

Local elections

2011 THE LAY OF THE BATTLEGROUND

The local elections on 18 May 2011 will be among the most important and interesting elections in South Africa since 1994, as the ANC and the DA join battle for control of the country's municipalities. Enjoying massive support from the electorate, the ANC has been consistently formidable at election time, but recently has been losing some ground in by-elections. Across the country, the party also faces growing pressure from communities demanding better service delivery and accountable government. The growing trend in recent years for public protests to turn violent is worrying.

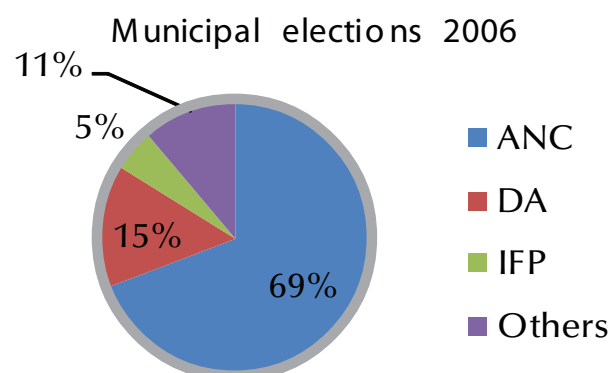
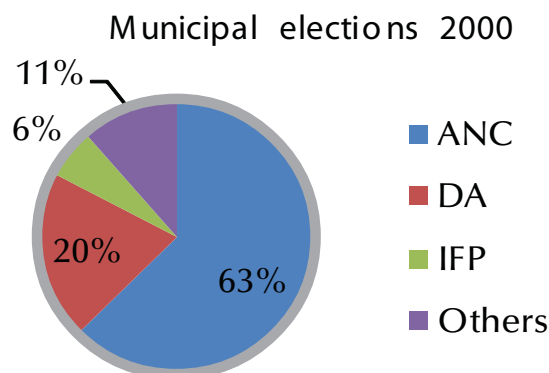
The ANC will fight this election on what is essentially a reform agenda – a commitment to turn local government around. The DA has now had time in office in the Western Cape provincial government and in many municipalities, and will fight this election on the basis that it is a better and cleaner government than the

ANC. Five hot issues define the election battleground. This article looks at those issues in the context of the main parties' performance in the previous two general elections of 2000 and 2006. Importantly, it does not take mid-term by-elections into account.

Will the ANC lose ground to the DA nationally?

Between the 2000 and 2006 municipal elections, as the charts indicate, the ANC not only managed to hold on to its standing in most municipalities, but even succeeded in gaining an additional 6% of council seats. The DA did not enjoy this level of

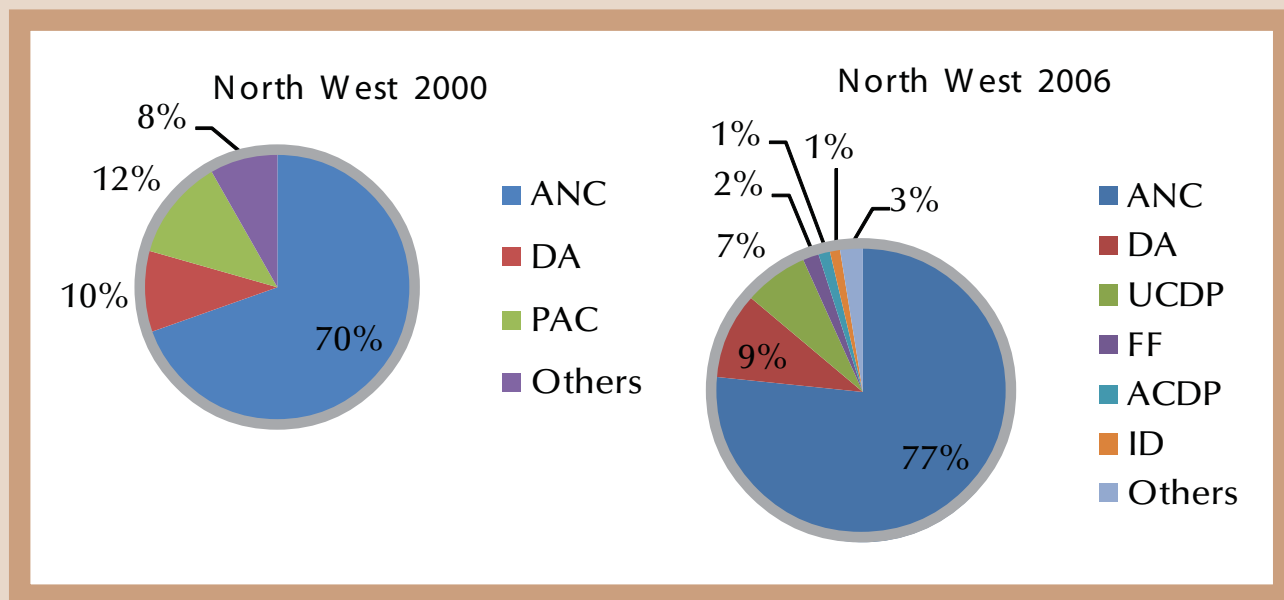
support. The statistics indicate that between the two elections the DA lost some ground – from holding 20% of council seats nationally in 2000 to just 15% after the 2006 elections. The key question is whether the trend will continue. This is particularly difficult to predict given the public discontent at service delivery failures by municipalities across South Africa.



Will opposition parties make inroads in the North West, given the widespread problems in ANC-run municipalities there?

As the charts below show, the ANC increased the number of municipal council seats it controlled in the North West province by 7% in 2006.

It is clear from the table that the ANC managed to strengthen its position in North West municipalities between the 2000 and 2006 elections, and to reduce the representation of opposition parties. The number of municipalities with less than 20% opposition party representation increased dramatically after 2006.¹⁾



Source: Independent Electoral Commission

North West			
Municipalities with less than 20% opposition		Municipalities with more than 20% opposition	
2000	2006	2000	2006
Morelete	Morelete	Rustenburg	Greater Taung
Tswaing	Maquasi Hills	Moses Kotane	Kagisano
Ventersdorp		Ratlou	
Merafong	Lekwa-Teemane	Mafikeng	Mafikeng
	Madibeng	Ditsobotla	Ditsobotla
	Ratlou	Ramotsherer	Rustenburg
	Tswaing	Naledi	Naledi
	Ventersdorp	Mamusa	Mamusa
	Kgetlengrivier	Greater Taung	Potchefstroom
		Molopo	Molopo
		Lekwa-Teemane	Matlosana
		Potchefstroom	Merafong
		Matlosana	
		Maquasi Hills	
		Madibeng	
		Kgetlengrivier	

Source: Independent Electoral Commission

¹ The 20% benchmark is randomly selected for the purpose of indicating the performance of opposition parties in the province.

Will the IFP continue its slide in KwaZulu-Natal, and if so, will the DA or the ANC benefit?

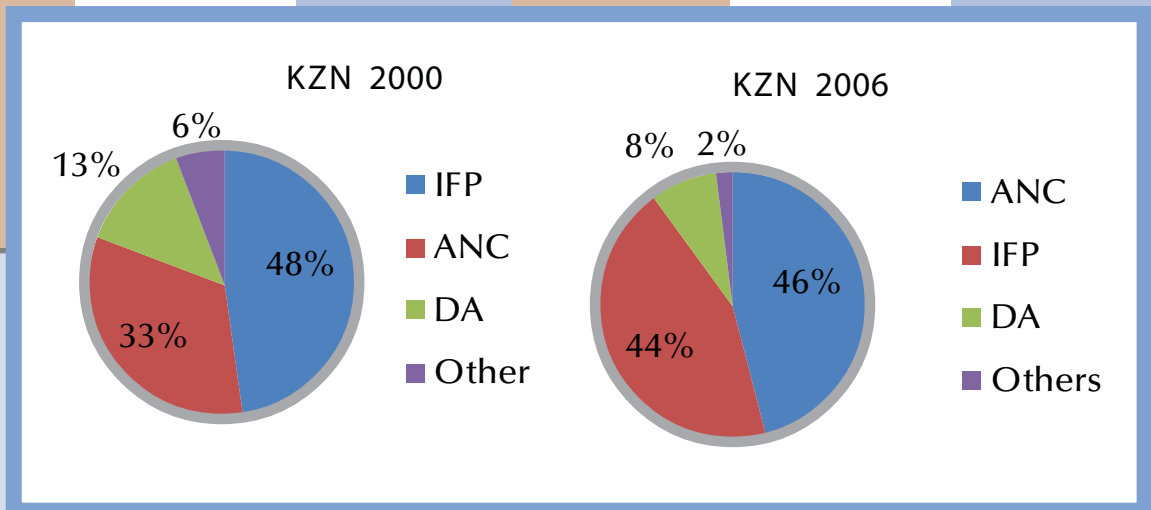
These charts show that even though KwaZulu-Natal has traditionally been an IFP stronghold, the ANC has steadily gained ground. In 2006, the IFP lost 4% of the seats it secured

in the 2000 municipal elections. The table below also indicates that almost half of the municipalities that were IFP-controlled in 2000 went to the ANC in the 2006 elections.

The coming elections will show whether the IFP will continue losing ground or whether the ANC or even the DA can take the spoils.

KwaZulu-Natal					
2000			2006		
Municipalities under IFP	Municipalities under ANC	Coalition	Municipalities under IFP	Municipalities under ANC	Coalition ³
Vulamehlo	Mngeni	Hibiscus Coast	Indaka	Durban	Mkhambathini
Khiphinkunzi	Mpofana	uMshwathi	Ntambana	Vulamehlo	Newcastle
Muziwabantu	Impendle	Emnambithi	Umtshezi	uMdoni	Endumeni
Izingolweni	Msunduzi	Endumeni	Okhahlamba	Umzambe	Utrecht
Mkhambathini	Richmond	Newcastle	Imbabazane	Muziwabantu	Dannhauser
Umtshezi	KwaDukuza	uMhlathuze	Nqutu	Hibiscus Coast	Mtubatuba
Okhahlamba	Mtatiele	Underberg	Msinga	uMshwathi	Mhlatuze
Imbabazane	Kokstad	Umdoni	Umvoti	Mngeni	Ndwedwe
Umvoti			Umhlabuyalingana	Mpofana	
Utrecht			Mbonambi	Impendle	
Dannhauser			eDumbe	Msunduzi	
eDumbe			ePhongolo	Emnambithi	
Abaqulusi			Abaqulusi	Richmond	
Inyala			Nongoma	Mandeni	
Mbonambi			Ulundi	KwaDukuza	
Mandeni			Hlabisa	Ingwe	
Ndwedwe			Jozini	Kwa Sani	
Creighton			The Big Five False Bay	Kokstad	
Ixopo			uMlalazi	Ixopo	
Indaka			Mthonjaneni	Umzimkhulu	
Nqutu			Nkandla		
Umsinga			Maphumulo		
uPhongolo					
Nongoma					
Ulundi					
Umhlabuyalingana					
Jozini					
Uminene					
Hilabisa					
Ntmabanana					
uMlalazi					
Mthonjaneni					
Nkandla					
Maphumulo					

² The coalitions, except in Endumeni, are formed by ANC and IFP.

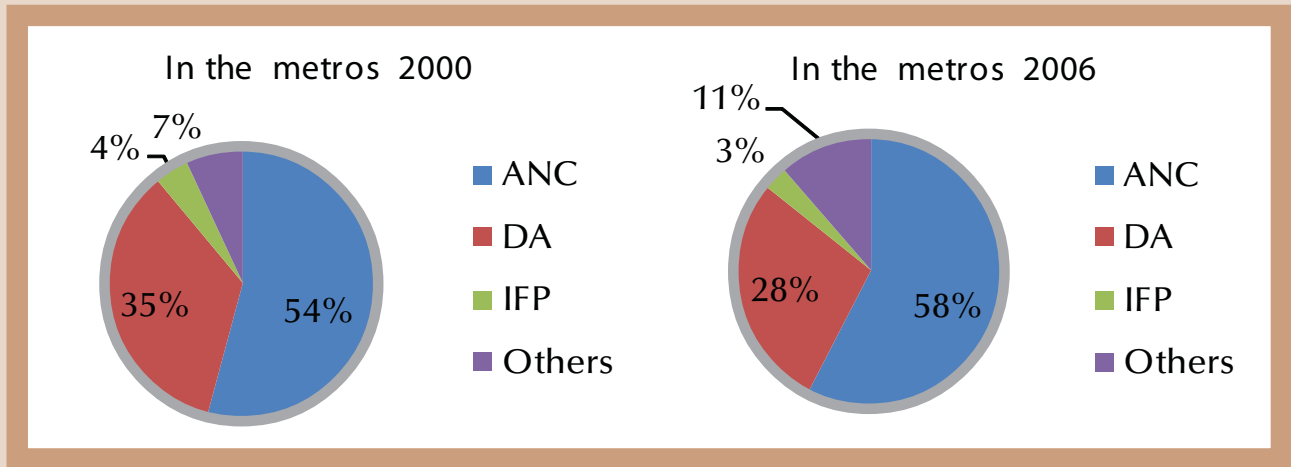


Source: Independent Electoral Commission

Will the ANC hold its ground in the five metros it controls?

The chart shows that the ANC enhanced its control over the metros in the 2006 elections. On the other hand the DA's representation in metro councils decreased by 4%.

Will this trend continue? This is one of the most keenly anticipated outcomes of the upcoming municipal elections.

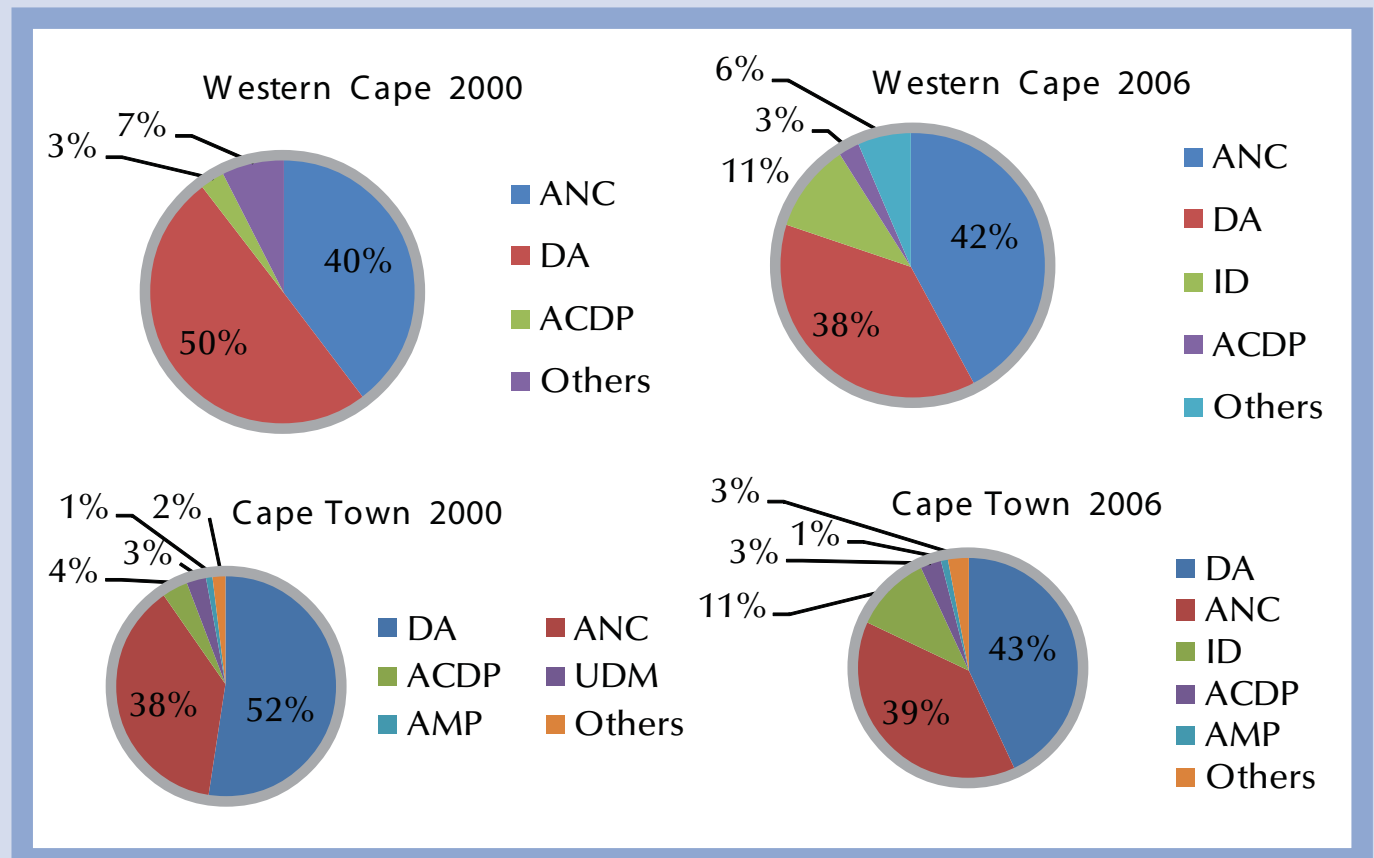


Source: Electoral Institute for the Sustainability of Democracy in Africa

Will the DA make a clean sweep in the Western Cape, or will new ANC leadership there turn the tide?

As can be seen from the charts, the DA's overall performance in the municipal elections in the Western Cape, including Cape Town, declined in 2006, while the ANC performed better than

in 2000. Municipalities which had been under DA majority control after the 2000 municipal elections went to the ANC in 2006, or at least the DA lost its majority control. The coming elections are interesting as they may change this trend, given the electoral success which the DA registered in the province in the 2009 national and provincial elections.



Source: Electoral Institute for the Sustainability of Democracy in Africa

Western Cape

2000

2006

Municipalities led by majority parties	Party	Municipalities led by coalition parties	Parties	Municipalities led by majority parties	Party	Municipalities led by coalition parties	Parties
Matzikama	ANC (54%)	Cederberg	ANC/DAUDM	Swartland	DA (60%)	Matzikama	ANC (46%) DA (23%) ID 31 (%)
Bergrivier	DA (54%)	Saldanha Bay	ANC (45%) DA (45%) IP & SAPA (5%) other (5%)	Hessequa	ANC (60%)	Saldanha Bay	ANC (39%) DA (26%) ID (13%) other (22%)
Swartland	DA (58%)	Witzenberg	ANC (43%) DA (43%) others (14%)			Bergrivier	ANC (46%) DA (46%) ID (8%)
Theewaterskloof	DA (67%)	Drakenstein	DA (47%) ANC (43%) others (10%)			Drakenstein	ANC (43%) DA (33%) ID (17%) other (7%)
Overstrand	DA (67%)	Stellenbosch	DA (43%) ANC (40%) others (17%)	Overstrand	DA (53%)	Stellenbosch	ANC (43%) DA (41%) other (13%)
Cape Agulhas	DA (60%)	Breede Valley	ANC (46%) DA (46%) others (8%)			Oudtshoorn	ANC (35%) DA (30%) ID (26%) other (9%)
Langeberg	DA (53%)	Breede River	DA (48%) ANC (37%) others (15%)	Bitou	ANC (64%)	Cederberg	ANC (50%) DA (33%) ID (17%)
Mossel Bay	DA (57%)	Swellendam	DA (50%) ANC (50%)			Mossel Bay	DA (44%) ANC (35%) ID (13%) other (8%)
Plettenberg Bay	ANC (60%)	Kannaland	DA (45%) ANC (44%) other (11%)			Breede Valley	ANC (46%) DA (33%) ID (13%) others (8%)
Prince Albert	DA (67%)	George	DA (49%) ANC (40%) other (11%)			George	DA (46%) ANC (44%) others (10%)
Beaufort West	ANC (62%)	Oudtshoorn	DA (44%) ANC (43%) others (13%)			Breede River	ANC (45%) DA (30%) ID (15%) other (10%)
		Knysna	DA (44%) ANC (38%) others (18%)			Theewaterskloof	ANC (44%) DA (39%) ID (9%) others (8%)
		Laingsburg	ANC (50%) DA (50%)			Cape Agulhas	ANC (50%) DA (40%) ID (10%)
						Witzenberg	ANC (48%) DA (28%) ID (14%) others (10%)
						Swellendam	ANC (40%) DA (30%) ID (20%) others (10%)
						Kannaland	ANC (45%) DA (22%) ID (11%) IC (22%)
						Laingsburg	DA (33%) ANC (33%) LGP (34%)
						Knysna	ANC (44%) DA (31%) others (25%)
						Prince Albert	DA (50%) ANC (50%)
						Beaufort West	ANC (39%) ICOSA (38%) DA (15%) other (8%)

Source: Independent Electoral Commission



Zemelak Ayele
Doctoral intern



Annette May
Managing editor



Derek Powell
Senior researcher