

## Elections – The final outcome

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) says the 2016 local government elections have been difficult, but a huge success. The commission has declared the polls free and fair.

For voters, this was the toughest elections since the dawn of our democracy in 1994.

A brief summary of the electoral polls in our 9 provinces:

### Western Cape

- The Democratic Alliance (DA) has won control of 20 councils in the Western Cape with nearly 63.33% of the vote.
- While the African National Congress (ANC) garnered just over 26.22% it did not manage to secure control of any council.
- Nearly 3% of voters chose Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) over other parties but it was also unable to secure a council.

### Limpopo

- In the province that is home turf for EFF leader Julius Malema, his party only managed to get 16.73% of the overall votes, with the ANC leading the pack with 68.75%.
- The DA trailed behind with a mere 8.06%.
- The outcome means the ANC has secured 22 councils, while neither the DA nor EFF were able win councils.

### Northern Cape

- This is another province where the ruling party has come out tops.
- The ANC secured 58.26%, the DA won 24.85% and the EFF came in third with just 8.6%.
- This translates to 26 councils for the ANC, while neither the DA nor EFF were able win councils.

### Kwazulu-Natal

- The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) gave the ANC a tough time in the province by retaining control of Nkandla where President Jacob Zuma's controversial homestead is located.
- Although the IFP only earned 18.39% of the votes, giving it 7 councils, it was the Nkandla victory that mattered the most.
- The ANC bagged 57.48% of the support, resulting in 36 councils, and the DA won 16.16%, but no councils.

### Free State

- The ruling party saw no major competition here, leading the pack with 61.53% of the overall votes.
- The DA came in second once again with 20.38% and the EFF in third with 9.69%.
- This gives the ANC 19 councils, and once again no councils for the DA or EFF.

## **Mpumalanga**

- The ANC has once again come out tops with 70.74% and the DA retained the second place with 12.93% of the overall provincial votes.
- The EFF retained third place with 9.39%.
- The ANC booked 17 councils, and zero for both the DA and the EFF.
- The small party to earn the number four spot was the Bushbuckridge Residents Association (BRA) with 2.25%, although it did not win a council.

## **Gauteng**

- The ANC bagged the province with 45.85%, the DA came in second with 37.21% and the EFF received 11.7% of the votes.
- This translated into 7 councils for the ANC, 2 for the DA and no councils for the EFF.

## **Eastern Cape**

- The ANC had a very good run in the Eastern Cape with 65.31% support.
- The DA obtained 19.7% and the EFF 5.18%.
- This translates to 31 councils for the ruling party, 2 for the opposition and zero for the three-year-old EFF.

## **North West**

- This province represented another victory for the ANC. The party garnered 59.38% of the overall provincial vote, reserving itself 18 councils.
- The EFF's efforts were appreciated by NW voters as they gave the party 15.52% of their support, although this did not translate into any council control.
- This time, the DA came third with 15.0% and no councils.

A party who has obtained the largest number of seats on a municipal council (but not an outright majority) does not have an automatic legal right to form the municipal government. Any group of parties who can put together a coalition of 50% plus 1 can form a coalition government, regardless of whether the largest party in the coalition is the largest party in the council.

With the two largest political parties striving to achieve majority of seats in various metros, they have begun coalition talks with smaller political parties to form a formal coalition to secure a governing majority. Smaller political parties should share similar goals and visions as the larger parties in terms of service delivery and where they want to see South Africa in the future.

Since the election results have been released, we have seen the Rand strengthen against the Dollar Pound and Euro. We at Global & Local see this as a great opportunity to invest funds into offshore investments. We continuously monitor the markets and we always strive to ensure best investment performances for our clients.