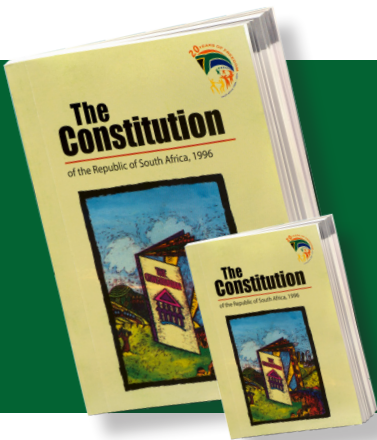




Your **VOTE** is your **VOICE**



THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 is the supreme law of the country. The values of freedom, inclusivity and respect for human rights are entrenched in the Constitution. The Constitution also ensures that the country holds regular elections that are free and fair. South Africa has a proud history of respect for the Constitution and has been holding regular elections every five years since it achieved democracy in 1994.

What is democracy?

- Being involved in decisions that affect you
- Taking part in the social, political and economic life of the country
- Having rights such as basic human rights, receiving information, the right to vote, etc.
- The government must represent the people and report to them on what it has achieved.

General elections – 2014

- South Africa will hold its fifth democratic national and provincial elections on 7 May 2014.
- The 2014 National and Provincial Elections hold a special significance for South Africans as the year marks the celebration of 20 Years of Freedom since the first democratic elections on 27 April 1994.
- We call on all South Africans to honour our history and continue to strengthen the legitimacy of our democracy by voting.

Why your VOTE counts?

- Through your vote, you can change your life or the life of someone else.
- You will play an active role in electing representatives of your choice.
- By voting, you are participating in democracy and being an active citizen.
- South Africans born after the first democratic elections in 1994 are eligible to vote for the first time – this is your chance.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





YOUR VOTE IS YOUR RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Government calls all South Africans, especially young and first-time voters, to exercise their democratic right to vote

YOUR responsibility to VOTE – play your part

- The struggle for freedom has secured the right for every South African to be active participants in our democratic system.
- Each and every vote contributes to strengthening our democracy.
- Reflect on the journey we have travelled since 1994, transformation in our country and the challenges we face.

Your VOTE is safe and protected

- The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is an independent body established to promote and safeguard our democracy. It has a good reputation and a track record of conducting elections.
- The Electoral Act, 1998 (Act 73 of 1998 allows for accredited neutral observers to monitor the elections.
- Law-enforcement agencies have introduced measures to ensure a safe and peaceful 2014 General Election.
- The power of YOUR vote cannot be undermined.
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Who can vote?

- You are eligible to vote if you are:
 1. A South African citizen and are registered to vote.
 2. At least 18 years old.
 3. In possession of a green bar-coded ID book, Smart ID Card or temporary identity certificate. We urge those who have applied but have not collected their IDs and Smart ID cards to collect them now as per sms messages from Home Affairs.
 4. To find out if you are registered or where you will vote, send your ID number to 32810 (SMSs cost R1).
- South African citizens residing outside the country and who are registered to vote will have an opportunity to cast their votes on 30 April 2014. They can vote at any of South Africa's 124 embassies, high commissions or consulates-general located in 108 countries.

Where can I get more information?

- Home Affairs will open its offices on election day in line with IEC regulations to issue IDs, deliver uncollected Smart ID cards and issue temporary identity certificates.

