



Civic Engagement to

STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY



Be Informed About Post-Election Processes

After elections, specific processes are triggered by law. Communities must be aware and monitor the following:



Election Results Declaration

- The Electoral Commission (IEC) officially announces and publishes results within seven days of each election.



Certification and Swearing-In of Councillors

- Councillors receive official certificates from the IEC.
- A formal swearing-in ceremony takes place where councillors take an oath of office.



First Council Meeting

- Must occur within 14 days of results declaration.
- Key leadership positions such as Speaker, Mayor, and Mayoral Committee are elected.



Formation of Council Committees

- Committees include the Executive/ Mayoral Committee, Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC), and Portfolio Committees (e.g., finance, infrastructure).



Review and Adoption of Municipal Documents

- Council adopts or amends:
 - ✓ The Municipal Budget.
 - ✓ Integrated Development Plan (IDP).
 - ✓ Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP).



Strengthen Community-Based Structures for Democratic Oversight

School Governing Bodies (SGBs)

- Parents, learners, and educators must participate in SGB elections and decisions.
- Monitor how the school is governed, including budgeting and disciplinary policy.
- Support the school's development plans and ensure alignment with community needs.

Ward Committees

- Participate in electing ward committee members to represent all sectors (e.g., youth, women, people with disabilities, faith-based groups).
- Use ward committees to:
 - ✓ Identify service delivery challenges.
 - ✓ Raise local needs with the councillor.
 - ✓ Review IDPs and budgets.
 - ✓ Report complaints and follow up on service delivery.
 - ✓ Ensure ward meetings are held regularly, and feedback is provided.

Sector Development Participation

- Engage in:
 - ✓ IDP and budget consultations.
 - ✓ Oversight of service delivery projects.
 - ✓ Monitoring of councillor and municipal performance.
- Create sectoral forums (e.g., youth forums, business forums) to amplify voices in planning.

Community Policing Forums (CPF's)

- Collaborate with the police to:
 - ✓ Prevent and raise awareness on crime
 - ✓ Identify crime hotspots.
 - ✓ Improve safety and visibility.
 - ✓ Promote accountability of police services.
- Join CPFs to improve community-police relations and ensure joint problem-solving.



Monitor Service Delivery and Governance

- Attend council and ward meetings to stay updated on municipal plans.
- Request performance reports from ward councillors and committees.
- Participate in public hearings and community dialogues.
- Use media (radio, social media, newspapers) to raise issues of corruption, underperformance, or broken promises.
- Advocate for transparency in coalition governance (if applicable) and insist on accountability.



Participate in Public Budgeting and Policy Development

- Review municipal IDPs and check if they reflect your community's priorities.
- Attend public budget hearings and provide feedback.
- Push for equitable allocation of resources in disadvantaged areas.
- Ask questions about expenditure on housing, electricity, water, and waste services.
- Mobilise others to join the budget process — democracy works best with more voices.



Hold Councillors and Elected Officials Accountable

- Meet regularly with your ward councillor to:
 - ✓ Ask about plans and progress.
 - ✓ Raise complaints and suggestions.
 - ✓ Get clarity on council decisions.
- Use petitions or community action to demand improvements or protest poor governance.
- Monitor how ward councillors vote or advocate during council meetings.



Promote Civic Education and Democratic Culture

- Conduct voter education, especially for youth and first-time voters.
- Discuss government performance in churches, schools, traditional councils, and community meetings.
- Use social media to share accurate information and encourage participation.
- Establish community-led campaigns on key democratic values like transparency, justice, and public responsibility.



Conclusion

Community members play a vital role post-election. Voting is only the beginning. Active and informed civic engagement ensures accountable leadership, improved service delivery, stronger institutions and, inclusive development.



Democracy is not just about elections — it's about continuous participation. Communities must organise, act, and hold government accountable every day.

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)

