

SOUTH AFRICA:

THE COUNTDOWN TO ELECTIONS



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U.S. POLLING SITES FOR S.A. ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED; ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS RAISED

South Africans residing outside of South Africa will have the opportunity to participate in the historic April election when they cast their ballots on April 26th, 1994 at designated polling sites around the world.

Voters residing in the U.S. will be able to cast their votes in one of the following cities: *Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Columbus, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, North Carolina, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, South Carolina and Washington, DC.*

Complaints have been lodged with the Independent Electoral Commission ("IEC") which contend that the IEC did not take into account the large South African student population residing in the Pacific Northwest and the Midwest. Aside from Chicago, there are no other polling sites in those geographic areas. Students have complained that they have insufficient funds to travel long distances to reach the existing polling sites and have proposed the addition of polling sites in either Seattle or Portland and in strategic locations in the Midwest.

Voter Eligibility

Complaints have also been lodged with the IEC concerning the South African Consular offices' handling of requests from South Africans residing in the U.S. for information about how to qualify as an eligible voter.

Specifically, some U.S.-based South Africans have complained that they have received information about voter eligibility from representatives of the South African government that is in conflict with information obtained from the IEC.

For instance, according to a source at the African American Institute which has been fielding some of the complaints, South Africans have been told by South African government representatives that they must show proof of indemnity (excused from punishment for crimes committed in the furtherance of a political aim) before they can receive eligibility documentation. According to the IEC, no such proof is required.

Since the IEC has not sent its own representatives to the approximately 80 countries in which South Africans residing outside of South Africa are likely to vote, existing government outposts, in addition to processing requests for eligibility documents, have also assumed the primary responsibility of providing information on eligibility. The IEC has undertaken to ensure that any information discrepancies are resolved.

The NAACP has agreed to serve as a primary independent source of voter education for South African voters here in the U.S. Potential voters may call their toll free number at 1-800-622-2755.

U.S. Monitors Recruited

Meanwhile, the IEC last week began the process of recruiting individuals to monitor foreign polling sites. Specifically, monitors will be asked to begin work as soon as they are notified of their selection as

monitors. Monitoring prior to election day will involve monitoring the performance of South African government officials with respect to providing accurate information about voter eligibility and the election process and the processing of eligibility documents. Individuals will also be selected to ensure that ballot boxes are secured both prior to and after election day. They will also be required to accompany secured ballot boxes to and from airports. Marked ballots from abroad are required to be in South Africa by the end of the day on April 28th, the last day of general voting.

BASICS ON VOTING AND ELIGIBILITY

The following is a summary of what South Africans residing in the U.S. should know about the voting process here:

Who Can Vote?

All South African citizens over 18 are eligible to vote. You are a citizen if you:

- were born in South Africa
- are a child of a South African (who has registered as such)
- are a naturalized South African who has also qualified for permanent residence

What Documents Are Needed to Vote?

In order to prove that you are indeed a citizen, you are required to produce one of the following documents:

- a valid (current) passport (South African or American indicating South African birth)
- an ID document (old dark blue/new green)
- an old green ID card (issued until 1972)
- a reference book (all versions)
- an identity document produced by TBVC states)

Other documents that are not sufficient, but may help to prove South African citizenship are a United Nations or U.S. Travel Document, your birth or baptismal certificate, clinic or hospital records,

school records or a South African house permit in your name. If you do not have any of the required documents, you may present a witness who possesses the necessary identification for him or herself and who can give a sworn statement on your behalf that you are a South African citizen.

In all cases, South Africans residing in the U.S. who wish to vote are urged to contact the South African consulate nearest them to ensure that they meet eligibility requirements. If after having consulted the consulate, you are not satisfied with the information provided, contact the IEC directly at 011-27-11-928-1000 to lodge your complaint.

What Are the Voting Procedures?

On voting day, April 26th, you will first be asked to identify one of the nine regions in South Africa in which you wish to cast your vote after having been shown a map of the nine regions. You will be asked to complete a sworn affidavit indicating the region of your choice. Next you will be handed two ballots, one for the national legislature and the other for the region you have chosen.

You will then be led to a secret balloting booth in which you will have the opportunity to mark the two ballots by placing an identification mark (a cross, tick, check, plus or other mark) in the box next to the party you support. There will be no voting for individuals, only parties. Parties have published their lists of candidates in order of priority and these are available upon request from the various mission offices. All ballots will be cast in secret and ballots cannot be traced to individual voters.

If you make a mistake in marking your ballot (i.e. if you mark the wrong box or more than one box), the mistake must be immediately reported to the presiding officer before the ballot is placed in the ballot box. Once the mistake is reported, you will be issued a new ballot and your first ballot will be canceled. The presiding officer may reject your request for a new ballot if you are unable to satisfy him/her that your error was genuine. In addition, your finger will be stained with indelible ink, to prevent voting more than once.-- African American Institute

SEE SAMPLE BALLOT NEXT PAGE



BALLOT PAPER

SAMPLE ONLY

Make your mark next to the party you choose.
 Etsa letshwao pela mokgatlo oo o o kgethang.
 Yenza luphawu eceleni kwelicembu lolikhetsako.
 Endla mfungho etihelo ka vandra teri u ri hlawulaka.
 Baya letshwao go lebagana le lekoko la gago.
 Yenza uphawu lakho eduze nehlangano oyikhethako.

Plaas u merk langs die party van u keuse.
 Dira leswao la gago go lebana le phathi yeo o e kgethago.
 Kho vha ite luswayo phanda ha dzangano line vha khecha.
 Yenza uphawu lwakho ecaleni kweqela elo ulikhethayo.
 Dweba uphawu esikhaleni esiseduze kwenhlangano oyikhethayo.

PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA		PAC		
SPORTS ORGANISATION FOR COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS AND EQUAL RIGHTS		SOCCER		
THE KEEP IT STRAIGHT AND SIMPLE PARTY		KISS		
VRYHEIDSFREONT - FREEDOM FRONT		VF-FF		
WOMEN'S RIGHTS PEACE PARTY		WRPP		
WORKERS' LIST PARTY		WLP		
XIMOKO PROGRESSIVE PARTY		XPP		

AFRICA MUSLIM PARTY		AMP		
AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY		ACDP		
AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT		ADM		
AFRICAN MODERATES CONGRESS PARTY		AMCP		
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS		ANC		
DEMOCRATIC PARTY - DEMOKRATIESE PARTY		DP		
DIKWANKWETLA PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA		DPSA		
FEDERAL PARTY		FP		
LUSO - SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY		LUSAP		
MINORITY FRONT		MF		
NATIONAL PARTY - NASIONALE PARTY		NP		

Presented by the Voter Education Programme of the Independent Electoral Commission.

VIOLENCE MONITOR



While the political violence in the areas surrounding Johannesburg has subsided in the past week, the State of Emergency recently declared in the Natal province has done little to quell the violence that continues to rage there.

According to the Johannesburg-based Human Rights Commission ("HRC"), ANC supporters were the victims in more than half of the 77 deaths recorded by HRC between March 30th and April 5th. In most of the reports received by the HRC, the attackers were identified as members of the Inkatha Freedom Party. The affected areas were as follows: Durban (31 deaths, 48 injuries); Midlands (7 deaths, 11 injuries); N.Coast (27 deaths, 35 injuries); N.Natal (3 deaths) and S.Coast (9 deaths and 1 injury). The HRC noted in its weekly violence update for that period that the number of deaths it recorded was likely to have been understated as a result of the fact that two of the weekdays of that period were holidays.

According to a Reuters news report, 111 people were killed in political violence in Natal between Thursday, April 1st and Wednesday, April 6th. In the 24 hour period between April 5th and April 6th alone, 23 people died, making that period one of the deadliest of the past four years.

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EMIGRATION AD CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

As the April election nears, South African newspaper readers are being increasingly bombarded by offers of emigration assistance. In the South African-based *Business Times*, for example, it is not uncommon for an entire page to be dedicated to such advertisements. The following advertisement is illustrative:

SOUTH AFRICA = BOSNIA?

One cannot deny that South Africa's vast cultural and economic disparities coupled to current political developments do not bode well for a peaceful and prosperous future. To ensure that your family has the option of legitimately leaving SA, consider applying for alternative residency before 27 April. You have an excellent chance of qualifying for residency in NEW ZEALAND or AUSTRALIA if you have a degree or diploma, have work experience related to your qualification, and are between 18 and 54 years of age.

During the next month, free seminars will be conducted in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town by professional immigration consultants from New Zealand, after which arrangements can be made for an optional personal assessment consultation.

It is unclear exactly how many South Africans have been enticed to accept such offers.

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