Challenges before Democracies: **require Statesmen as Leaders:**

South Africa Elections, June 30: National Unity Government

July 1, 2024

July 1, 2024: **Johannesburg**, South Africa: South Africa formed a landmark **National Unity Government** (NUG), marking a significant shift in its political landscape. After the **African National Congress** (ANC) lost its 30-year dominance in a national election, for the first time, President **Cyril Ramaphosa** had to seek coalition partners.

*July 1, 2024: **Johannesburg**, South Africa: President **Cyril Ramaphosa***

HISTORIC RESULTS of Sunday, June 2, 2024: For the 1st time, the **African National Congress** ("_ANC_" founded on 8 January 1912) got less than 50% vote. (Please see Appendix 1 at page 5 for the graphics from Al Jazeera from https://tinyurl.com/9h6apaur). ANC got 40% vote.

The **Democratic Alliance** ("DA" founded on 24 June 2000) was a successor of the **Progressive Party**. The Progressive Party was founded on 13 November 1959, in Johannesburg by a Group of **Members of Parliament** *("MPs")* led by **Dr Bernard Friedman**. The Group was opposed to the policy of Apartheid, even though most of its members came from South Africans, who called themselves the **Afrikaners**. DA had to struggle till 1994, when Nelson Mandela and the Apartheid regime of South Africa came to a historic decision of establishing a new South Africa, whose politics would be based on **Universal Adult Suffrage**, irrespective of the race of the voter.

DA got 21%, next only to that of ANC.

A ruling Coalition was formed by Cyril Ramaphosa of ANC, John Henry Steenhuisen (b. 25 March 1976) of DA along with the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP; 4.35% vote), Patriotic Alliance (PA; 2.19% vote), and, Good party (0.23% vote).

(Please see Appendix 2 about the results of General Election-2024 for 13 parties of South Africa at pages 5-6.)

> On 29 May 2024, the 7th General Elections, since the end of the apartheid era in 1994, were held in South Africa, with Universal Adult Suffrage.
>
> South Africans elected jointly a new **National Assembly**. In each of the nine provinces, the respective Provincial Legislature was also elected.
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> According to the (post-apartheid) **constitution which came into full effect in 1997**, the new **Upper House** (called the *"National Council of Provinces"* (NCOP)) is elected at the first sitting of each provincial legislature. The NCOP consists of ninety delegates, ten delegates for each of the nine provinces regardless of the population of the province.
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> The new members of NCOP are elected at the first sitting of each Provincial Legislature, immediately after the General Election.

RESULTS of ELECTIONS-2024: **Ramaphosa** was re-elected as President, and the Cabinet includes ANC officials in 20 out of 32 ministerial positions. Notably, the DA, once the main opposition, now holds six ministerial posts, while smaller parties also have representation.

The compromise struck left the DA with six ministries, including agriculture, a major part of South Africa's economy, which went to **Steenhuisen**, public works, environment and basic education. It also got six deputy minister posts, including finance, trade and energy.

It is a large ministry, with very few persons, known for their capability.

www.diginews360.com conveys best wishes, on its own and on behalf of its readers, from all over the world. If every member the Cabinet keeps the welfare of the poorest in South Africa as his objective and if the Cabinet steers clear of any taint of corruption, after this term is over, the Coalition may be able to win the 3rd consecutive term for President **Cyril Ramaphosa.**

(www.diginews360.com had recently reported about the 3rd consecutive term of the ruling Coalition, led by **India's Narendra Modi on 9th June 2024** at https://diginews360.com/modi-at-parliament-historic-3rd-consecutive-election-as-pm-of-india/. www.diginews360.com had included a BACKGROUNDER on APPROVAL RATINGs of DEMOCRATIC LEADERS in the Report.)

---- A BACKGROUNDER on APPROVAL RATINGs of DEMOCRATIC LEADERS ----

June 14, 2024: Rome, Italy: Giorgia Meloni, the Prime Minister of Italy, introduced **Narendra Modi** as the **most popular democratic Leader of the world**. **Modi** had gone to the meeting, after taking oath as the Prime Minister of India for a **3rd consecutive term**, on 9th June 2024, after the General Elections, in which 642 Mn citizens, out of 969 Mn registered voters had exercised their franchise for electing 543 members of the **Lok Sabha** (the Lower House of India's Parliament).

June 14, 2024: Borgo Egnazia (Fasano) in Apulia, Italy:
G7 Leaders & Invitees

Narendra Modi's approval rating was as high as 77%. (Reference: https://www.visualcapitalist.com/approval-ratings-of-world-leaders-in-2024/)
The only other leaders, who had **approval rating of more than 50%** were:

- **Andrés Manuel López Obrador** (b. 13 November 1953) assumed Presidency of **Mexico** on 1 December 2018: Approval Rating of 64%;
- **Viola Patricia Amherd** (b. 7 June 1962) of Switzerland, won approval from 57%. Her term is from 1 January 2024 to December 31, 2024.
- **Andrzej Sebastian Duda** (b. 16 May 1972) has served as **President of Poland** since 6th August 2015. His approval stands at 50%. Poland's **Donald Tusk**, also came in strong with 50% approval.

All other leaders of democracies have approval rating of less than 50%.
The data is updated on a quarterly basis.
Eight countries had heads of state or government with disapproval ratings above 50%, including **U.S. President Joe Biden** and **Canadian Prime Minster Justin Trudeau**.

Germany's Olaf Scholz also finds himself on the low end of the list. **Schol**z—who succeeded Angela Merkel in 2021—hit a record low in polling at the end of 2023 with 20% approval, tied only with **South Korea's Yook Seok-youl**.

And according to Morning Consult, they weren't the world leaders with the lowest approval ratings. The full dataset of 21 countries shows that **Fumio Kishida** , the Prime Minister of Japan has an Approval Rating of 23.8%.
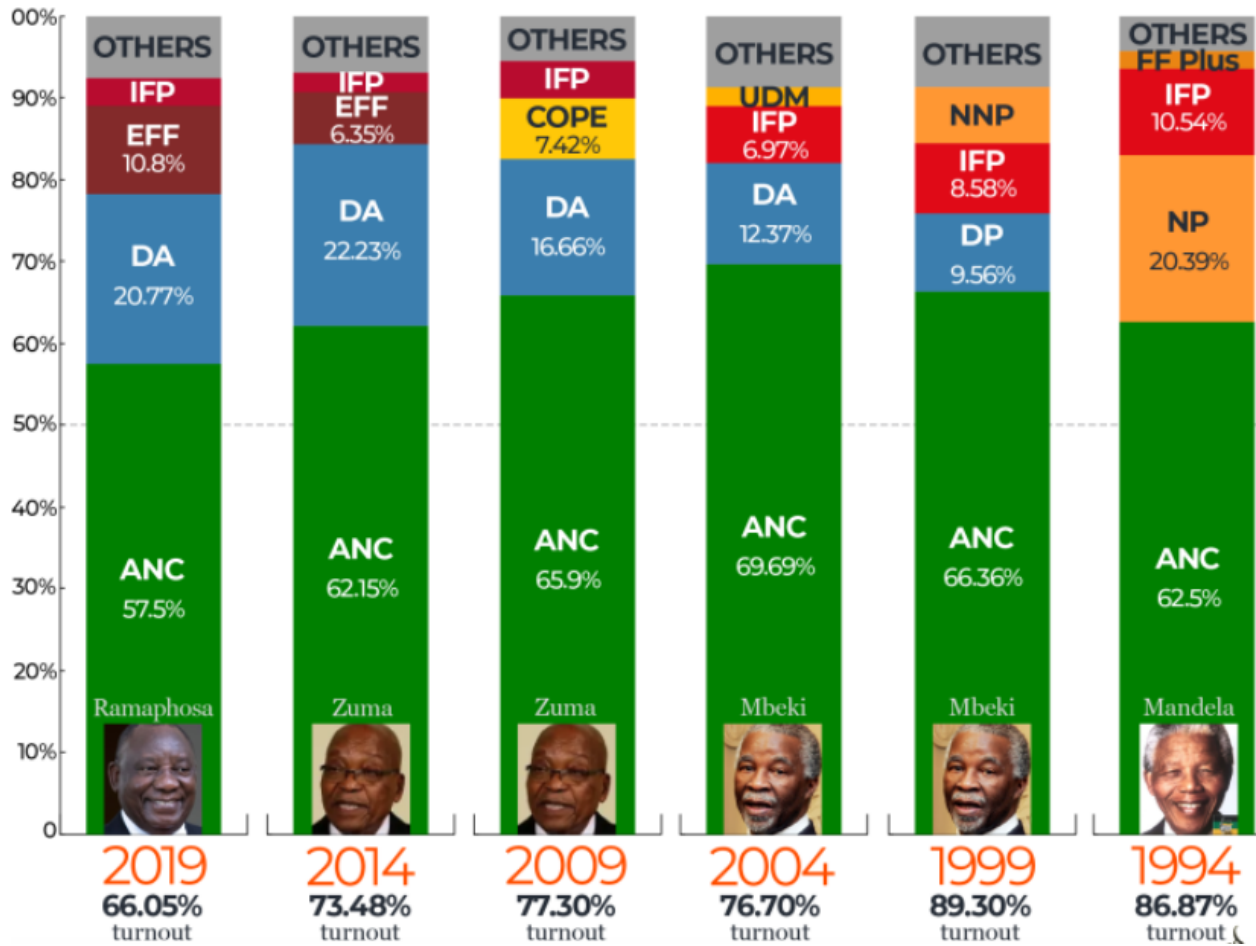
South Africa: President **Cyril Ramaphosa** has an Approval Rating of 40.7%.
(APPROVAL RATING on reaching 100-day mark as President: On May 26, 2018, President President **Cyril Ramaphosa**'s approval rating of 65% was nearly on par with those of his predecessors, **Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma** at the 100-day mark. **Mbeki** and **Zuma** scored 66% and 68% respectively by the time they reached their 100th day in office.)

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….Please see the Appendix 1 at page 5 for the graphics from Al Jazeera from [*https://tinyurl.com/9h6apaur*](https://tinyurl.com/9h6apaur)*).*
….Please see Appendix 2 about the results of General Election-2024 for 13 parties of South Africa at pages 5-6.

Appendix 1: A beautiful graphic (with thanks to Al Jazeera from https://tinyurl.com/9h6apaur) shows it very well:

APPENDIX 2: As per **SA Gov News**, the parties which received the most votes at the General Election- 2024, and, which thus garnered seats in the **400-member National Assembly** are as follows:

African National Congress (ANC) – 159 seats.
Democratic Alliance (DA) – 87 seats.
uMkhonto weSizwe party (MK party) – 58 seats.
Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) – 39 seats.
Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) – 17 seats.
Patriotic Alliance (PA) – 9 seats.
Freedom Front Plus (FF Plus) – 6 seats.
ActionSA – 6 seats.
African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) – 3 seats.

United Democratic Movement (UDM) – 3 seats.
African Transformation Movement (ATM) – 2 seats.
Al Jama-ah – 2 seats.
Build One South Africa (BOSA) – 2 seats.
National Coloured Congress (NCC) – 2 seats.
Rise Mzansi – 2 seats
GOOD Party – 1 seat
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) – 1 seat
United Africans Transformation (UTM) – 1 seat
In summary, South Africa's new ruling Coalition has 273 Members of Parliament in a House of 400.

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