of the death penalty, increased penalties for crimes involving firearms, knives and similar weapons, strict licensing of gun owners, and restitution to victims of crime by perpetrators.

ACDP believes value-based education should be substituted for outcomes-based education. The party, which aims to protect prayer and Biblical studies in schools, says value-based education would promote the integral involvement of God in the affairs and development of humanity and nature.

Values-based education meant nurturing the individual in character, charity, capacity and community.

"It is designed around all the known educational elements to enable the learner to attain inquiring and interpretative abilities, critical assessment skills, knowledge and application skills, and social values, with the objective to use such qualities in promoting good citizenship and good stewardship of our resources."

Aids should be controlled effectively by treating it like every other contagious and infectious disease, the ACDP says.

Measures would be taken to remove the "stigma and distrust" of Aids carriers.

These would include making HIV-Aids a notifiable disease "and the result of HIV blood tests must be made known".

Civil society and government should be involved jointly in controlling the spread of HIV-Aids.

HIV-Aids and sexually transmitted diseases should be presented as part of a health education programme.

HIV clinics and homes would provide medical, social and spiritual care for HIV-Aids patients.

ACDP respects the rights of all citizens to own property and believes that delivery of housing is inextricably linked to job creation and alleviation of poverty.

Housing delivery involved the moral and social responsibility that contractual commitments would be fulfilled, for example by paying for services as well as having access to finance.

"The ACDP supports a social housing policy that involves a participatory management approach between the occupants and a housing institution that provides affordable housing."

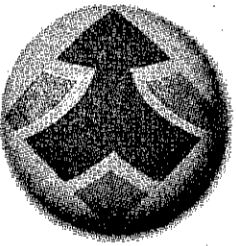
The community, along with local government, should be helped to develop a model that included investment in the communities.

ACDP favours tax reduction policies structured according to scales targeting various sectors of the economy.

"Our uniform economic taxation vehicle, known as the Total Economic Activity Levy (TEAL), lends itself to such an approach."

"In short it will simplify tax matters, do away with income tax as we know it and serve as a uniform levy on the total economic activity levels of the nation," the ACDP says.

The party also wants to set up employment and skills development finance institutions, to be used by the informal sector and small business.



UNITED DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

UDM offers a range of civil order proposals which it says will guarantee every citizen's basic constitutional right to safety of person and property.

A referendum would be held on whether to bring back the death penalty.

A Ministry of Civil Order would be set up to co-ordinate and set goals for the ministries of justice, police, correctional services, national intelligence and defence.

To ensure visible policing, police constables would be increased from 18 000 to 60 000 over three years, at an additional cost of R2,4 billion a year.

To improve rural and border security, part-time forces would be "re-empowered, re-organised and re-trained".

Proper administration to ensure quality teachers, timely delivery of textbooks and sufficient resources are key to the system of education which the UDM offers.

To achieve greater accountability, improved community involvement in management and equitable distribution of resources, education and training facilities would be "clustered" in a geographical area. This would also encourage the integration of education and training.

Educator morale and professionalism would be encouraged with continuous incentives. Teacher unions would be involved in this process.

Primary health care is an essential service that can prevent much suffering and hardship by timely and effective treatment, says the UDM.

Primary health care is not working because of outdated laws, and a UDM government would immediately update this legislation.

Proper staffing, medication and equipment should always be available at community clinics.

Proper referral procedures to hospitals would be implemented for treatment beyond the ability of primary health care clinics.

UDM says it supports the constitutional right of every citizen to adequate housing because ownership means dignity and economic empowerment.

"A UDM government would stamp out the corruption and mismanagement that contributes to the poor delivery of housing."

The housing subsidy should be increased every year to keep up with inflation. The focus of subsidies should be on building new houses.

To boost the property market and to make it easier for first-time home-owners to acquire property, transfer duties on all property transactions would be reduced to 1%, with full exemption for transactions less than R100 000.

The UDM says its "road map to guide South Africa to a world-class nation in 10 years" takes the route of empowering all through enterprise development.

"We need to create at least one job for every family in the first year of our 10-year framework," the UDM says.

Privatisation would be used to speed up infrastructure development, investment and job creation.

The UDM says it would cut the tax on fuel and abolish personal income tax on those earning less than R4 000 a month.

Labour laws would be reviewed to ensure a "friendly" labour code to encourage job creation, the UDM says.



FEDERAL ALLIANCE

FA says it wants to bring back the death penalty and would hold a national referendum on the issue.

The party says "experienced and knowledgeable people" would be employed to combat crime, "the biggest negative industry in the country".

Widespread corruption would be countered by appropriate law enforcement mechanisms and highly-qualified officers.

The FA would expel illegal immigrants who were linked to crime and unemployment.

Admission to educational institutions should be on merit and subject to fees being paid, the FA says.

It supports all South Africans having equal access to minimum education facilities within reasonable reach of communities and speeded-up programmes to establish and improve such facilities in communities which do not have them.

But minimum standards should be maintained, admissions should be on merit with fees being paid, and mother-tongue and "culture-based" education should be guaranteed.

Parents of pupils and students should have a "material say" in the affairs of educational institutions.

The FA's manifesto commits it to an "affordable and balanced" public health policy.

This means extending minimum primary health care facilities to the community, and promoting the highest standards of medical and para-medical training and practice supported by adequate facilities.

The FA said it would campaign vigorously for a return to acceptable world standards of health.

"We vehemently oppose the indiscriminate closure of hospitals and medical facilities all over South Africa."

The FA manifesto commits it to promoting housing, social care, recreation, job creation and economic development programmes to provide minimum affordable and self-sustainable subsistence amenities to all South Africans.

The manifesto says a minimum level of housing that is affordable on a sustainable basis within communities should be available to all South Africans.

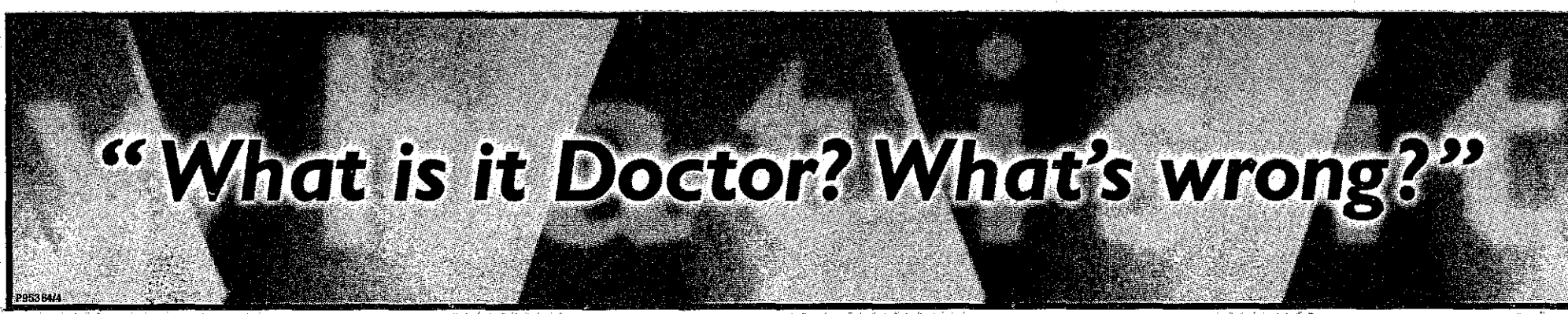
FA says "each able person" should have a job and be paid in accordance with his or her qualifications and skills.

There should be no discrimination based on colour, gender or religion. "The alliance will advocate an imaginative nationwide job creation programme that will be both affordable and long-term sustainable."

"The issue of illegal immigrants exacerbating the unemployment problem among South Africans, will be addressed as a matter of grave concern and urgency," the FA says.

The party would continue with the Government's Growth, Employment and Redistribution (Ged) strategy which, coupled with fiscal and monetary discipline, would be vital to job creation.

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"What is it Doctor? What's wrong?"

A step-by-step guide to making your mark

VOTING Q&A

WHERE TO GO

Go back to the station where you registered as a voter as this will also be your voting station. To make certain you can phone the IEC's toll free help line at 0800 11 8000 or the MTN sponsored information service on 083-122. MTN subscribers need only call 122.

VOTING HOURS

7am to 9pm but voters standing in queues at closing time will be allowed to vote.

DON'T FORGET YOUR ID BOOK

JOIN THE QUEUE

1 THE QUEUE WALKER

The queue walker will be your first contact with IEC staff and will check if your ID is in order and help you establish whether you are at the correct voting station. If you are pregnant, infirm or disabled, the queue walker will direct you to the presiding officer who will help you through the voting procedure without having to stand in queues.

2 THE DOOR CONTROLLER

Will check if your ID document is in order and that you are at the correct voting station before directing you to the voters roll officer. Also ensures that voting station does not become too congested.

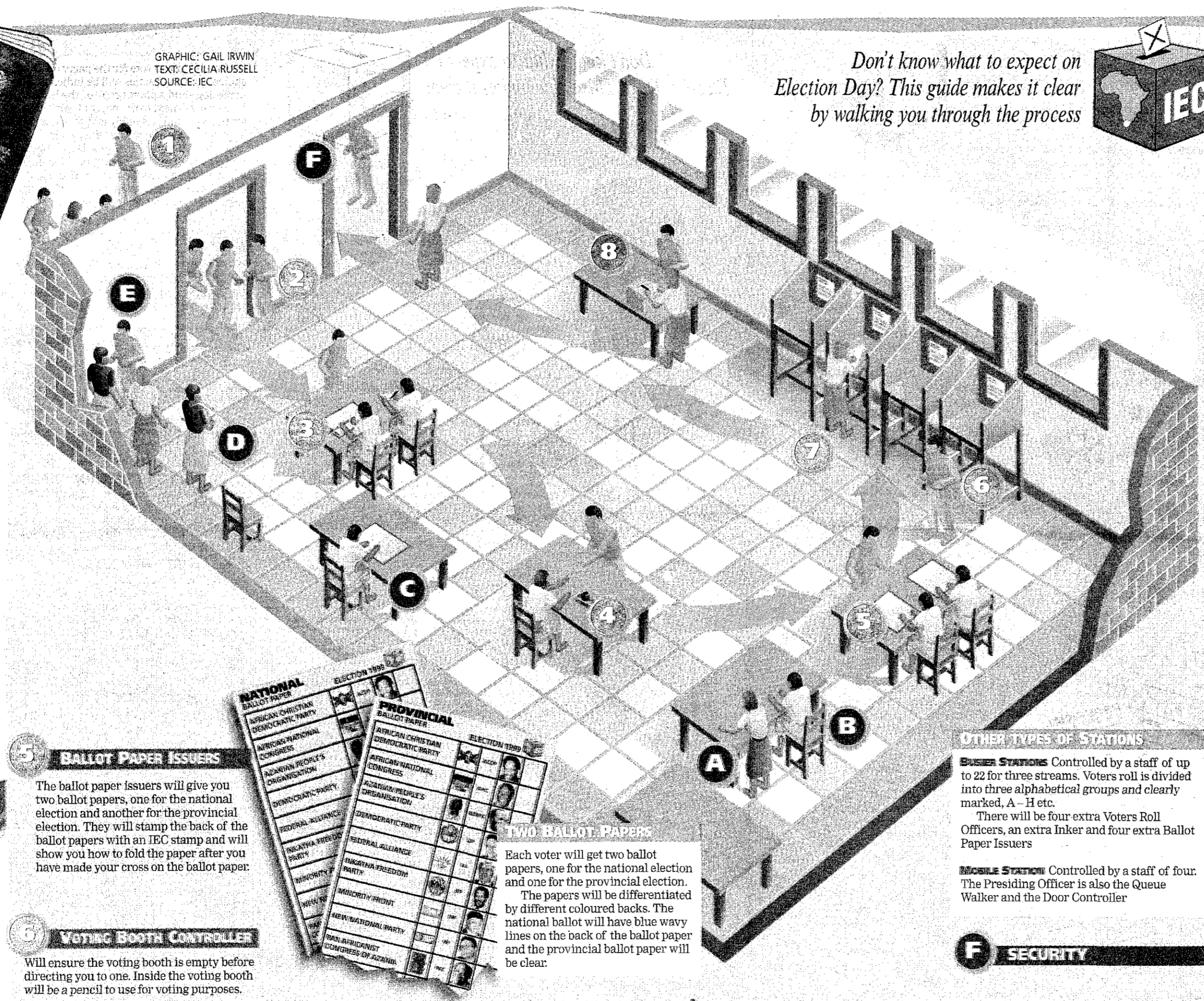
3 VOTERS ROLL OFFICERS

The voters roll officers will swipe the zip zip machine over your barcoded ID to locate you on the voters roll. Your name will also be crossed out on a hard copy of the voters roll to indicate that you have voted. They will then usher you on to the inker.

4 THE INKER

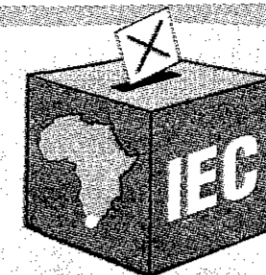
The inker will make a small mark in black indelible ink on your thumb just above the cuticle.

This will be an additional control used by the IEC to ensure that voters only vote once.



GRAPHIC: GAIL IRWIN
TEXT: CECILIA RUSSELL
SOURCE: IEC

Don't know what to expect on Election Day? This guide makes it clear by walking you through the process



7 MAKE YOUR MARK

It's finally time to vote for the party of your choice. Political parties will be indicated by name, logo and a photograph of the leader. Make a cross next to the party of your choice for the National Assembly and then again for your choice of party for the provincial legislature. If you make a mistake you can request another ballot paper provided that you have not posted the paper into the ballot box. Now fold your ballot paper as you were instructed to by the ballot paper issuers.

8 BALLOT BOX CONTROLLER

Will check that there is an IEC stamp on the back of the ballot paper and that you place both ballots into one ballot box. You will then leave the voting station without delay.

OTHER IEC OFFICERS

A PRESIDING OFFICER

Presiding officer co-ordinates and supervises voting at a voting station to ensure that the election at the station is free and fair. Must take steps to ensure that voting is orderly and may order a member of the security services to assist in ensuring orderly conduct at the station.

B DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER

Acts in the place of a presiding officer when the presiding officer is absent from the station or unable to perform duties for a period of time during voting hours.

C STATISTICAL OFFICER

Checks statistical information at the station. This will include the number of voters who have come into the station to vote and the number of ballots cast. This information is important for the reconciliation of votes during the counting process.

OBSERVERS

D PARTY AGENTS

Each party may be represented at voting stations by two political party agents. Agents are accredited by the IEC and are expected to observe the election and the counting process. They may also be called upon to witness when a person, who has called for assistance with voting, votes. At the end of the counting procedure, they sign the results slip before the results of the election in a station are announced.

E OBSERVERS

Accredited observers from the United Nations, NGOs and from other countries will be present at most voting stations. Observers are welcomed because they promote an atmosphere which is conducive to a free and fair election. Observers observe the election impartially and independently of any registered party or candidate contesting the election. They are expected to subscribe to an IEC code governing observers.

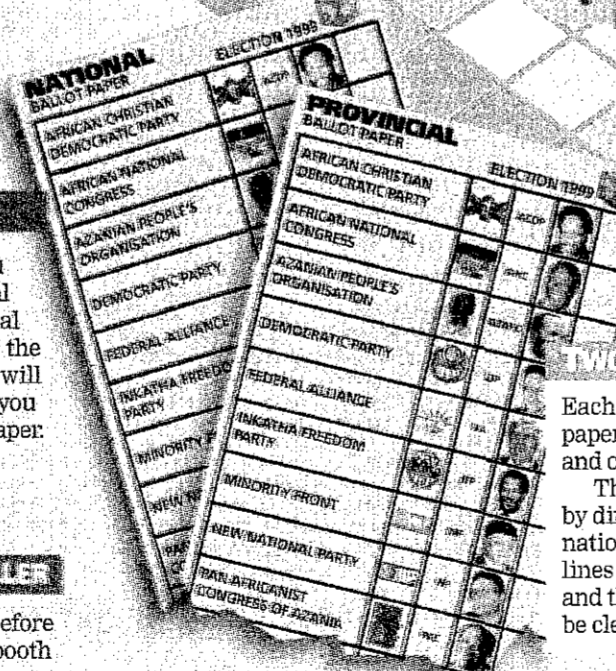
OTHER TYPES OF STATIONS

Busier Stations Controlled by a staff of up to 22 for three streams. Voters roll is divided into three alphabetical groups and clearly marked, A - H etc.

There will be four extra Voters Roll Officers, an extra Inker and four extra Ballot Paper Issuers

Mobile Stations Controlled by a staff of four. The Presiding Officer is also the Queue Walker and the Door Controller

F SECURITY

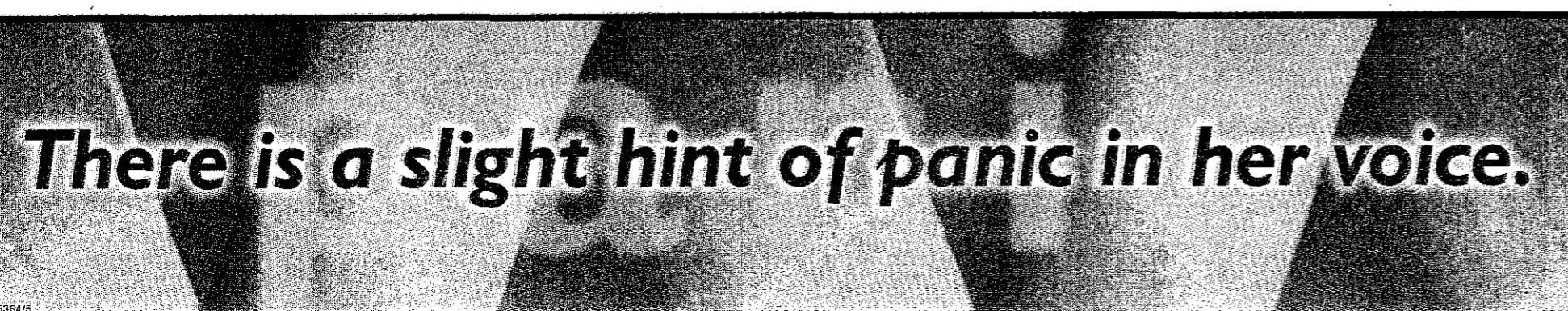


TWO BALLOT PAPERS

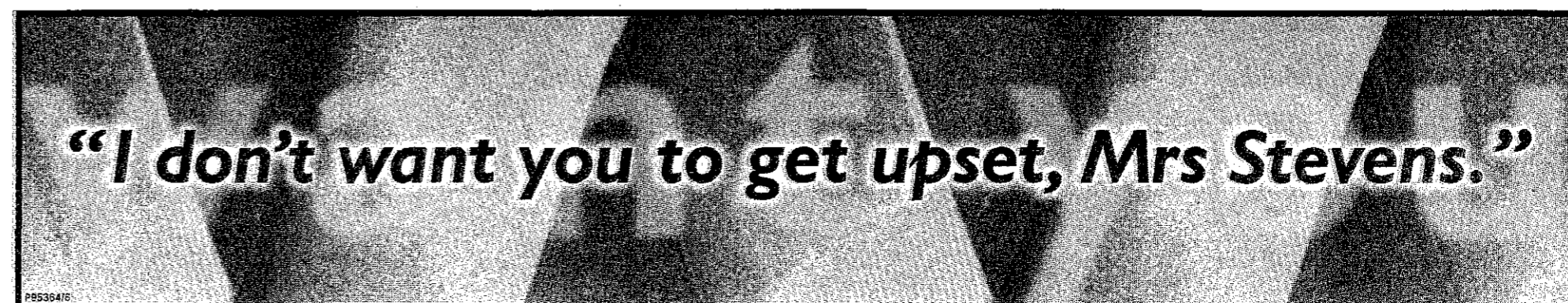
Each voter will get two ballot papers, one for the national election and one for the provincial election. The papers will be differentiated by different coloured backs. The national ballot will have blue wavy lines on the back of the ballot paper and the provincial ballot paper will be clear.

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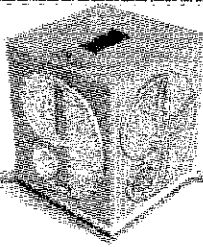


There is a slight hint of panic in her voice.



"I don't want you to get upset, Mrs Stevens."

BALLOT



SOUTH AFRICA VOTES

African experience shows that elections, by themselves, cannot guarantee democracy

The notion of elections lies at the very heart of many definitions of democracy. But the interplay between elections and democracy is by no means simple or clear.

Indeed, equating elections with democracy can lead to serious misunderstandings of the nature and role of elections in the sphere of politics.

It is important to recognise that elections do not always serve democracy.

In Africa, and other parts of the world, the reasons for holding elections are based on a broad range of political objectives and serve numerous political ends.

In some instances, elections have been used to lend political legitimacy to governments under scrutiny by foreign donors. An example of this is Kenya in the early 1990s.

Foreign donors, unhappy with the political situation in the country, threatened to withdraw millions of dollars in aid. In order to appease donors, Kenya immediately called for multiparty elections.

In other instances, elections have been used as a way of holding on to power by incumbent governments or to quell political fervour or revolution.

The legacy of colonial rule did not prepare Africa and its electorates well for elections or for democracy.

The proliferation of one-party authoritarian governments across post-independent Africa is undoubtedly a product of Africa's experience of political rule under colonialism. In general, the colonial style of rule, its structures and policies were authoritarian and exclusive.

Even when attempts were made to liberalise colonial governments and policies just prior to independence, electorates remained disempowered, enjoying little or no political participation. This autocracy thwarted a political culture of participation, tolerance and competition.

Considerable scepticism surrounds the fairness of elections in Africa. A study by Michael Bratton shows that of the 54 elections held in 29 African countries from 1990 to 1994, 24 were not considered either fair or free.

Indeed many disturbing tales can be told of deeply flawed elections in Africa: Political candidates have been disqualified; intimidation has been rife; government resources have been used to help incumbent governments win elections; laws and electoral procedures have been manipulated to the advantage of the ruling party and, in many cases, there has been strong evidence of blatant electoral fraud.

In Zambia, former President Kenneth Kaunda maintained a state of emergency throughout the election period. This allowed him to side-step constitutional leg-

islation which could have negatively affected his chances of re-election.

President Robert Mugabe has been criticised for "designing" an electoral system that secures his continued presidency in Zimbabwe. He personally appoints the commission tasked with overseeing the election, for example.

The newly-formed coalition between

tion results were upheld.

Ed Royce, a prominent US monitor, argued that election results should be honoured. This same sentiment was echoed by European monitors.

International forces appear intent on ensuring that Nigeria moves closer towards democracy, even if this means accepting an imperfect election result.

This expediency exercised by foreign monitors cannot but breed fragile, fleeting and even illegitimate democracies.

Nigeria, in particular, has struggled to sustain a stable government and the chances of a new democra-

But not all elections in Africa are defective and in many instances considerable care is taken to ensure that the electoral procedure and outcome is just.

Stringent steps were taken to ensure the freeness and fairness of South Africa's first democratic election in 1994. In "Opinion '99", a public opinion poll conducted by Markinor and the Institute for Democracy in South Africa in late 1998 among South African adults, respondents were asked to comment on the fairness of the 1994 election. Over two-thirds of respondents perceived the electoral process to have been fair.

As South Africa prepares for its second elections, political parties and organisations have encouraged political tolerance as exemplified by the recent peace summit held in Nyanga in the Western Cape, which aimed to abate political violence and ensure free and fair political campaigning.

This is a particularly encouraging sign, especially when viewed against the highly intolerant political culture which was reared by the apartheid regime and which permeated South African society just a few years ago.

It is important to recognise that, by themselves, elections cannot herald in democratic government.

Founding elections are often treated as the climax of democracy when, in fact, they merely signal the founding of a democracy. Elections cannot and do not ensure democracy, they are only capable of "push starting" or re-energising the democratisation process.

Economic crises and international pressures have propelled many African countries towards democratic transitions, yet they do not lay a secure foundation on which democracy can be reared and developed. Without the democratic transformation of institutions within society, including the economy, and the encouragement of political tolerance, a real culture of democracy is unlikely to thrive.

Real democratic consolidation is a hard and long process. It requires fundamental institutional change and the deep penetration of democratic values into all organs of society.

Prospects for democratic transformation and consolidation in South Africa appear good. Unlike many African states, South Africa treated its founding election as the starting block to democracy rather than as its culmination.

Since South Africa's first democratic in April 1994, the foundations of a democratic society have started to take shape. This has been no mean task given the legacy of apartheid and the autocratic institutions and political culture bred by this political ideology.

Elections are democracy's greatest showpiece. More often than not, though, elections are only the starting point for the democratisation of society as a whole. - Kim Heller



trade union bodies and civil society organisations in Zimbabwe presents Mugabe with a very real political challenge. Strong calls for electoral reform have already begun to emanate in particular from the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions.

Togo's 1990 Presidential election, won by General Gnassingbe Eyadema, was severely marred by intimidation and violence.

In Lesotho's 1994 election, registration forms were found hidden on a riverbed.

An analysis of the 1997 Kenyan election reveals a set of undemocratic and restrictive laws governing the registration of political parties and meetings. In addition, the ruling Kenya African National Union appeared to receive considerable favourable media attention.

Yet another example of alleged electoral fraud is found in Nigeria. A few months after the 1991 elections in Nigeria, the Electoral Commission discovered that there were millions of additional names on the voting register. In Nigeria's recent election, there were claims of fraud in the form of ballot stuffing.

Despite this, there were strong attempts by international forces to ensure that elec-

cy which lacks legitimacy surviving in this politically volatile country are rather dismal.

In numerous cases, the results of elections in Africa have not been honoured.

The results of the 1993 Nigerian Presidential election, for instance, were annulled by military forces.

In the same year, in Burundi, Melchior Ndadaye was assassinated in a military coup just months after being elected president of the country.

The 1992 election process in Angola was aborted as Unita tried to take political control by force.

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"Just tell me," she implores, "I have to know."

BALLOT SOUTH AFRICA VOTES

GRAPHIC: GAIL IRWIN

How your two ballots work

1st Ballot

The first ballot for the 400-seat National Assembly effectively counts twice

National Assembly 400 seats

200 seats allocated proportionately among parties, according to their share of the national vote

200 seats divided among regions and allocated according to a party's share of national votes cast in each region

Regional seat allocation

Eastern Cape	27 (28)
Free State	14 (15)
Gauteng	46 (43)
KwaZulu Natal	38 (40)
Mpumalanga	14 (14)
Northern Cape	4 (4)
N Province	20 (20)
North West	17 (15)
Western Cape	20 (21)

(Allocation in 1994)

2nd Ballot

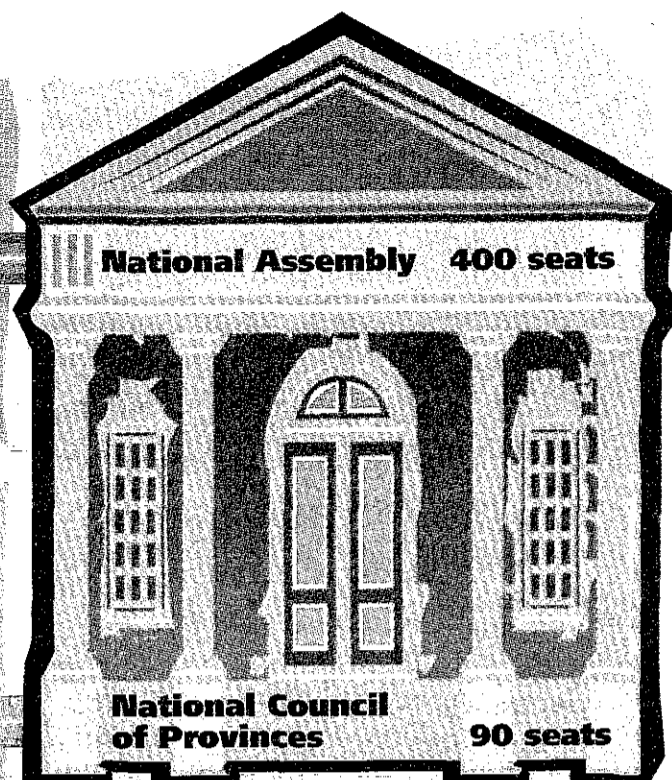
Second ballot for the provincial legislature – the size of the provincial legislature varies from region to region

Provincial Legislature (1994 seats)

Eastern Cape	63 (56)	Northern Cape	30 (30)
Free State	30 (30)	N Province	49 (40)
Gauteng	73 (86)	North West	33 (30)
KwaZulu Natal	80 (81)	Western Cape	39 (42)
Mpumalanga	30 (30)		

427 seats (425)

National Council of Provinces 10 delegates from each province
90 seats



Every vote counts in our electoral system

On Wednesday more than 18-million voters will cast their ballots to elect representatives to Parliament and provincial legislatures.

Once again the proportional representation (PR) electoral system will be used.

WHY DO WE USE PR?

Prior to 1994, South Africa had a "first-past-the-post" system of elections. We inherited this system, also referred to as the Westminster system, from Britain.

It was based on constituencies, or specially drawn up districts with defined geographical boundaries. Each constituency had a seat in Parliament.

The candidate who received the most votes in the constituency won that seat in Parliament. The other candidates in the election "race" lost, and the votes they had received were wasted.

This system had the effect of denying representation to significant blocs of voters. Only those who voted for the winning candidate received any representation. Everyone else – even if their combined support was greater than that received by the winner – got no representation.

Critics say this system produced legislatures that failed to reflect the views of the public, discriminated against smaller parties and discouraged voter turnout. This is why it is on the wane around the world. The US, Canada and Britain are the only Western democracies still using it.

HOW DOES PR WORK?

There are various electoral systems based on the proportional representation principle but they have one thing in common –

Do you feel like not bothering to vote because you think your vote won't make much difference to the outcome of the election? Well, you're wrong.

the representation a party receives in a legislature is in proportion to the number of votes it receives. If a party receives 30% of the vote, it receives 30% of the seats in the legislature, 10% of the vote receives 10% of the seats, and so on.

PR'S PROS AND CONS

- The most serious criticism of PR systems is that they can result in unstable coalition governments, such as in Italy.
- On the other hand, PR encourages voter turnout. In PR countries, 70 to 90% of the people turn out to vote, compared to 50% or less in "first-past-the-post" countries.
- It results in strong multi-party competition and gives voters a much greater choice at the polls.
- It ensures fairer representation of political, ethnic and racial minorities.
- It ensures more representation of women. PR countries tend to have much higher ratios of elected female officials. This is due to women being nominated in much higher numbers on party lists. Parties cannot leave women off lists for fear of being accused of sexism, and some even have gender quotas for nominations.

CAN I VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE?

No. There are various PR systems but by far the most widely used and straightforward system is the Party List System.

Each party puts up a list of candidates equal to the number of seats to be filled.

Voters cast their ballots for one party list or another, and the parties receive seats in proportion to their share of the vote.

There are two broad types of list systems. In "open list" systems, voters can indicate on the ballot their preferences among the list of party candidates. Candidates with more votes are moved higher on the list and have a better chance of getting elected.

In the "closed list" system, such as that used in South Africa, the party fixes the order in which the candidates are listed and elected, and the voter simply casts one vote for the party list as a whole.

Party candidates are elected in the order they appear on the ballot. Obviously, the higher a candidate is placed on a list, the more likely he/she is to be elected.

HOW MANY VOTES DO I HAVE?

Two. The first ballot paper is for the election of representatives to the National Assembly. The second ballot paper is for the election of Members of the Provincial Legislatures (MPLs).

Political parties are presented on the ballot papers, and you vote for the party you think will best represent your interests.

HOW MANY SEATS ARE THERE?

Our Constitution states that there should be one seat in the National Assembly for every 100 000 people, with a minimum of

350 seats and a maximum of 400 seats. This year, there are 400 seats up for grabs.

Half of them will be filled using national party lists, and the other half will be filled using provincial party lists to ensure provincial representation.

The Constitution stipulates that a provincial legislature should consist of between 30 and 80 members, depending on the population of the province.

HOW ARE SEATS ALLOCATED?

Once the vote is in, a quota formula is used to allocate the seats proportionately among the parties. The quota is found from the total number of votes cast divided by the number of seats to be filled, plus one. The resulting number is rounded down to the nearest whole number, and one then added.

The number of seats each party gets is then found by dividing that party's total vote by the quota.

The picture in the National Assembly is more complicated because of the existence of provincial seats.

If you want know more about the exact mechanism, consult the Electoral Institute of SA's booklet, "A Handbook of South African Electoral Laws and Regulations 1999" or its website at www.eisa.org.za

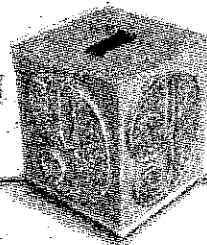
It should be clear now that your vote counts. In our electoral system, all votes contribute to a political party's success and ensure that the legislatures accurately reflect your views.

SOURCES: "A Handbook of South African Electoral Laws and Regulations 1999" (EISA); and PR Library at www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/polit/damy/prlib.htm

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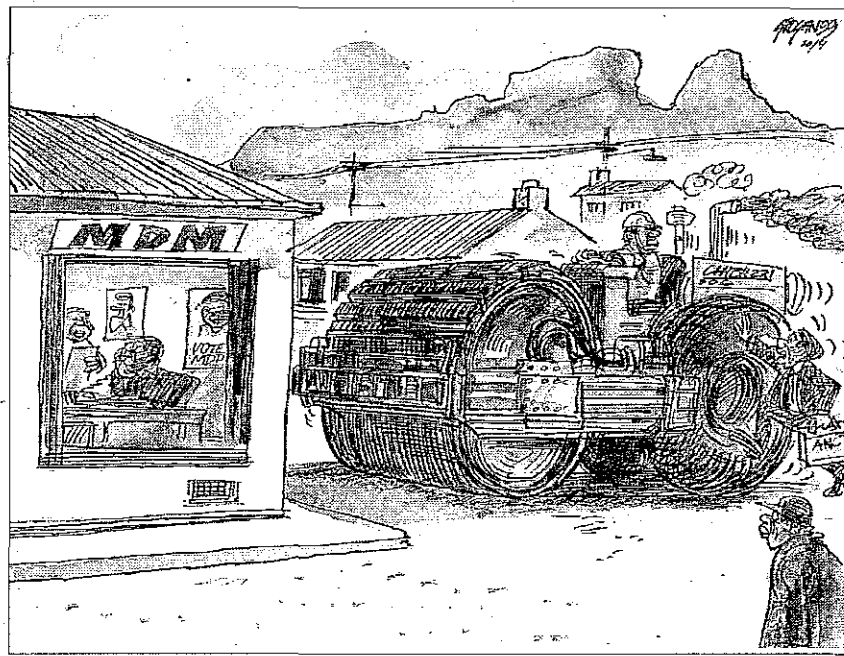
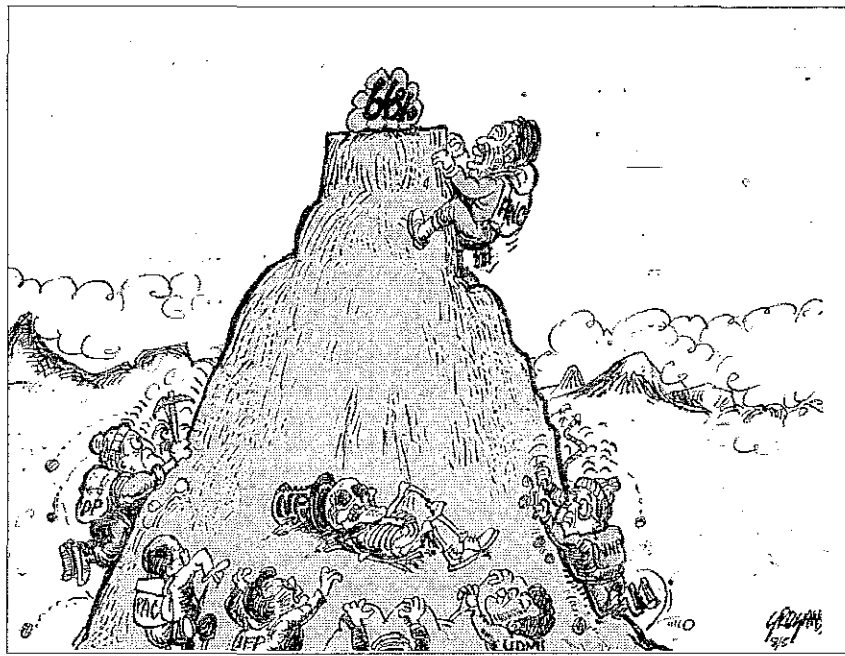
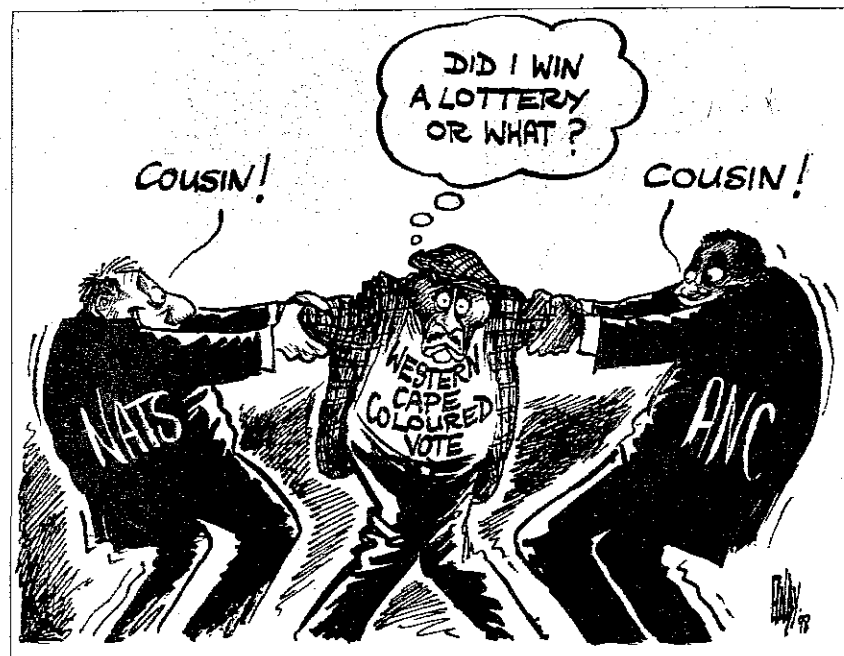
The Doctor sighs, and reaches into a big brown envelope.

BALLOT



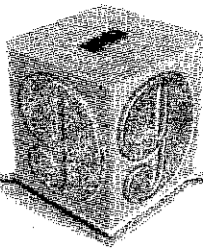
SOUTH AFRICA VOTES

The election as seen through the eyes of cartoonists at Independent Newspapers



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Zip-zips will put zap into voting

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has set up a permanent technological infrastructure which will have a lifespan beyond the elections and could be used to finally offer effective communications to every citizen.

It could, of course, also be used to closely track each registered citizen's movements - Big Brother theories are common.

The information technology (IT) infrastructure, said to have cost about R900 million, is composed of a nationwide satellite wide area network (WAN) with 450 working sites, 1 500 PCs which are mostly NT workstations, 25 000 zip zip machines, centralised databases and servers, a secure intranet, a functional Internet site, and two full-time call centres, one of which can handle up to 60 000 calls an hour.

For the uninitiated, a satellite WAN allows data to be "beamed" securely from each polling station via satellite to headquarters and downloaded directly into comprehensive databases of voter information; NT workstations are Microsoft loaded computers with the power to double up as servers; a server is big box which can process and direct many different packages of information at once; and a call centre is a glorified help line which takes in and routes many calls at once.

But how the technology helps a weary voter is all important. The call centres should be useful tools before the big day.

MTN has launched a voter information line that will enable South Africans to check whether that they are registered and where they are expected to cast their vote. The IEC has a similar helpline set up. On Election Day, the IEC and MTN will launch an election update service on 083-133.

Christo Diedericks, program manager for the IEC, said the bar-code scanning devices from ICL, known colloquially as zip zips, would speed up the voting process itself: "The necessary data for each polling

station will be downloaded via the WAN so as to have a comprehensive voters roll.

"As a person comes into the polling station, their bar-coded ID will be scanned. The ID will match, or it will not be on the roll for that area. Time wasted during an election is usually spent trying to match names with a voters' roll.

"The zip zip's ability to confirm that a person is not registered for that area should speed up the process by 70%."

One of ICL's partners in the zip zip project, Dexdata Technologies, developed encryption and compression techniques that should ensure the integrity and security of the data.

In the case of elections, despite the best IT architecture designed by Andersen Consulting for the IEC, and despite the best staff, security issues are of critical importance. The IEC said it was confident that the security for the entire election process would be particularly difficult to crack.

A security expert from the IEC said there were many layers to the security process: even if some inventive hacker managed to bypass one system, there would be many other different systems to hack through before even just one vote could be viewed.

Firstly, not all of the processing and data runs over the WAN, which could be seen as the most obvious area to attack. Most systems are password protected, and many of the applications have "read-only" access, with "write" access being granted to very few people within the IEC itself.

This means that although a person could view a voter's details and their vote, the details could not be altered.

The zip zip machines require a log-on code from users and each one is able to audit by whom, when and where it is used.

The NT workstations have inbuilt security systems with a register and the ability to restrict access.

The WAN itself can monitor traffic, check accesses and produce audits, and then the databases into which the information is thrown also has many layers of security with very few people allowed "write" access.

With security covered, preparations for the day are in full swing. Diedericks said the huge data downloads of the voters' roll

via the WAN to the polling stations were almost 70% completed.

There will also be paper copies of the roll at each voting station as a back-up in case Eskom fails to keep the lights on.

Later on during Election Day, vote counting will be a traditional, manual affair.

Diedericks said the IEC had advocated the use of zip zips for counting, but the idea was rejected. After counting has laboriously taken place, the final data will be transmitted via WAN, fax and telephone to the Gauteng headquarters for reconciliation of the votes and number of voters.

Once the mystery identity of our new ruling party has been unveiled - and with all the fuss right now you'd think nobody knows which it's going to be - the technol-

ogy will not go to waste.

An IEC official said: "The idea was to set up a permanent infrastructure, which could update citizen's registration details with ease. The technology is a tool to be used strategically."

Dr Sam van Tonder, client director at ICL which was involved with the R90 million order for the 25 000 scanning devices, said the IEC was an ongoing organisation which required the technological backbone to be able to process local, provincial and national elections for years to come.

He said there were also many alternative uses for the equipment, but declined to comment further.

What could the alternative uses be? On the upside, never before has every South African had the ability to reach a viable source of communication. If used for education, learning and rural communications, this infrastructure could bring untold good to the country's rural communities.

But never before have so many ID numbers and personal details been stored in an effective and functional database. It could lead to banking the unbanked, it could lead to the state knowing a bit too much about its population, or it could lead to nothing at all which is what often happens to the best of intentions for social upliftment.

Speculation aside, with a R900 million investment, something long-term should come out of it, if only the fact that registration will, hopefully, never again be such a difficult and time-consuming process since many eligible voters will already be accounted for next time round.

Further than that cannot be foretold, but the IEC has, in a relatively short space of time, managed to accomplish what this country's telecommunications operators have been trying to achieve for years; a robust and effective communications infrastructure available to each and every South African. - Renée Bonorchis

SYSTEM DETAILS

- Nationwide wide area network (WAN)
- 450 working sites
- 1 500 PCs, most of them NT workstations
- 25 000 barcode scanners
- Centralised databases and services
- Secure intranet
- Internet site
- Two full-time call centres, one capable of handling 60 000 calls an hour.

WHEN IS AN ELECTION FREE AND FAIR?

The Inter-Parliamentary Council has set up criteria for a free and fair election. These criteria include the legal framework for the election and gives guidelines for the campaigning of political parties.

David Connolly, Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, in a paper presented to the Independent Electoral Commission's conference on consolidating democracy, elaborated on the conditions needed to ensure a free and fair election.

Drawing on the council's criteria, Connolly said that in a free election citizens could choose one candidate or party over another in the absence of any form of coercion and in a fair election the rules were applied in an unbiased fashion to all participants.

Connolly said it was desirable to have a free and fair election because "the higher the credibility of an election outcome, the more likely it is that all parties will abide by the results, leading to a stable political environment which is essential for social and economic development."

These are some of the criteria set out by the Inter-Parliamentary Council:

- The state should ensure that there is a necessary legal and institutional framework for periodic and genuine, free and fair elections;
- The state should also establish a neutral, impartial or balanced mechanism for the management of elections and the electoral authority, and political parties should be able to maintain an open dialogue to create

an atmosphere of trust;

- Every adult citizen has the right to vote in elections on a non-discriminatory basis;
- The voter also has the right of access to an effective, impartial, non-discriminatory procedure for the registration of voters;
- No eligible citizen should be denied the right to vote or disqualified from voter registration except in accordance with objectively verifiable criteria prescribed by law, provided that such measures are consistent with international law;
- Citizens have a right to voter education about voting procedures and to make an informed choice;
- A citizen should have an equal right to join or establish a political party and stand as a candidate for the election;

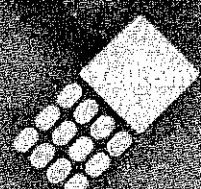
- The state should regulate the funding and political party campaigns so that parties can contest elections on an equitable basis;
- Candidates and voters' basic rights to freedom of expression, freedom of movement, assembly and association need to be protected;
- Political parties have a right to campaign on an equal basis with other political parties, including the party forming the existing government;
- Parties, candidates and supporters should enjoy equal access to police and security forces and the state needs to take the necessary steps to prevent electoral violence; and,
- The electoral process should be transparent. - Cecilia Russell

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That's why the people and systems of Telkom are helping to ensure you won't have to wait for the results.

With our vast telecommunications network, we're making sure that every single vote finds its way to the IEC almost as soon as it's cast. Oh, and by the way, it's a boy.

Keeping you in touch with your world.



Most people believe the IEC will go to the ends of the earth for free and fair elections...

Example of Newgate supplement - Voter ed eg of what can be achieved when IEC has worked with media

they went even further.

The job of the IEC isn't easy. In the forthcoming elections, millions of people will need to cast their vote. Therefore, it is vitally important that the IEC provides the same level of services to all South Africans. Quite obviously, the need for reliable communication systems is paramount. That's why the IEC signed a three-year contract for Telkom's SpaceStream service, which offers a satellite-based communications solution. This will facilitate the electronic transfer of information: financial systems, voter's registration details and election results.

Commenting on this innovative joint venture, Telkom's CEO, Sizwe Nxasana said: "We strive to deliver excellent service to our customers. On this project Telkom, together with the IEC, have truly reached world-class delivery and customer service standards."

Telkom's SpaceStream service, which uses the latest Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology, has enabled the development of a secure, flexible and reliable customised Wide Area Network (WAN) for the IEC. This has enabled even the remotest parts of our country to be reached, therefore causing no disadvantage to any community throughout South Africa.

The benefits of opting for satellite communication in your business could become apparent immediately:

- Customer service, and thus business efficiency, are dramatically improved.
- SpaceStream grows with your changing business needs and provides a reliable, flexible and easily deployed communications solution.
- Complete connectivity with a guaranteed service level is provided across South Africa, regardless of the existence or lack of local infrastructure.
- Long-term costs are stable, as they are not affected by changes in local or long-distance tariffs.

So, whatever your needs or point of view, satellite communications holds the solution - and Telkom SpaceStream will go the distance with you.

Give us a call today.

For more information on SpaceStream call FreeCall 0800 222 000.



Telkom SpaceStream