

THE 1999 SOUTH AFRICA GENERAL ELECTIONS

Norman du Plessis
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
Electoral Operation

Delivering an election comprises a number of complex activities, and is further aggravated by the **exponential complexity** of sheer numbers. The 1999 elections did not only require creative and extensive planning, but also had to be delivered by an organisation, which by the middle of 1997 did not yet exist.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) can be viewed as consisting of three components: The factory which actually “delivers” the election, the supporting administrative part of the ‘factory’ and a third component which is responsible for the long term growth of a sustainable democratic environment in South Africa.

In this presentation Norman Du Plessis focuses on the “electoral factory” and the individual processes comprising it. Rather than focussing on the standard project management functions, he guides the audience through the process and then highlights unique concepts implemented by the IEC to successfully manage the completion of the activities. Some of these “unique” concepts are:

- Use of Geographic Information Systems for delimitation;
- Management Reporting; and
- Use of Information Technology as a business enabler, ensuring that tight deadlines could be met

What makes the IEC a unique case study is not so much an understanding of the processes involved, but rather the fact that the IEC had to establish a permanent organisation whilst at the same time it had to deliver the 1999 elections. The date for the election is set in the Constitution and could not be changed without affecting a change to the Constitution, which could have had disastrous consequences for South Africa.

Some of the key projects and milestones were:

- Creating a continuous geographical database using Geographic Information System technology for delimitation and spatial planning;
- Delimiting the country into 14 650 voting districts and printing 20 000 A0 and 80 000 A3 maps.
- Completed within 6 weeks;
- Establishing 807 party liaison committees for delimitation;
- Identify, contract and equip 14 650 voting stations;
- Setting up a satellite computer network (approximately 526 satellite dishes across the country);
- Developing processes for registration, voting, counting and results;



- Developing software for purposes of:
 - Voter registration
 - Staff recruitment and training
 - Results collection, verification and reporting
- Marketing and public awareness projects;
- Recruitment and training of temporary personnel (60 000 for registration and 220 000 for election day);
- Printing of 350 million pages, which consisted of training material, ballot papers, etc.;
- Distribution and retrieval of 10 000 tons of registration and electoral material to and subsequently from 14 650 destinations;
- Registration of approximately 18.5 million people in 9 days;
- Design and implementation of the election centre for results;
- Voting of 16.3 million people in 14 hours;
- Announcement of the final election results within 5 days

Complex inter dependencies and **scale** was probably the two most dominant characteristics in preparing for the election and will, for that very reason, certainly be remembered.



1999
SOUTH AFRICAN
GENERAL ELECTIONS





TITLE: The 1999 South African general elections
- a project management perspective

AUTHOR: Mr. Norman du Plessis





“The Devil is in the Detail”

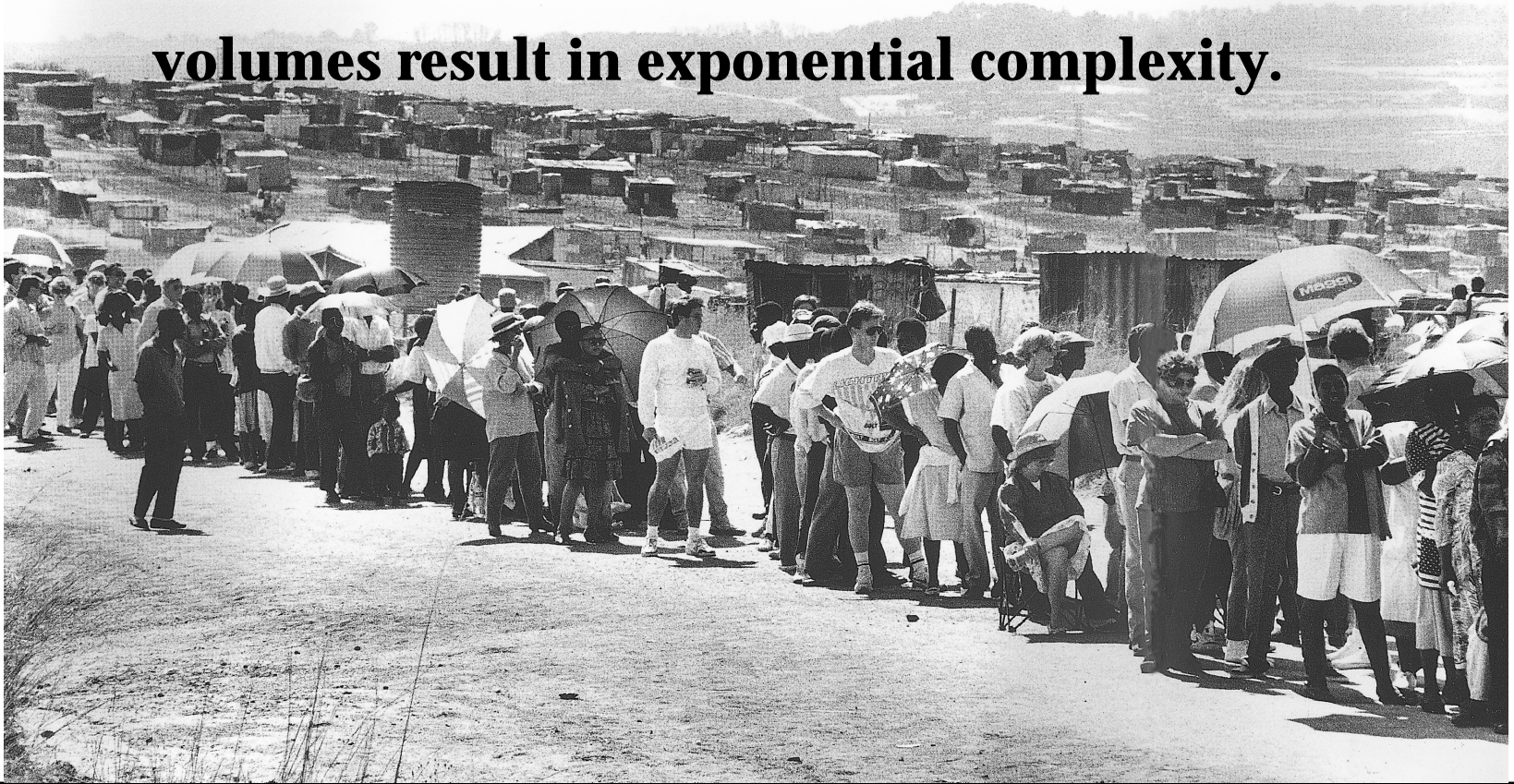
Election delivery consists of standard management disciplines of planning, implementation, controlling and corrective action, driven by Programme and Project Management philosophies.....





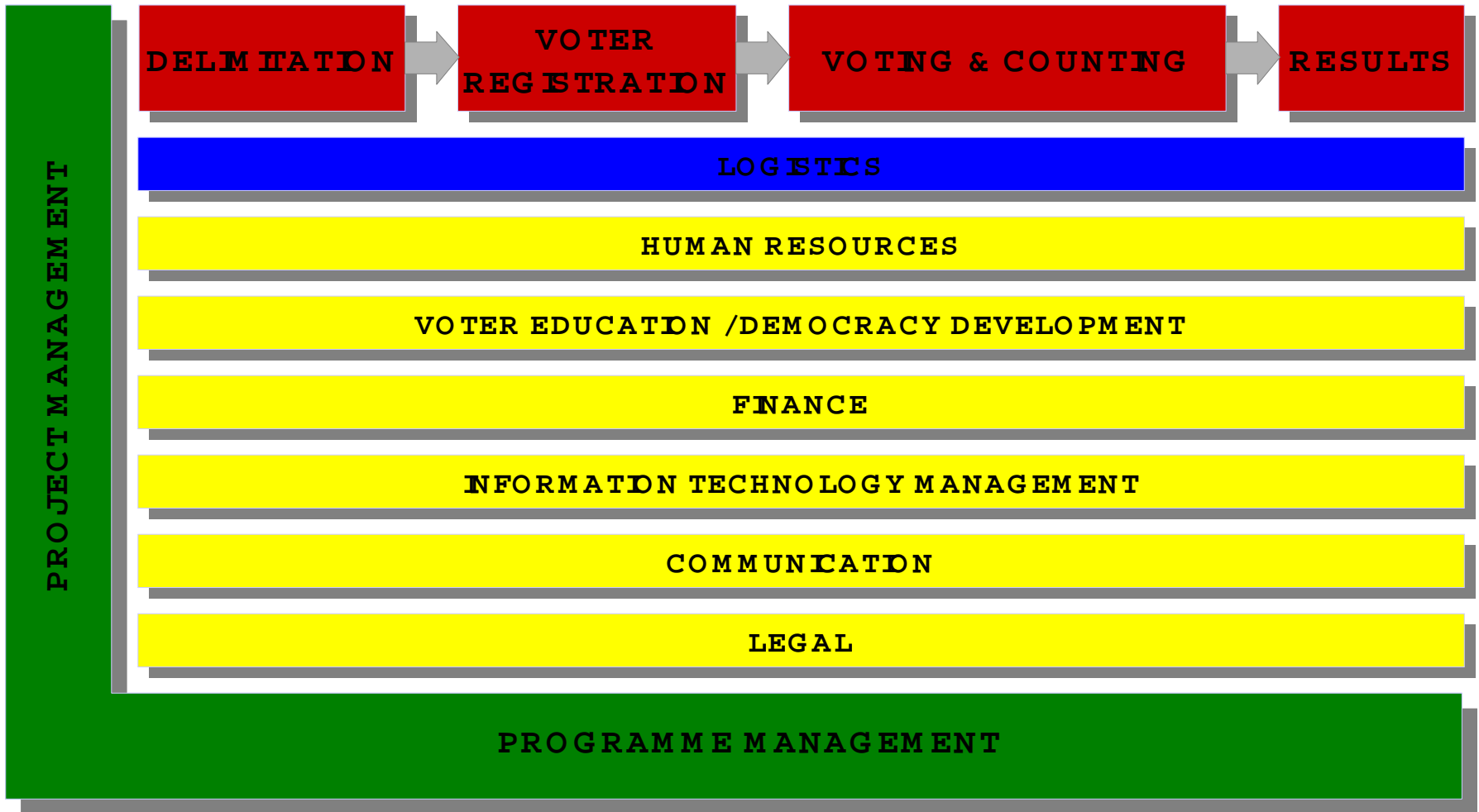
“The Devil is in the Detail”

**The difference lies in NUMBERS, where
volumes result in exponential complexity.**



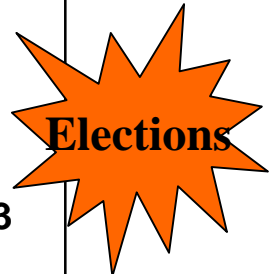
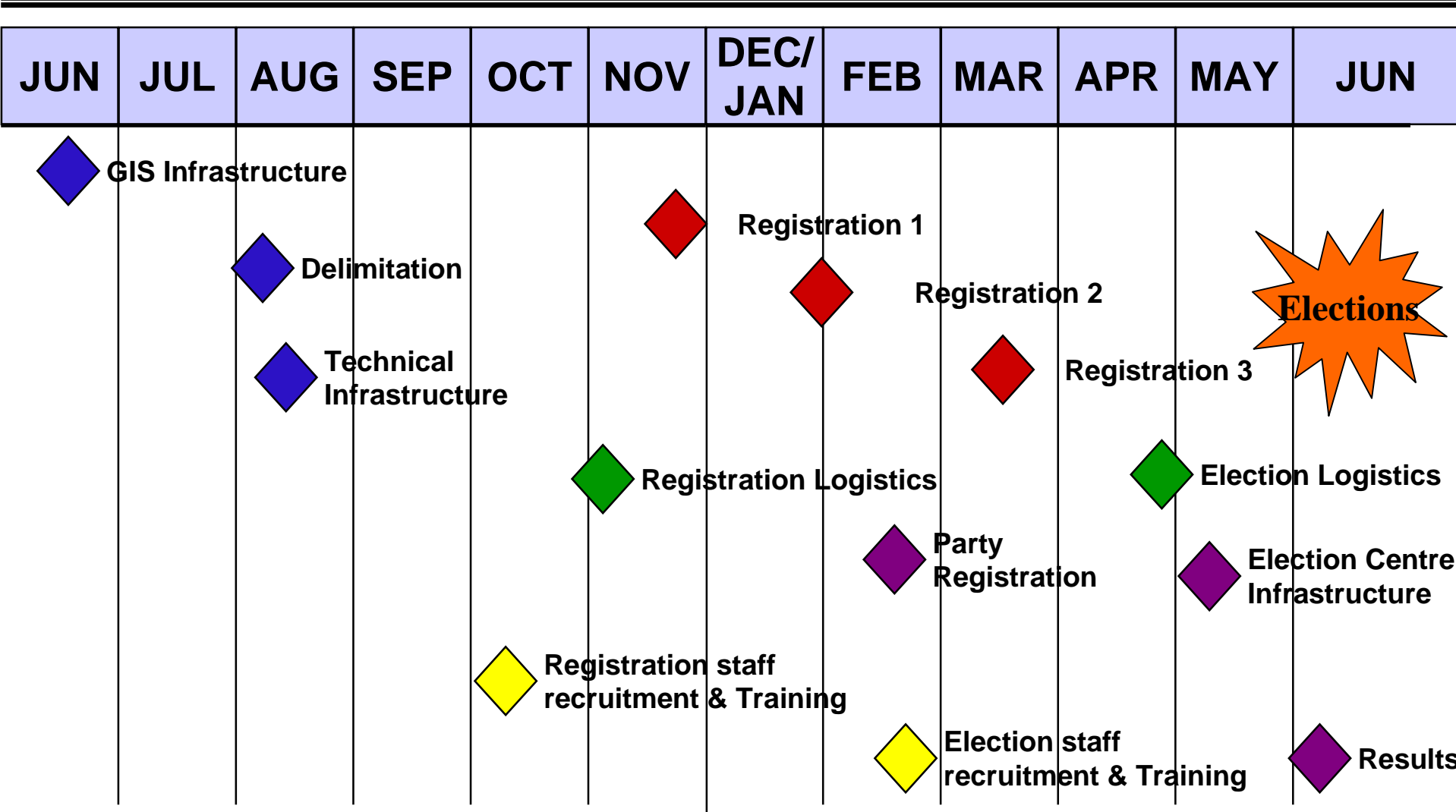


Electoral Process



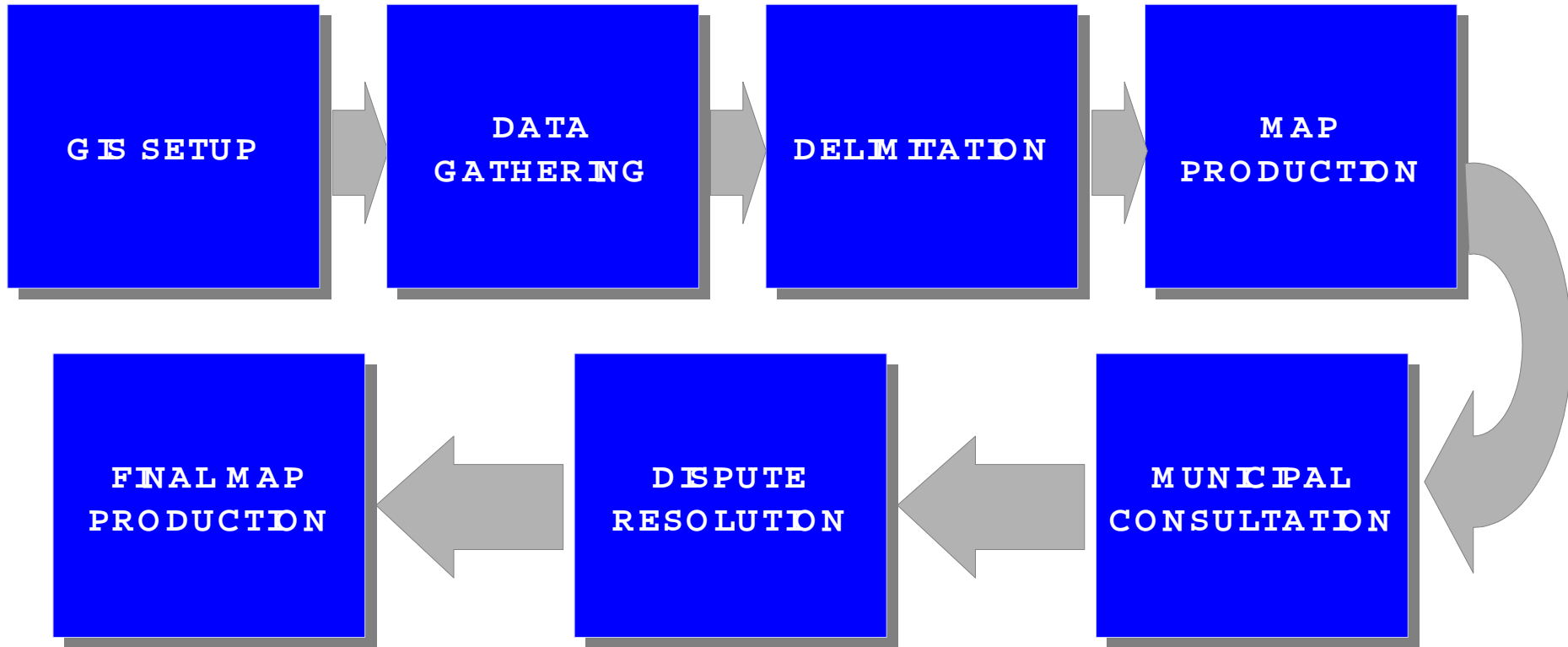


Election Timeline





Delimitation Process





A Geographic Information System was set up:

- Γ **IEC managed and owned**
- Γ **In partnership with:**
 - = *Department of Land Affairs*
 - = *Statistics South Africa*

The system contains:

- Γ **Cadastral and topographical information**
- Γ **Census enumerator area co-ordinates**
- Γ **Census 96 information**





Voting districts are administrative not political and were guided by two key factors:

SIZE

- = 7,5 Km urban
- = 10 Km rural
- = within walking distance

POPULATION

- = 3 000 urban
- = 1 200 rural
- = manageable numbers



REGISTRATION AND VOTING STATION
No. 54370010PB1
 Voting Age Population: 637 (Estimated)
PROPOSED LOCATION:
 ISIPHESHLE FARM SCHOOL
 FARM RUSTFONTEIN 543R
 BALFOUR DISTRICT OFF
 ROAD P4-3



Location of Municipality in Province

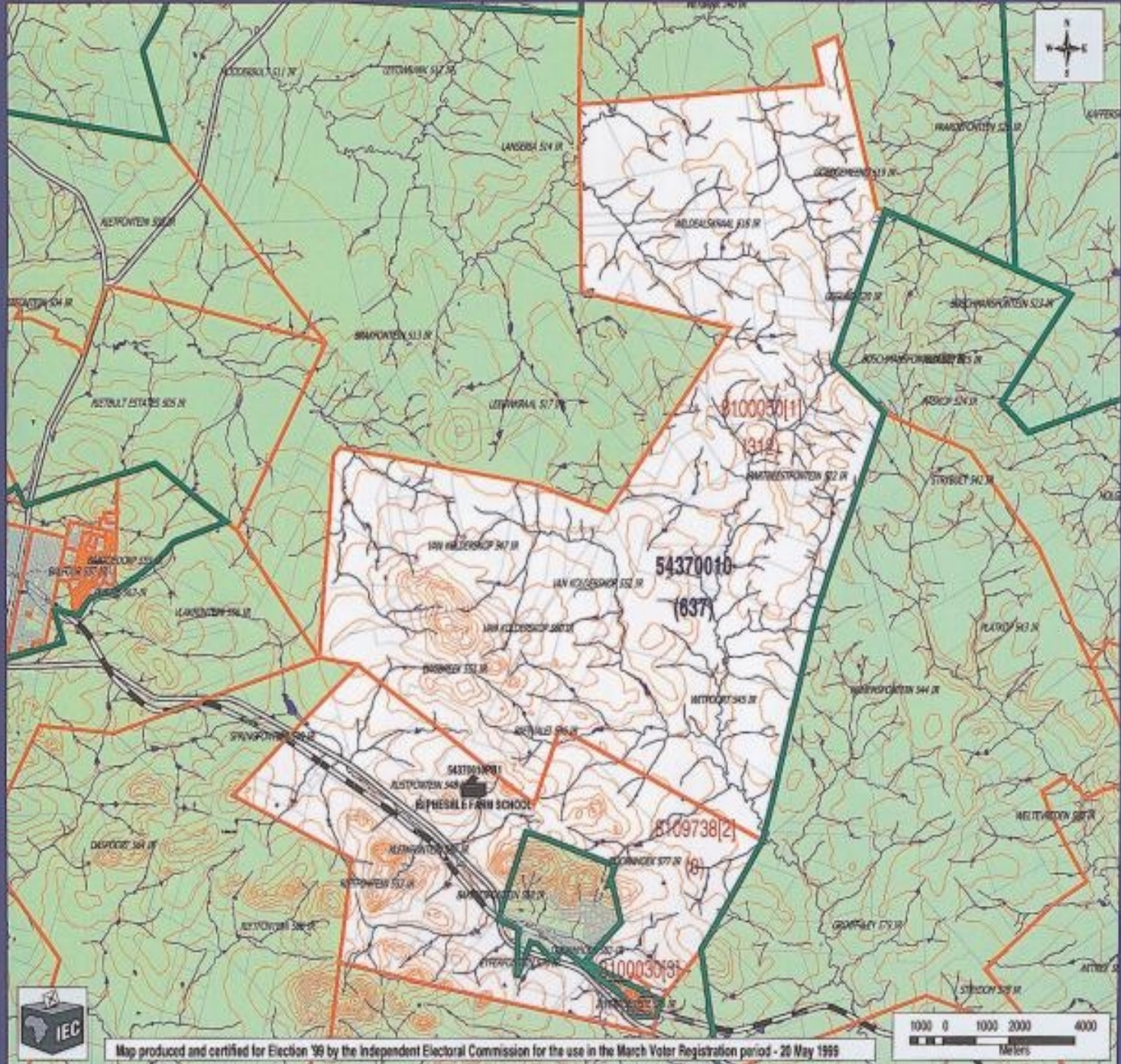


Location of Voting District in Municipality

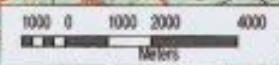


MAP LEGEND

- Municipal Boundary
- Voting District Boundary
- Enumeration or Area Boundary
- Road
- Railway Line
- River/Dam
- Voting District Number (C26 Voting Age Pop. / (Munic. Amended Pop.)
- Enumeration Area Number (C26 Voting Age Pop. / (Munic. Amended Pop.)
- Registration & Voting Station, Name and Number
- Mobile Voting Station and Number
- This area is an unassigned voting district (Register and vote at the nearest voting station)



Map produced and certified for Election '99 by the Independent Electoral Commission for the use in the March Voter Registration period - 20 May 1999

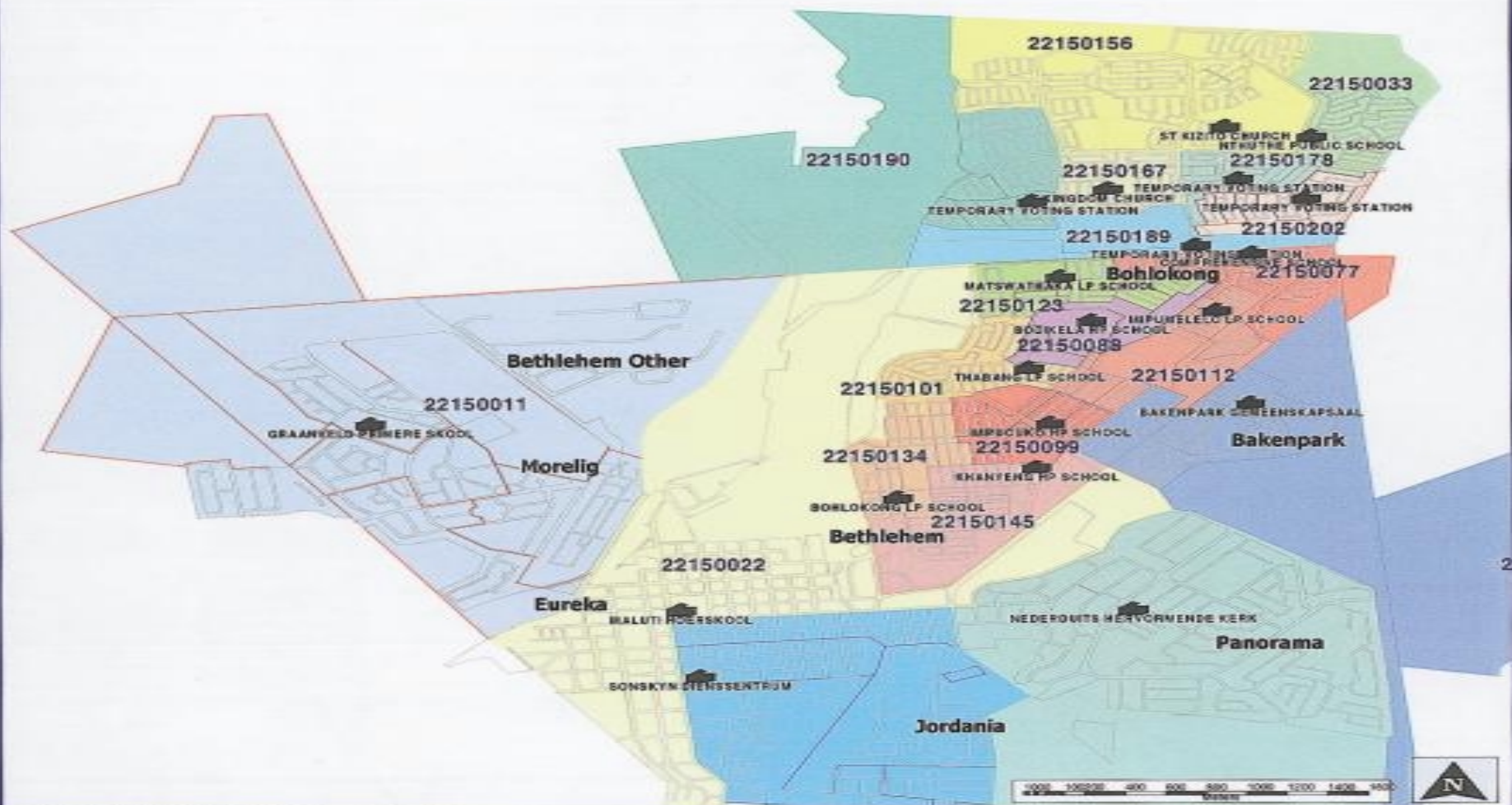


MPUMALANGA

Balfour Rural TRC

Map Sheet 1 of 1

VOTING DISTRICT No. 54370010



Key to voting Stations Represented on this map

VD No	VS Location	VS Address	Suburb	VD No	VS Location	VS Address	Suburb
22150011	GRAANKVELD PRIMERE SKOOL	1 SWOOP STREET 36 UNIONSTRAAT	BOHLAKONG	22150189	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	EXT 2	BOHLAKONG
22150022	MALUTI HOERSKOOL	30 BARRY DE WOL STRAAT C/O HIGH & WESSELSSTR	PANORAMA	22150202	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150033	MTNUTHE PUBLIC SCHOOL	KARRE STRAAT	BAKENPARK	22150207	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150044	NEDE ROLUITS HERVORMENDE KERK	NORTH AVENUE MOKELLE STREET	BOHLAKONG	22150223	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150055	SONSKYN GEMEENSKAPSAAL	MABIZELA STREET BB STREET	BOHLAKONG	22150277	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150056	BAKENPARK GEMEENSKAPSAAL	KABA STREET	BOHLAKONG	22150288	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150077	COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	SHAPRYANENG STREET COETZEE STREET	BOHLAKONG	22150333	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150088	BOJKELA HP SCHOOL	MANNE STREET	BOHLAKONG	22150388	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150099	IMFUMELELO HP SCHOOL	ST KIZITO CHURCH	BOHLAKONG	22150415	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150101	THABANG LP SCHOOL	KINGDOM CHURCH	BOHLAKONG	22150422	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150112	BAKENPARK GEMEENSKAPSAAL	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG	22150433	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150123	MATSWATHARA LP SCHOOL	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG	22150444	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150134	IMPECKO HP SCHOOL	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG	22150455	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150145	BOHLAKONG LP SCHOOL	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG	22150466	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150156	ST KIZITO CHURCH	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG	22150477	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150167	KINGDOM CHURCH	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG	22150488	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150178	MTNUTHE PUBLIC SCHOOL	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG	22150499	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION		BOHLAKONG
22150189	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150202	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150207	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150223	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150277	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150288	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150333	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150388	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150415	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150422	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150433	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150444	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150455	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150466	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150477	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150488	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				
22150499	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	TEMPORARY VOTING STATION	BOHLAKONG				



Local authorities and political parties at all levels of government were consulted throughout the delimitation process



The consultation process was facilitated through the Party Liaison Structure that was represented by all Political Parties at National, Provincial and Local level

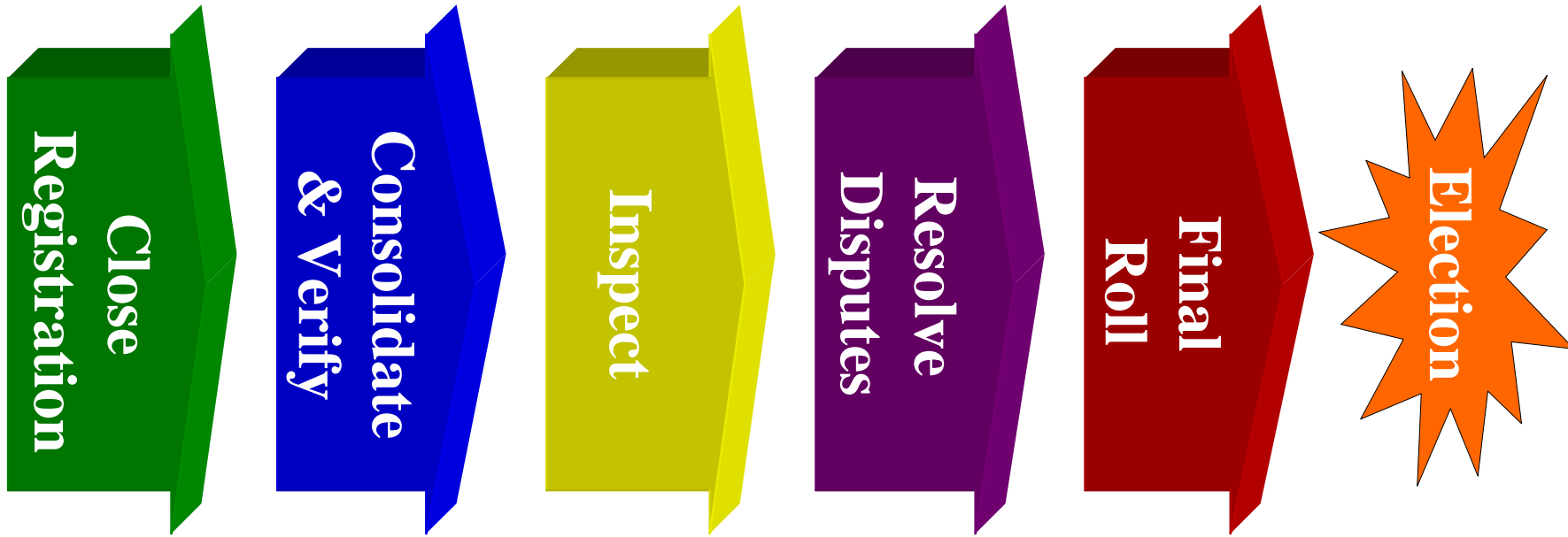
- ✓ A0 maps were distributed to all municipalities for comment
- ✓ Comments were assessed and the GIS updated where appropriate
- ✓ Maps were distributed again for final comment
- ✓ A dispute resolution process were implemented to deal with issues where conflict arose





Registration Process

Constitutionally, the 1999 election had to happen within 90 days of the date that the 5 year term of the National Assembly expired

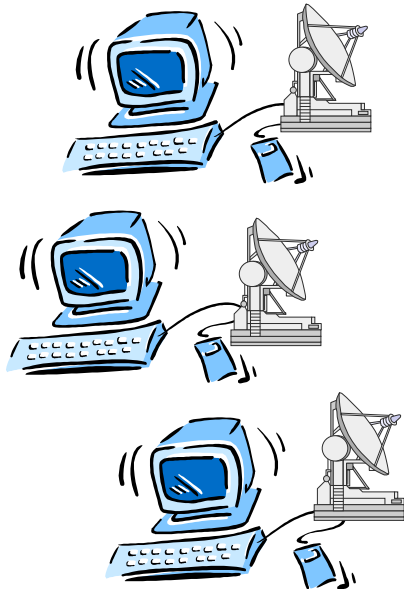




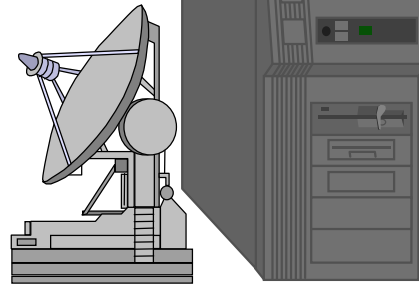
Data Consolidation & Tracking

All data captured through barcode scanners was automatically consolidated and tracked through the IEC Wide Area Network.

Municipalities



IEC



Home Affairs

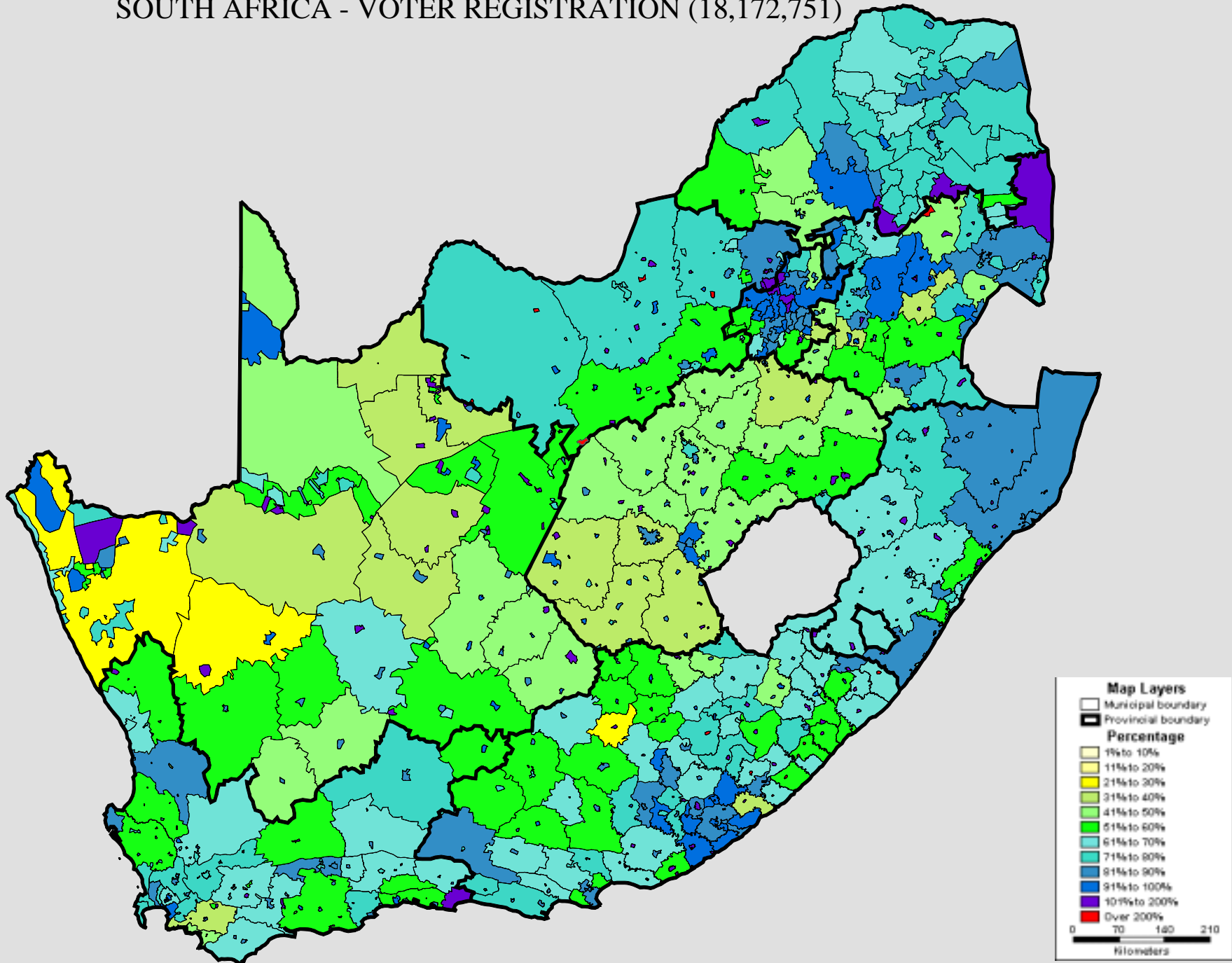




Data Consolidation & Tracking (Spatial Management)



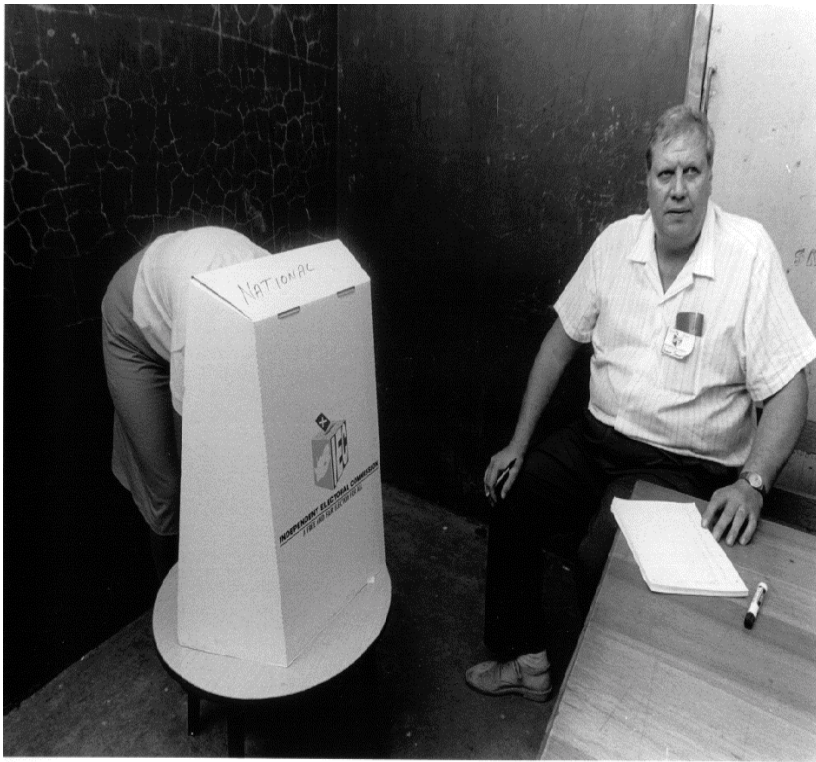
SOUTH AFRICA - VOTER REGISTRATION (18,172,751)





Voting

Approximately 16.3 million of the 18.5 million registered voters cast a vote for both the national and one of nine provincial legislatures within 14 hours on voting day



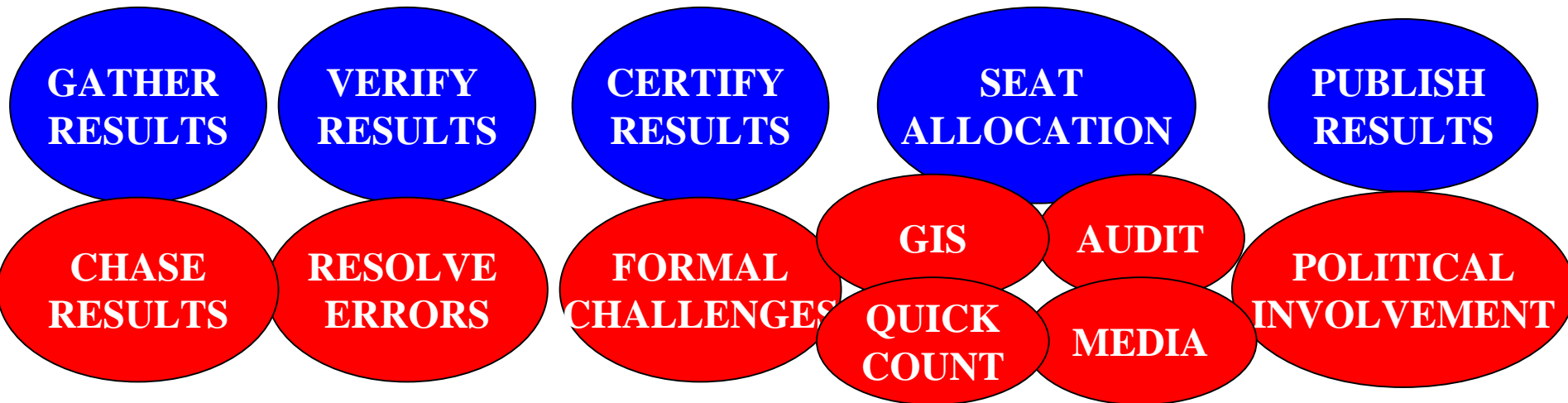
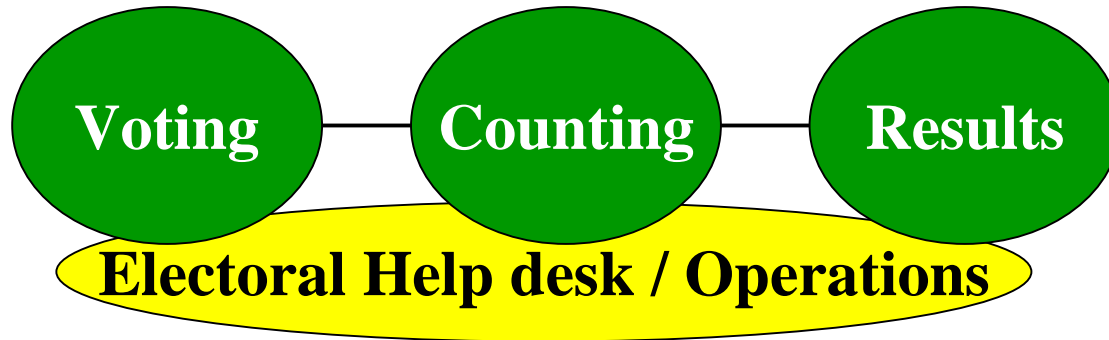
Special arrangements had to be made for:

- ✓ the infirm
- ✓ pregnant woman
- ✓ electoral staff and the security services
- ✓ some military personnel
- ✓ registered voters abroad
- ✓ registered voters outside their voting districts for the purpose of business or study commitments



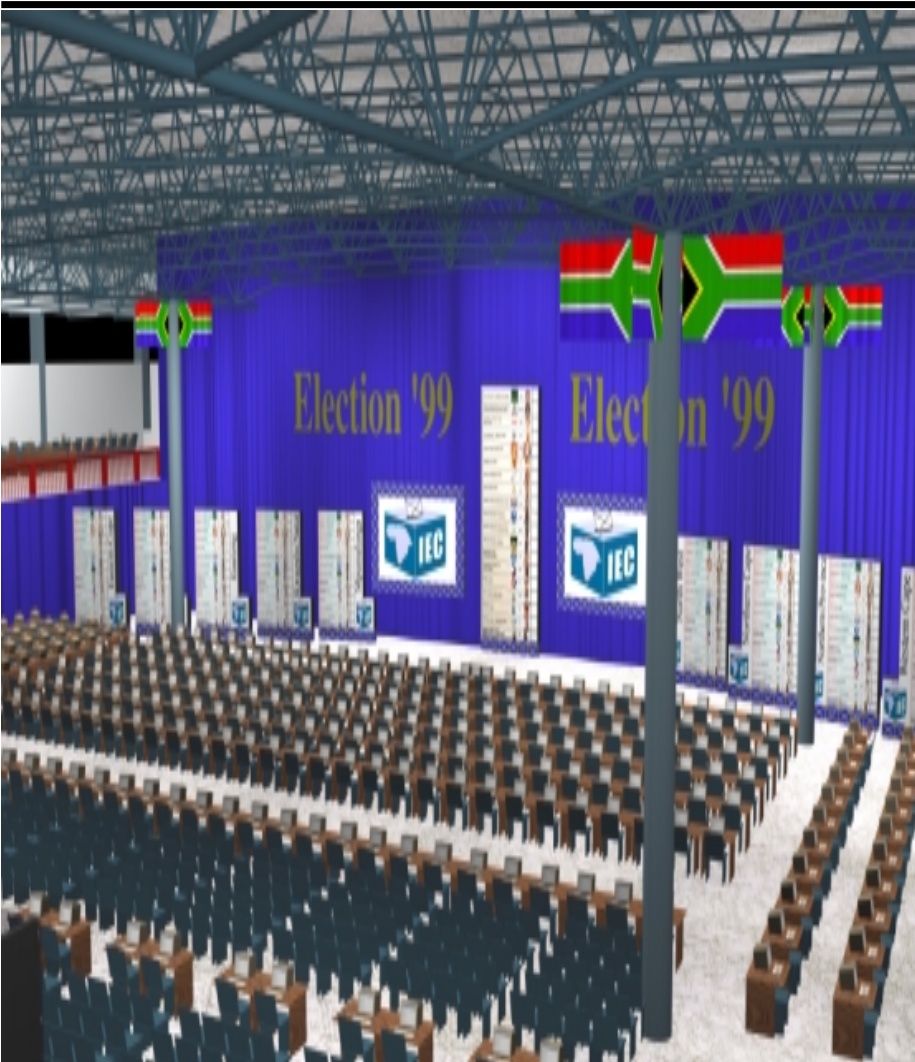


The Results Process





The Electoral Results Centre



- 2 400 sq meters of raised floor
- 35 000 meters of UTP PC cabling / 3 000 meters of Fibre
- 3000 meters of electrical cabling
- 550 seat press conference area
- A split level 12 000 square meter building
- 2000 Telephone points with telephones
- 8000 square meters of carpeting was laid
- Electronic replicas of the National/Provincial ballot papers
- 45000 telephone calls / 30 000 faxes
- An additional 8000 square meter hall was leased to feed 1500 persons per meal



The final result of all 10 elections and of approximately 32.6 million votes cast was available only 4 days after election day.



Results were confirmed only after a three way verification process:

- ✓ results were receive by phone, fax and electronic via the satellite network
- ✓ Results were only considered verified once all three figures matched 100%





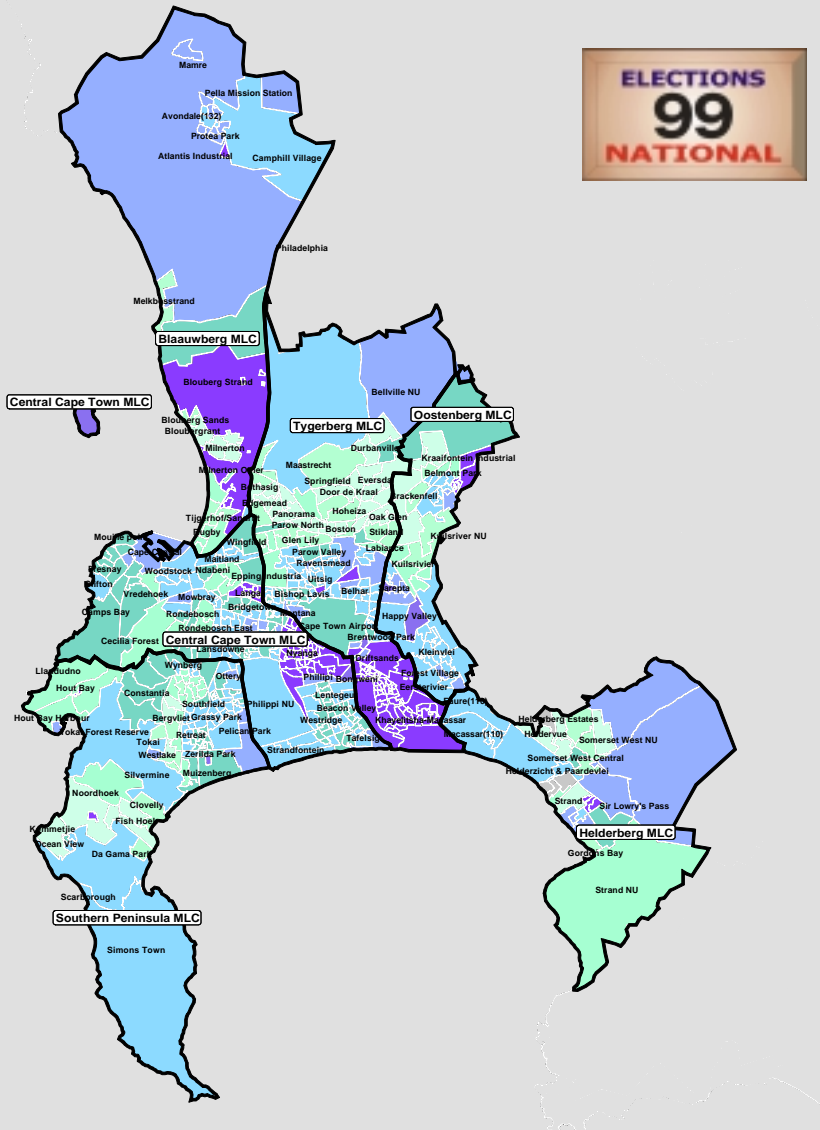
Results Atlas

A 228 page colour atlas with all results in geographic format were published for the first time in the history of South Africa.

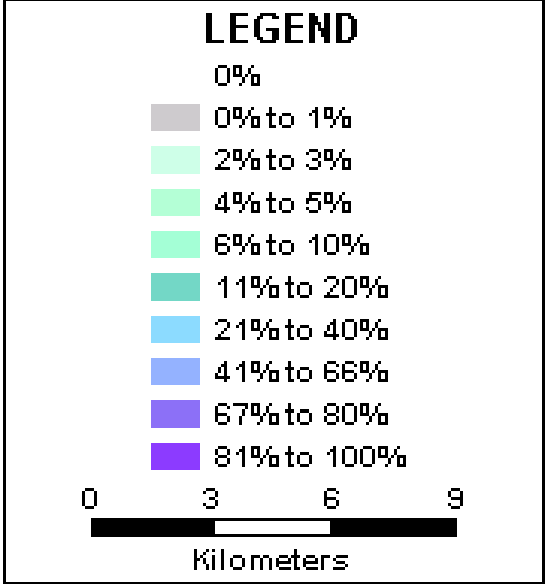




Cape Metro - % Vote for the ANC



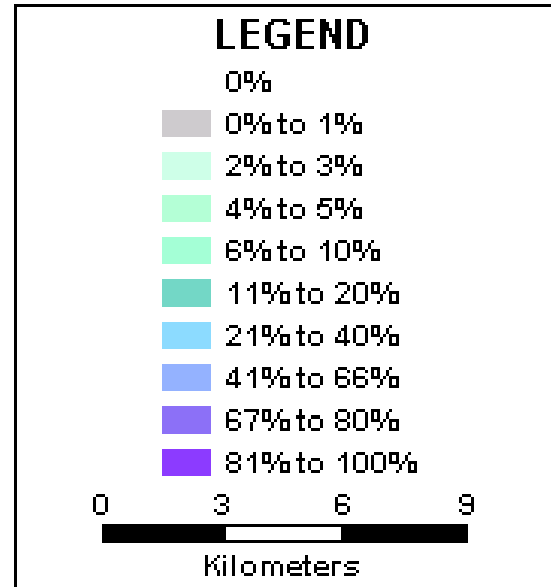
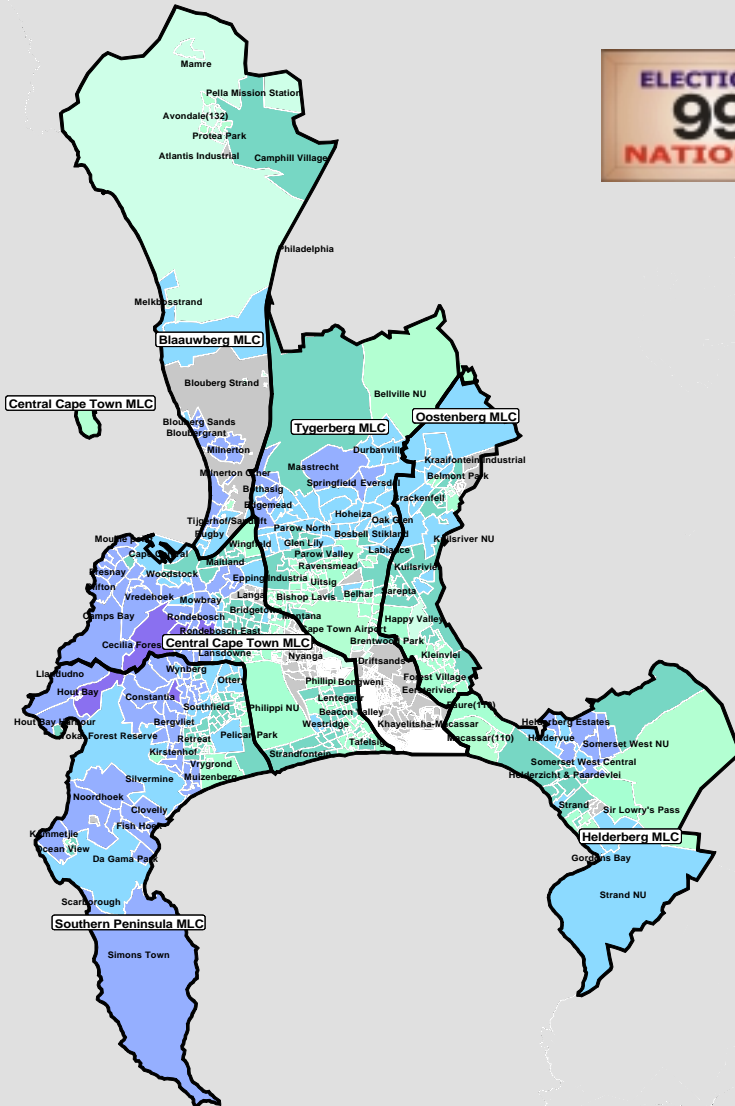
ELECTIONS
99
NATIONAL

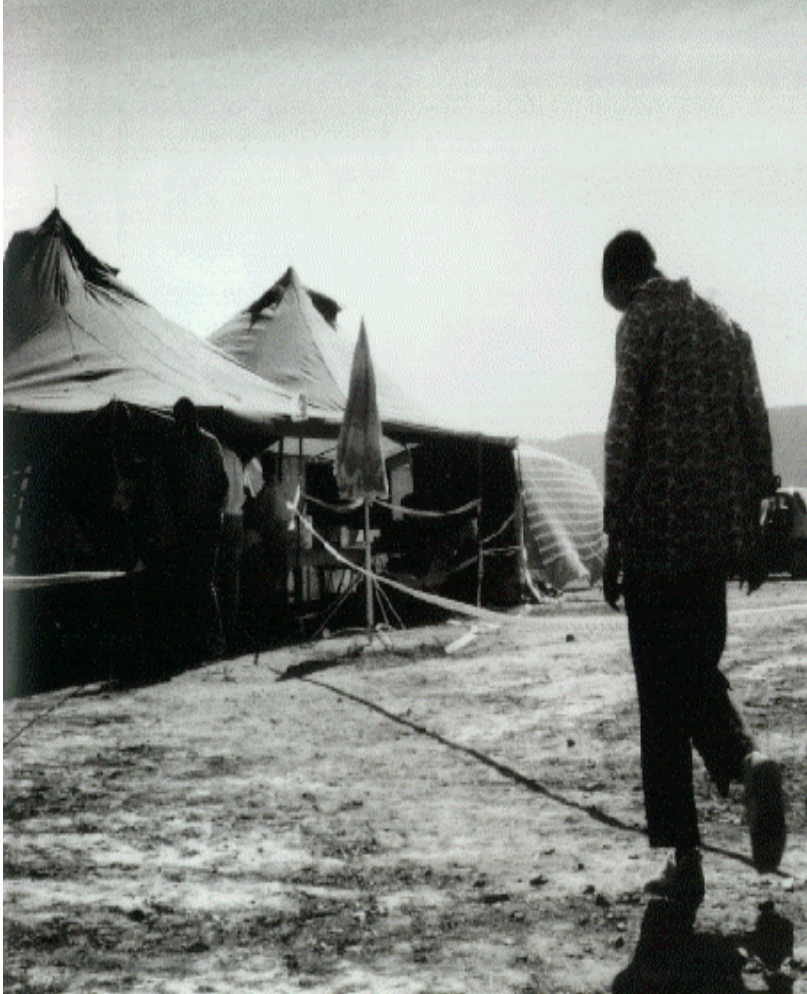




Cape Metro - % Vote for the DP

ELECTIONS
99
NATIONAL



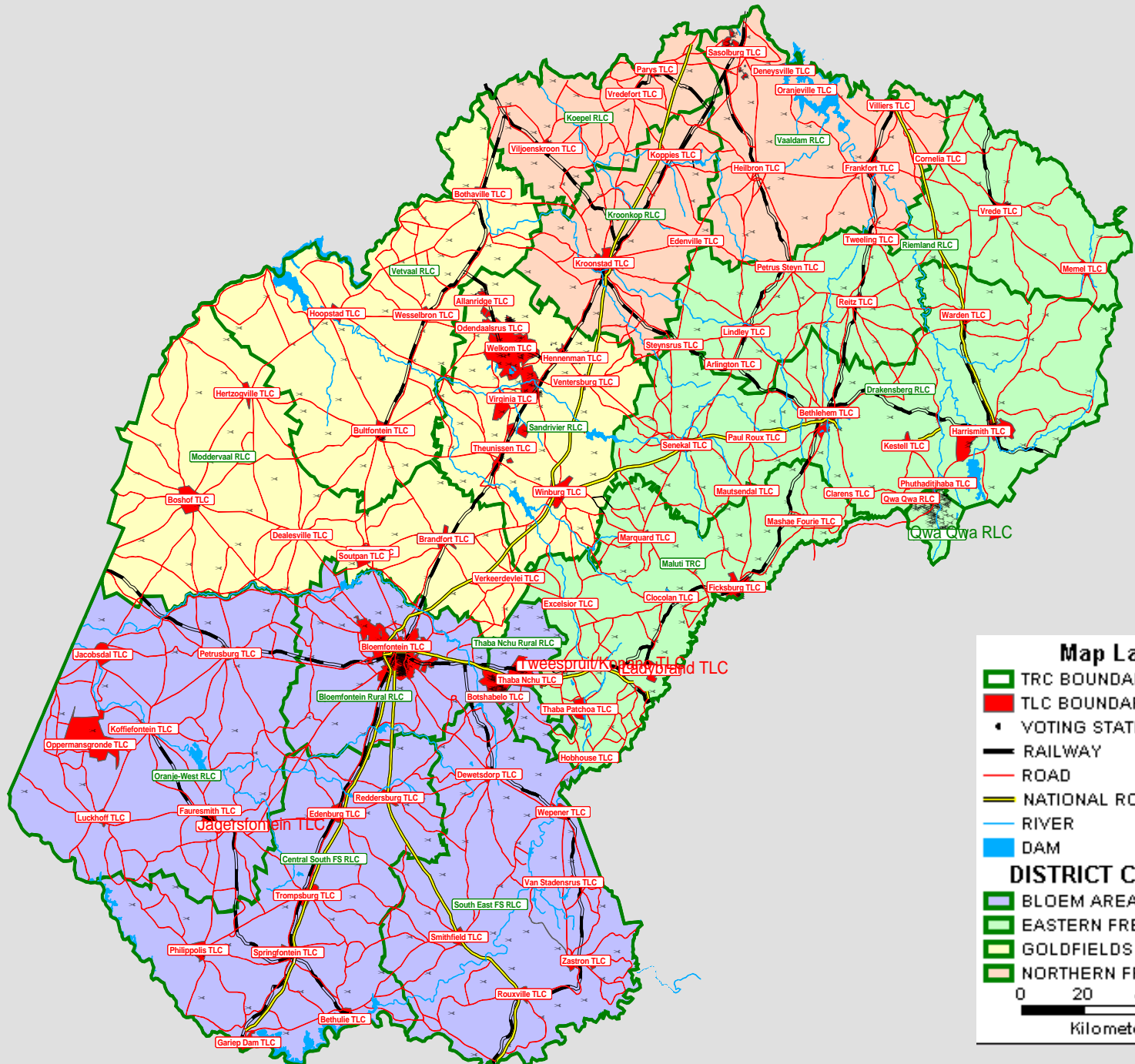


For purpose of registration and the elections, 350 million pages were printed. 10 000 tons of material were delivered to approximately 14 600 destinations.

Amongst the material distributed was:

- ✓ electronic registration equipment and stationary
- ✓ training manuals and registration forms
- ✓ cardboard furniture and ballot boxes
- ✓ ballot papers, security ink and security stamps
- ✓ IEC banners, weather balloons, flags and flag poles
- ✓ etc.





Map Layers

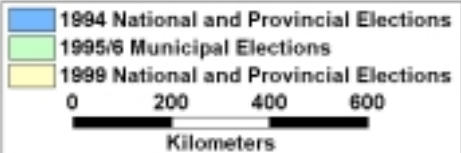
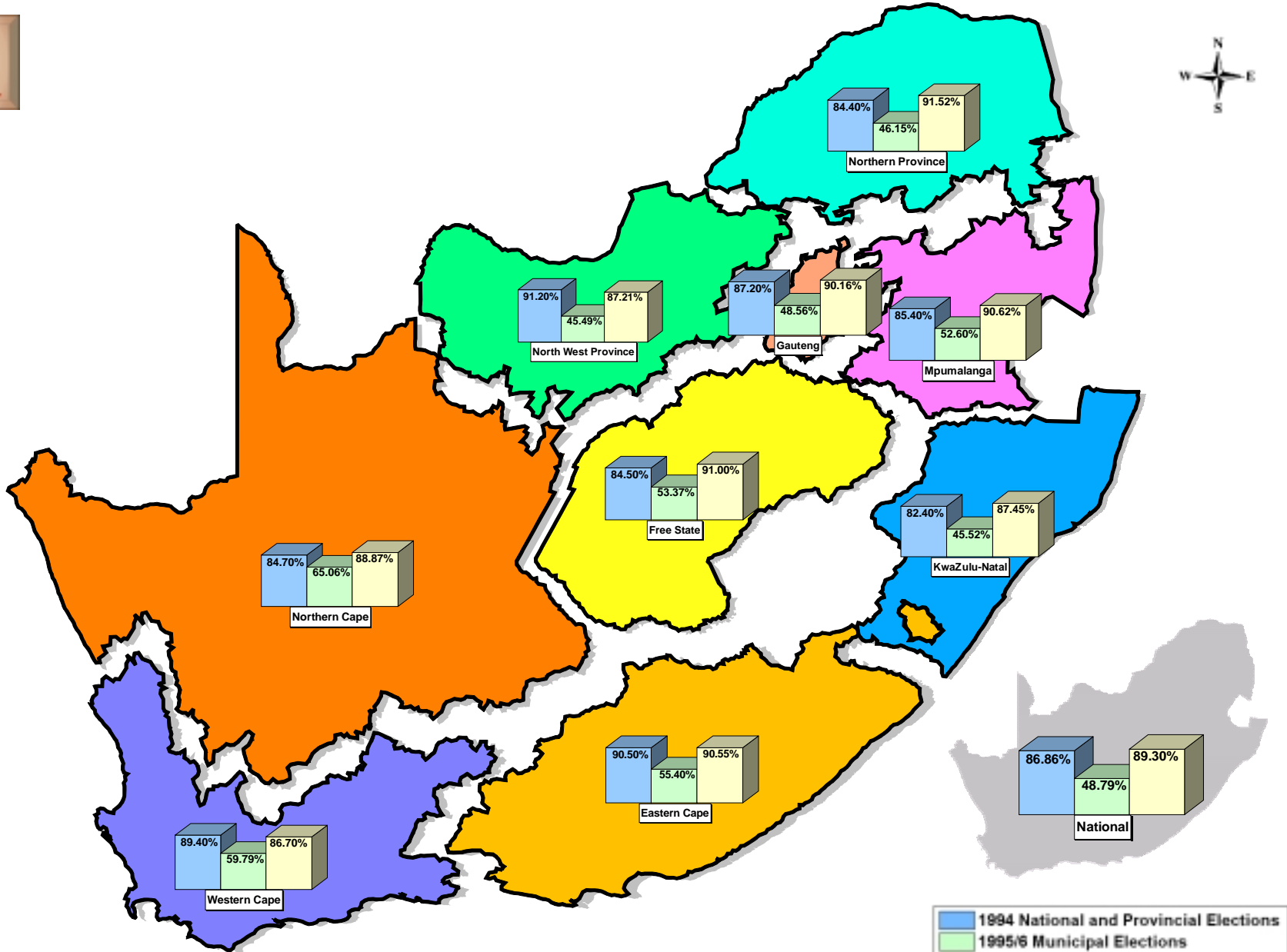
- █ TRC BOUNDARY
- █ TLC BOUNDARY
- VOTING STATION
- RAILWAY
- ROAD
- NATIONAL ROAD
- RIVER
- DAM

DISTRICT COUNCILS

- █ BLOEM AREA DC
- █ EASTERN FREE STATE DC
- █ GOLDFIELDS DC
- █ NORTHERN FREE STATE DC

0 20 40 60
Kilometers

ELECTIONS
99
NATIONAL





- **A successful election is determined by detailed planning and precision execution**
- **Stakeholder management is one of the most crucial elements**
- **Lack of previous infrastructure allows South Africa to leap frog a legacy and implement new, creative solutions**

