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**Johannesburg, South Africa, June 1, 2024** – For the first time in 30 years, South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) will not hold a parliamentary majority following national elections held this week. With nearly 99% of votes counted, the ANC secured just over 40% of the vote, a significant drop from the 57.5% it obtained in the previous election.

The Democratic Alliance (DA), the main opposition party, garnered about 22% of the vote, while the newly formed uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MK) led by former President Jacob Zuma took nearly 15%. The far-left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) obtained around 10%.

The ANC's declining support has been attributed to years of corruption scandals and economic mismanagement. As a result, the party will need to negotiate a coalition to form a government. President Cyril Ramaphosa, who assumed office in 2018, faces significant challenges in maintaining his political leadership during this period of transition.

Electoral analysts predict intense negotiations in the coming days, with potential coalition partners including the DA, MK, and EFF. The new coalition government must be established within two weeks, or new elections may be required.

This election outcome marks a significant shift in South Africa's political landscape since the end of apartheid in 1994 and has introduced a substantial period of political uncertainty.