# South African General Election Marks Major Shift with ANC's Worst Performance Since 1994



The recent South African general election signals a seismic shift in the country's politics as the ruling African National Congress (ANC) suffers its worst performance since it took power in 1994. With nearly two-thirds of the vote counted, the ANC's support has plummeted to around 41.8%, a dramatic fall from the 57.5% it achieved previously.

The principal factor behind this decline is widespread dissatisfaction with the party's handling of corruption, unemployment, and failing infrastructure. Significant vote shares have been captured by the Democratic Alliance (DA) at 22.6% and the newly formed uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party, spearheaded by former President Jacob Zuma, which garnered 12%.

The election results have propelled South Africa into an era of coalition politics. The ANC faces critical decisions regarding potential coalition partners, amidst internal divisions between factions that favor more leftist alliances versus those advocating pro-business coalitions. Analysts suggest a partnership with the DA is possible, though the ANC might also consider alliances with MK or the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), depending on negotiations.

The emergence of MK, a party advocating for radical economic policies including nationalization of land and assets, signifies a notable shift. This new configuration of political power in South Africa underscores the electorate's growing demand for change and more effective governance.