

The South African context for mining affected communities post 2024 elections

What does the future of mining look like?




2024 elections: recap

May 2024 - seventh democratic elections



Lowest percentage turnout to national elections since South Africa became democratic:

16.2 million out of a registered 27.7 million South Africans participated in the elections

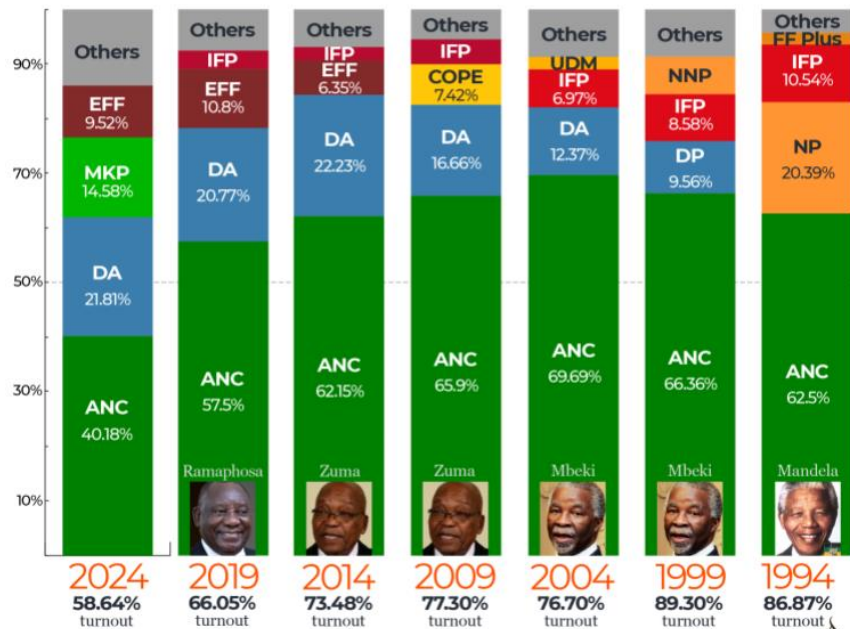


Amid high unemployment rate, persistent economic inequalities, lack of public service delivery, soaring crime rate, rampant corruption etc, the ANC lost the electoral majority

SOUTH AFRICA ELECTIONS 2024

Previous election results

After 30 years of dominance, the African National Congress (ANC) party has lost its parliamentary majority and will need coalition partners to form a government.



Source: elections.org.za | June 3, 2024

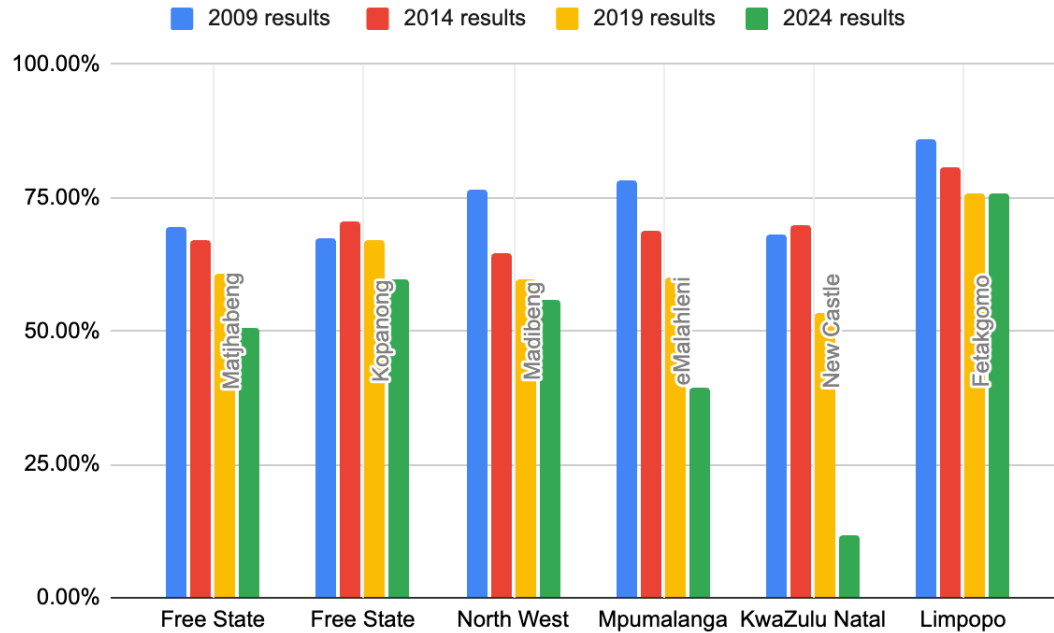


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Voting results in mining municipalities

- The IEC voting statistics also show that the ANC support in many mining towns including Jagersfontein (Kopanong Municipality), Wonderkop (Madibeng), Burgersfort (Fetakgomo Tubatse) has dwindled.
- For example, in Emalahleni where communities are heavily impacted by pollution from coal mining, the ANC has lost massive support. It enjoyed majority support of 78.13 % in 2009 but plunged down to 39.39 % in the 2024 elections.
- Similarly, in mining communities of New Castle, KZN, the ANC took a knock from 68.25 % in 2009 to a mere 11.54 % in the 2024 elections

Voting results in mining municipalities



2024 elections: recap

Consequently, the once mighty ANC was forced to enter coalition negotiations with opposition parties

In June, a Statement of Intent of the 2024 Government of National Unity was signed by the ANC and DA.

The 9-page statement highlighted that all parties involved:

“will work together in good faith and seek to build consensus on the formation of government where no party has an outright majority, on the basis of the above shared values and minimum programme, and in the interest of all South Africa’s people.”

Who is who in the jungle



As it stands the four portfolios that are crucial for the mining sector to function are occupied by different parties that have fundamentally different economic philosophies.



These **“cocktails” of ideologies** will impact how mining functions and in turn affect mining affected communities.



Henceforth, the goal of this presentation is to analyze how the competitive dynamics among these portfolios will impact different stakeholders, especially communities

Mantashe retains iron grip on mining portfolio

Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources - Mr Gwede Samson Mantashe

Political Party: African National Congress

Gwede Mantashe has had energy ripped from his hands in SA's new Cabinet, but he retains an iron grip on the mining portfolio despite the shambles that has come to define governance under his watch.

Under Mantashe, the sector has been throttled by disaster after disaster:

E.g at least 54 workers died in mining-related accidents in SA last year (Khumalo, 2024).

Apart from accidents and loss of life, in 2023, a spate of mining companies including giants Anglo America, Sibanye-Stillwater and Impala Platinum announced plans to retrench workers

The rise of survival mining or the so-called zama zamas

Steenhuisen takes over export-led agricultural sector

- Minister of Agriculture - John Steenhuisen
- **Political Party: Democratic Alliance**
- Steenhuisen has already presented his department's budget speech for 2024/25
- He promised not to reinvent the wheel - will carry on with the Agricultural and Agro-Processing Master Plan (AAMP) that was adopted in 2022.
- “The AAMP is a social compact driven through the multi-stakeholder partnership approach. The stakeholder involved includes; All spheres of government (National, Provincial and local), Commercial and emerging agriculture, banking sector, labour unions, civil society/communities and other related stakeholders.”

DA and the environment

Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment - Dr Dion Travers George

Political Party: Democratic Alliance

George said he “intends to continue the good work of former minister Barbara Creecy”

His ministry will focus on Mpumalanga where they will transition people into the new green energies

He will ensure that the country meets the international obligations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement.

He mentioned the following as priorities:

- ❑ Climate change and energy;
- ❑ Fisheries, particularly small-scale fisheries, and aquaculture;
- ❑ Wildlife and biodiversity; and
- ❑ Conservation efforts and environmental protection initiatives.

A big focus would be on the implementation of the Climate Change Bill, which would provide a detailed response to climate change.

CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

Bill Introduction

In February 2022, the Climate Change Bill was introduced in Parliament



Bill passed by NA

In October 2023, the National Assembly passed the Bill and referred it to the NCOP for concurrence



Bill passed by NCOP

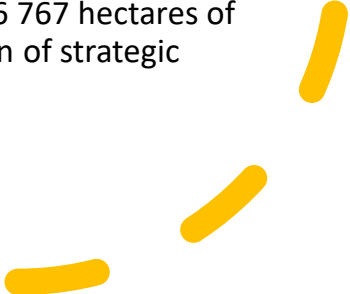
In April 2024, the National Council of Provinces passed the Bill



The main object of the Bill is to enable the development of an effective climate change response and the long-term, just transition to a climate-resilient and lower-carbon economy and society, and to provide for matters connected therewith



All eyes on PAC's land reform strategies

- Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development - Mr Mzwanele Nyhontso
 - **Political Party: Pan Africanist Congress**
 - According to the PAC manifesto of 2024, **“land and agriculture are inseparable, are intertwined and are naturally related. The dispossession of Africans of their land is equivalent to the denial of their right to life as life and agriculture are one.”**
 - Consequently, Nyhontso has identified the land reform programme and ensuring access to land as his key priorities.
 - Recent Land Audit Report, commissioned by the Rural Development and Land Reform Department in 2018, showed that whites owned the majority of land at 72%, followed by coloured people at 15%, Indians at 5% and Africans at 4%.
 - During this financial year – 2024/2025, the department has budgeted a total figure of R 466 million to acquire and allocate 46 767 hectares of land for redistribution through the proactive acquisition of strategic located land and also for security tenure purposes.
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What now for
mining sector and
mining affected
communities?



ONE OF THE IMPORTANT
QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN
RAISED IS HOW POLICY
DIFFERENCES OF THESE POLITICAL
PARTIES IN GNU WILL IMPACT
STABILITY OF THE GNU. HOW
WILL THESE PARTIES SOLVE
POLICY DISPUTES?

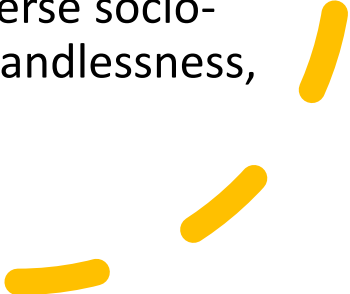


WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, WE
ASSESS COMPETING INTERESTS
BETWEEN THE MINING
DEPARTMENT AND THE THREE
OTHER PORTFOLIOS -
AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM,
AND ENVIRONMENT.

Mining and Agriculture

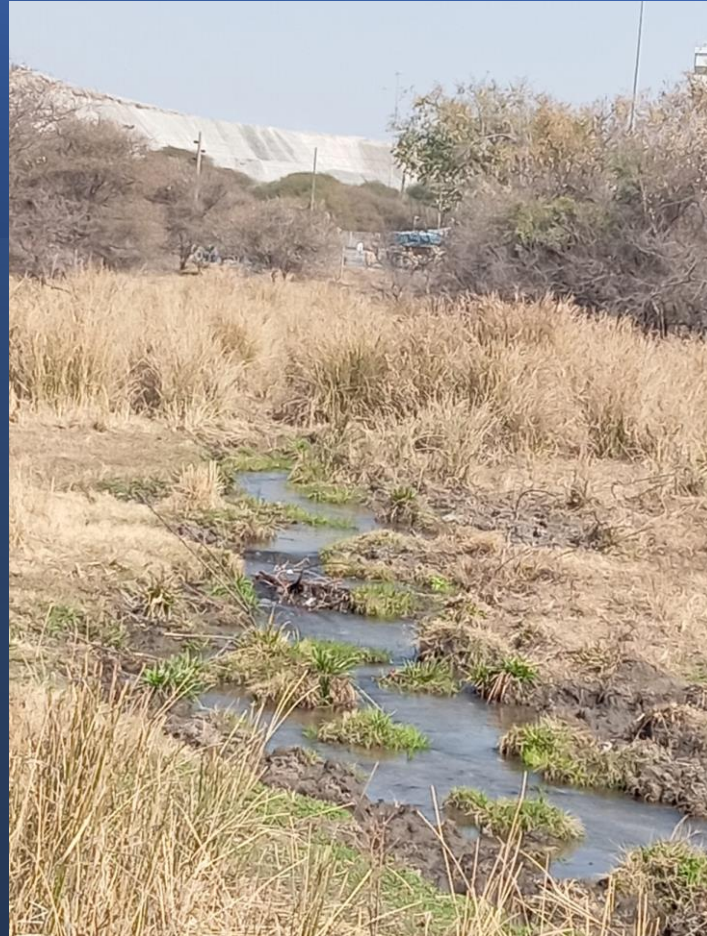
- Agriculture and mining have been the key driving force behind the South African economy for a number of centuries, holding pivotal influence over job creation and GDP.
- Mining currently contributes 7.53 % to the country's GDP, while the agriculture sector remains a crucial component of the nation's economy, ranking among the top ten global exporters of citrus, table grapes, maize, and wool
- In recent years, researchers have highlighted, not only the competitive dynamics between the two, but severe consequences of mining operations on farmlands (Obodai et al., 2023).
- Mining has often been operated at the cost of agriculture.
- Hectares of valuable farming land has been signed off to mining and many more such applications have been submitted.
- In Mpumalanga, for example, mining is polluting natural resources - destroying land and agriculture (Forrest and Loate, 2017).

Mining sector and Land Reform

- Both mining and agriculture would not be possible without a key component, land.
 - Land is often at the intersection of conflicts between the mining and agriculture sector
 - The acquisition of land for these two sectors is subject to a multifaceted web of power dynamics operating at various scales and among diverse stakeholders, including state actors, miners, farmers, and traditional authorities, frequently leading to tensions and disputes in the process.
 - land acquisition has resulted in adverse socio-economic consequences including in landlessness, poverty and heightened tension
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Mining and the Environment

- Mining and agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa stand as intertwined socio-economic pursuits, both heavily reliant on natural resources (Obodai et al., 2023).
- In all the policy gaps that the BMF has conducted, it has been highlighted how tailings contaminate water, soil and air thus endangering the lives of communities and animals.
- Mining is both underground and opencast and both operations use and discard water contaminated with heavy metals. This water ends up in our streams, aquifers - contaminating limited water we have
- We currently have over 6000 abandoned mines that have not been rehabilitated. This poses a huge challenge for the new minister.



Conclusion

- Given that all these portfolios are held by different parties with different plans and ideologies, clashes can be expected and are already happening e.g the Bela Bill.
- ANC and DA hold fundamentally different economic philosophies:
- ANC tends towards state intervention and redistribution, while DA favours market economy principles. This has already led to differences of opinion on important economic policy issues, including land reform and state-owned enterprises
- On the other hand, PAC's ideology is grounded on land ownership of black people and African nationalism.
- Nyhontso has recently mentioned that the country's land reform is moving at too slow a pace. Given that land reform has failed under the ANC tenure, we shall see if the PAC will deliver on its pledge.
- We can only hope that these differences in ideology will somehow benefit communities