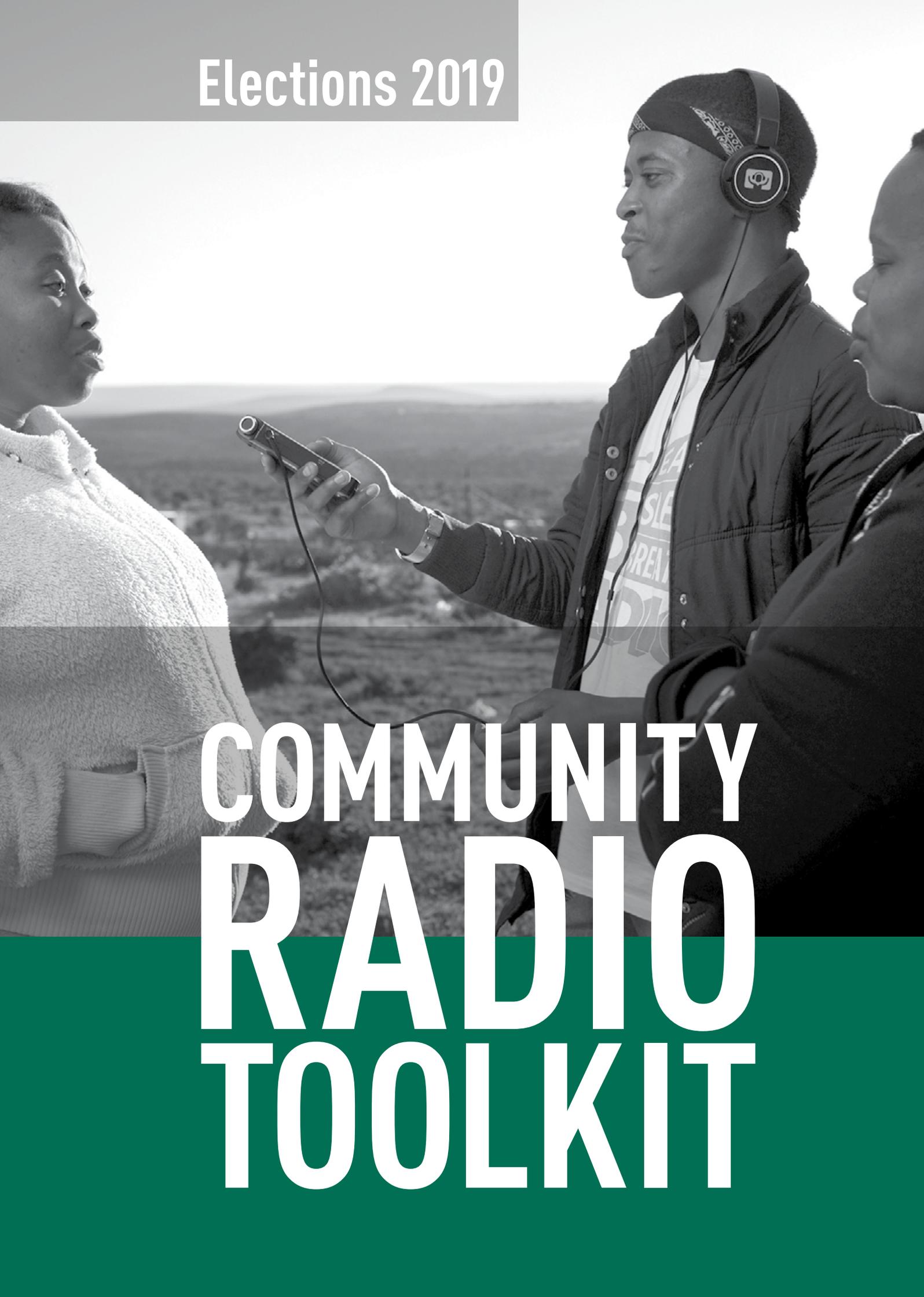


Elections 2019



COMMUNITY RADIO TOOLKIT

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1 INTRODUCTION

2 ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

3 SECTION ONE: ELECTIONS 101

4 How South Africa's democracy works: setting the scene for elections.

- 4 VOTING
- 5 VOTING RIGHTS IN A CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY
- 7 THE MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM AND PROPORTIONAL
- 8 THE ROLE OF THE IEC DURING ELECTIONS
- 8 THE VOTING PROCESS

11 Elections Reporting: Laws And Codes

- 13 REPORTER ACCREDITATION

14 Election Milestones

15 SECTION TWO: YOUR COMMUNITY RADIO STATION AT ELECTION TIME

16 Ethics and Fairness: developing an editorial vision for your station for elections

- 16 THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY RADIO
- 16 DEVELOPING A CODE OF ETHICS FOR YOUR NEWSROOM AND ELECTION COVERAGE
- 18 SAFEGUARDING, MITIGATING RISKS
- 18 SAFE SPACES FOR COMMUNITY DIALOGUE
- 20 COVERING LOCAL ISSUES FOR A NATIONAL ELECTION
- 24 DEALING WITH THE HOT ELECTION ISSUES: LAND, GENDER, SERVICE DELIVERY, CRIME, YOUTH

26 Station resources and constraints: working with what we've got

27 Production planning for your election coverage

28 SECTION THREE: FORMATS AND PLATFORMS TO AMPLIFY BROADCAST

29 Broadcast and Social Media

- 29 UNDERSTANDING YOUR AUDIENCE
- 30 CONTENT CREATION AND CONTENT CURATION
- 31 INTERACTIVE CONTENT
- 31 MOBILE JOURNALISM
- 32 EXTENDING THE SHELF-LIFE OF GOOD AUDIO

32 Top tips for SA's social media platforms:

- 32 FACEBOOK
- 33 TWITTER
- 33 INSTAGRAM
- 33 WHATSAPP
- 34 CHECK YOUR STATS
- 34 OTHER USEFUL SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS

36 SECTION FOUR: FACT CHECKING

36 Beware "Fake News"

37 Fact VS Opinion

- 37 KNOW THE DIFFERENCE
- 38 WHO IS CREATING THESE KINDS OF MISINFORMATION & WHY

39 Don't be fooled, get it right

41 "Fact checking" yourself

42 Fact Checking Tools Suggested by Africa Check

42 Fact Checking Images

43 APPENDIX

- 43 CONTACTS
- 53 OTHER USEFUL LINKS

44 FACT SHEETS

- 44 Demand for land in South Africa, in numbers
- 47 South Africa's official poverty numbers
- 50 Nearly 39% of young South Africans unemployed?
- 51 Violence against South Africa's women, children

CONTENTS



The Children's Radio Foundation would like to thank its partners for the development of this toolkit.



Cover image source: Sydelle Willow Smith



Image source: Sydelle Willow Smith

South Africa is readying itself for its fifth national election to choose its national and provincial government, a fundamental democratic process that impacts the political, economic and social lives of all South Africans.

INTRO

Since the first democratic vote on the 27th April 1994, community radio stations have been taking root and growing across provinces within urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Community media aims to democratise the press and provide print, radio and television access to all people, as well as localised programming focused on the interests and needs of their audience.

Currently, over 240 community radio stations have an estimated audience of about 9 million listeners across the country. You and your station are central to this election process and to the democratic project. It is the duty of the media to report fully on all aspects of elections so that citizens can exercise their right to make an informed choice. The media also provides a platform for political parties, who have a right to put their policies across.

Several partners support this project, all of them champions of media freedom and community broadcasting. It is with this vision and passion that we trust this resource will help you to produce quality election coverage.

ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit has set out to cover all the major areas of consideration for community broadcasters during election time. From regulations, to production and social media, we have proposed ways of thinking, through to ways of producing the final product.

A feature of this toolkit are the prompts for programming, production and social media. These are practical suggestions for how to turn the big ideas into a broadcast output. As a hint, these are useful parts of the toolkit to look out for as you use this resource at your radio station.

Section One: Elections 101

deals with the aspects of voter education and election regulations for both citizens and the media.

Section Two: Your Community Radio Station at Election Time

suggests ways to reflect local issues in election coverage and how to make the most of the resources you've got.

Section Three: Formats and Platforms to Amplify Broadcast

is a dive into social media approaches and tools that can extend the reach of your content to connect with more and diverse audiences.

Section Four: Fact-checking

is all about how to make sure you've got it right, and you're not being fooled by misinformation.

The Appendix

contains a few issue-based resources. These are Fact Sheets compiled by Africa Check on hot election issues like poverty, land and gender violence. There is also a list of contacts and other tools.

SECTION ONE

Elections 101



Image source: Sydelle Willow Smith

How South Africa's democracy works: setting the scene for elections.

VOTING

Voting to elect government representatives is a fundamental political right in a democracy, and one of the most important ways of participating and making your voice heard in the political life of society.

We elect government to represent the needs and interests of the majority of people. We give them the mandate to make decisions relating to land and housing, water and sanitation, health and the environment, media and culture, education, training and employment among others.

Our audiences across the country are dealing with the impacts of poverty and inequality, facing issues like crime, gender violence and the lack of service delivery daily. Citizens have the right to information about political parties and policies in elections, to make an informed choice and understand the impact of national policies at a provincial and municipal level.

In a democracy, the government is accountable and answerable to the citizens, and regular elections means a chance to vote out a government that is failing to meet the needs of people. Community radio stations service citizens in their local area and language, and can often reach them in ways that other media can't.

Pre-, mid- and post-election, your reporting and programming at the radio station will be central to your audience accessing and acting on their right to vote.



Production Tip

You can do vox pops to get an idea of what is one people's minds.

Ask just one question for each vox pop segment and edit all the answers together

Q: What is the most important problem the government should address?"

Q: Why are you voting or not voting?

In a constitutional democracy, the Constitution is the highest law of the country and no person can go against it. Even the president and Parliament cannot rule and pass laws against it. The Constitution contains the Bill of Rights which states the rights and responsibilities of all citizens.

The 1996 Constitution guarantees the democratic rights to freedom of expression, access to information, to form organisations and to meet. It also guarantees the right to vote, the calling of elections every five years and drawing up of a national Voters' Roll.

Who can vote?

South African citizens who are 18 years and older, registered on the Voters' Roll, with a bar-coded or temporary identity (ID) document or smart ID have:

- 1** **The right to free and fair elections** - the right to information to make your choice, access to registered political parties and candidates, who should be able to hold meetings freely, and given fair amounts of time on radio and television.
- 2** **The right to vote** - is one of your political rights under the Constitution and your democratic right as a citizen. No-one is allowed to stop you from voting.
- 3** **The right not to vote** - it is also your democratic right not to vote. No-one is allowed to force you to vote.
- 4** **The right to spoil your vote** - you have the democratic right to spoil your ballot paper (voting paper). This is when you deliberately vote for more than one party on the ballot paper, or fill your ballot paper out in a way that a counting officer cannot work out who you are voting for. Some people choose to vote by spoiling their ballot to show there is no political party that represents them.
- 5** **The right to vote once in your voting district** - you have the right to vote once in the voting district where you are registered with the bar-coded ID system. This means citizens cannot try to vote again at a station in another voting district, or vote under another name at the same voting station.
- 6** **The right to your own free choice** - only you can choose which party to vote for. No-one is allowed to pay you or threaten you to vote for their party.
- 7** **The right to a secret vote** - no-one can force you to tell who you voted for. Your vote is secret because your name is not on the ballot paper. No-one is allowed to watch you when you go into the voting booth. If you ask for help to vote, and any election official, observer or party agent sees how you vote, they are sworn to secrecy.
- 8** **The right to get help to vote** - If you are physically or visually challenged, you can choose someone to help you at the voting station. The presiding officer can also help you cast your vote but an observer and, if available, two agents from different parties must be present. Ask for an interpreter if you need help with the translation of any instructions. You may take someone to help you (family or a friend); the person must be 18 years or older, and cannot be a party agent or a candidate.
- 9** **The right to vote safely** - there will be security at the voting station to ensure a safe voting environment. Alert the police or presiding officer if you feel any threat to your safety.
- 10** **The right to make a complaint** - if you are unhappy about anything during the elections and at the voting station, such as harassment or intimidation.



Production Tip

* Voter rights education can be developed into a series of public service announcements (PSAs) that can also be posted to social media.

* Interview the IEC or voter rights educator about each right and discuss whether the rights are accessible to all citizens in the audience who want to vote.

* Interview citizens who are living with disabilities about their right to vote and the process of voting.

* Interview the IEC and elections personnel about the right to make a complaint and how to do so.

* Voter rights education messages can be sent on WhatsApp groups and / or social media like Facebook and Twitter.



Think About

National government makes, enforces and rolls out laws and policies for the whole country. It is made up of: (i) Parliament led by the Speaker and (ii) national government led by the President and Ministers.

Provincial government makes and carries out laws and policies that affect the province only. It is made up of: (i) Legislature led by the Speaker (ii) provincial government led by the Premier and Members of the Executive Council.

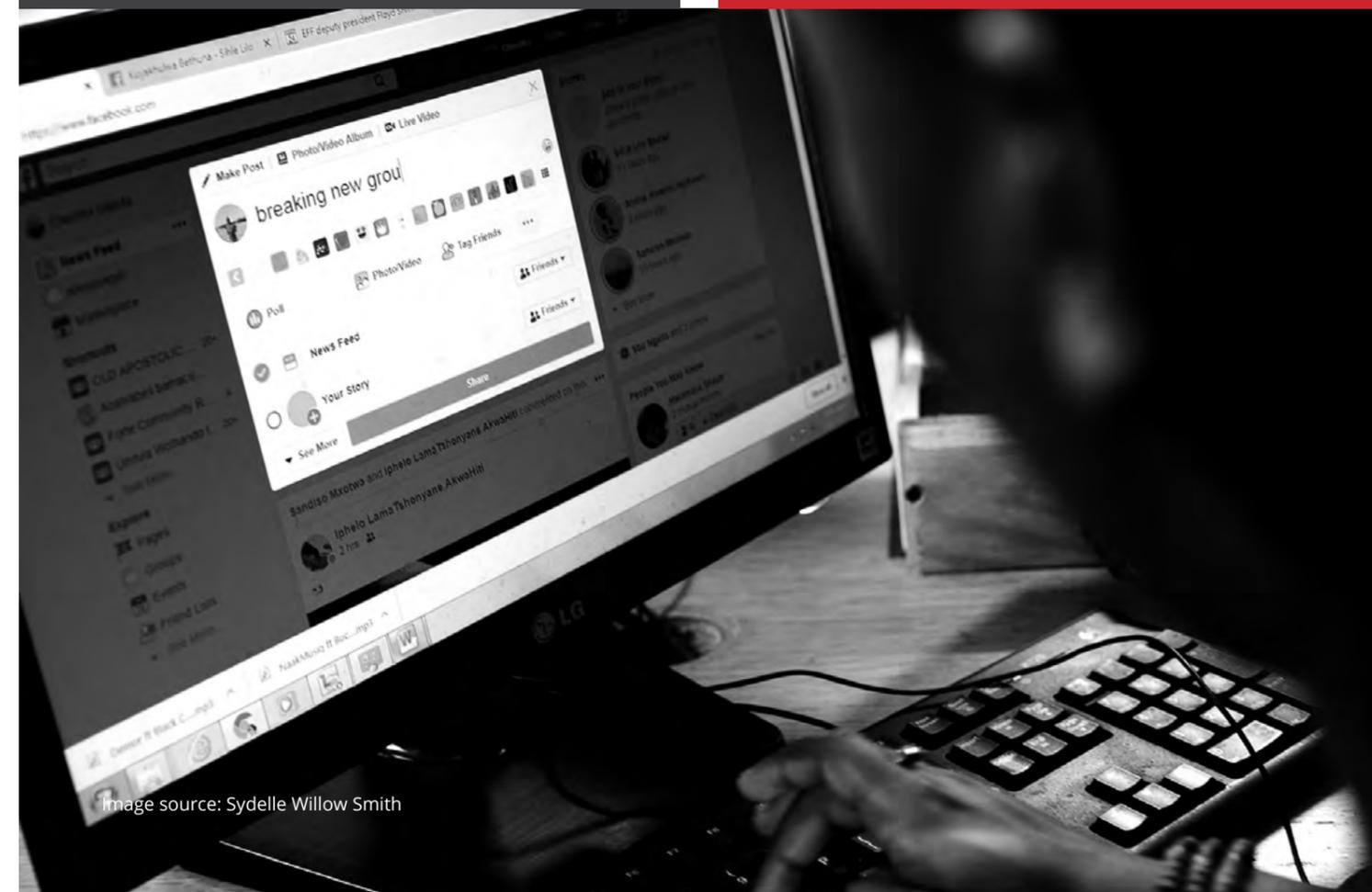


Image source: Sydelle Willow Smith

Production Tip



* A vox pop question could be, "What will make you vote for a particular political party?"

* Interview first time voters about why they are voting, and what they hope the elected party will achieve?

* Interview political parties about their manifesto and how it will address the issues in your province / area.

THE MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM AND PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (OR PARTY LIST SYSTEM)

When voting in the national and provincial elections in South Africa, we use the proportional representation system which means that:

- Voters choose the political parties who will represent them provincially and nationally.
- The registered political party chooses candidates who will become its Members of Parliament (MP).
- Each party will get a certain number of seats in Parliament, proportional to how many votes the party got in the election.

Allocation of seats in the National Assembly

If Party A receives 60% of the votes, it will be allocated 60% (240) of the 400 seats.

If Party B receives 25% of the votes, it will be allocated 25% (100) of the 400 seats.

If Party C receives 15% of the votes, it will be allocated 15% (60) of the 400 seats.

In line with this example, the first 240 people on Party A's list will be allocated seats in the National Assembly, as will the first 100 people on Party B's list and the first 60 people on Party C's list.

In the 2014 general election, a party needed approximately 45 000 votes nationally to get one seat in the National Assembly.

Credit: SANEF

THE ROLE OF THE IEC DURING ELECTIONS

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is an independent, impartial institution established by Chapter 9 of the Constitution to strengthen democracy. The IEC manages and ensures election processes are transparent and trustworthy, and that there is free and fair participation of citizens, civil society and political parties includes the following:

- Supervising and organising the elections
- Making the regulations needed to run the elections
- Registering voters and compiling a voters' roll
- Promoting democracy and voter education
- Keeping contact and cooperating with political parties and candidates
- Making sure that the elections are free and fair
- Responding to complaints and sorting out disputes between political parties
- Announcing the election results

The Electoral Court was established in terms of section 18 of the Electoral Commission Act. The powers and functions of the Electoral Court extend to:

- 1 Investigating allegations against IEC members, and making recommendations to the National Assembly
- 2 Hearing and determining matters related to the interpretation of law, referred by the IEC
- 3 Hearing appeals of decisions made by the IEC, which must be conducted on an urgent basis and disposed of as expeditiously as possible.

THE VOTING PROCESS

Voting

- In the national election citizens vote twice. The first vote is for their national political party of choice, to be represented in the National Assembly. The second vote is for their provincial political party of choice, represented in the Provincial Legislature and in the National Council of Provinces.
- If a mistake is made before placing the ballot paper in the box, a new one can be requested from the presiding officer, while marking the incorrect ballot paper "cancelled".
- Once ballots have been placed in the ballot box, they can't be removed.
- During voting full ballot boxes are sealed by the presiding officer in the presence of available agents who seal them.
- After voting, unused ballot boxes, cancelled ballot papers, the certified voters' roll and written objections are sealed and stored separately.



Production Tip

* Interview the IEC or voter educators about how to lodge objections, appeals and complaints, the process thereof, and the role of the Electoral Court.

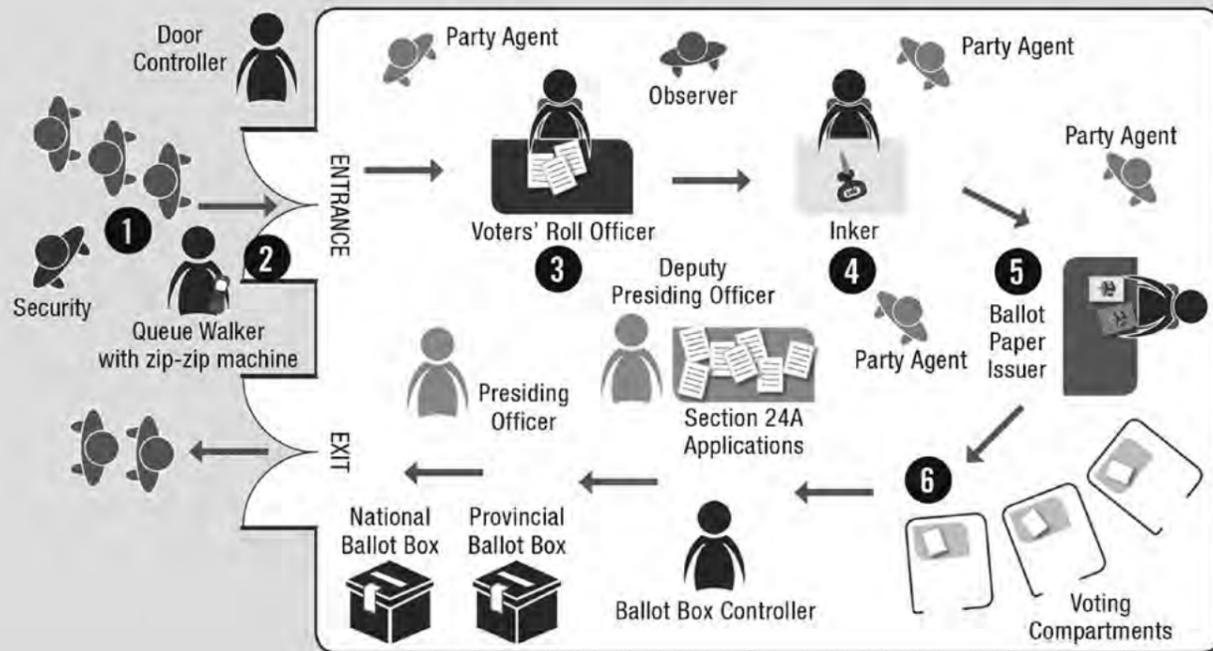
* Create a PSA about the role of the Electoral Court.

* Create graphics / cards for social media to explain key concepts / terms relating to the elections.



Production Tip

- * Produce voter education PSAs about voting, counting, objections and results processes
- * Interview IEC and voter educators about the voting process and role of each voting official
- * Announce the details of voting stations, hours and procedures
- * Interview analysts about results of the count and predictions
- * Update these reports on social media platforms



Credit, IEC

Objections and Appeals

- Any participant in elections - voters, party agents, or ward councillors - can lodge an objection when irregularities occur that may affect the determination of the final result of the election at that voting station.
- These objections could relate to voting procedures, counting and verification of votes, conduct of political party agents and election officials, or harassment and intimidation of voters.
- An appeal can be made about the decision of the presiding officer by submission to the IEC.
- If the IEC or Electoral Court decide that a serious irregularity has occurred they may order that:
 - the votes cast at a specific voting station do not count in whole or part,
 - or that votes cast in favour of a registered party at a specific voting station must
 - be deducted in whole or in part from votes cast in favour of that registered party.



Production Tip

- * Voter education PSAs should include information on the process of lodging an objection
- * Interviews with election officials and voter educators should describe examples of objections to educate citizens about irregularities to look out for

Remember



- * You can interview only the IEC presiding officer at the voting stations. No other officials may be interviewed.
- * Only the IEC has the legal authority to announce the election results.
- * The IEC is required to determine and declare the result of the election by adding together the results received from all voting stations within seven days after voting day.

Counting

After the voting station is closed the presiding officer sorts the ballot papers, rejecting any ballots that are unmarked, illegible, show the voter's identity, is an unofficial ballot, or is unmarked by the presiding officer. The rest are counted.

- Votes are counted at the voting station they were cast at immediately after closing, unless the IEC decides otherwise.
- The counting officer determines the results for the national and provincial elections at the voting station. It must announce the result to members of the public and agents present at the voting station and inform the IEC.
- The results are then sent to the municipal electoral offices, where they are verified, scanned and captured in the IEC's central results system.

The overall election results will be worked out at the centralised Results Operation Centres which are under the control of the IEC. There is one national Results Operation Centre based in Pretoria, Tshwane. Each province has its own results centre. Accredited media are permitted to be present for announcements of the results.



Remember



* A Party Election Broadcast (PEB) is a direct address or message broadcast free of charge to advance the interest of any political party

* A Political Advert (PA) is an advertisement broadcast to advance the interests of any political party, for which the broadcaster receives payment

Elections Reporting: Laws And Codes

Several codes of conduct have been adopted by most commercial and community newspapers, magazines and broadcasters like community radio stations as a way of regulating themselves. The laws and codes we have highlighted below guide community radio broadcasters during elections.

Broadcasting Act 4 of 1999 frames broadcasting policy in the public interest; to strengthen the cultural, political, social and economic fabric of South Africa; to ensure plurality of news, views and information.

Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) Act 13 of 2000 regulates broadcasting and telecommunications, including the Complaints and Compliance Committee:

- Community radio stations must observe the **ICASA Code of Conduct** which guides election broadcasting, and follow the **ICASA Final Amendment Regulations on Party Election Broadcasts, Political Advertisements, and Equitable Treatment of Political parties by Broadcasting Licensees for the 2019 National Elections**.
- The prescriptions apply to the broadcast of Party Election Broadcasts (PEBs) and Political Adverts (PAs).
- ICASA's **Complaints and Compliance Committee** receives complaints about broadcasters. It holds hearings with complainants and broadcasters, and makes recommendations to the ICASA Council. Any person may lay a complaint in respect of **Election Broadcast Regulations**, about a PEB or PA within 48 hours after the broadcast. ICASA must communicate the outcomes to the complainant within 48 hours.

Electronic Communications Act (ECA) 36 of 2005 is read with the ICASA codes and governs media broadcasting of PEBs and PAs as follows:

- PEBs must not contain material exposing the broadcasting licensee to legal liability (being sued);
- PEBs must be of a technical quality acceptable to ICASA; and must not be broadcast later than 48 hours (2 days) before voting starts - that is, later than 07:00am two days before election day.
- Section 56 rules that broadcasting licensees can only broadcast PEBs and PAs during the ICASA proclaimed election broadcast period
- Section 57 rules that commercial and community broadcasters who choose to air PEBs must ensure that PEBs

are handed to the station by authorised representatives of political parties

- Section 58 states that if the station decides to broadcast PAs, allowance must be given to all political parties who request it, with no prejudice or preference. PAs must be obtained from authorised representatives of political parties.
- Section 59 states that when stations decide to cover political parties and election issues, they must provide reasonable opportunities for:
 - the discussion of opposing views,
 - the right to reply to criticism

The Community Radio Election Guidelines of 2014 were developed by the National Community Radio Forum to assist community radio stations to strengthen their role. To summarise, here are a few of the principles that you can adopt for your station:

- The press exists to serve society and its work is guided by the public interest
- The press serves to uphold the Constitutional Right to freedom of expression
- News and information must be obtained legally, honestly and fairly, unless public interest dictates otherwise
- News and information shall be truthful, accurate and fair
- News and information will be presented in context and be balanced
- The station will observe the right to reply
- No commercial, political, or personal considerations will influence reporting
- No bribes and favours will be accepted
- Corrections will be made to mistakes
- Opinion will not be reported as news and information
- The station will respect the rights, reputation and integrity of others
- Local issues and voices will be encouraged
- The station will strive to represent the voices of women
- The station will strive to represent diversity through the voices of marginalised groups and diverse viewpoints

The Electoral Code of Conduct, Clause 8 guides political parties and candidates in respect to the media, ruling that they must:

- respect the role of the media before, during and after an election
- may not prevent access of media to public political meetings, marches, demonstrations and rallies; and
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that journalists are not subjected to any forms of violence by representatives or supporters

Think About



* Broadcasting PEBs and PAs need careful planning so that you can monitor and run the correct number of slots allocated by ICASA

* Broadcast PEBs and PAs at times reaching similar listenership figures

* Inform political parties in your area of your election programming slots



Think About

* What are the particular concerns you have about interference at your station?

* What are the ways you can avoid interference at your station?

* Has your station aligned itself with any political party and how have they indicated this publicly or privately?

Think About



* Organise accreditation for your reporting team - this means that reporters can report on election matters at election-related venues.

REPORTER ACCREDITATION

Having accreditation should get you access to interviews with members of the community, civil society, elected government officials and political party representatives. It should grant you access to areas and events where you obtain information and interviews for your reports like voting stations and the Results Operation Centres. A Press Card identifies you and the community radio station you are reporting for and shows transparency and accountability.

Getting a press card:

Print and Digital Media SA (PDMSA) issues press cards - in English - to reporters as a system of accreditation:

- Download and complete the application form from PDMSA, including signature from the station manager.
- Forward the completed application form with your photograph and payment to the PDMSA for processing.
- Check www.pdmedia.org.za/presscards for more details.
- Alternatively, a signed letter from your station manager or news editor on the radio station's letterhead with an ID or passport, can also serve as media accreditation.
- If any difficulties arise with media access at voting stations, a reporter can approach the presiding officer for assistance.
- Queries that fall outside of the mandate of the presiding officer will be escalated to the official spokesperson of the IEC at the Results Operation Centres, either nationally or for the province.

Election Milestones

ELECTION DATES	
Proclamation of the election	26 February 2019
Provisional voters' roll becomes available for inspection	1 March 2019
Cut-off for objections to the voters' roll	8 March 2019
Submission of list of candidates	13 March 2019
Notifications to vote outside of the country	13 March 2019
Certification of voters' roll	18 March 2019
Closing of applications for special votes	18 April 2019
Publication of lists of political party candidates by IEC	23 April 2019
ICASA invites contesting political parties, public broadcasters and interested commercial and community broadcasters to briefing session to allocate PEB slots	TBA
The Council of ICASA proclaims the Election Broadcast Period; and ICASA publishes the PEB schedule in the government gazette	TBA
Voting at South Africa's foreign missions	27 April 2019
Special voting days	6 - 7 May 2019
Election day	8 May 2019
Counting and verification of votes, IEC rules on Voting Objections and Appeals	8 May 2019 onwards
IEC announces Final Result	15 May (or earlier)

SECTION TWO

Your Community Radio Station at Election Time



Image source: Sydelle Willow Smith

Ethics and Fairness: developing an editorial vision for your station for elections

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY RADIO

Media broadcasters should provide audiences with a guide to make better choices for elections. They should be proactive in offering balanced news and information about electoral processes, political parties and the big issues to their audiences.

The role community radio stations play is even more crucial, as you speak to specific geographical communities that experience national issues in a very local way. How you reflect their voices, concerns and needs is of utmost importance during an election time.

There are three sets of rights at the heart of every election and as a community broadcaster, you are helping to realise these rights:

- The right of voters to make an informed choices
- The right of political parties to put their policies across
- The right of the media to fully report on elections

DEVELOPING A CODE OF ETHICS FOR YOUR NEWSROOM AND ELECTION COVERAGE

Ethics do not just have to do with following the rules. They have to do with a set of moral principles and guidelines that your station should follow.

In Section One, reference was made to the Community Radio Guidelines that follow from the ICASA and IEC codes of conduct for broadcast media. Besides the ethical considerations of fairness, accuracy, and independence, community media has the responsibility and mandate to reflect the diverse voices of its audience. These will include voices that are not always heard on political matters, like women, youth, children, LGBTIQ+, and ethnic and cultural minorities. Keep in mind that when issues and voices are absent in the media, the likelihood of these being a priority in the public and state's imagination is very slim.

Women

According to Media Monitoring Africa (MMA), women were quoted in the media only 18% of the time in the lead up to the 2014 National Elections. That means that men got 82% of all media attention. Female politicians also got the short end of the stick. They were only quoted 15% of the time across

Programme Tips



* Audiences are more engaged and active these days through Whatsapp and social media. Share your code of conduct with them via these channels. They can help you stay accountable.

* How many women are running in this election for the National Assembly and for your provinces? What does this say about gender balance in politics? Use these kinds of questions to cover gender programming during elections.

* Have you captured the voices of women voters, across all ages and socio-economic groups?

* Are there issues that get left behind on politicians' agenda? Who is speaking to LGBTIQ+ rights? People living with disabilities?

* Have you interviewed children about what they think, feel and want from elections, even though they can't vote? What is their message to adults?

all media. Some of the issues relating to women are land ownership, customary law, gender violence, employment, single parenting, health, childcare and education.

Youth

The issues surrounding youth, and youth opportunities, health and employment did not feature in the top 10 issues discussed in the 2014 elections according to an MMA post-election report. MMA also cautioned media of casting youth in the stereotyped roles of victim and suspect, mostly covering stories on crime, sports and protests. It is a fact that black youth make up the majority of South Africa's population, but they receive the least coverage.

Children

Children are not eligible to vote but they bear the consequences of adult choices, and the policies that the elected government roll out. As in the case of youth, MMA report that media rarely reflects children's issues or children's voices and when they do, it is mostly from the more urban provinces like the Western Cape and Gauteng.

Indigenous Groups

Indigenous groups like the San and the KhoKhoen, collectively called the Khoisan, are also underrepresented in media. Indigenous groups are mainly concentrated in the Northern Cape, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Free State. The Khoisan are fighting for recognition as South Africa's First Nation, recognition of their languages, and restitution of land stolen from them during colonial and Apartheid eras.

Migrants

Migrants from other countries are not eligible to vote in elections if they do not have South African citizenship and a South African identity document. They do however experience the consequences of government policies in many areas of their lives, from the services and support they receive at Home Affairs, at health clinics, at education institutions, to their integration and acceptance in communities where they live. Xenophobia is a hate crime that many migrants have experienced and some have even lost their lives to. What is their vision for South Africa and what election issues are important to them?

LGBTIQ+

The Constitution supports sexual minorities but queer communities have not been seen to be high on political parties' agendas. Faced with the reality of hate crimes and hate speech, the queer community experiences unacceptable levels of violence and discrimination. How are political parties speaking to the queer community's concerns? What are they doing to support their advocacy for safety and non-discrimination?

SAFEGUARDING, MITIGATING RISKS

Being forced to delete audio, video or photos. Being threatened by politicians, community members, or police. Being attacked or robbed while covering a story. These are incidences of intimidation and violence that can happen to members of the media. As we strive for excellent election coverage, we should not put our reporters in harm's way.

Some practical safety considerations

- Always carry identification proving you work in the media
- Be familiar with the election guidelines for media and understand your journalistic rights
- Never carry a weapon
- Inform your employers of any threats or violence directed at them. Your stations must report this to the IEC
- You can refuse an assignment if you feel it's too dangerous
- You should let your employers, colleagues and family know where you are going on assignment and when you expect to be back

SAFE SPACES FOR COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Community radio should be a place where community members feel they can share their views and opinions. Community radio in South Africa was set up to advance democracy and to support freedom of expression. For many poorer citizens, community radio remains one of the few channels where they can be heard.

To be able to encourage dialogue, stations need to be able to hear many perspectives and differing opinions. Remember that dialogue is not about being right, it's about having the respectful space to say something and to be heard.

Community radio stations must encourage community members to participate in their shows and programming. With social media having such a far reach, there are ever more opportunities for participation to happen.

→ See how to use social media to do this in Section 3.



Remember

The South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) has urged journalists to leave press conferences or rallies held by political parties if they feel under threat or intimidated.

Refer to the Rights of Journalists in Section One

Remember



Journalists are bound by the code of their profession to protect their sources. Revealing the sources of your information can threaten someone's safety and their life. The Press Code for South Africa states: "As journalists we commit ourselves to the highest standards, to maintain credibility and keep the trust of the public. This means always ... acting independently."



Remember

Hate speech is when offensive and inflammatory language is used to disrespect others, often through stereotyping.

Hate speech contains threatening, abusive or insulting messages, usually targeted at a group to stir hatred on the basis of race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality.

Programme Tips



Develop deliberate segments in your programming for audiences to participate. You could have an "election question time" during one of your shows, when audiences send in their questions on social media, Whatsapp or SMS. You can answer both on-air and in a daily round-up of all questions and answers on social media. Voter education, election day arrangements and procedures will feature quite a lot, so be prepared to answer this for your district.

There are also a few guidelines that community members must follow when participating in broadcasts:

- Do not defame others (damage their reputation or name)
- Do not start rumours
- Do not mention the names, addresses or any other personal information about somebody else that could threaten their safety
- Do not disclose your own identity if the information you are sharing could threaten your own safety

COVERING LOCAL ISSUES FOR A NATIONAL ELECTION

Covering elections may feel like a huge and overwhelming task. There is so much to talk about, and so many rules, regulations and issues to cover. Part of your job as a reporter for community radio is to help bring the issues home to your audience, and to share information and stories in a way that matters to them.

There is a formula that can help make things simpler - The 4 P's of election coverage. These steps can help you come up with story angles and different reporting formats too.

P-for-People

According to Media Monitoring Africa, political parties had most of the airtime during our 2014 National Elections. That means politicians and not people had the mic.

Focussing on people is one of the best ways to capture your audience's attention. It gives your reporting a sense of humanity and reality. The personal is powerful!



Programme Tips

* Can you help tell a story of service delivery, land, water, crime, or gender violence through one person's experience? Don't forget children and youth experiences are valuable too! For example, Simphiwe has not had running water from her household tap for the past three months. She has three children and a household to support as a single mom. Tell the story of how a lack of water impacts her life.

* Is there anyone in your community who is changing the party they vote for, or will they vote for the same party as before? Why?

* Talk to someone who didn't register to vote. Find out why.

* Talk to a young first time voter. What motivated them to go make their mark?

* Ask voters whether they examine the party lists or if they vote out of party loyalty.



On Air Tips

Radio presenters and hosts must be vigilant and at full attention when receiving call-ins and posts on social media. Having the right and privilege to participate as an audience does not mean that people can say anything they like. Here are a few tips for handling callers:

- * Observe journalistic principles of accuracy, fairness and ethical conduct at all times
- * Be prepared to cut off a caller who is using hate speech and who disregards the stations ethical guidelines and the law
- * Listen to voice notes before broadcasting them and filter out those that break your station's ethical codes
- * Treat audiences with respect, honesty and fairness
- * Respect the privacy of callers and safeguard their information



Production Tip

Audio profiles open a window into who that person is, where they are, what they're doing. A profile takes some planning and preparing the person to tell a part of their story. There is only the character's voice in a profile--we do not hear the interviewer. That part you need to do beforehand. Here is how:

- * Ask your your character to talk through the story they want to tell. Ask them to explain, paint the picture.
- * Focus the story on an important moment, where something or someone changed, where there was a realisation.
- * Your character must be in an environment that makes sense for them and their story. If you're talking to a nurse about health issues, don't record her where there are lots of cars driving by.
- * Natural sound supports the story, so feel free to use it!
- * An audio profile is about 2 - 3 minutes long



Remember

Take your vox pops a step further by shooting them as videos on your phone, not just audio. You can use a smartphone lapel mic like the Rode Smartlav+ which costs under R1000 and gives broadcast quality audio. Your video can be used on social media, and the audio from it can be used on air. You can quickly and easily cut video with Kinemaster and cut audio with Wavepad (both free apps).

Remember to take a picture of the character in their surroundings so you can post to social media!

Programme Tips



You can cover political parties and their promises before, during, and after an election. It's a way to keep them accountable to the promises they've made, especially if you have it recorded.

Question whether disagreements between parties are worth the airtime. A lot of media time is taken up accusing each other of breaking regulations. A good tip would be to take things seriously if complaints have been registered with the IEC.

P-for-Parties

Party manifestos spell out what political parties have set as their values, priorities, and goals. It's a good place to start researching before you invite a politician into the studio! That way you have more control of where to direct the conversation. The manifesto sets out the party's position on health, corruption, water, the economy, gender-based violence and many other issues that require urgent attention, and how they will tackle these, should they win.

What kind of a track record do parties have in your communities or region? Have they followed through on their promises? Has there been significant changes in voters' support for different parties since the last election?

Parties campaign by holding rallies, visiting projects, health facilities, and disaster areas. It's a time of high energy and big promises, so don't forget to stay objective and ask the hard questions while covering the campaign trail.

P-for-Places

What are the places in your community that can tell the story of the election? Access to water, jobs, youth opportunities, gender violence, housing, employment?

What is the biggest asset of your community or region and how much is that being celebrated as a success by locals and politicians?

Has anything changed in the area because of party promises? What does that story look and sound like?

P-for-Processes

These are the details of elections that may not be terribly exciting, but are critically important to people actually coming out to cast their ballot on voting day. It is part of your mandate as a community radio station to provide this information.

Start your coverage of P-for-Process with voter education, for **pre-election programming**. Here are a few tips:

- Know why it is important to vote.
→ (Refer to Section One).
- Remind audiences that only registered voters can cast a ballot.
- Remind audiences that you have to come to the voting station with your bar coded ID, smart card ID, or temporary ID. Even if you are registered but don't have this document, you will not be able to vote.
- Know the locations of the voting stations in your community. Name them along with addresses. The IEC's "Find Your Voting Station" site is useful for this. <http://maps.elections.org.za/vsfinder/> or call you local / provincial office.'
- Understand what parties are campaigning for. Referring to party manifestos is a good start.
- Profile political candidates.
- Political analysts and academics are good to give opinion and commentary on the big issues like land, service delivery, the economy, gender, youth, etc...

P-for-Process during mid-election will inform your programming in the following ways. Here are a few tips:

- Updates on voting stations getting ready for voting day
- Reports on delays, mishaps and incidences at polling stations or related to elections
- Updates from polling stations on voting day
- Report politicians, community leaders and members, first-time voters casting their ballot - where and when and how they felt
- Report incidences of election violence or intimidation if they occur



Production Tip

* You can interview a voter who participated in elections before to hear their experience.

* You can interview a first-time voter to hear what they are expecting and looking forward to.

* Interview an IEC official or an election observer - someone qualified enough - to talk about the voting process.

Production Tip



An audio postcard tells the story of a place and relies on natural sound. The reporter or character will narrate the story by describing the place and its issue, and perhaps even conduct a short interview. Places to capture in an audio postcard could be:

- * where water trucks come to deliver water to drought stricken communities
- * the spaza shop where unemployed youth hang out
- * land people have occupied
- * clinics, day hospitals and rape crisis centres
- * transport hubs like train stations, taxi ranks, bus terminals



Production Tip

*Ask voters who are standing in queues, or who have just voted to send in a voice note about their experience period.

Ask voters to post a selfie in the voting queue or after they have voted outside of the polling station with the hashtag your radio station has chosen for elections. Use a tool like Tweetdeck to monitor this hashtag → (see Section Three).

P-for-Process after the election it is all about the counting, the results, the winners and losers. It's also about the longer reporting game of holding politicians to account, but that has less to do with electoral process and more about our journalistic muscles. So let's look at how you can tackle the direct aftermath of the elections.

You can post election results updates in news slots and on social media by following the action from the results centre as they roll in.

You can repost analysis from trusted sources about what the outlook for provinces look like, and if there are any surprises.

Get commentary from credible sources on how winning votes translates into the numbers of seats in parliament.

When the result has been finalised from the results centre, get reactions and opinions from your audiences about the national result and the provincial (regional) result.

For longer term post-election coverage, tell your audiences about the promises you'll be monitoring and how you'll be doing it.



DEALING WITH THE HOT ELECTION ISSUES: LAND, GENDER, SERVICE DELIVERY, CRIME, YOUTH

Reporting on the issues that are on voters' minds is not a simple task. It is also an important task, as what politicians say about these issues may motivate people to vote for them. Politicians will make many claims about these issues, and they will sound very appealing.

Your job as an election reporter is to help audiences:

- Understand how parties and politicians intend to address these issues
- Question the evidence of what these parties and politicians have done in the past to address these issues. What is their track record on this, and what have they delivered?
- If you do not have a politician in studio, do some research on the party's policies and manifestos and search the news sources for credible reporting on the politician



Production Tip

As a reporter, it is crucial for you to have researched these issues. There are a few factsheets in the appendix of this toolkit. They deal with some of these hot election issues to help you understand the basics as well as accurate statistics.



Interview Tip

Politicians are servants of the public. They are our elected representatives who make decisions on our behalf. They need to be accountable, clear and engaging. Asking them good questions is a must. Here are a few tips:

* Ask short questions. Do not ask questions that begin with a long statement. A smart politician might only respond to your statement and ignore your question.

* Do not offer a personal opinion in your question. A politician may discuss your opinion and ignore your question.

* Do not ask two or more questions in one. Politicians usually choose the easy question and ignore the tough one. A smart politician will only answer the easy question.

* Ask follow-up questions, or ask the same question another way to get a full answer.

Remember the basics of interviewing. You do not want politicians to answer YES or NO, you want them to explain and provide a full picture. Focussing on the What? How? Why? could get you better answers. For example:

What will your party do about the water crisis in the Eastern Cape?

What has led to this crisis?

Why has it become a crisis in the first place?

How do you intend to support people in this region until we are out of crisis mode?

How do you intend to win votes in this community?

Remember parties and politicians are not the beginning and end of the game. Local people and organisations and their efforts, achievements and projects are also noteworthy and valuable to feature.

Production Tip



When you know a politician will be in studio, alert your audiences on social media. Social media is useful before, during and after a big interview.

BEFORE: Ask your audience to post their questions on social media or send in voice notes.

DURING: Set up a phone/camera on a tripod in studio and live stream the interview on social media platforms. Make sure you use a suitable mic.

AFTER: Make the interview available as a podcast → (see Section Three). Identify the best quotes and make social media cards from them. Share the live video again as a recording on Facebook or a highlight on Instagram.



Programme Tips

Evaluate if it's safe to have a debate with rival politicians in studio. It could provoke communities in the wrong way, especially if there is a history of this in your community. If it is safe, it's an energising live format but you do need to be strong on two points:

1. The host must be a good and firm facilitator with no bias towards any one party. Bias can create community backlash.
2. Keep the debate focussed on an issue. Don't let the politicians slug it out about which party is better.

Station resources and constraints: working with what we've got

Planning election programming means taking stock of what resources are available for production. Scan the sections below to assess the resources you can utilise at the station and in your community to prepare your programming and content production.

At the radio station

<p>PEOPLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many reporters, producers and programmers will be involved in election broadcasting? • Determine how teams will need to be reconfigured or their work times adjusted if necessary for this period 	<p>SKILLS</p> <p>How many people have the skills to fulfill these roles?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • news and current affairs editor • programmer • producer • reporter - live and pre-recorded material • researcher and writer • sound technician • social media
<p>HARDWARE</p> <p>What kind of equipment do you have?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio recorders • Smartphones with a good camera • Editing software for audio, still pictures and video • Wifi • Station phone loaded with data for out of studio production 	<p>Match the equipment with the production format.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use field recorders to get audio outside the station: interviews, natural audio, vox pops • Smartphones can also be used to record the above sound but check if it is broadcast quality. Smartphones can be used for still pictures and video for social media
<p>MOBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can reporters and the production team get around in the community - travel to rallies/protests/ political events? • Will reporters be out at voting stations on election day? Whose money will they use? Can the station support community members to get to the studio? 	<p>How can we report from community and elections centres?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research election activity in your community like political rallies, visits by politicians, preparing voting stations etc. • Determine which productions can be done with the available travel budget, and resources and assign reporters to activities • If reporters cannot travel, schedule telephonic interviews

Mapping Community

Mapping your community means looking at the people, places and activities. This community map will assist you in finding who you can access, where and when. It can help you think of stories, news features, interviewees, natural sound and issues that are important for your programming. Start out by writing down all the places in your community - places of worship, clinic, sports field, police station, supermarket, taxi rank, tavern, school, community hall, park, SASSA offices, labour union, municipal dump etc.

Next, write down all the people you would find at these places. Then think of the issues linked to these places and people. Here are two examples:

- Place:** Taxi rank
People: Workers, parents, children, vendors, taxi drivers
Issues: Safety, transport, business opportunities, no disability access
- Place:** Church/Mosque
People: Elderly people, children, parents, priest/preachers, homeless people
Issue: Housing, charity, church creche (education), migrants

SECTION THREE

Formats and Platforms to Amplify Broadcast

Production planning for your election coverage

Now that you know what resources you're working with, how best can you use them?

Getting "production real" with where your station is at:

- 1 Do presenters prepare well for their shows?
- 2 Do they reflect local content and people's stories?
- 3 Does your current affairs team produce any pre-recorded / packaged content?
- 4 Do you use a show clock / hot clock?
- 5 Do you plan programming?
- 6 Do you use any production formats (like vox pops, audio profiles, locally recorded interviews, or natural sound)?
- 7 Do you have structures of accountability and leadership that demand a certain quality of programming and production?
- 8 Do you regularly call on professionals and civil society to give specialist information and advice on your shows?

What is your score?

If you answered YES to less than 4 of these questions, it would be unrealistic to set high production goals for voting time. It would appear that your station does not produce a lot of original, creative, local content. It could be too much pressure to reinvent the wheel for this busy time, so stick with what works already - don't get despondent.

Maybe you create high quality social media content that gets a lot of audience engagement. Ramp this up and see how to translate good social media content into radio content and vice versa. → See Section Three for tips on how to do this.

Maybe your station is not good at pre-producing content, but you do have great hosts who can carry a show and get the community involved.



Programme Tips

- Prepare clear voter education points you want to share and cycle them through programming. Simple quizzes via WhatsApp or call-ins about voter education would be effective.

Example:

Question - *What two things are needed for you to be able to make your mark on voting day?*

Answer - *You need to have registered and to have an ID.*

- Prioritise phone and studio interviews, with audience call-ins and voice notes after. Round-table discussions (with multiple in-studio and/or call-in guests) are a good way to generate robust debate and keep listeners interested.
- Prioritise short, bite-sized updates for news slots about politicians and election processes → (Refer to the 4 P's above in Section Two)
- Get other people at the station involved during elections according to their skill and networks. Election reporting is not the business of current affairs only.
- Go Live on Facebook or Instagram to create an interactive, immersive experience for your listeners. Encourage audiences to ask questions, which you can answer immediately on air.

If you answered YES to more than the four questions above, you are well on your way to having rich and diverse election coverage. Plan weekly for social media posts, pre-produced features and live studio guests across all the election phases.



Image source: Sydelle Willow Smith

Broadcast and Social Media

Not too long ago, radio stations could focus solely on what they did best: radio. That's where their audiences were, and it was a happy relationship. Now, things are a bit more complicated. Three trends are creating a new reality for traditional media organisations, and they're having to follow and adapt to the platforms and devices their audiences are choosing to use.

Trend #1: Internet access in South Africa is steadily increasing. In 2019, close to 60% of South Africans have access to the internet.

Trend #2: More people are getting smartphones. There are over 20 million smartphone users in South Africa and this is expected to reach over 25 million by 2022.

Trend #3: Data is slowly but surely getting cheaper. Additionally, free wifi is becoming easier to find.

This means that social media usage continues to grow at a staggering rate in South Africa, with the vast majority using social media on their mobile phones, as the following table shows:

	January 2018	January 2019	Percentage growth
Active Social Media users	18 million	23 million	35%
Active mobile Social Media users	16 million	22 million	38%

[source](#)

With online consumption of media on the up, traditional media like TV, radio and newspapers are having to work harder than ever to keep and grow their audiences. Media organisations including community radio stations must adapt to shifts in audience behaviour to offer a diverse experience that plays to the strengths of both traditional and digital media.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR AUDIENCE

As a reporter who works at a community radio station, your audience is made up of all the people who consume and engage with your content — not only what goes out on air but also what goes out on your station's social media platforms. This means that you will have people in your audience who only listen to the radio and do not own a smartphone

or care for social media. You will also have people in your audience who are constantly browsing social media on their smartphone and hardly ever listen to traditional radio broadcasts.

In the middle — the overlap — you'll have people who listen to your broadcasts and interact with your station/content on social media at the same time. **This is the sweet spot and this is where the magic happens.**

You can take steps to grow this 'sweet spot' audience by regularly cross-promoting your live broadcast and your social platforms. Invite listeners and social media users to contribute, engage and take action in multiple ways. For example you could ask them to:



- Send in voice notes to your WhatsApp number, which can be played on air (remember to carefully listen to them in full first to make sure there are no legal or ethical issues).
- Tag your station when posting to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter if they want to bring something to your attention. You want to make your audience feel like they are valued, so engage with them and acknowledge their contributions as often as possible.
- Submit user-generated photos and videos via WhatsApp, which can be distributed on social media platforms.
- Tweet their thoughts about whatever/whoever is currently on air, using a hashtag that you monitor.
- Remind listeners that audio content is available online (see below for ideas on this).

CONTENT CREATION AND CONTENT CURATION

When media organisations broadcast or publish content of any type, it's either created by them, or they curate it (gather it) from elsewhere, like other media organisations, press releases, user-generated content, etc. Generally, creating content is preferable, since original content is what audiences value, but curating it can also be a low-effort, high-return approach if done with sound editorial judgement.

Let's look at a few content formats that work well on social media, and how to create and curate them:

Still images: These can be photographs taken by your staff/team, or submitted by your listeners, or sourced from elsewhere (be sure to credit appropriately!). You can also get free high quality photographs from sites like www.pexels.com and www.unsplash.com, but it's preferable to use original imagery if available.

The South African government also has a Flickr account with plenty of high quality, free-to-use images at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/governmentza/>

You can also use Google Image Search, but make sure you select the 'labeled for reuse' option from the tools menu.

Video: Generally, video attracts higher engagement rates than other types of posts. If you're creating your own videos (a great idea!), keep them short except for live videos, which should be at least 15 minutes. Try to include a call to action at the end, asking audiences to share, subscribe, sign up, tune in, etc. Keep an eye on YouTube for any strong elections-related content that grabs people's attention and re-post this to Facebook or Twitter with your own comment/slant/angle to generate further discussion.



Remember

Don't post anything to your personal social media accounts that could bring your station's name into disrepute. On social media, private/personal posts can become public very quickly — don't learn the hard way. If in doubt, leave it out.



Production Tip

Adding short, snappy text and/or numbers/statistics to still images is a highly effective way of grabbing people's attention. There are many ways to do this: try using [Adobe Spark](#) if you're on a desktop, or [Snapseed](#) if you're using an iOS or Android device.

Production Tip



Another free tool you can use to create video using waveform is Wave Video (https://mysoundwise.com/wave_video) — great for creating 60-second or less video teasers of your audio for social media, directing listeners back to wherever you've published the full version of the audio.

How to create video from audio:

Currently Facebook and Instagram don't allow for audio to be uploaded as audio-only — it needs to be combined with a visual element of some sort and published as a video. This can be a still image or a moving image.

There's a nifty way of getting around this: use tools like Wavve (www.wavve.co.za) to generate a video clip containing your audio and its corresponding waveform as a moving image so that you can publish the audio as a video to Facebook or Instagram. You can customise the visuals of the video with your station's logo, photo thumbnails, etc.

Create a quiz: Use a free tool like www.riddle.com to create a quiz for your audience to take part in. Once you have created a quiz, you can share a link to it or embed it on your website in the same way that you would embed a YouTube video or a Tweet.

Curating online content: As journalists, it's our job to take complex stories and simplify them for our audiences. We need to be good at finding all the relevant voices and angles in a story, and making sense of them in a coherent way. Wakelet (www.wakelet.com) is a great tool that lets you find and bring together the best content from around the web (specific Tweets, Facebook posts, images, videos and any other links) and arrange it in a logical way on one page to convey a balanced, contextualised explanation of a story. This page can be embedded on your website.

MOBILE JOURNALISM

Smartphones have evolved to the point where they are now very capable of creating compelling high quality content, whether for broadcast or social media.

A powerful, free app for editing video on your phone (iOS or Android) is Kinemaster. This lets you quickly and easily cut and combine clips, add text and add narrated voice-overs to create a compelling clip for social media. You can edit in portrait mode (good for Facebook or Instagram Stories), square (a good compromise) or landscape (what we're most accustomed to).

EXTENDING THE SHELF-LIFE OF GOOD AUDIO

One of the drawbacks of traditional radio is that only a fraction of your potential audience is listening to your station at any given time. So, if you have a particularly great in-studio interview with an elections official or a community member, your audience only gets one chance to listen to it, unless you choose to re-broadcast it in part or in full. But what if your audience had a way to listen to that hard-hitting piece of audio as many times as they wanted to, whenever it suited them and however it suited them, and which also allowed them to share it with their friends?

The solution: by using an audio hosting service like Soundcloud or Iono.fm (a South African-based platform), you can identify your best audio of the day (whether it's a 20-minute interview or a 5-minute audio documentary) and upload it as podcasts/episodes that can be streamed or downloaded anytime, anywhere, with any internet-enabled device. This immediately extends the potential reach of that content.

Encourage people to share this content too, to extend its reach even further.

Top tips for SA's social media platforms:

FACEBOOK

With **23 million monthly active users** in South Africa, Facebook is a social media phenomenon that cannot be ignored. Here are some quick wins to help your station gain and keep traction on Facebook.



Production Tip

Sign up as a publisher at www.lono.fm to start experimenting with uploading your best audio for online audiences to enjoy.

INTERACTIVE ONLINE CONTENT

Interactive content or features are a great way to make your audience feel included, and keep them engaging with your station. While creating interactive content might seem like a step too far for community stations with limited resources, there are a few options you may like to experiment with, such as:

Polls: You can create polls on your station's Facebook or Twitter page to get your audience's stance on anything related to the elections: for example whether they will be voting. The poll option will appear when you create a new post on your station's Facebook page (if you have posting rights), or at the bottom of the 'Compose new Tweet' window.

Production Tip



For a list of recommended apps for mobile journalism, see: <http://www.mojo-manual.org/mojo-manual-apps/>

Join the #MojoFest Community Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mojofest/>) to interact with professional journalists from around the world about mobile journalism tips, tricks, best practices, apps and equipment.

If your station is interested in a one-day Mobile Journalism training workshop (before or after the Elections), see: <http://www.socialweaver.co.za/services/training/mobile-content-creation/>

Go live: Live video is a great way to offer your audience a real-time indication of what's happening in studio, at a meeting, at a rally, at a protest etc. All you need is a smartphone and a decent internet connection.

Facebook Insights: This is a powerful tool for seeing how your page's Facebook content is performing over time and who your audience is. Use the Watchlist feature to monitor other community station pages (or any other relevant Facebook page) to see what their top content is and how much engagement they're getting. You need to have an Admin, Editor or Analyst role on your station's Facebook page to get access to the Insights section.

Engage: Make sure you respond to messages and comments regularly — Facebook rewards pages that engage with their audiences, by increasing the reach of that page's content. Don't see Facebook as a 'dumping ground' for content, but rather as a platform for enabling and encouraging robust (but respectful) debate and dialogue.

Remember



Do not share any content on any platform that you haven't fully read, listened to or watched yourself. You may be spreading fake news or misinformation. Remember, you can be held liable for defamation if you share a defamatory post, even if you weren't the author of that post.

TWITTER

Our top two tips for using Twitter effectively are: 1) Use lists and 2) Use Tweetdeck!

Lists are custom groups of Twitter accounts that you can create, subscribe to, or be a member of. They are effective for keeping track of Tweets from a narrowly-defined set of Twitter accounts, for example local radio stations in your area, or prominent politicians in your area, or reporters at your station, or official party accounts, etc. To learn more about using Twitter Lists, visit <https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/twitter-lists>

Tweetdeck:

Instead of scrolling aimlessly through your timeline on Twitter.com or on the Twitter app, try using Tweetdeck to organise multiple streams of Tweets, using multiple customisable columns. You can set up columns to monitor Tweets from specific accounts or Lists, or Tweets including specific search terms or hashtags, or trends. You can also filter each column so that you only see Tweets from verified accounts, or original Tweets only (no re-tweets). Tweetdeck also lets you send and schedule Tweets. It also allows multiple users to post from one account (for example your station's account) without needing to know the password. Give it a try at www.tweetdeck.com

WHATSAPP

WhatsApp remains a light, easy-to-use platform that offers radio stations a number of powerful ways of connecting with listeners of all ages. WhatsApp is very popular in South Africa - there are more active users of WhatsApp than Facebook in South Africa, and people also spend more time using WhatsApp than they do using Facebook. This means that if used well, it can be one of the most effective forms of two-way communication with listeners.

How to use WhatsApp effectively as a community radio station:

Firstly, your station needs to have a smartphone with an active SIM card (phone number) that remains in studio. It should always be on and always have an internet connection (to save on data costs, leave it permanently connected to your Wifi connection if one is available).

This smartphone does not need to be high-end at all: any smartphone that supports WhatsApp will be fine. This phone can also be used for publishing posts to your station's Instagram account.

Should we use WhatsApp groups?

While a group might seem like the natural way to communicate with your audience, they have a couple of significant drawbacks.

Privacy: Any member of a group can see all members' profile photos and phone numbers which can lead to unwanted private messages between members. Also, it is relatively easy for all numbers in a group to be automatically collected and used for spam purposes.

Intrusive: Most WhatsApp users are well aware that Groups can very quickly become noisy, intrusive and irritating. As a community radio station with a reputation to uphold, you want to keep your users' experiences on your digital platforms free from clutter and offering maximum value.

WhatsApp Broadcast messages

This is a better way than WhatsApp Groups to communicate with your audience via Whatsapp. The broadcast message functionality allows you to send the same message to up to 256 contacts in one go. Note that broadcast messages can only be sent to users who have saved your number in their contacts. Remember to regularly prompt listeners/users to add your number as a contact so that they don't miss your latest updates.

Whatsapp Web

WhatsApp Web lets you use WhatsApp on a computer and not have to constantly pick up a phone to check and respond to messages. Simply go to <http://web.whatsapp.com> from a computer and scan the QR code after selecting 'WhatsApp web' from the main menu in the WhatsApp app on the phone.

This creates an immediate link between the phone and the computer, enabling you to see and interact with all your conversations on the computer. You can copy and paste text

and images directly into or out of conversations, and you can send messages to groups.

CHECK YOUR STATS

Creating, curating and publishing content in various formats across various platforms is all well and good, but it's essential to regularly check how this content is performing. One major plus point of social media over traditional radio is that you have immediate and accurate analytics available, showing you exactly how popular (or not) certain content is.

By regularly reviewing your analytics, you can make strategic decisions about where to focus your efforts, in other words, how to give your audience more of what they like.

Use these tools to check your stats:

Facebook: Look for the Insights tab on your station's Facebook page

Twitter: Go to analytics.twitter.com to see detailed stats for the Twitter account that you are logged into.

Instagram: Make sure your station's Instagram account has been set as a business (not personal) account in order for stats to become available. Try visiting www.squarelovin.com to get a detailed look at your Instagram stats.

OTHER USEFUL SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS

HootSuite: This tool lets you monitor all your social media platforms in one place using a number of columns. You can also use this to schedule posts across multiple platforms.

CrowdTangle: This is a Google Chrome browser extension that enables you to see where a link has been shared on social media (for example a news story on your website), by whom, and how many interactions it has received.

INSTAGRAM

Instagram is great for behind-the-scenes, more light-hearted content. If you have a high-profile politician in studio for an interview, you might want to snap some shots showing the personality behind the politician, for example. Instagram is a platform that celebrates creativity, vibrancy, progressiveness and respect, so if you have an idea for content that fits in with these ideals, Instagram would be a good fit.

Instagram Stories are a popular component of the platform. These are short (up to 15 seconds) snippets that typically disappear after 24 hours. You could use this on Election Day, for example, to give your listeners/followers a real-life feel of what it's like to be on the ground at the voting station(s) in your areas. If desired, stories can be highlighted and pinned to the top of the profile, which prevents them from vanishing after 24 hours.

Instagram is generally popular with a younger demographic than Facebook and Twitter, so if you are hoping to reach out to a younger audience, Instagram is definitely the way to do it.



Image source: Sydelle Willow Smith

SECTION FOUR

Fact Checking

Beware “Fake News”

“Fake news” is the common term for misinformation or disinformation. If it is “fake news” - it’s not news at all!

The term “fake news” was made popular by US President Donald Trump during his election campaign in 2016. Any time a media outlet criticised him, he called it “fake news” to discredit the information presented in the report and make it seem as though they were lying.

The use of misinformation and disinformation is not a new phenomenon, but in the era of technology, it has become very easy to disseminate incorrect information, and harder for Internet users to identify it. So how can we begin to tell the difference between fake and real news?

Real news begins with facts, not opinions.

What is a fact?

A fact is something that can be checked and is backed by evidence.

What is an opinion?

An opinion is based on a belief or point of view. It is not based on evidence that can be checked.

Fact VS Opinion

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Fact</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">evidence</h3> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">Cristiano Ronaldo was named FIFA's best men's footballer of 2018 (we can check this)</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Opinion</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">belief</h3> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">"Lionel Messi is the greatest footballer alive today." (Some people may think other players are better than Messi)</p>
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It is not just information that matters here, but the motivation of the people who are creating and sharing this content, and the platforms through which they spread it.

Misinformation: is any false or inaccurate information. It isn't deliberate, it's just wrong or mistaken.

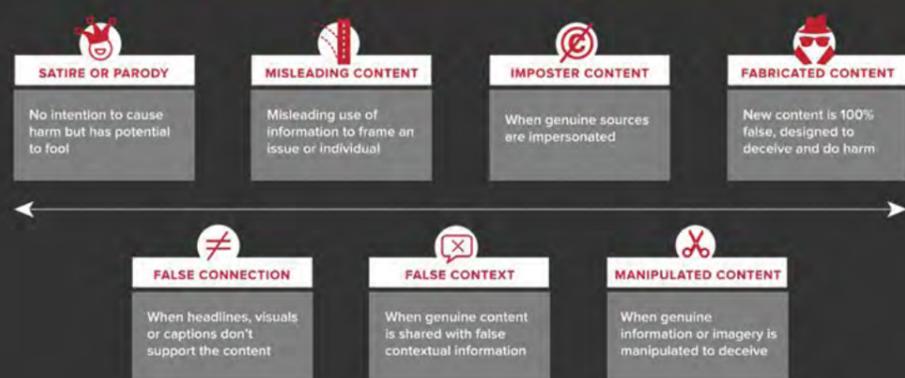
Disinformation: is false information that is deliberately created and spread to influence, hide or distort the truth.

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

"Propaganda is a commonly misused term. Because of its historical use, many people associate propaganda with inflammatory speech or writing that has no basis in fact. In reality, propaganda tends to easily be based in fact, but facts represented in such a way as to (...) to encourage or instil a particular attitude or response." The tend to "present the opposing point of view in an unfavorable light." - John Hopkins Sheridan Libraries

An organisation in the United States, called "First Draft" is dedicated to supporting reporters across the world in a dodgy digital age. They have classified mis- and disinformation in the following ways:

FIRSTDRAFT 7 TYPES OF MIS- AND DISINFORMATION



Graphic credit: First Draft

Can you think of any examples of these different kinds of content?

Here are a few examples to help us understand these classifications better. Many times misinformation can be a lot more sophisticated than this!

- Loyiso Gola and Chester Missing engage in satire and parody
- "Earn up to R5000 from home a day" adverts are misleading
- Websites that are not news outlets but pose as news and current affairs outlets generate imposter content. It is sometimes hard to tell the difference between them
- How about those false celebrity death notices? 100% fabricated content. Zodwa Wabantu is still alive!
- Ever seen the "Zodwa Wabantu like you've never seen her before" headline, only to read an ordinary article about the controversial entertainer? When catchy headlines, visuals or captions don't support the content, it's called "clickbait"
- New and different headlines and publishing dates can be put on legitimate news stories to produce false context
- Many of us have been fooled by a photoshopped image, altering reality in ways that appears believable. This is manipulated content

Here are a few videos to help you make the distinctions:

A clever advertorial by a company who helps businesses distinguish manipulated content

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=53&v=DeVlf_0s5fo

The Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania produced this video about spotting "fake news"

<http://politics.flackcheck.org/how-to-spot-fake-news-factcheck/>

WHO IS CREATING THESE KINDS OF MISINFORMATION AND WHY?

"First Draft" mapped out the different kinds of misinformation and the motivations behind creating and spreading those kinds of "fake news". It suggests the following reasons:

Poor Journalism, to Parody, to Provoke, Passion, Partisanship (being in favour of a particular cause), Profit, Political Influence, Propaganda

FIRSTDRAFT MISINFORMATION MATRIX

	SATIRE OR PARODY	FALSE CONNECTION	MISLEADING CONTENT	FALSE CONTEXT	IMPOSTER CONTENT	MANIPULATED CONTENT	FABRICATED CONTENT
POOR JOURNALISM		✓	✓	✓			
TO PARODY	✓				✓		✓
TO PROVOKE OR TO 'PUNK'					✓	✓	✓
PASSION				✓			
PARTISANSHIP			✓	✓			
PROFIT		✓			✓		✓
POLITICAL INFLUENCE			✓	✓		✓	✓
PROPAGANDA			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Don't be fooled, get it right

Reporters are under immense pressure to produce news in real time following revelations or information emerging on social media. If you are curating content from other sources and not creating original content yourself, you need to consider the following so you don't fall victim to dodgy sources:

- Can you find a physical address on the website's 'Contact Us' or 'About' pages?
- Can you identify any of the authors of the articles on the website?
- What are that individual or group's mission or beliefs?
- What does the document owner have to gain by circulating the document?
- Can you find other, credible publications running with the same story?
- Does the headline seem exaggerated or irrelevant to the content of the article?

Facebook has introduced a new information panel that you can click on for every link that appears on your timeline, to do a quick background check on that site to see if it is legitimate or questionable. Every link shared on Facebook now has a little 'i' that appears to the right of the link title text. Hover your mouse over this 'i' and you will notice a text pop-up that reads "Show more information about this link." Click on it and you will get more information about the link and the website it leads to, helping you to reach an informed conclusion about the veracity of the information being spread.

The use of automated accounts (bots) to spread misinformation on Twitter is a very real danger to be wary of especially during elections. If you suspect that an account is a bot, use the BotCheck Chrome extension (<https://botcheck.me/>) to run a check. You can also use MentionMapp (www.mentionmapp.com) to visualise an account's Twitter activity and see if it appears suspicious.

Social media can be full of trolls and people spreading misinformation, even having fake accounts. Here are more tips to fact check the social media universe:

- Is there a Twitter bio? If not, be cautious.
- Does the location line up with the bio and the content? Remember that it's easy to set a fake location for a Tweet or Facebook post, so don't rely on such information.
- Be especially skeptical of Tweets that say "BREAKING NEWS" or use journalistic language if they're not from a journalist or a news organisation.
- Do some quick research before spreading information from an account you're not familiar with.

Think About

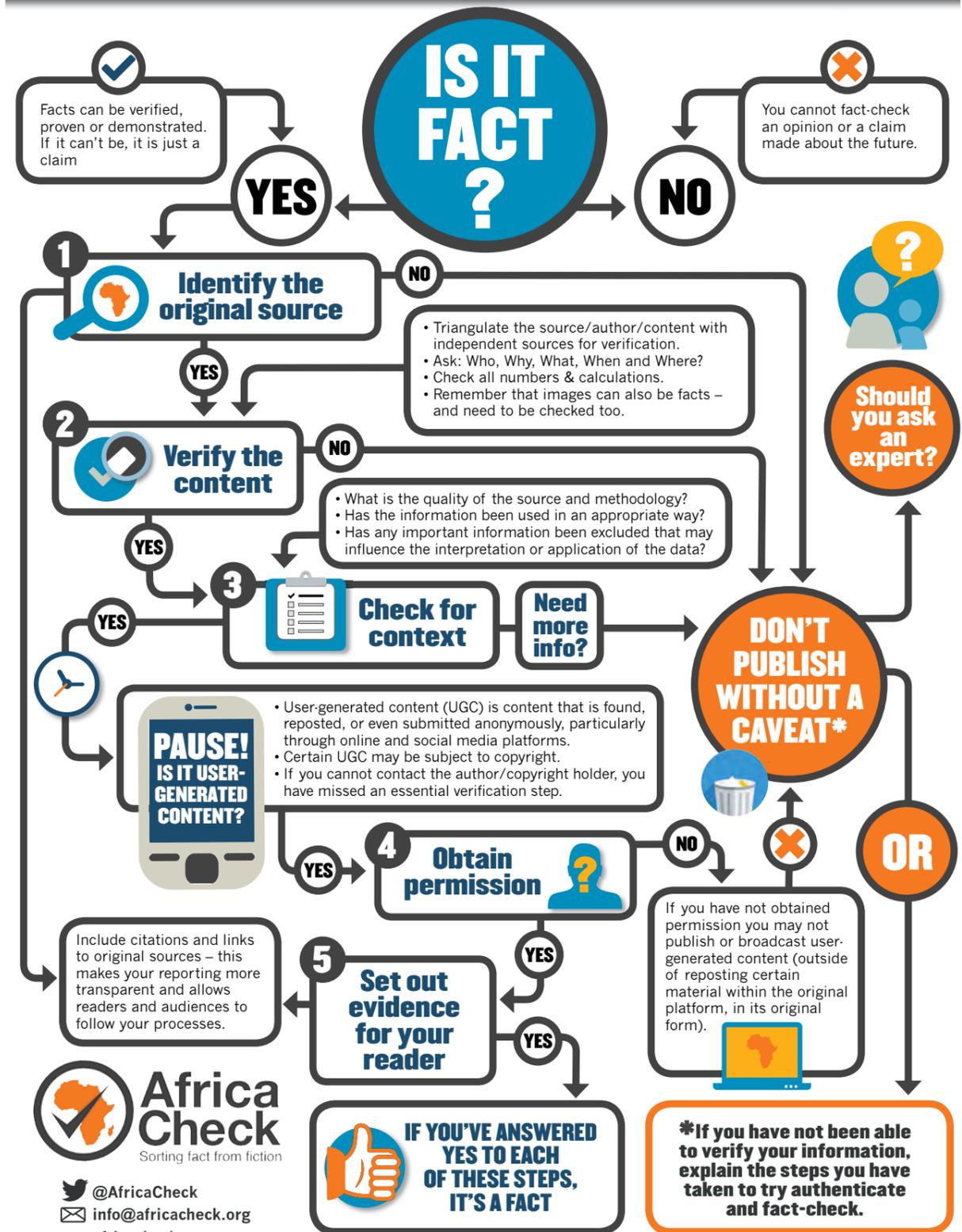


What is an Internet Troll?

"A troll is a person who starts quarrels or upsets people on the Internet to distract and sow discord by posting inflammatory and digressive, extraneous, or off-topic messages in an online community (such as a newsgroup, forum, chat room, or blog) with the intent of provoking readers into displaying emotional responses and normalizing tangential discussion, whether for the troll's amusement or a specific gain." - Wikipedia

Here is Africa Check's step by step guide on how to go about fact checking.

THE FIVE-STEP FACT-CHECK



You can also find more on fact checking here:

How to fact-check: <https://africacheck.org/how-to-fact-check/tips-and-advice/>

“Fact checking” yourself

It's not just poor research, or verification of information that is a problem when it comes to “fake news.” The problem can also lie with us, in how we see and understand the world, and how we want it to be. When this factor comes into play, we can talk about having a bias. When we are biased reporters, we report a story in a one-sided or prejudiced way.

What is bias: Prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be unfair.

There are different kinds of bias:

Cognitive bias is a mistake in reasoning, evaluating, remembering, or other thought processes. It often occurs as a result of holding onto preferences and beliefs even if the information says otherwise.

Confirmation bias is the tendency to search for, interpret, favour, and recall information in a way that confirms beliefs we already hold.

Blind spot bias is recognizing the impact bias has on others' judgement, while failing to see the impact of biases on one's own judgment.

Bandwagon effect is a psychological phenomenon in which people do something mainly because other people are doing it, regardless of their own beliefs, which they may ignore. The bandwagon effect has wide implications but is commonly seen in politics and consumer behaviour.

The **outcome bias** is an error made in evaluating the quality of a decision when the outcome of that decision is already known.



Fact Checking Tools Suggested by Africa Check

FACT CHECKING IMAGES

Google reverse image search

STEP 1: Save or download the picture you want to check, or copy the web address. Then navigate to <https://images.google.com>.

STEP 2: In the browser menu (3 vertical dots), select “request desktop site”

STEP 3: Press the Camera Icon in the Search Bar. This should give you two options: to paste a URL or to Upload an image to be searched

Your results should at the very least give you first use dates and will also often give you other data like location and context.

TIP: If you are using Google Chrome as your default mobile browser, long press on a photo you want to check and a drop-down menu will appear. Select “Search Google for this image” to initiate a reverse image search

Tineye search

STEP 1: Save or download the picture you want to check, or copy the web address. Then navigate to www.tineye.com

STEP 2: Select “upload image” and upload the image you saved. Or paste the URL into the TinEye search bar.

STEP 3: The beauty of TinEye is that it gives you the oldest, newest and “most changed” versions of an image, which is a big help for discovering photoshopped manipulations like the Zuma son arrest or the Zuma/Wodumo dance.

RevEye works on similar principles to the above two.

Verifying video

InVID Verification Plugin: This is a very useful set of tools for debunking fake news and to verify video and images. It works with Chrome and Firefox. Get it here: <https://www.invid-project.eu/tools-and-services/invid-verification-plugin/>

Verifying websites

Wayback Machine shows archived versions of webpages over time. It also allows you to save a current page as a verifiable reference for the future: <http://archive.org/web/>

Cached View brings up cached views of internet pages from multiple sources: <http://cachedview.com/>

Verifying Twitter

Advanced Twitter Search lets you search for people, subjects and images on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/search-advanced>

TwXplorer allows you to search Twitter for recent Tweets on a subject. It also reveals the hashtags being used: <https://twxplorer.knightlab.com/>

Twicsy lets you search Twitter images: <https://twicsy.com/>
Who Tweeted it First: <http://ctrlq.org/first/>

APPENDIX

CONTACTS

Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)

- **Contact Centre**
tel: 0800 11 8000
- **SMS**
32810 (SMS your ID number for your registration status and current voting station)
- **Social media**
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IECSouthAfrica
Twitter: [@IECSouthAfrica](https://twitter.com/IECSouthAfrica)
- **Voting Station Finder**
web: <http://maps.elections.org.za/vsfinder/>
- **National Office**
tel: 012 622 5700
email: info@elections.org.za
- **Provincial offices**
 - Eastern Cape tel: (043) 709 4200
 - Free State tel: (051) 401 5000
 - Gauteng tel: (011) 644 7400
 - KwaZulu-Natal tel: (031) 279 2200
 - Limpopo tel: (015) 283 9100
 - Mpumalanga tel: (013) 762 0640
 - North West tel: (018) 391-0800
 - Northern Cape tel: (053) 838 5000
 - Western Cape tel: (021) 910 5700

Independent Communications Authority (ICASA)

- General enquiries: info@icasa.org.za
- Consumer complaints: consumer@icasa.org.za
Email: consumer@icasa.org.za
- International relations: international@icasa.org.za
- Media enquiries: media@icasa.org.za
- Fraud hotline number: 0800 11 11 64
SMS: 33490
email: icasa@whistleblowing.co.za
- Johannesburg (head office) tel: 012 568 3000/3001
- Cape Town tel: 021 561 6800
- Durban tel: 031 334 9500
- Port Elizabeth tel: 041 394 1600
- Bloemfontein tel: 051 411 5900
- Nelspruit tel: 013 001 1364
- Limpopo tel: limpopo@icasa.org.za
- Mabatho tel: ICASANWRegionalOffice@icasa.org.za

Wits Radio Academy: Newsdesk

- tel: 011 717 4073
- email: journinfo@wits.ac.za
radio@journalism.co.za
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/jocoza

Africa Check website

- web: www.africacheck.org
- tel: 011 717 4028
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/AfricaCheck
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/AfricaCheck](https://twitter.com/AfricaCheck)

Children's Radio Foundation

- tel: 021 465 6965
- website: www.childrensradiofoundation.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/childrensradiofoundation
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CRFprojects>
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/childrensradio

Media, Development and Diversity Agency (MMDA)

- website: www.mdda.org.za
- tel: 011 643 1100
- email: info@mdda.org.za
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/CommunityMediaDevelopment
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/MddaMedia

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

<https://elections.adrianfrith.com> - an interactive, zoomable map showing national and provincial results for the 2009 and 2014 elections, with results on a provincial, district municipality, local municipality, ward and voting district level.

<https://wazimap.co.za/> - A great tool to help reporters to produce contextual, compelling, issue-based journalism. An interactive, zoomable map showing information relating to Demographics, Households, Service Delivery, Economics, Education, Children and Child-headed Households. Data available at national, provincial, municipality and ward level.

<https://www.newstools.co.za/> - An open source, easy-to-use toolkit of analytical software to keep media institutions honest, help improve media professionalism and promote quality journalism.

FACT SHEETS



Demand for land in South Africa, in numbers

RESEARCHED BY LIESL PRETORIUS

How many South Africans want land for farming? The answer may depend on how you define farming. We look at five surveys conducted since 1994.

1994-95: LAND AND AGRICULTURE POLICY CENTRE

In 1994-95, the Land Reform Research Programme of the Land and Agriculture Policy Centre (LAPC), found that 67.7% of South African black rural households wanted farmland.

However, in the book *Down to Earth: Land Demand in the New South Africa*, the LAPC warned that this finding “needs to be viewed with caution as it reflects problems in the way questions were posed and how the data was collected and analysed”.

These problems include the fact that farming was not defined and that the national sample of 2,098 was not representative. As a result, the findings cannot be generalised – “at best it offers an indication of trends”.

2001: CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

In 2001, market research company MarkData conducted research on land demand among a racially representative sample of 2,144 South Africans, 16 years and older.

The study, commissioned by the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE), found that 9% of Africans who were not farmers wanted land where they could live and farm full time “even if I struggled”. A further 23% said they would like to have this if they could earn well.

'How much would you like to have land of your own to live on and farm full time?'	
Would like it even if I struggled	9%
Would like it if I could earn well	23%
Would like it later in life	14%
Uncertain about it	16%
Would prefer a job and housing in an urban area (and other negatives*)	38%

*Numerous requests for the CDE to clarify the meaning of “and other negatives” went unanswered.

The CDE concluded that “among South Africa’s African population, access to rural land and agricultural opportunity are not keynote expectations. Crucially, the research assembled by CDE indicates that most South Africans now see land – both rural and urban land – mainly in terms of its significance as ‘a place to stay’ rather than a ‘place to farm’.”

Ruth Hall, a professor at the University of the Western Cape’s **Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies** (Plaas), told Africa Check that wanting land for settlement and housing and wanting access to land for farming are not mutually exclusive.

“It’s important to point out that a lot of people are wanting access to land for a secure place to live plus a little bit more. That doesn’t mean that they want to be full-time farmers. And I think that the options that have been provided to date – which is basically either you become a full-time commercial farmer or you leave with nothing – has been such a false choice set up for people.”

2004-05: HUMAN SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL

A 2004-05 Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) study surveyed between 1,260 and 1,279 black (mostly African) respondents in Limpopo, the Free State and Eastern Cape. These people were drawn from four groups:

- farm dwellers;
- communal dwellers (living in former homeland areas);
- urban formal dwellers (who lived in urban areas with formal housing); and
- urban informal dwellers (who typically stayed in shacks).

More than a third of the people in each group said they wanted or needed additional land.

% who want land by segment				
Farm dwellers	Communal	Urban formal	Urban informal	All
53.2%	36.6%	46.9%	50.4%	41.7%

Close to 60% of those who wanted land indicated that the main reason they wanted it was to grow food, said Prof Michael Aliber, an agricultural economist from the University of Fort Hare and a co-author of the study.

“A far smaller share – about 14% – wanted land mainly for generating an income.”

'What is the main reason you want/need this land?'				
	Farm dwellers	Communal	Urban formal	Urban informal
To grow food	57.5%	69.1%	50.7%	54.1%
To generate income	16.5%	12.1%	13.9%	13.4%
To have a secure place to stay	14.3%	12.2%	32.1%	31.9%
To use as collateral	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
To get back what was taken from us	0.6%	4.3%	1.2%	0.0%
Other	11.0%	1.5%	2.1%	0.6%

As for the amount of land, three-quarters of those who wanted land were after 5 hectares or less, Aliber said.

He pointed out that a “significant minority – about 16%”, expressed a wish for larger amounts of land (20 hectares and more). “These were mainly the same people who wanted land mainly for income purposes.”

2006-07: TRUST FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION, PLUS OTHERS

A study conducted in 2006 and 2007 in five rural Western Cape towns found that 75% of participating households needed land.

The research was the result of a collaboration between the Trust for Community Outreach and Education, the Mawubuye Land Rights Forum, Plaas and the University of the Western Cape’s department of economics.

The sample of 2,668 households was made up of African and coloured people who lived in townships around Robertson, Ashton, McGregor, Bonnievale and Montagu, as well as farm workers.

Among those who said they or their households needed land or more land, the main reason for wanting land was for housing, followed by the need to grow food for the household and to generate income.

“It is striking that most people who want land want it for more than one purpose,” the authors of the study said.

Reasons for wanting land	
Housing	56%
Cultivating food for my household	53%
Cultivating food for sale	39%
Running a business	30%
Grazing livestock	28%
Cultivating other crops for sale*	25%

*Asked to clarify the meaning of ‘other crops’, Hall said: “There is always an ‘other’ option in questionnaires. We cannot say but from qualitative answers, it seems it is mostly food crops – vegetables – for household consumption or local sale.”

The majority of households who said they needed land wanted a hectare or less.

Said Hall, one of the co-authors of the study: “Most people don’t want to co-own with 30 other families a big farm far away. What they want is a smallholding right next to the town.”

2015: INSTITUTE FOR RACE RELATIONS

A 2015 survey, commissioned by the Institute for Race Relations, asked a nationally representative sample of 2,245 people, 16 years and older, to choose between getting rural land for farming from government or getting land for housing in towns and cities.

It found that about 37% of the population preferred farmland.

'If given land, do you prefer farm (land) or city (land)?'					
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
Farmland	39.5%	24.5%	21.8%	33.4%	37.1%
Urban land	55.2%	73.7%	78.2%	63.2%	58.3%
No choice	5.3%	1.9%		3.4%	4.7%

This question seemed to disregard the demand for land for small-scale farming in urban areas. But the IRR’s head of policy research, Anthea Jeffery, declined an opportunity to answer this and other questions about the institute’s research on land demand.

Said Hall: “The distinction between settlement and agriculture is often a false distinction for people who are poor, who have a history in farming – they might have been farm workers or might have lived in communal areas – but now they are needing to be close to the city. So we’re needing hybrid models.”

Edited by Anim van Wyk

This report was written by Africa Check, a non-partisan fact-checking organisation. View the original piece on their website, at: <https://africacheckroom/factsheets/factsheet-demand-for-land-in-south-africa-in-numbers/>

South Africa's official poverty numbers

RESEARCHED BY KATE WILKINSON

What proportion of South Africans live in poverty? How are the numbers calculated? And who is most vulnerable? This factsheet presents South Africa's official poverty estimates.

South Africa has three poverty lines, which represent different degrees of poverty. They were first published by [Statistics South Africa](#) (Stats SA) in 2012.

The poverty lines were based on spending and consumption data from the 2000 Income and Expenditure Survey. Stats SA's [first poverty trends report](#) was released in 2014.

In 2015, the poverty lines were rebased – this means that the poverty lines were recalculated using new data from the 2010/2011 Income and Expenditure Survey. The [latest poverty trends report](#) was released in 2017 and include poverty estimates for 2006 to 2015.

DIFFERENT DEGREES OF POVERTY

South Africa's poverty lines measure [absolute poverty](#). The poverty lines are official thresholds below which people are considered poor.

South Africa has three poverty lines which "[capture different degrees of poverty](#) and allow the country to measure and monitor poverty at different levels", according to Stats SA.

Stats SA uses data on how much people spend – as opposed to how much they earn – to calculate the number of people living in poverty. This is because it may "better reflect a household's actual standard of living and ability to meet basic needs", the organisation [previously told](#) Africa Check.

Poverty lines can appear arbitrary. For example, in 2015 a person spending R991 per month was considered to be living in poverty while another spending R993 was not. But [academics argue](#) that a line has to be drawn somewhere if the extent of poverty is to be measured and tracked.

Food poverty line

This poverty line represents the amount of money that a person needs every month to purchase enough food to consume around [2,100 calories per day](#).

Stats SA uses the figure of 2,100 calories per day as it is the [United Nations threshold](#) for the minimum daily energy requirement for someone living in an emergency situation.

People living below this poverty line are considered to live in "[extreme poverty](#)", as they are not able to afford to eat enough food to meet their basic physical needs.

2015 food poverty line statistics	
Value of poverty line	R441
Proportion of population below poverty line	25.2%
Number of people below poverty line	13.8 million

In 2017, the food poverty line was adjusted up to R531 per month.

Upper and lower-bound poverty lines

The upper-bound poverty line (UBPL) and lower-bound poverty line (LBPL) take into consideration the cost of basic food as well as the cost of other basic living needs. This includes costs related to shelter, clothing and transportation.

While it is possible to set a minimum requirement for daily food consumption, Stats SA [notes](#) that there "are no universal standards for consumption of non-food basic needs".

Because of this, the "two lines are regarded as the lower and an upper bound to a [range of possible 'total' poverty lines](#)". The lower line includes less basic living costs, while the upper line includes more.

According to Stats SA, "the lower-bound poverty line has emerged as the [preferred threshold](#)" in policy-making and monitoring.

South Africa's poverty reduction targets are based on the lower-bound poverty line in the Medium Term Strategic Framework, National Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goals.

2015 lower-bound poverty line statistics	
Value of poverty line	R647
Proportion of population below LBPL poverty line	40%
Number of people below poverty line	21.9 million

In 2017, the lower-bound poverty line was adjusted up to [R758 per month](#).

2015 upper-bound poverty line statistics	
Value of poverty line	R992
Proportion of population below LBPL poverty line	55.5%
Number of people below poverty line	30.4 million

In 2017, the upper-bound poverty line was adjusted up to [R1,138 per month](#).

WHO IS MOST VULNERABLE TO POVERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA?

In 2015, over half of South Africa's population (55.5%) lives in poverty. However, there are certain groups which are more vulnerable to poverty.

Eastern Cape

Over half of South Africans live below the upper-bound poverty line, but the figure varies by [province](#).

The Eastern Cape had the highest share of poor residents at 72.9%. Limpopo was marginally lower at 72.4%.

Gauteng province had the lowest share of poor residents. In 2015, 33.3% of people who lived there were poor. The percentage of people living in poverty increased in 8 provinces between 2011 and 2015. Mpumalanga is the only province that has seen a constant decline in the proportion of poor residents since 2006.

Women

A higher percentage of women have lived in poverty than men since 2006. However, the difference between the two groups has [narrowed](#).

Black people

According to Stats SA, there is "[significant disparity](#) in poverty levels between population groups in South Africa". In 2015, [9 out of every 10 poor people](#) in South Africa (93%) were black.

White people in South Africa have the lowest levels of poverty. In 2015, just 1% of the population group lived under the upper-bound poverty line of R991 per person per month.

Number of people living in poverty in SA by population group		
Population group	Number	% of population group
African/Black	28,267,530	64.2%
Coloured	1,989,304	41.3%
Indian/Asian	79,460	5.9%
White	47,494	1%
South Africa	30,383,788	55.5%

Children

The data shows that poverty is **highest for the age group 0-17**.

In 2015, 66.8% of children lived in poverty – up from 63.7% in 2011. The age group with the lowest levels of poverty were people aged 45-54, at 42.2%.

Number of children (0-17) living in poverty in SA by population group		
Population group	Number	% of population group
Black/African	12,350,319	73.6%
Coloured	741,825	47.8%
Indian	23,143	6.5%
White	13,945	1.4%
South Africa	13,129,232	66.8%

People with no education

“There is an undeniable relationship between poverty and education,” according to Stats SA.

“Studies have shown that the higher a person’s qualification, the more likely they are to be employed and absorbed in the formal labour force, and therefore, are less susceptible to falling into poverty.”

In 2015, 79.2% of South African adults with **no education** lived in poverty.

In comparison, 35.6% of adults with only a matric qualification live in poverty. The figure was just 8.4% for adults with a higher education.

This report was written by Africa Check, a non-partisan fact-checking organisation. View the original piece on their website: <https://africacheck.org/factsheets/factsheet-south-africas-official-poverty-numbers/>



Nearly 39% of young South Africans unemployed?

07:57 | 25th September 2018 (GMT)

It’s well known that many of South Africa’s young people are unemployed, President Cyril Ramaphosa recently told parliament’s **National Council of Provinces**.

“We could have up to, say, 38 or 39% of young people unemployed,” Ramaphosa said in September 2018. He was responding to a question by the ANC’s Hunadi Mateme about a new paid work experience programme.

The **Youth Employment Service** initiative seeks “to provide work experience for young people on a scale that would be significant and lasting enough to have an impact on employment”, **Ramaphosa said**.

His spokesperson, Khusela Diko, has not responded to Africa Check’s questions about the source of the statistic.

Who is a young person?

President Cyril Ramaphosa answers questions from members of the National Council of Provinces on 11 September 2018. The **United Nations** defines a young person **as someone** aged 15 to 24. But the definition differs across organisations and countries.

In its African Youth Charter, the **African Union identifies** youth as “every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years”. In South Africa, “youth” are defined as people aged 15 to 34, **Statistics South Africa’s** director for labour statistics and the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Desiree Manamela, told Africa Check.

“Please also note that **International Labour Organisation** guidelines allow countries to make the definition to suit country circumstances,” Manamela said.

According to the agency’s **latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey**, **38.8%** of people aged 15 to 34 were unemployed in the period from April to June 2018. This was an **increase** from 38.2% in the first three months of the year. (Note: By comparison, the national unemployment rate for South Africa **was estimated** at 27.2%.)

The unemployment rate for people aged 15 to 24 was 53.7% in the second quarter of 2018. – Lifaqane Nare (20/09/2018)

This report was written by Africa Check, a non-partisan fact-checking organisation. View the original piece on their website: <https://africacheck.org/spot-check/nearly-39-of-young-south-africans-unemployed-ramaphosas-claim-spot-on/>

Violence against South Africa's women, children

Men from organisations across South Africa came together for a summit in August 2018 to **develop** a “men’s charter” and a “men’s sector strategic plan for positive social change”.

Opening the **Takuwani Riime men’s summit** in KwaZulu-Natal, deputy president David Mabuza **called on men** to take stock of the role they play in South African society. Takuwani Riime is a Tshivenda expression meaning “Let us stand up together”.

“We have to talk as men about the pain we’ve inflicted on women and children,” Mabuza said.

Here we weigh up claims Mabuza made about violence against South Africa’s women and children. (Note: We tried to get clarity on Mabuza’s sources from his spokesperson Thami Ngwenya, but at the time of publication our request was unanswered. We will update this report when he responds.)

CLAIM

Our country’s femicide rate has been increasing over the last five years.

VERDICT

correct

The **South African Police Service** records the number of women murdered in the country. When this data is compared with population estimates, a murder rate can be calculated.

The **most recent data available** shows that in the 2017/18 financial year, 15.2 out of every 100,000 women were victims of murder.

This is the highest the rate has been in the past five years and represents a 16% increase over the period.

South Africa’s femicide rate		
	Woman 18+ murdered	Femicide rate/100,000
2013/14	2,354	13.1
2014/15	2,234	12.2
2015/16	2,416	13.0
2016/17	2,639	14.0
2017/18	2,930	15.2

Source: South African Police Service and Statistics South Africa

CLAIM

One in five women experience physical violence from an intimate partner.

VERDICT

incorrect

The most recent research on violence against women in South Africa is the country’s 2016 **Demographic and Health Survey**. It’s a nationally representative household survey, used in a **number of countries** around the world. It provides **data** on a wide range of topics – population, health and nutrition.

South Africa’s 2016 survey included questions on whether women aged 18 and older had ever experienced physical violence by any partner.

The survey **found** that “one in five partnered women has ever experienced physical violence by a partner”. But this statistic cannot be applied to the whole female population, as Mabuza did in his speech.

The question relates to “women that were currently and/or previously in a relationship with a man in their lifetime”, Statistics South Africa told Africa Check.

They include “women who are married, divorced, separated, widowed, living or lived with a man as if married, had or have boyfriends or [a] fiancé”.

When considering South Africa’s total adult female population, Statistics South Africa said 7.7% of women 18 years and older experienced violence by a current or previous partner in the 12 months before the survey.

This means that one in 13 women in South Africa – not one in five – have experienced physical violence from an intimate partner. – Kate Wilkinson

CLAIM

41% of the [124,000 cases of rape in the last three years] were against children.

VERDICT

correct

South Africa’s **police recorded** 124,526 cases of rape in the three years from 2014/15 to 2016/17.

In **50,988 of these cases**, the victim was recorded as aged 18 or younger. This is 41% of all the rapes recorded in South Africa over the three years.

More recent crime statistics, for 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, were released after Mabuza’s speech. These reveal an even higher share: **18,336** of the 40,035 rapes recorded, or 45.8%, were of children. – Gopolang Makou

Recorded child rape cases in South Africa			
Year	Child rapes reported	Total rapes reported	Child rape as % of total rape
2014/15	15,520	43,195	35.9%
2015/16	16,389	41,503	39.5%
2016/17	19,079*	39,828	47.9%
2017/18	18,336	40,035	45.8%

Source: **Parliamentary reply**, **parliamentary presentation** and **police crime statistics**.

* In a 2017 parliamentary reply, the minister of police put the number of child rape cases in 2016/17 at 19,017. This was updated to 19,079 in August 2018. We have asked the police to verify whether this is the correct figure.

This report was written by Africa Check, a non-partisan fact-checking organisation. View the original piece on their website: <https://africacheck.org/reports/violence-against-south-africas-women-children-verifying-claims-at-a-mens-summit/>