



The Importance of Participating in Electoral Democracy



Become an Active, Engaged and Responsible member of South Africa's Democracy:



The essence of a functioning democracy is community participation in matters of government.

Participation should be at all levels of government and in all elections for leadership and most importantly, in holding those elected accountable.

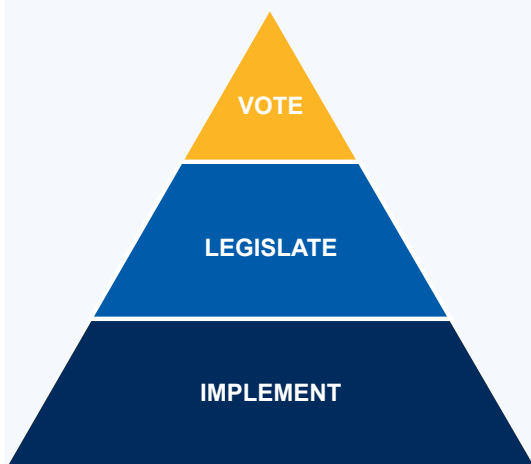


It is always important to remember that democracy is a political system for choosing and replacing the government through free and fair elections:

- it must have the active participation of citizens in matters of governance as citizens in politics and civil life,
- promotes the protection of human rights of all citizens and most importantly, subscribes to the rule of law in which the laws and procedures apply equally.

Cooperative Governance

Government is made up of the three pillars and can only work if everyone plays their part



The SA Society: Engage and hold elected representatives accountable.

The Executive: Provide public services to the SA society in terms of the law.

Elected Legislative Bodies: Make laws that are responsive to people's needs.

It is therefore important for communities to familiarise themselves with the procedures and mechanisms that government has put in place to strengthen the country's democracy.

Unless these avenues are exploited to the benefit of community members, they will remain decorative and unachievable ideals that are of no use to citizens of this country.

The law provides for cooperative governance that promotes community participation in the county's affairs at all levels of government.

Some of the legislated community participation processes:



School Governing Bodies

Education is one of the most important services the government delivers and with inputs from the broader community.



Ward Committees

Ward committees are an institutional foundation established in law to strengthen and deepen local democracy.



Community Policing Forum

Establish and maintain a partnership between the communities and South African Police Service to promote a joint problem identification and problem solving by the police and the community.



The public on the other hand

Can participate in their governance through registering and voting, monitoring of government performance, holding public officials accountable and volunteering. They could also exercise their civic urgency by establishing community structures for the advancement of common interests.

Contact the Electoral Commission

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SMS your ID number to 32810 to check if and where you are registered (R1.00 per SMS)

