

# Preparations for the 2021 Local Government Elections

17 August 2021

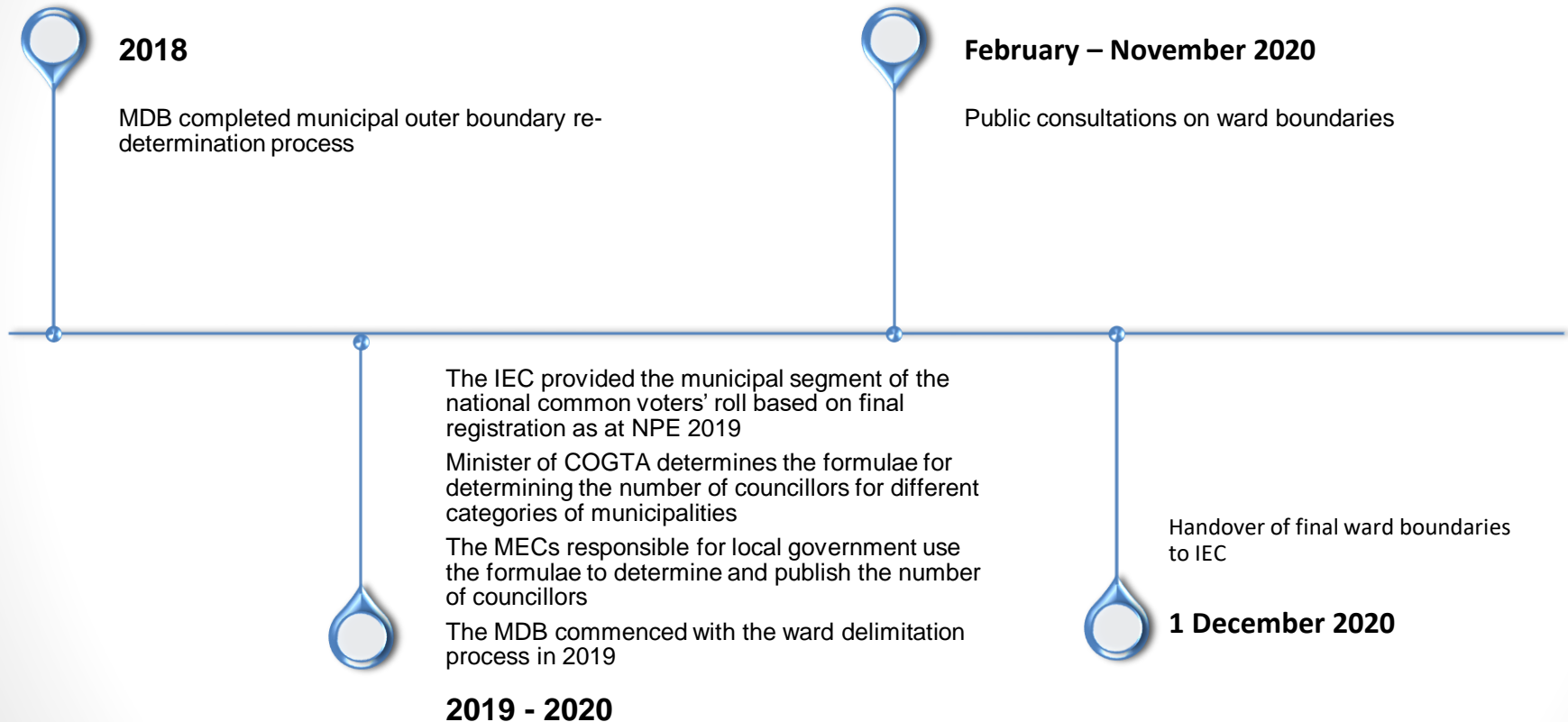


SOUTH AFRICA

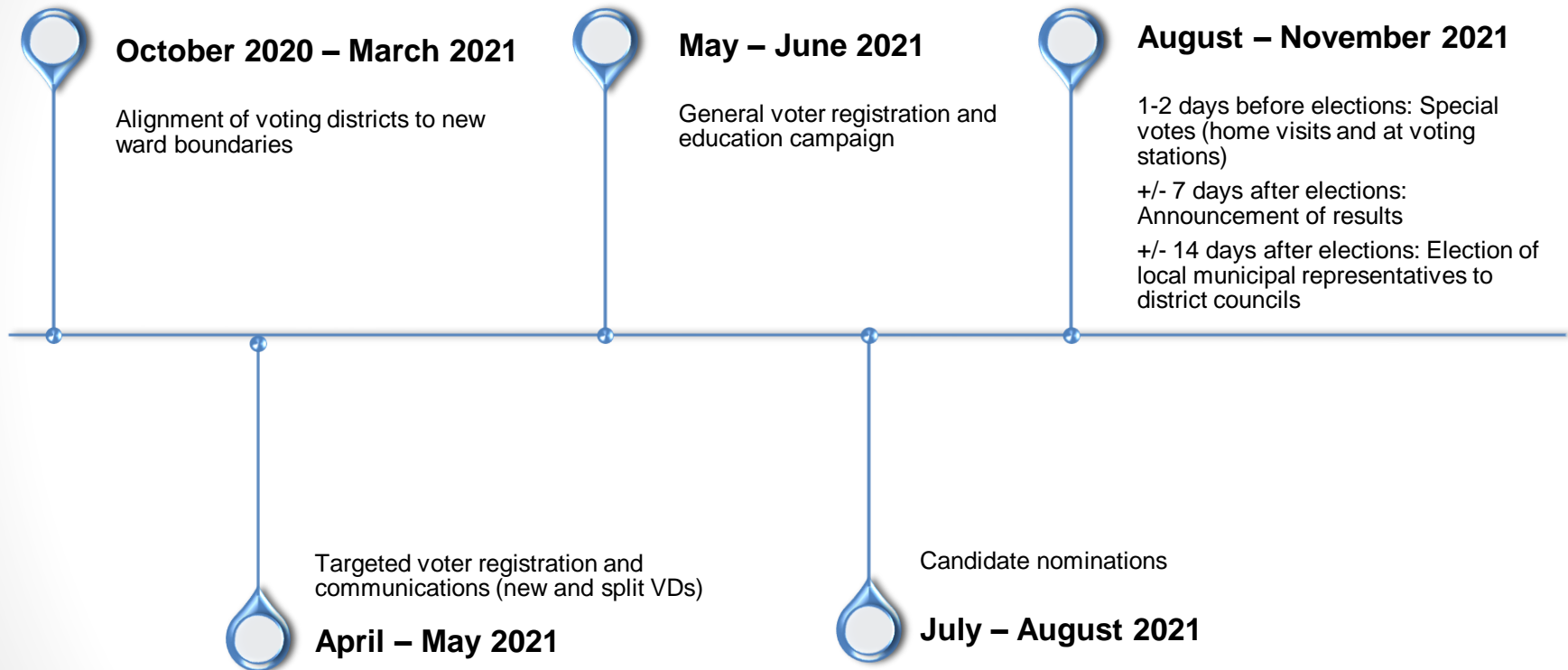
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# The Road to LGE 2021



# Provisional Timelines for LGE 2021



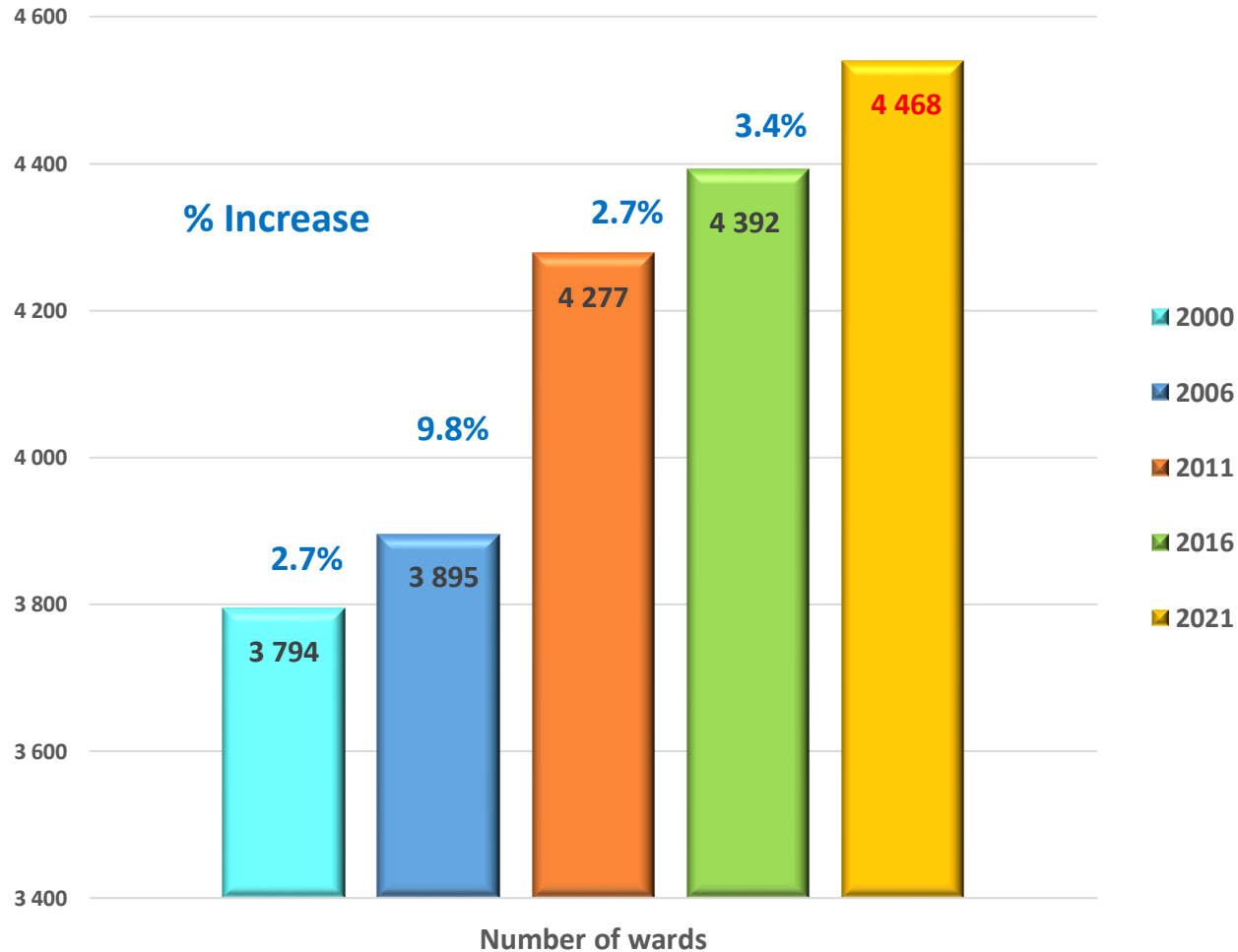
# Ward Delimitation

- Following the handover of the list of ward boundaries by MDB in September and December 2020, the Electoral Commission has updated the VD delimitation in preparation for voter registration
- This phase of work includes:
  - An update of the delimitation of voting districts in accordance with recent population changes since NPE 2019
  - Adjustment of VDs that have been split by ward boundaries
  - Identification of venues to be used as voting stations, and
  - Consultation with members of MPLCs on VD boundaries and choice of venues to be used as voting stations for LGE 2021
- This work was completed by end of March 2021

# Final wards received from MDB by province

Province	Municipalities	MDB ward count 2021	Split voting districts
Eastern Cape	33	710	63
Free State	19	319	87
Gauteng	9	529	159
KwaZulu-Natal	44	901	162
Limpopo	22	568	45
Mpumalanga	17	400	247
North West	18	403	117
Northern Cape	26	232	72
Western Cape	25	406	171
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>4 468</b>	<b>1 123</b>

# Number of Wards



# Total Municipalities

- Number of municipalities remains unchanged from LGE 2016
  - 8 metropolitan municipalities
  - 205 local municipalities
  - 44 district municipalities

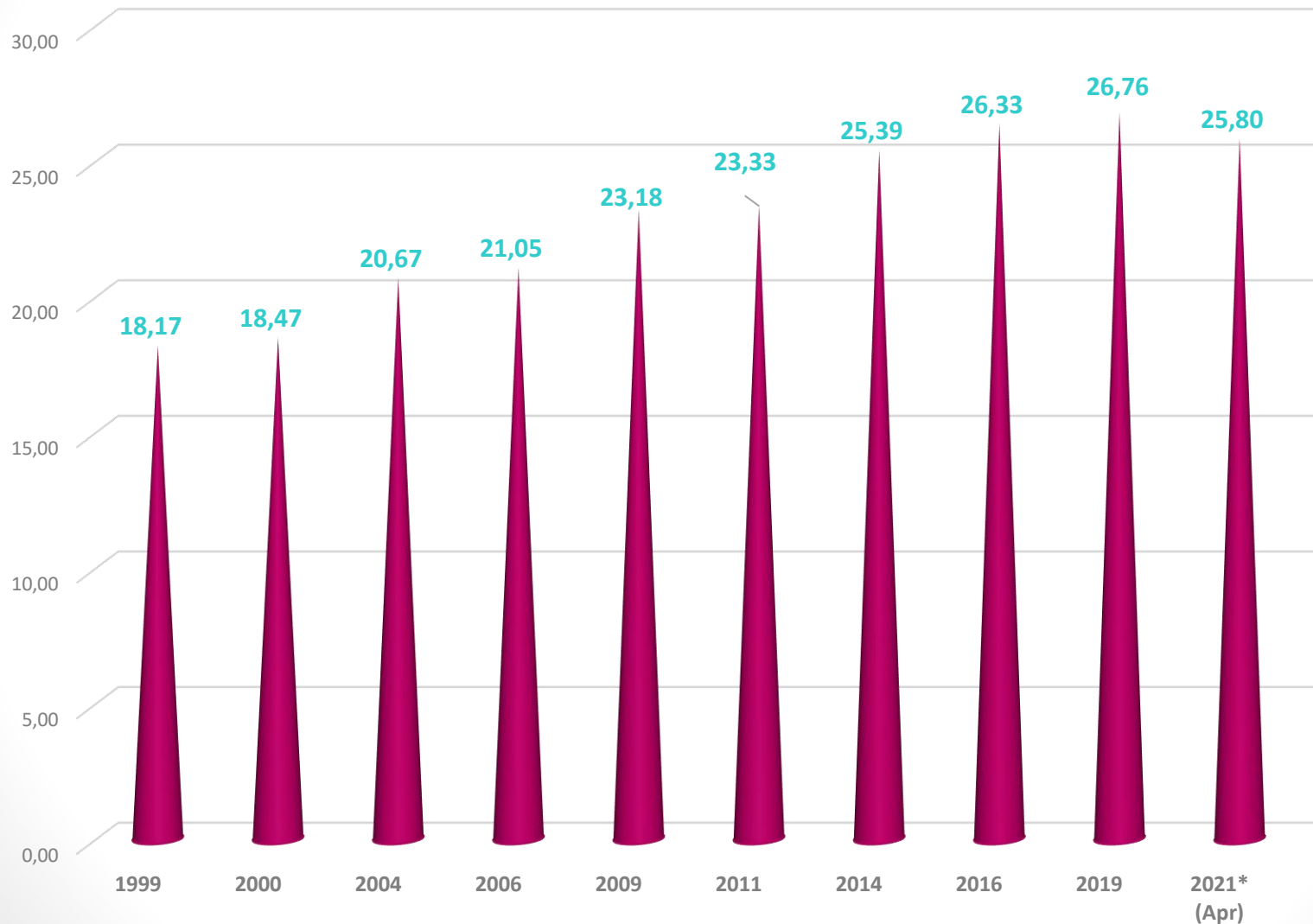


# Total Seats & Councillors

- The number of councillors to be elected will increase slightly from 2016 to 2021

Seat Type	2006	2011	2016	2021*	% Increase: 2016 to 2021
Metro Ward Seats	538	709	740	742	0.3%
Metro PR Seats	536	706	738	740	0.3%
Local Ward Seats	3 357	3 568	3 652	3726	2.1%
Local PR Seats	3 289	3 451	3 516	3586	2.0%
District Council Seats (40%)	640	654	655	674	2.9%
District Council Seats (60%)	917	967	984	1010	2.6%
DMA Seats	20	-	-	-	
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>9 297</b>	<b>10 055</b>	<b>10 285</b>	<b>10478</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>Total Councillors</b>	<b>8 380</b>	<b>9 088</b>	<b>9 301</b>		

# Voters' Roll Growth: 1999 - 2021



# Voters' Roll by Gender

31 March 2021

Province	Female	Male	Total
Eastern Cape	1 832 945	1 371 135	3 204 080
Free State	777 636	627 122	1 404 758
Gauteng	3 217 825	2 950 805	6 168 630
KwaZulu-Natal	3 024 770	2 326 210	5 350 980
Limpopo	1 490 364	1 018 496	2 508 860
Mpumalanga	1 032 258	846 135	1 878 393
North West	870 162	774 037	1 644 199
Northern Cape	325 393	279 403	604 796
Western Cape	1 673 570	1 364 096	3 037 666
Total	14 244 923	11 557 439	25 802 362
Percentage	55%	45%	100%

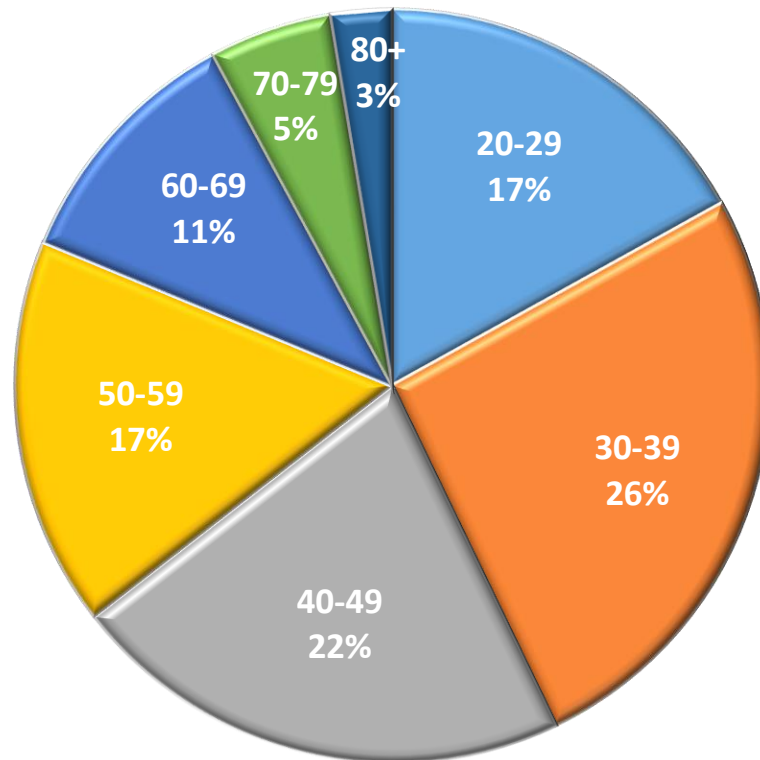
# Voters' Roll by Age

## 31 March 2021

	Age Band								
Province	18-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
Eastern Cape	5 482	564 884	753 476	624 296	521 462	399 148	203 854	131 478	3 204 080
Free State	2 181	219 834	365 778	301 088	243 176	162 234	76 610	33 857	1 404 758
Gauteng	7 103	891 574	1 619 672	1 483 185	1 114 305	662 469	280 824	109 498	6 168 630
KwaZulu-Natal	11 317	1 150 109	1 465 658	1 054 793	769 175	510 621	263 472	125 835	5 350 980
Limpopo	7 634	447 146	638 936	511 890	391 130	261 156	148 741	102 227	2 508 860
Mpumalanga	4 084	338 370	532 898	396 174	297 086	184 489	82 304	42 988	1 878 393
North West	5 952	241 907	421 286	365 053	286 137	191 518	91 227	41 119	1 644 199
Northern Cape	1 486	99 053	154 131	134 128	105 177	67 397	30 623	12 801	604 796
Western Cape	4 019	409 454	717 803	708 816	578 489	364 130	179 353	75 602	3 037 666
Total	49 258	4 362 331	6 669 638	5 579 423	4 306 137	2 803 162	1 357 008	675 405	25 802 362
Percentage	0.2%	16.9%	25.8%	21.6%	16.7%	10.9%	5.3%	2.6%	100%

# Age Band Distribution

## 31 March 2021

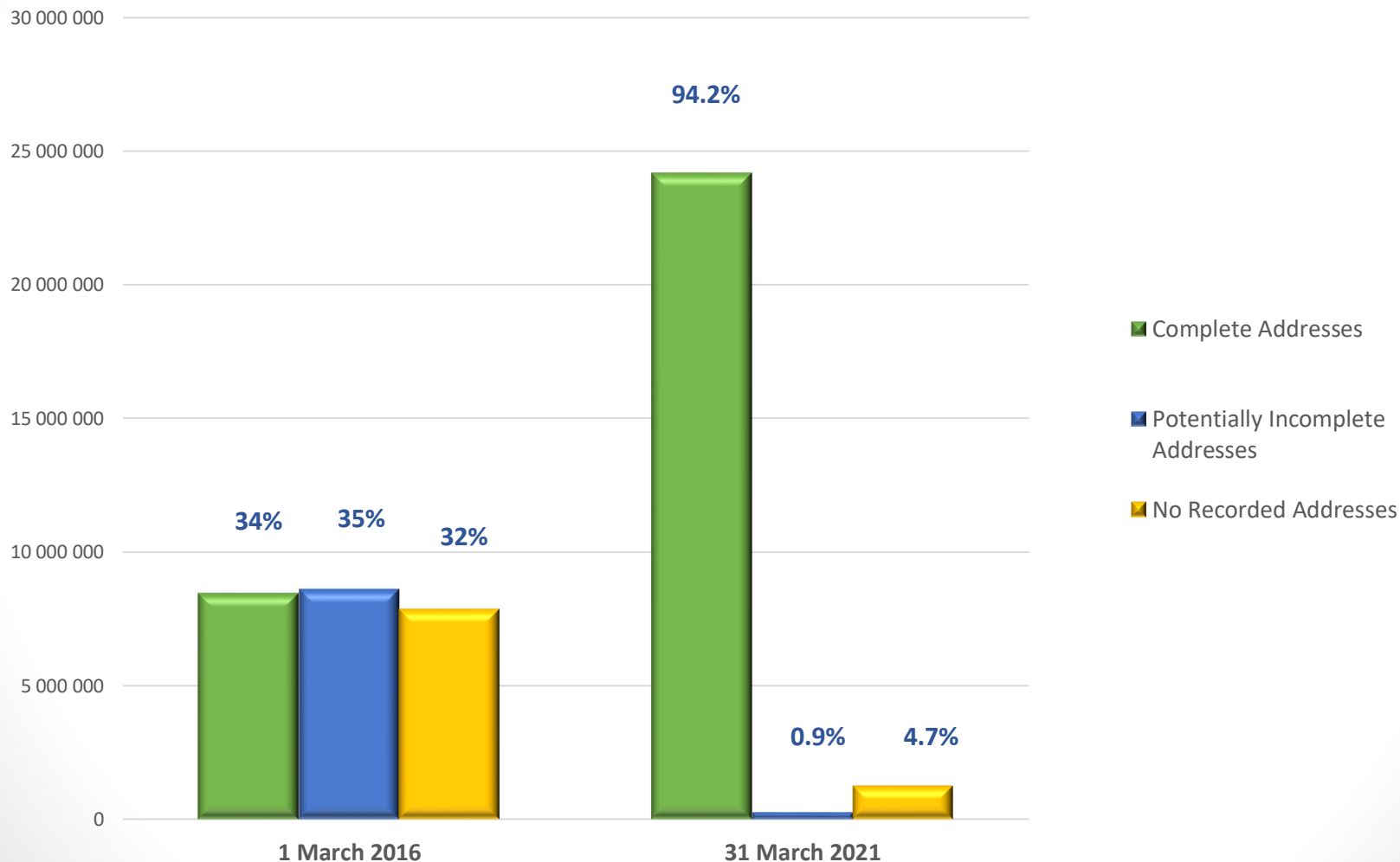


\* The age band for 18 – 19 is excluded due to the fact that it cannot be compared to the 10 year bands.

# Status of Voters' Roll Addresses

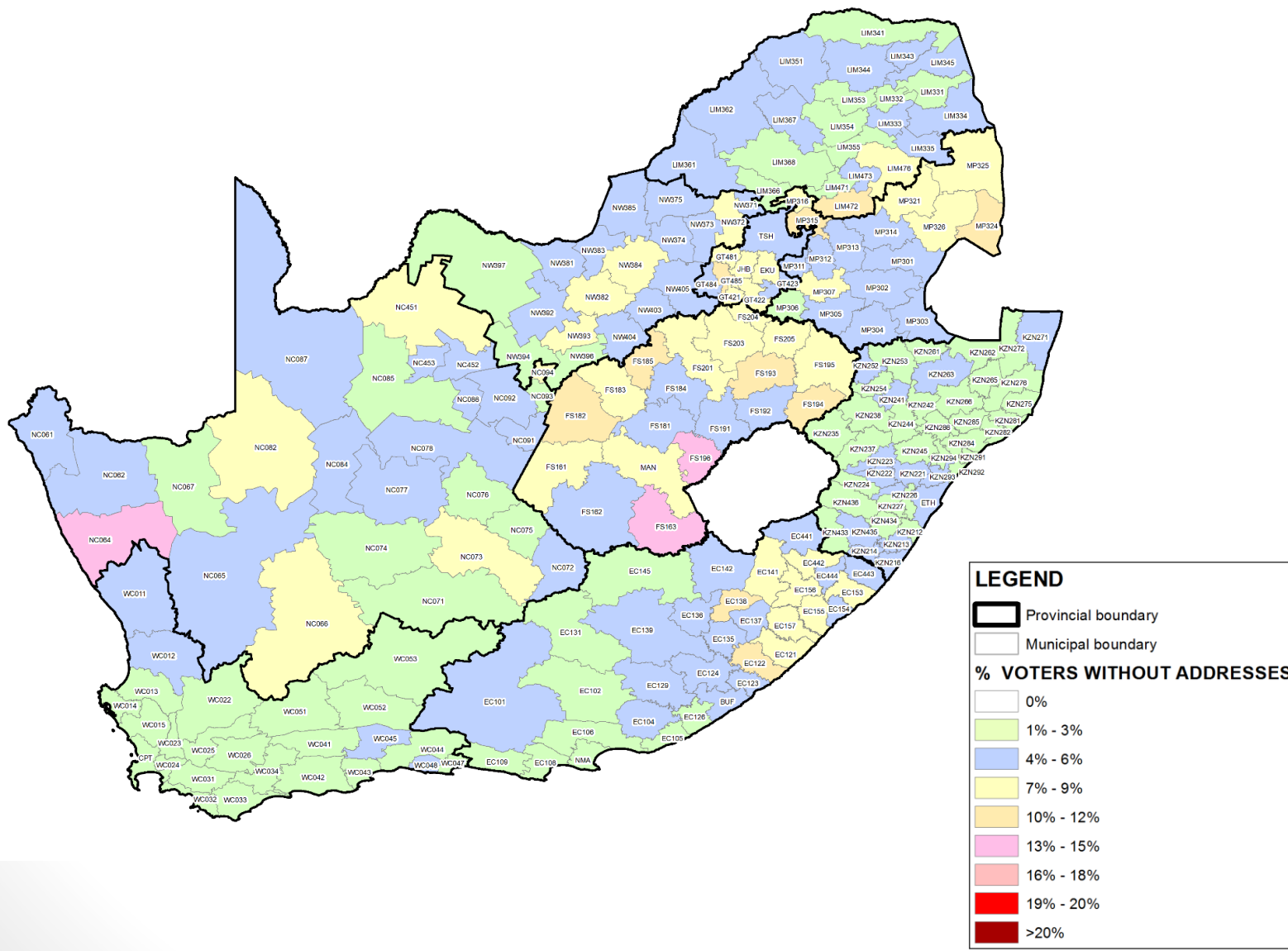
Address Category	1 March 2016	%	31 March 2021	%
Complete Addresses	8 468 119	34%	24 210 484	93.8%
Potentially Incomplete Addresses	8 601 195	35%	272 180	1.1%
No Recorded Addresses	7 857 156	32%	1 253 130	4.9%
"REC AS" Addresses	-	-	66 568	0.3%
Total Registered Voters	24 926 470	100%	25 802 362	100%

# Voters' Roll Address Progress 2016 - 2021



# No Recorded Addresses

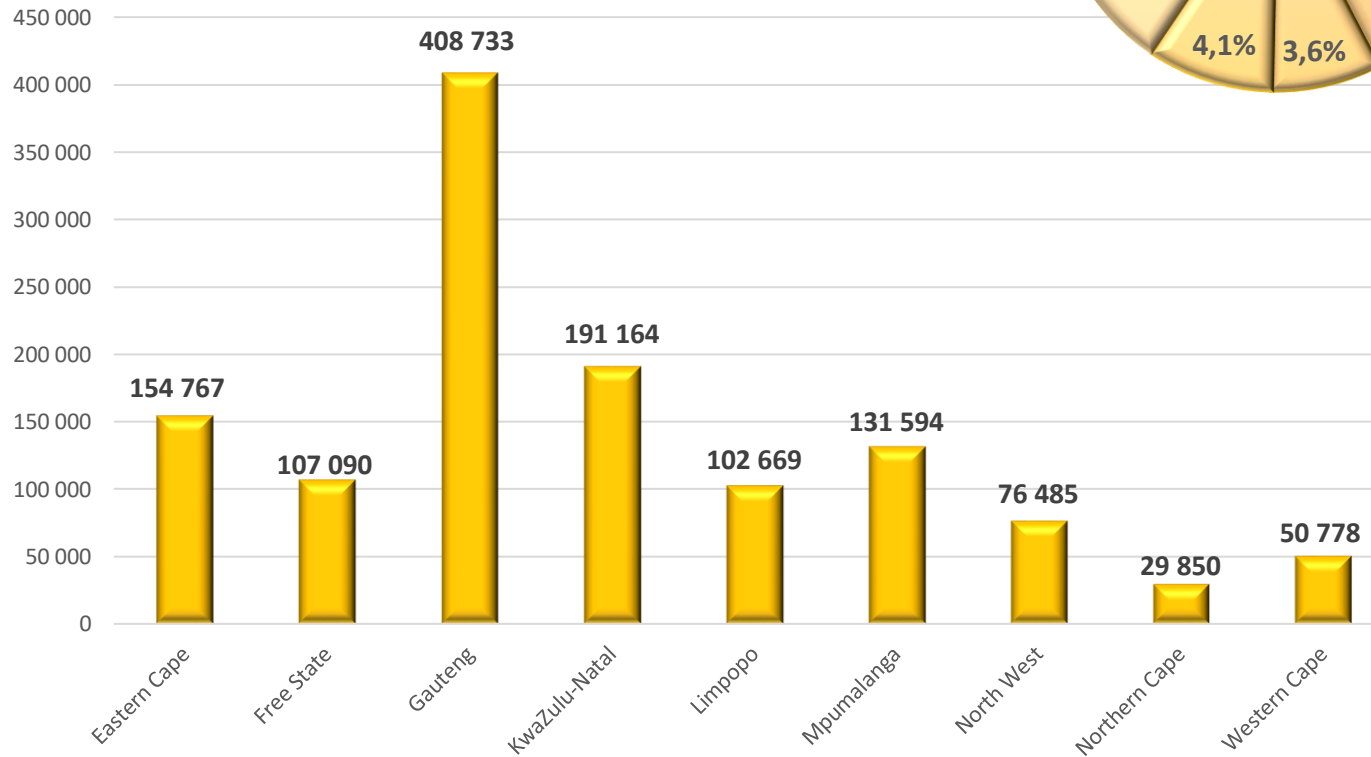
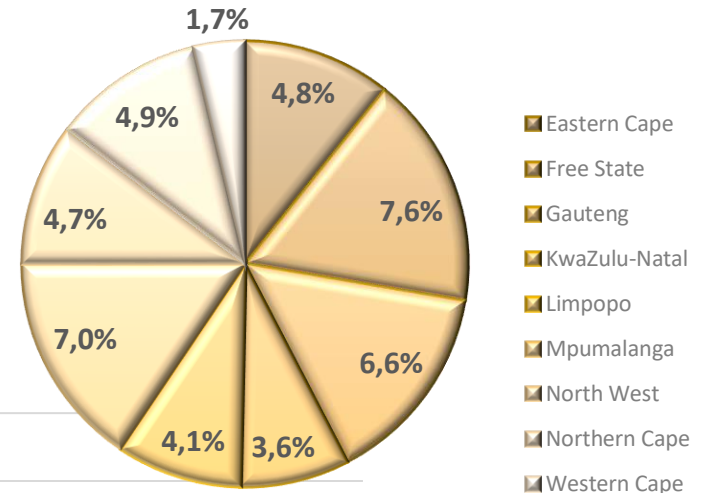
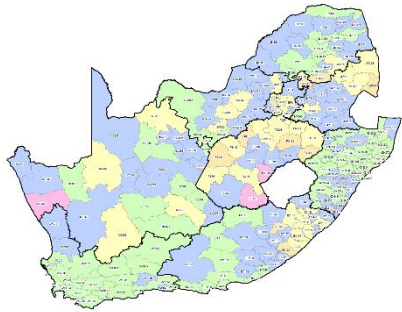
## by Municipality 31 March 2021





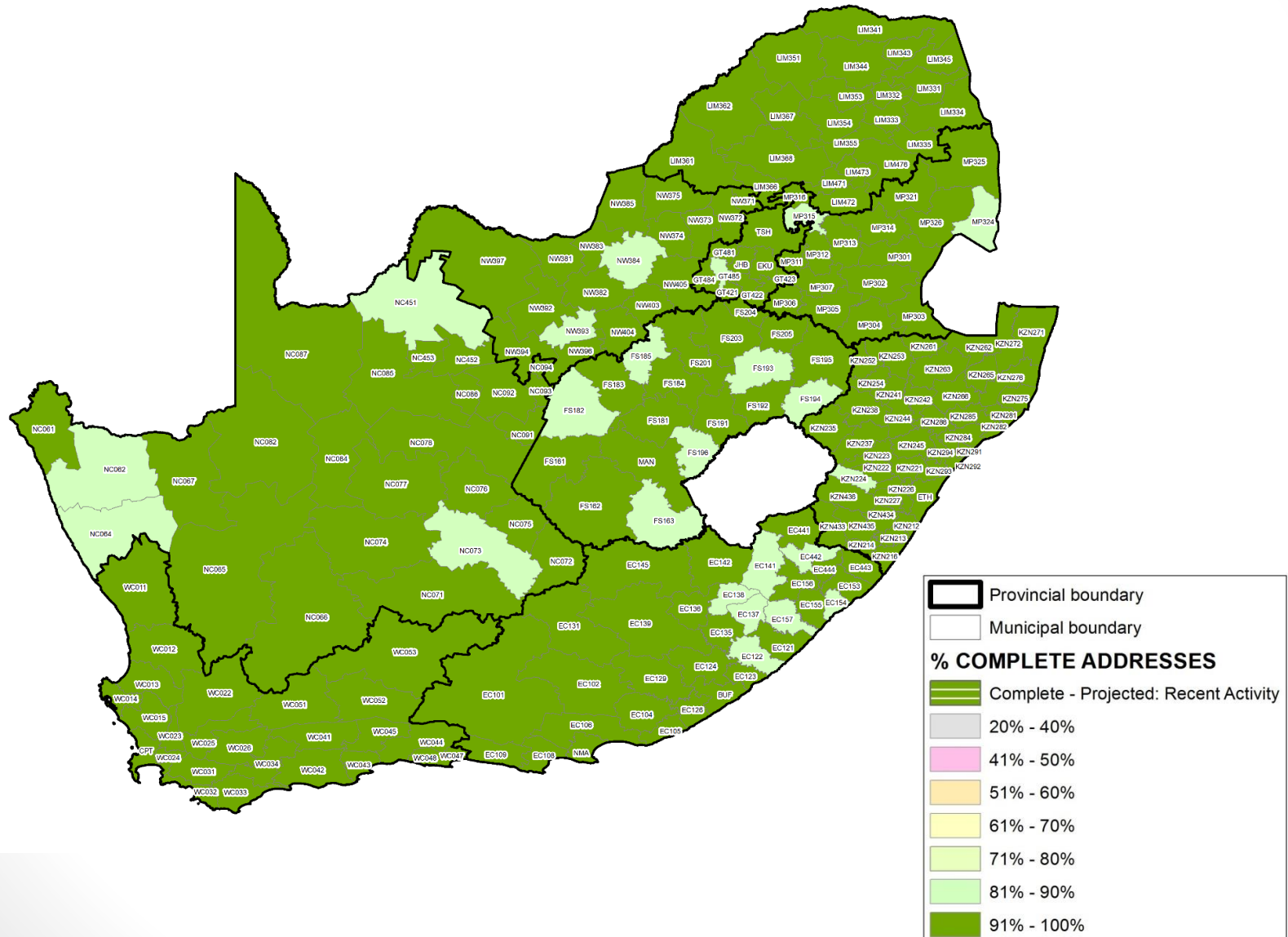
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## by Municipality 31 March 2021



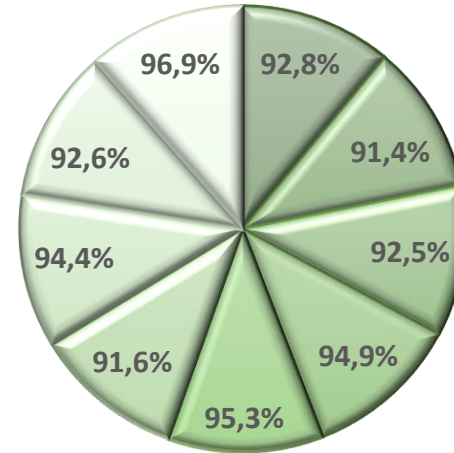
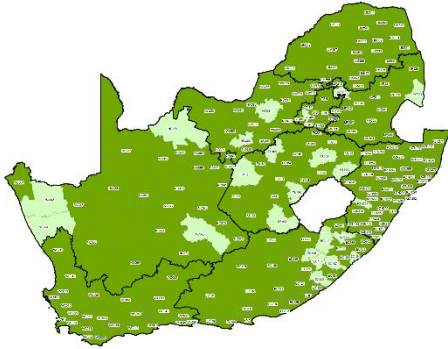
# Complete Addresses

by Municipality 31 March 2021

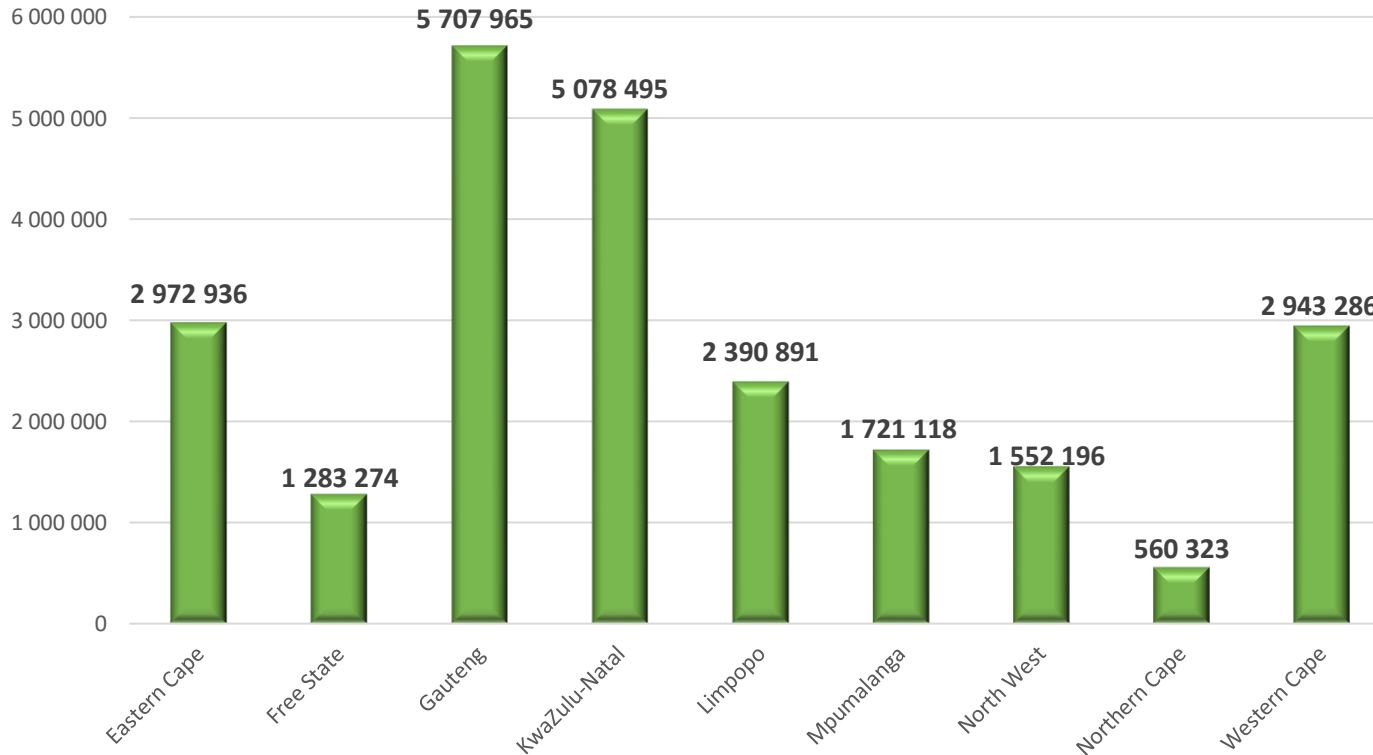


# Complete Addresses

## by Municipality 31 March 2021



- Eastern Cape
- Free State
- Gauteng
- KwaZulu-Natal
- Limpopo
- Mpumalanga
- North West
- Northern Cape
- Western Cape



# Status on Legislative Amendments

- The Electoral Laws Amendment Bill has been passed by both houses of Parliament and assented to by the President.
  - Increasing the registration levels of political parties
  - **Providing for a varied voting procedure for voters without addresses**
  - Clarifying the effective date of the electoral code of conduct
  - Balancing the right to privacy of personal information and the right of freedom of expression in the publication of the voters' roll

# Communication and Voter Education

- An informed electorate is a key success factor for free and fair elections
- The Electoral Commission embarks on heightened communication and voter education programmes ahead of elections to ensure the electorate is empowered with information relating to participation in elections including:
  - The importance of participation by each citizen
  - How to register and update voter registration information
  - Where and how to vote
- Other key areas of communications in the upcoming LGE 2021 will include:
  - COVID-19: Explaining the new COVID-19 protocols and how these will keep voters, election staff, observers, party agents and others safe
  - Disinformation: The rise of social media has also seen a rise in disinformation which has the potential to undermine the freeness and fairness of elections. Educating voters on the dangers of disinformation and how to spot it/report it.

# Recruitment and Training

- The criteria for the recruitment of electoral staff developed in consultation with the NPLC
- Key consideration being to exclude persons that may be partisan (no-one who has held office in a political party may serve as an election official)
- Names of proposed presiding officers and deputies are presented to MPLCs for objection before they are confirmed.
- Commenced recruitment for approximately 58 000 electoral staff for the registration event and +/- 207 000 for voting day

# Key Innovations for LGE 2021

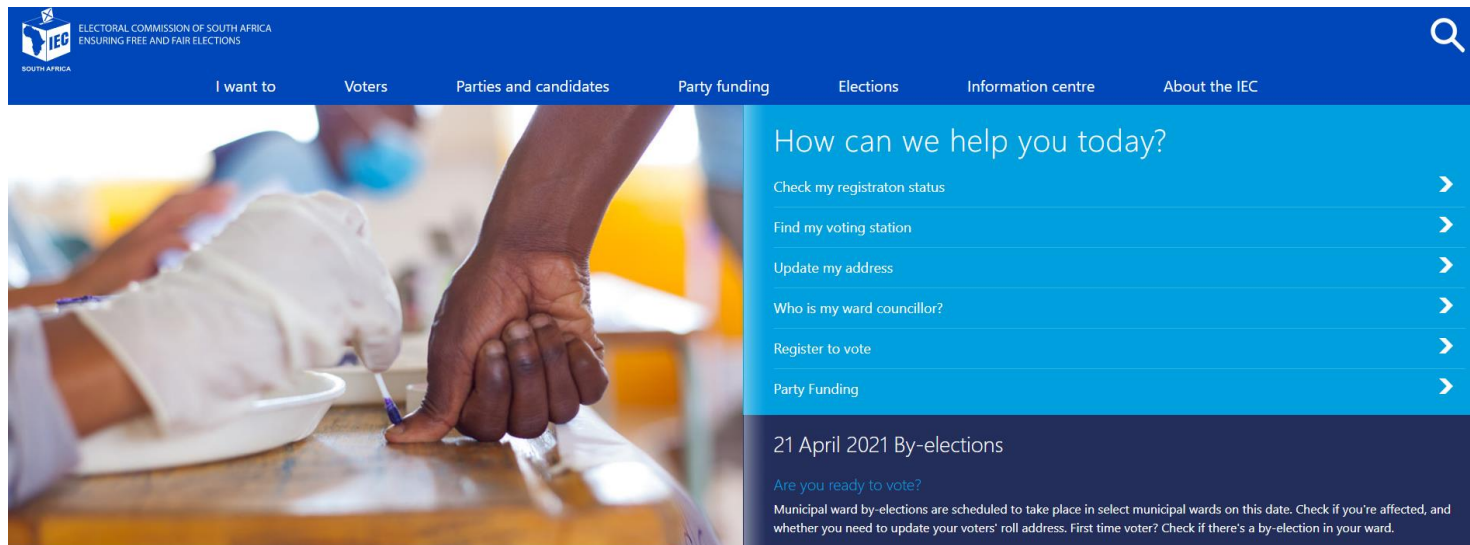
1. New **Voter Management Devices** have been procured ahead of LGE 2021 to replace “zip-zips”

- New generation technology will allow for enhanced voter registration and monitoring of voter participation in real time. This includes:
  - The ability to capture an address or place of residence during **registration** and to verify the address against ward boundaries
  - To support other functions such as **voter participation**, **electoral staff attendance** and **ballot paper tracking**.



# Key Innovations for LGE 2021

2. A revamped **public website** for improved navigation and communications



3. A public **reporting app for disinformation** on social media in association with Media Monitoring Africa will form part of a larger Electoral Justice system

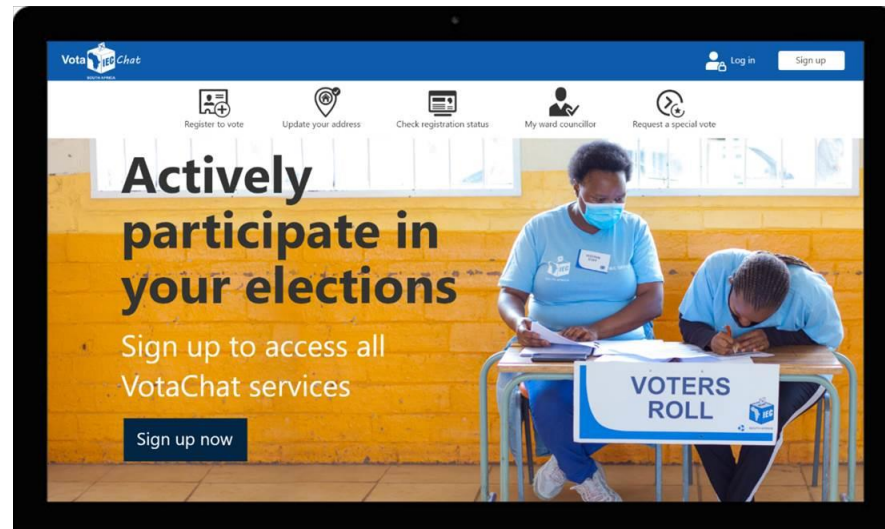
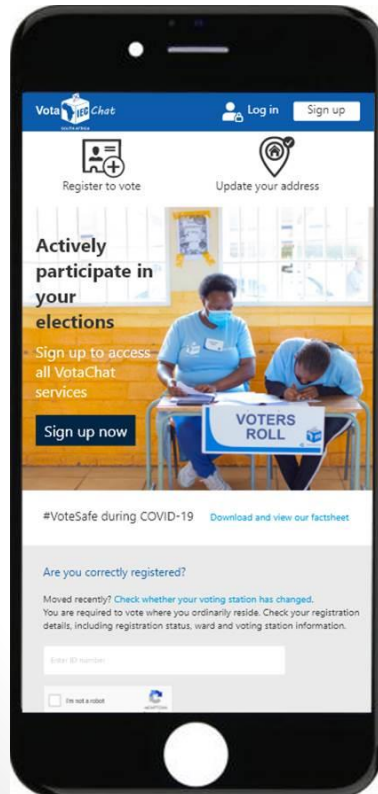


# Key Innovations for LGE 2021

4. Introduction of **e-Learning** modules for training of election staff
5. Introduction of **e-Recruitment** for internal staff appointments as well as those of electoral staff.
6. Enhancements to the **Online Candidate Nomination** system used successfully by parties during the previous two general elections and by-elections.
7. Introduction of a new and revamped **Voter Registration System**.
8. Introduction of an **Online Observer Application** system.

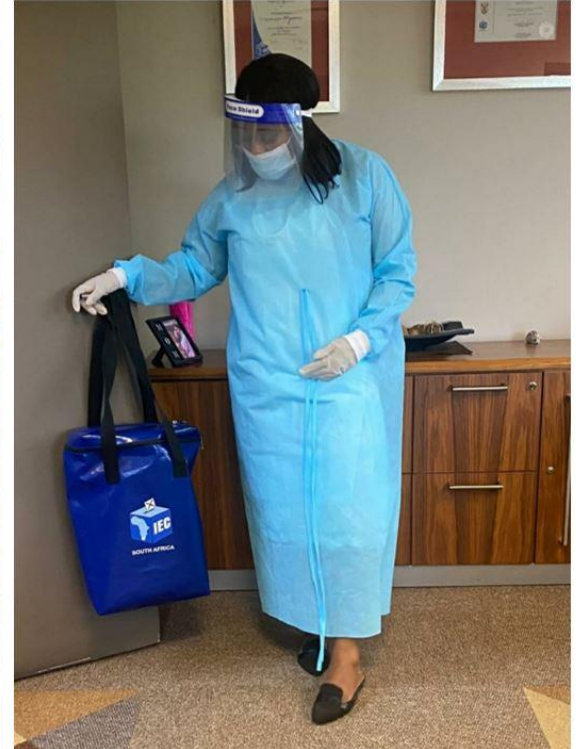
# Key Innovations for LGE 2021

9. Introduction of a progressive web app **VotaChat** portal which will enable online self-registration for voters. The portal will be available on any computer or mobile phone with a browser.



# COVID-19 Protocols for Elections

- In order to prevent the elections posing a risk to all participants, the Electoral Commission introduced a range of special COVID-19 prevention measures for by-elections in 2020
- These included:
  - Strict social distancing practices both outside and inside voting stations
  - The mandatory wearing of masks or face coverings over nose and mouth of all persons within the boundaries of the voting station
  - The application of hand sanitisers to all persons entering the voting station
  - The replacement of the traditional indelible ink marker pens with an indelible ink liquid which will be applied from a bottle to the thumb of voters using cotton buds which will be disposed after each use
- Protective equipment including masks, gloves and face shields for use by election staff for voting stations and for conducting home visits for those voters who are physically disabled, infirm or pregnant





# Topical Issues

- The Commission published a report in terms of S 14 (4) of the Electoral Commission Act, following a robust and transparent Inquiry led by Justice Moseneke.
- The provision authorizes the Commission to publish a report on the likelihood or otherwise that it will be able to ensure that any pending elections will be free and fair.
- This is consistent with the Constitutional obligation that the Commission bears to ensure that elections are free and fair.
- The Commission has concluded that:
  - Elections, if held in October 2021 are not reasonably likely to be held in a free and fair manner.
  - Elections if held in February 2022 will likely be free and fair.

# Topical Issues

- The conclusion is principally on the following basis:
  - The February 2022 represents a safe period because significantly more persons would have been vaccinated than it would be the case in October 2021.
  - That elections in October 2021 may not be constitutionally compliant because of limitations placed on parties and contestants by the necessary country response to Covid- 19 and the fact that the Commission has been unable to undertake a general voter registration drive.
- Having made these conclusions, the Commission has on 4 August, launched an application out of the Constitutional Court to ask for relief in the following terms:
  - Declaring that the Commission may hold elections outside the 90 day period required by the Constitution and the Municipal Structures Act and directing the Commission to hold elections by no later that end February 2022.

# Topical Issues

- In the alternative the Commission asks the court to declare that failure to hold the municipal elections by 1 November 2021 is unconstitutional and invalid and suspending the declaration of invalidity until the end of February 2022.
- Authorizing the Minister of CoGTA to withdraw the notice calling the elections for 27 October and to issue a new proclamation.
- The court to assume ongoing supervisory jurisdiction, requiring the Commission to report to the court on intervals about arrangements for arranging Constitutionally compliant local government elections in February 2022.
- In order to avoid uncertainty about the legal status of current municipal councils, the Commission seeks an order that the municipal councils remain competent until newly elected councils are declared elected.

# Topical Issues

- On 3<sup>rd</sup> August, the Minister of CoGTA proclaimed the elections.
- The Commission takes no issue with the Minister. It understands and accepts that absent a court order deferring the elections, the Minister has no option but to fulfill her legal obligation to proclaim.
- In any event, the announcement follows a legally sanctioned consultation process between the Commission and the Minister.
- The proclamation has a number of implications for the Electoral Commission and the electoral programme:
  - The Commission must compile and publish a timetable to realize the 27 October elections
  - Proclamation sealed the voter's roll for these elections on 3 August 2021.



# Topical Issues

- In the circumstances a potentially confusing scenario of two timetables arises:
  - One for a “live” election which has been proclaimed and can’t be ignored by the Commission.
  - The other contingent on the court granting the relief for a deferral.
- The proclamation triggers the requirement for the Commission to publish and election timetable.
  - The timetable was published on 4 August.
  - The Commission will undertake the activities which must be performed in terms of the timetable until the court orders differently.

Electoral Commission may not maintain both timetables for an inordinate period without imperiling proper administrative arrangements for both elections. E.G. for Feb elections to be constitutionally compliant a general registration drive must be undertaken in September during the trough.

- As is the tradition, journalists will be accredited to gain access into the ten RoC
- Virtual elements are being considered in response to covid-19 without diluting the transparency benefits of the RoCs
- No accreditation for journalists to get entry into voting stations (press card sufficient)