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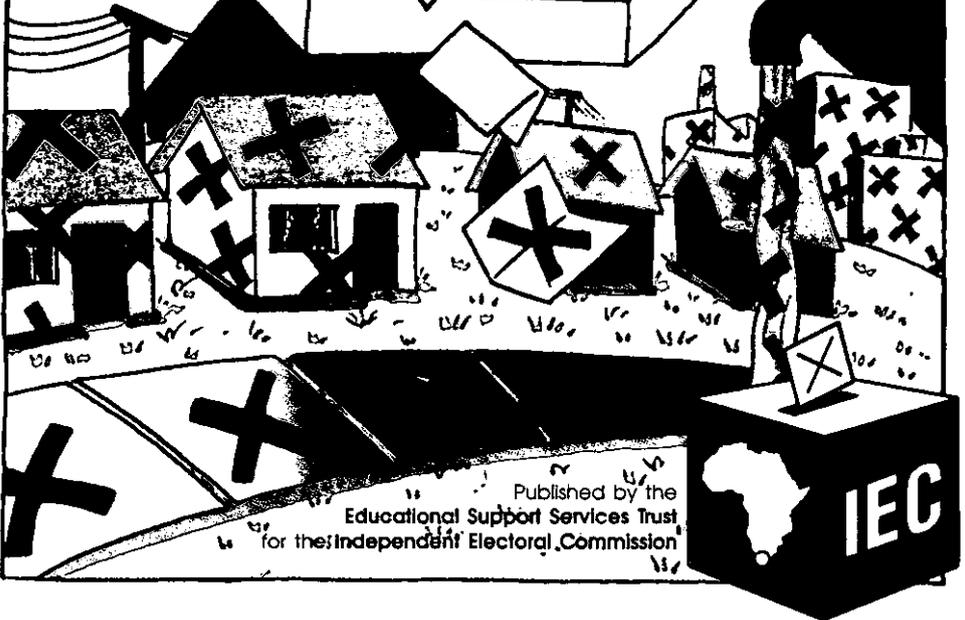
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# THE POWER OF YOUR VOTE!

2 JUNE 1999



This publication was made possible by the Government of Japan (AGRP Programme) in the interest of a free and fair 1999 election.



# Foreword

## Foreword by Professor Mandla Mchunu, Chief Electoral Officer of the Independent Electoral Commission

South Africa and its people waited for decades to become a democracy. The 1994 election and the Constitution made this possible. But democracy is not an event. It is a continuous process. It is the personal responsibility and duty of every South African. The government and the Independent Electoral Commission cannot do it for you.

You have a say about the roads, schools, hospitals, water and security in your neighbourhood. You can choose the right people to manage these services in your local area and your province. You must help to choose the government of South Africa. Listen to the policies and promises of the candidates from the various political parties. Read and talk about what they do. How well or how badly are they doing their jobs? Judge them by their performance. Then vote for the party of your choice.

If you do not vote, you cannot influence the outcome of the election. And you have no say in the government which takes decisions that affect your life. South Africa needs government structures and government leaders who are there because the majority of the people want them there.

I urge you not to be a bystander. South Africa deserves your involvement in democracy. You owe it to yourself. Let this publication be your guide.



**It is very important for our voices to be heard in the 1999 General Election. Please share this booklet with as many people as you can — especially people who cannot read for themselves. Your right to vote is important!**

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# Introduction

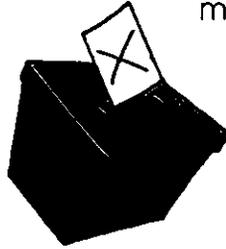
**O**n 2 June 1999 less than a year away from the year 2000 — the new millennium — we will be voting in South Africa's second democratic elections.

South Africa's first ever democratic elections in 1994 were an exciting and important step on the road to freedom. But the job is not over. A second election is recognised as an important measure of how a new democracy is progressing. The world will be watching closely as South Africa goes to the polls for the second time. Will our country take another, sure step on the way to becoming a true democracy in which all have

a say, or will we stumble? Will there be a poor turnout? Or will the elections be spoiled by intolerance and violence?

It is up to each one of us to make a success of these elections in whichever way we can. Elections help to bring back a sense of nationhood and to restore people's dignity; they ensure that our demands are heard.

With these elections, let's make ourselves proud to be South African as we enter the new millennium.





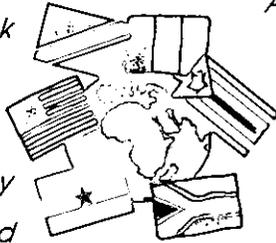
# Democracy

## What is it really?



South Africa became a democracy in 1994. It was only then that all South Africans could vote for the first time. But let's take a closer look at this thing called democracy.

Democracy is an ancient idea — over 2 500 years old — but its basic principle, that **people should have a say in their own lives**, is still ignored in many parts of the world today. The word **democracy** comes from the Greek words **demos**, meaning "the people", and **kratein**, meaning "to rule". In ancient Greek city-states all voting citizens (commoners, women and slaves were not allowed to vote) had a direct say at the public forum; there were no elected representatives.



The French people won their liberty from an oppressive monarchy in 1789. "**Liberty! Equality! Fraternity!**" was the demand behind the French **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen**.

The British colonies in North America (later part of the United States of America) won their independence during the American Revolution between 1775 and 1783. The United States **Declaration of Independence** declares the basic rights to "**life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness**".

In **Africa**, the final wave of resistance to European occupation began after World

War II in the 1940s. From the independence of **Ghana** under **Kwame Nkrumah** in 1957 the liberation of Africa became unstoppable. In 1960 alone, 17 states gained independence and by the end of the 70s nearly every African country was free, including Mozambique and Angola. Zimbabweans had to fight on until 1980 and Namibians for a further ten years.

South Africa was the last country on the African continent to liberate itself — on **27 April 1994**, the day we celebrate each year as **Freedom Day**. Our own basic freedoms are contained in our Constitution and a Bill of Rights which affirms the key democratic values of **human dignity, equality and freedom**. We have an opportunity, as we approach our second post-apartheid elections, to inspire people in Africa, and throughout the world with the success of our own democratic institutions.



# Government and you: rights and responsibilities

Democracy respects *all* people. But while we enjoy certain basic **rights**, we also have certain **responsibilities**. Our basic rights, or freedoms, are written up in the Bill of Rights (a part of the Constitution).

## We have the right to:

- × use our own language;
- × say whatever we want to (as long as it doesn't encourage hatred or violence);
- × pursue our own beliefs;
- × vote freely for whoever we choose;
- × form organisations and hold meetings;
- × be free from violence of any kind.

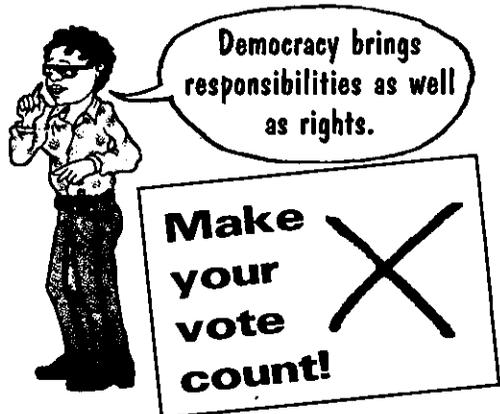
It is up to each one of us to make our rights a reality. Other rights include a healthy environment, housing, health care, education, food and water.

## Our responsibilities:

It is our responsibility to protect our democracy and



to make it work. We must obey its laws and pay our share of its costs, but we should also insist on our rights. We should ensure that no one is allowed to treat us differently because of our race, sex, beliefs or sexual orientation. In working together, we should respect our differences.





# Democracy

## in South Africa

How far have we come?

South Africa has an undemocratic past. Our responsibility to ourselves and to our children is to nurture a vibrant democracy that will endure into the future.



*2 000 years ago: San hunter-gatherers and Khoikhoi herdspeople living in small, nomadic communities.*

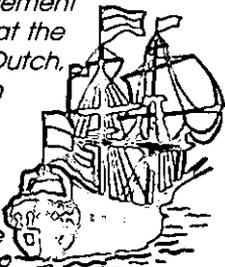
*From 1 750 years ago: By the early 1600s, iron-using Sotho and Nguni-speakers are well established over much of the central and eastern parts of southern Africa.*



*1488: Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias rounds the Cape. Ten years later, Vasco da Gama passes the same way and reaches India.*

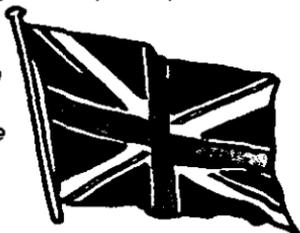


*1652: First permanent European settlement is established at the Cape — the Dutch, under Jan van Riebeeck. First serious conflict between the Dutch and the Khoikhoi in 1659.*



*1770s: First contact between European settlers and African iron-using societies in the Eastern Cape.*

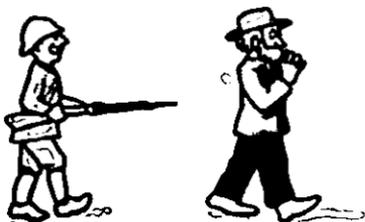
**1795:** The French victory over the Dutch leads to Britain occupying the Cape to protect its trade route to the East. In **1805** the British were back for good.



**1858:** By this time, following a succession of wars and misfortunes, the independence of Xhosa society had been all but destroyed.



**1879:** The final defeat of the Zulu kingdom by the British.



**1902:** Second war between the Boers and the British ends Boer independence.

**1910:** Union of South Africa formed. Boers and British unite to exclude black South Africans from political power. **1912:** African National Congress (ANC) founded.



**1948:** National Party comes to power. Beginning of the age of apartheid.

**1510 - 1994:** African resistance to European oppression has a history of nearly 500 years — from the Khoikhoi victory over the Portuguese at Table Bay in 1510, to the 1956 women's march on the Union Buildings; from the 1976 Soweto uprising to the protests of the 1980s.

**1990:** The freeing of Nelson Mandela in 1990 was a momentous step in the final years leading to South Africa's first democratic election in 1994.





## Many Cultures, One Nation!

**S**OUTH AFRICA has an undemocratic past. For most of its modern history, the dream of a united, non-racial country remained just that, a dream.

Finally, in 1994, after hundreds of years of conflict and oppression, South Africans seized the opportunity presented to us by our first democratic elections to come together as one nation. Our responsibility to ourselves and to our children is to strengthen what we created in 1994 — to nurture a vibrant democracy that will endure into the future.

It is easier to *talk* about the "rainbow nation" than it is to make it a reality. Even a brief look at the *Census '96* results shows a nation deeply divided by race, gender, income and region. Of course, the biggest divide is still that of "race". How do we build a nation that embraces its diversity, where every culture says to every other culture, "Yes, we are part of the same whole! Let's share what we have and build our future together.?"

Democracy is a noble ideal, but true democracy does not spring fully formed from just one election. 1994 brought us the priceless reward of political freedom, but we are still not free from fear, from poverty, and from all the other ills that threaten our new democracy. A democratic culture will only

be built over time from the raw materials of *our* tolerance, *our* active involvement and *our* willingness to be led, within reason, by the will of the majority.

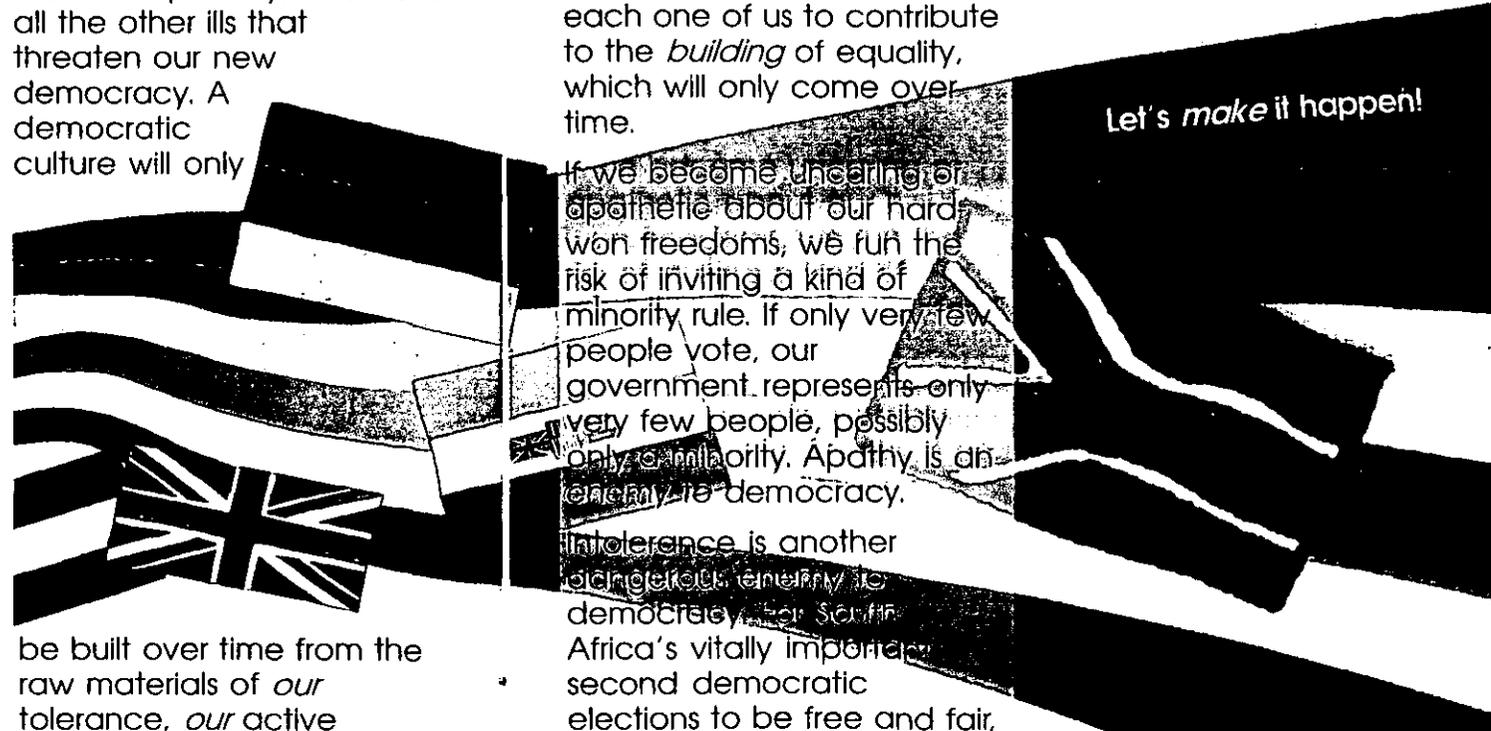
The law may guarantee our equality in a number of important ways, but we are

*not* all equals in this new democracy of ours. Most people still do not have equal access to education, health care, housing, information and other resources. In addition to these disadvantages, over 7% of South Africa's population is disabled in some way, many with a sight disability. It is up to each one of us to contribute to the *building* of equality, which will only come over time.

If we become uncaring or apathetic about our hard-won freedoms, we run the risk of inviting a kind of minority rule. If only very few people vote, our government represents only very few people, possibly only a minority. Apathy is an enemy to democracy.

Intolerance is another enemy to democracy. For South Africa's vitally important second democratic elections to be free and fair, all political parties must commit themselves to the promotion of political tolerance. Apart from being a problem in itself, intolerance is easily exploited by criminals, to everyone's great loss.

The hope expressed in Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel's end-of-year greetings card is shared by us all: "As this century draws to a close and a new one approaches, our fervent wish is for an era of love, prosperity and peaceful co-existence for us all."



Let's make it happen!

Make  
your  
vote  
count!





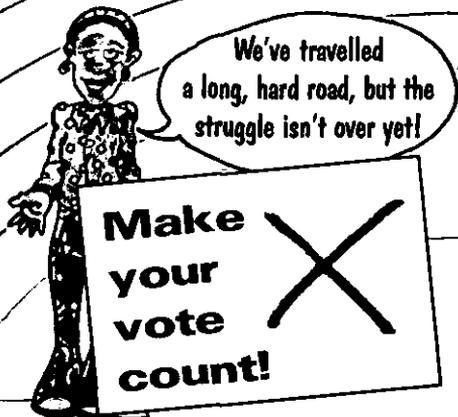
# The Birth of the Rainbow Nation



**S**OUTH AFRICANS have experienced nearly 500 years of conflict and oppression. The struggle for democratic rights for all has been long and hard and it is not over yet. Many have suffered and died to bring us to where we are today.

Our job is to take our hard-won democracy further, to entrench and expand it. We cannot regard South Africa as a true democracy until all South Africans, whether male or female, poor or rich, living in towns and cities or far

away in the rural areas, have a real, informed voice in the decision-making that shapes our future.





Democracy is a *tool*.  
It is not an end in itself.



**I**N THE EARLY DAYS of South African democracy, Archbishop Desmond Tutu referred to South Africans as "the rainbow children of God". Truly, we are a rainbow people of all shades, faiths and languages, but for many the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow remains an illusion.

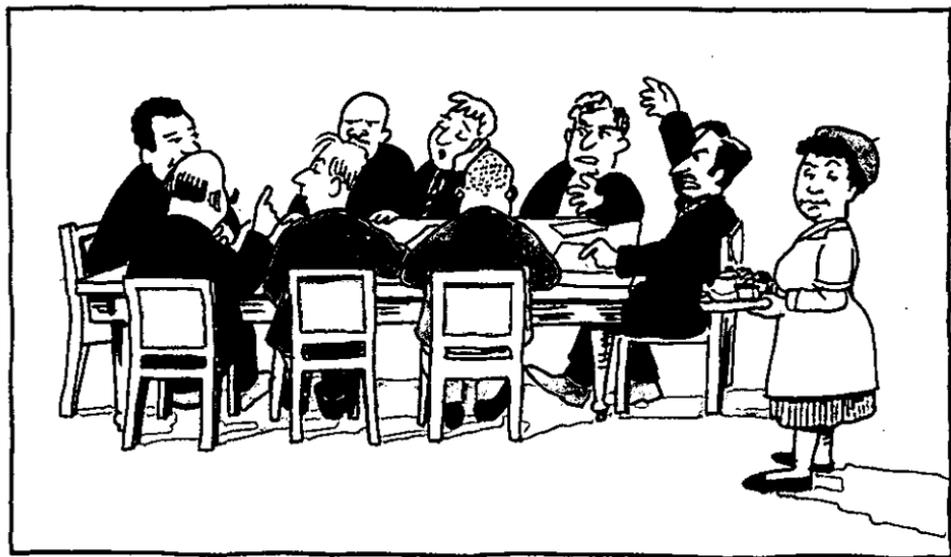
The right to vote has not yet brought real freedom to all South Africans: freedom from poverty, freedom from illiteracy, freedom from starvation, freedom from

violence and crime. It is up to each one of us to make democracy *work*. Democracy is a *tool*, not an end in itself.

Voting is an important part of our role as citizens of a democratic society. The challenge is to walk into the future *together*, as a successful democratic nation.



# Women in Society



**T**HE MANY-HEADED monster of apartheid has been killed, though a lot of damage and neglect remain to be undone. But there is another old monster that continues to oppress South Africans: sexism.

Women make up nearly 52% of the population of South Africa, yet they make up nowhere near that percentage of parliamentary and other political representatives. And women are also not proportionately represented in positions of authority in either the public or the

private sectors.

Equally important is the role of women in the family as sisters, daughters, mothers and grandmothers. Much of our children's education is ultimately in the hands of women, and it is they who

More than half of all South Africans are women, but how much say do women have in our government?



hold the family together.  
Women have to battle  
against many disadvantages.

× As a whole, they receive  
less education than men.

× Roughly every minute  
around the world, a  
woman dies from a  
pregnancy-related cause.  
The total world-wide,  
yearly cost of better  
reproductive health care  
would be about R76,5  
billion. The world spends  
more than that on  
weapons *in one week!*

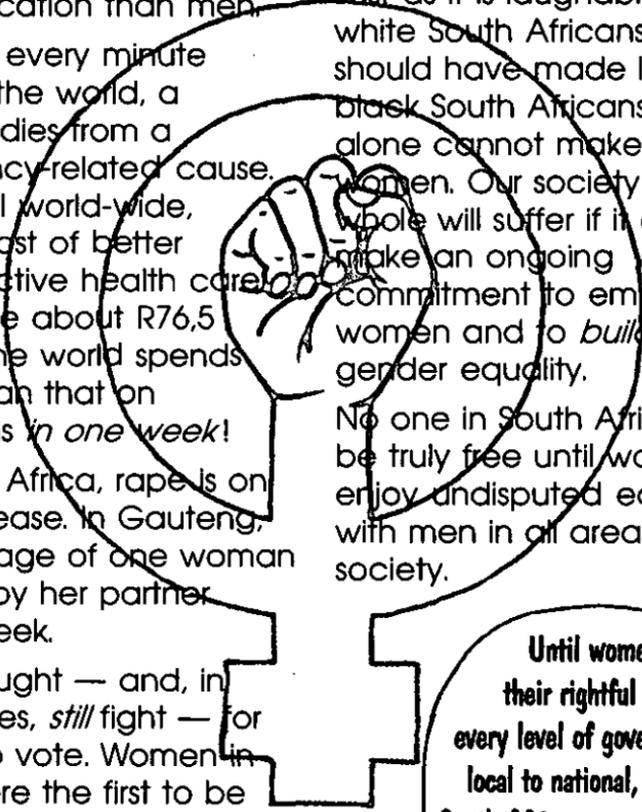
× In South Africa, rape is on  
the increase. In Gauteng,  
an average of one woman  
is killed by her partner  
each week.

Women fought — and, in  
some places, *still* fight — for  
the right to vote. Women in  
Finland were the first to be  
able to vote, late in the  
19th Century, but in many  
other countries women had  
to wait until after 1917. As  
African states became  
independent from 1957  
onwards, African women  
gained the right to vote.  
In South Africa, women have  
always played a major role in  
the liberation struggle. The  
1956 march by women on  
the Union Buildings to protest

the carrying of passes, and  
the work of many women's  
organisations are monuments  
to woman's political power.

Just as it is laughable that  
white South Africans alone  
should have made laws for  
black South Africans, so men  
alone cannot make laws for  
women. Our society as a  
whole will suffer if it does not  
make an ongoing  
commitment to empowering  
women and to *building* true  
gender equality.

No one in South Africa can  
be truly free until women  
enjoy undisputed equality  
with men in all areas of  
society.



Until women take  
their rightful places at  
every level of government, from  
local to national, the needs of  
South African women, and the best  
interests of *all* South Africans,  
cannot properly be met.



**Make  
your  
vote  
count!**





## A Special Message to the Youth of South Africa



Why should I care about the elections? That's politics. I'm not interested in politics.

Politics isn't something out there. It's part of our lives, whether we like it or not. If we look away, we may be surprised by what creeps up behind us.

**M**ANY YOUNG people feel that politics has nothing to do with them and is best left to politicians. But politics *rules* our lives in the most basic ways. We owe it to *ourselves* to get *involved*.

Do you hate having to take a taxi because there is no safe, efficient public transport? Ask yourself, "What are the government's transport policies?" How effective are the government's attempts to improve road safety?

Are you sick of having to watch TV to see top-quality soccer because your city doesn't have a good enough stadium? What steps is your local government taking to develop sports facilities? Did you vote in your last local government elections? Who did you vote for?

The whole point about a democracy is that *we all have a say*. If we feel we don't have a say, it's up to



Anyway, I've got *much* better things to do with my time!

us to do something about it. If we feel that people aren't noticing our problems, or that they're ignoring them, then we need to *make government sit up and take notice!*

It was young people who, in 1976, started the final wave of resistance which eventually ended apartheid. We can never repay the debt that we owe to those young people who

fought and those who died so that we could be free. The least that we can do is to play

our part in South Africa's hard-won democracy. And one small way to do that is to *vote*. Of course we could do much more. We could really use the power of democracy to change the country in a peaceful way.



It has been said that "it is the young who change history because only the young have the courage to defy death." That has never been more true than in South Africa's recent past. We should be ashamed if we

turn our back on the past and say, "You may have died to win this for us, but we're not really interested".

The struggle is not over! Democracy is only the first step on the way to the real liberation of South Africa. Those who came before us won for us the space to *continue* the fight, not to turn our backs and merely enjoy what others have fought for.

**They've closed down the college!  
How am I supposed to get my diploma now?**





# Why should I vote?

When we *don't* vote ...



... the government *cannot* hear us!



Government cannot work effectively for us until we make it quite clear what issues are important to us and involve *ourselves* in working with government to bring about change.

**VOTE** Our key duty as citizens of a democracy is to vote. If we don't vote, we are not heard.

**WRITE** Write to your representatives in parliament, or phone them! Write to newspapers and magazines, or collect signatures for a **petition**.

**DEMONSTRATE** It is a constitutional right to protest publicly and peacefully.

**ATTEND MEETINGS** Attend government and other meetings to gather information and to make yourself heard. It is up to us to keep ourselves informed.

We need to be active citizens. We need to work with government to solve our problems.

**A** DEMOCRACY is not about "us" and "them". It helps us to reach *consensus* — to pull together as a nation.

Our government might not always do what we think is best, but perhaps millions of other people disagree with us. If we disagree strongly with most of what our government is doing, we should work to replace it, or vote for an effective opposition. If we are basically happy with our government, we should still communicate with it constantly. We should vote, write, speak, demonstrate ... **make ourselves heard!**



Government and politics are not beyond our reach.

There is no "us" and "them".  
Only *us*.





## Why we need a Voters' Roll

Democratic countries all over the world require their citizens to register their right to vote on a **VOTERS' ROLL.**



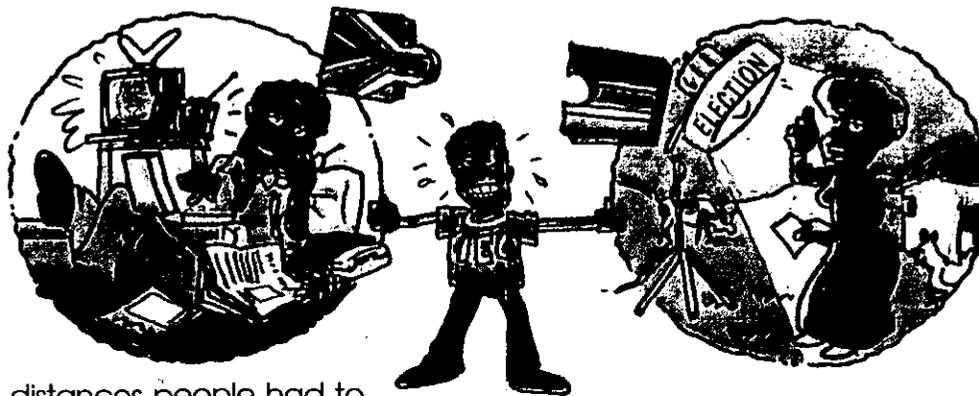
**A** VOTERS' roll lists the name and voting district of every eligible voter in the country.

If your name is not on the voters' roll you may not vote. It is up to each one of us to do everything we can to register ourselves. It is also our responsibility to help our adult children — and anyone else who might need our help — to register as voters.

A voters' roll helps to ensure that elections are not only free and fair, but also *cost-effective*. A young democracy should not be forced to find excessive amounts of money to stage elections; part of the job of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is to manage the elections so that they are free and fair, to ensure that South Africa's democracy is *affordable*, and to promote constitutional democracy. If it knows how

many voters live in each part of the country, the IEC is able to target its resources most effectively.

South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994 were successful in that they were substantially free and fair and resulted in political freedom. But, looking back, it becomes easier to see flaws in the process: the long queues, the delays, the confusion, the missing materials and the long



distances people had to travel to vote. As well as being a requirement of our Constitution, a voters' roll is now seen as essential if free and fair elections are to be guaranteed.

A major challenge for the IEC is to enable voters all over the country, wherever they might live, to vote. In the towns and cities that is easy enough, but nearly 46% of South Africa's

population do not live in a town or a city. Not even 29% of South African households have a telephone, so the IEC must do its work in an environment which lacks even the most basic communications infrastructure.

By working closely with *Census '96*, the IEC has succeeded in finding out where potential voters live, whether they have a formal address or not. It has divided the country into more or less 15 000 voting districts, each district being home to between 1 200 people (rural areas) and 3 000 people (urban areas). By having one

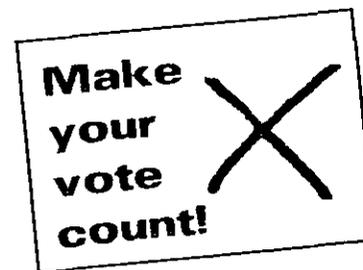
even the most inaccessible parts of the country will be handled as speedily and effectively as those from South Africa's biggest cities.

Registering every potential voter is a huge and complex job, but one that must be done if South Africa is to hold successful second elections. Each one of us has a responsibility to work with the IEC to ensure the success of the registration process and the coming elections.

### Remember :

- ✗ you will not be allowed to vote if you have not registered;
- ✗ you will be allowed to vote **only** in the area in which you live; and
- ✗ you will have a chance to check that your name is on the correct voters' roll, at your local municipality, after registration ends.
- ✗ there will be only *one* day of voting ( not three as in the last elections).

### Let's play our part!



If you need further information, phone toll-free 0800 11 8000.

*The Power of Your Vote!* 17



# 1999 Election

## What you *need* to know

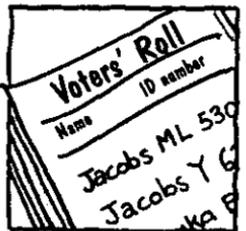
### At your voting station:

#### 1. Show your ID



Show your bar-coded ID or your temporary Identity Certificate to the election officials.

#### 2. Voters' Roll



Your name will be checked against the voters' roll.

#### 3. Two ballot papers



You will be given **two** ballot papers, one for the **National Assembly** and one for the **Provincial Legislature**.

#### 4. Vote

##### Vote for the National Assembly

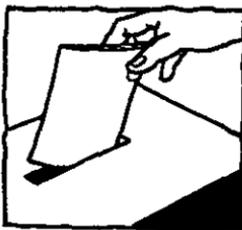


Make your mark on the ballot paper next to the party of your choice for the National Assembly.

##### Vote for the Provincial Legislature

Make your mark on the ballot paper next to the party of your choice for the Provincial Legislature.

#### 5. Ballot Box



Place the ballot paper for the National Assembly in the National Assembly ballot box.

Place the ballot paper for the Provincial Legislature in the Provincial Legislature ballot box.

**Voting officials will be at the voting station to help you.**



# Be a Democratic Citizen

## Make the 1999 Election a success!





# Why do we need Political Parties?



**I**t can be quite hard for a single voice to be heard in a crowd. A political party can give us a stronger voice.

Political parties are an important step on the way to creating the consensus (the broad agreement) necessary for a democracy to function. Each person still has the right to speak freely and to be heard, either inside a political party or outside of one.

Multi-party democracy is not about Members of Parliament (MPs) from different parties voting in parliament, and one party winning. Rather, it is about discussing issues thoroughly and reaching consensus.

A multi-party democracy provides a framework for reaching agreement and resolving disagreements. Our political parties are our representatives in parliament — by voting for a party we are allowing the MPs of that party to speak for us. **Vote for whoever you like, but make your vote count!**

**Make  
your  
vote  
count!**



## Political parties and the law

The **Electoral Code of Conduct** (contained in the Electoral Act, 1998) ensures that voters can vote for the party of their choice without fear of intimidation. No person or party may put pressure on a voter to vote in a particular way.

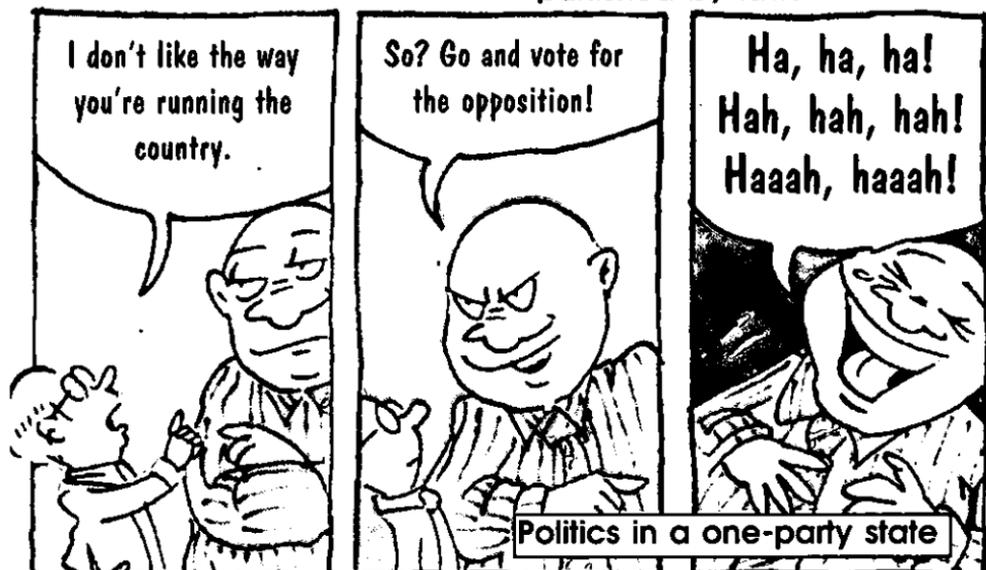
**In addition, there are many other ways in which members of political parties may or may not behave — if they don't want to fall foul of the law.**

- Nobody may prevent any party representative or candidate from gaining reasonable access to voters.
- Nobody may unlawfully prevent any political meeting, march, demonstration or other political

event from taking place.

- Nobody may hold or take part in any political meeting, march or the like on election day.
- Nobody may impersonate a party representative, candidate or IEC official.
- Nobody may violate a voter's right to secrecy.
- Nobody may use the Voter's Roll for anything other than election purposes.
- Nobody has the right to damage or destroy the posters of a registered party or candidate.
- Any election material printed by a political party or candidate must bear the name and address of the printer and publisher and it must be marked "advertisement".

**In a democracy all registered political parties have to work together peacefully. Anyone who contravenes the Electoral Code of Conduct may be punished by law.**





# African Renaissance

## and the

# 1999 General Election

**SOUTH AFRICA has the potential to be a driving force in the African Renaissance. The African Renaissance is about the rebirth of Africa after 500 years of colonial domination.**

Africa is the second largest and second most densely populated of the world's seven continents. It is home to over 650 million of the world's people, yet, leaving aside Antarctica, its economy is the weakest. We can and will change this.

Africa is the cradle of humankind, home to the first creatures that we think of as being human around five million years ago. From here in Africa, human beings colonised the world for the first time. From the glorious achievements of the Egyptian Empire 5 000 years ago to the wonders of the Mwene Mutapa Empire centred on Great Zimbabwe in the early 14th Century ... from the quite remarkable 17th Century artistic

and cultural attainments of Benin in the west to the centuries of trade along the east coast, Africa has a wealth of achievement for us to reawaken to.

Just as the European Renaissance which began in 14th Century Italy transformed and revitalised that continent, so a renaissance in Africa could see past glories not only rediscovered, but developed and renewed by a dynamic future. Here in South Africa, where Freedom Day on 27 April marks the final liberation of the African continent, we have the potential to act as a powerful catalyst for the transformation of Africa.

The success of democracy is of vital importance to the African Renaissance. A successful second democratic election in South Africa will serve as an inspiration to all the nations of Africa — and the world.

**Play your part — vote in the General Election in June 1999.**



**If you have any questions, phone toll-free**