



SOUTH AFRICA



**HSRC**  
Human Sciences  
Research Council

# ELECTION INDICATORS REPORT

# 2021

# LIMPOPO



*Report Prepared for*

**Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC)  
National Office**

Election House, Riverside Office Park,  
1303 Heuwel Avenue, Centurion

*By*

**Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)**

Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES)  
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This report is the first in a developed ‘Elections Indicators Report’ series, which is the culmination of a five-year project that builds on the longstanding research partnership between the Commission and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)



**Simon Mamabolo**  
Chief Electoral Officer  
Electoral Commission of South Africa

The Electoral Commission conducts research and supports researchers in the area of electoral democracy and politics. The research products or reports influence the planning and electoral projects continuously. It is therefore that from time to time, we all have a duty to pause and reflect on our work with a view to enhancing what we are doing well and changing course wherever we need to. To this effect, the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) has published an important tool to enable such reflection: The Elections Indicators Report. We believe this report will contribute to the necessary, collective effort of all in our country to deepen and grow our electoral democracy.

This report is the first in a developed ‘Elections Indicators Report’ series, which is the culmination of a five-year project that builds on the longstanding research partnership between the Commission and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). The Commission prides itself on being an evidence-based election management body that places a strong emphasis on high-quality research to inform its operational planning. This new series is a reflection of this commitment.

The project focuses on obtaining an understanding of the views, preferences, evaluative and behavioural

predispositions of the South African voting public on election days, the young and the old: rural and urban with gender sensitivity and spread.

Apart from a national report, nine provincial reports have been prepared to better understand sub-national variation in trends and how these compare to the national picture. This report on Limpopo contains key indicators which are important guidelines upon which the Commission will base its work in the fulfilment of its constitutional obligation to deliver quality, free and fair elections. The report is useful to political parties and election contestants to influence and direct their campaigns. The report is equally useful for researchers and opinion makers in the political environment.

The four main sources for this report, and for those that will follow in the series, are:

- ***The IEC Voter Participation Surveys.***
- ***The IEC Election Satisfaction Surveys.***
- ***The HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) series.***
- ***The IEC statistics on voter registration and electoral results.***

This first Elections Indicators Report is produced

soon after the publication of a global report by the Electoral Integrity Project on electoral democracy and electoral integrity, which strongly affirmed the work of the Electoral Commission. According to the Electoral Integrity Global Report 2019-2021 assessment, which provides an update on the quality of elections around the world, South Africa has the 2nd highest electoral integrity in Africa. Election management is regarded as one of the best ways in which electoral integrity can be advanced, and these findings are a powerful tribute to the quality of the work done by the Commission.

The Commission is greatly encouraged by the finding, contained in this Elections Indicators Report, that the Commission continues to be one of the most trusted institutions in South Africa. However, we remain concerned at the overall decline in levels of trust. We note that, when trust in other social and political institutions diminishes, confidence in the Electoral Commission is influenced by how people feel about the performance of those they have elected to political structures and who lead government. If satisfaction with political parties and government declines, institutional trust will follow the downward trend and faith in democratic elections will be undermined.

The Commission is pleased that the focus of the Elections Indicators Report goes beyond the dynamics of the election day. Importantly, it includes a range of measures from the pre-election period that provides a sense of the pre-electoral mood, to views and experiences of registration procedures, the campaign period, and the immediate aftermath following the election day.

South Africans love and are loyal to our country, with many stating that they would rather be citizens of South Africa than of any other nation in the world. What should concern all of us is that, despite this national pride, the number of citizens unhappy with the functioning of democracy exceeds those who are satisfied with our democracy. This dissatisfaction is driven by widespread discontent with government

performance. This is reflected particularly in the findings on the evaluations of the performance of local municipalities. The report shows that South Africans are generally unhappy with, among others, the services offered by municipalities.

It is concerning that many South Africans have concerns about the effectiveness of their vote. The Elections Indicators Report shows that in 2021 less than half of South Africans believe in the power of the vote and that the votes cast on election day makes a difference. Similarly, many South Africans voice concern about the degree to which elected representatives are responsive to their needs. However, 61% of South Africans believe in the duty to vote nationally, and this tendency remains common to most provinces. The Electoral Commission pledges to continue sustained efforts to encourage all eligible voters to join the 26.2-million who are registered on the voters roll.

While we continue to identify further opportunities for improvement, we are pleased to note that voters in this province found the registration process easy and that our voter education campaigns were effective. Voters also had good experiences at voting stations and were generally happy with the quality of services rendered by the Commission's officials. Almost all in the province expressed faith in the arrangements at voting stations to ensure the secrecy of their vote. The vast majority were also happy with the ballot paper used.

These are important foundations on which we will build and strive to improve.

This report contains vital information that is important, not only for the Electoral Commission, but for all in South Africa. Accordingly, the Commission invites South Africans to read the report and to use it, as we will, to guide our efforts to strengthen our democracy.

The Commission expresses its gratitude to the HRSC for an excellent body of work and to South Africans for participating in the surveys.

**Simon Mamabolo**

**Chief Electoral Officer  
Electoral Commission of South Africa**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report represents the first in a newly developed Election Indicators Report series, which is the culmination of a two-year data curation project. It builds on a longstanding research partnership between the Electoral Commission of South Africa and the Human Sciences Research Council, focusing on understanding the views, preferences, evaluative and behavioural predispositions of the South African adult public as well as the voting public on Election Days.

This study and report were prepared by a Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) team led by Benjamin Roberts, Jarè Struwig and Steven L. Gordon, and also comprising Kombi Sausi, Samela Mtzingizane, Ngqapheli Mchunu, Thobeka Zondi, and Mercy Ngungu.

The work was carried out under the general direction of Narnia Bohler-Muller, the Divisional Executive of the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) Research Programme.

The team would like to acknowledge the generous support of the managing team at the Electoral Commission of South Africa. Special mention needs to be made of Shameme Manjoo and her successor, Moagisi Sibanda, as well as Dr Thabo Rapoo for their guidance, advice, support and input throughout the study. Electoral Commissioner, Dr Nomsa Masuku, is also to be thanked for her insight. The comments received from various members of the Commission's executive leadership at different stages of the research process are also gratefully acknowledged, in particular Mr Mawethu Mosery.

We would like to express our profound appreciation to the thousands of South Africans who have generously given their time to participate in the Voter Participation Survey and Election Satisfaction Survey series since the late 1990s. The opinions, preferences and experiences that were shared with our interviewing teams has made, and continues to make, and invaluable contribution to electoral planning and management in the country, as well as our understanding of the Electorate and how it is changing over time. The HSRC's provincial supervisors and data collectors were instrumental in ensuring that high quality information was collected.

A debt of gratitude is also due to the HSRC's administrative team, consisting of Busisiwe Mamba, Koshen Govender, Deshanie Reddy and Tanya Shanker, as well as to Keneilwe Dikobe of the Commission, for all their assistance.

**Dr Benjamin Roberts and Jarè Struwig**  
**South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) Coordinators**  
**Human Sciences Research Council**



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**PART**

**A**

**ASSESSING  
ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN  
SOUTH AFRICA**

# 1. ASSESSING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

## 1.1 Introducing the report series

Elections in South Africa follow a five-year cycle, with national/provincial elections held together and municipal/local government elections held two years later. The Electoral Commission of South Africa has been involved in all South African elections and has successfully managed six national/provincial elections (1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019) and six municipal/local government elections (1995, 2000, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021). According to the South African Constitution (Act 108 of 1996) and the Electoral Commission Act (1996), the central roles of the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) are to strengthen constitutional democracy and promote democratic electoral processes in the country. An important element of this mandate is to encourage voter participation. To this end, the Commission places great focus on increasing voter registration and turnout by investing in civic education and outreach programmes to encourage citizens to register and ultimately vote.

Since the late 1990s, the Electoral Commission of South Africa has partnered with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), a statutory research institute, to undertake a programme of electoral research. This focuses on generating survey-based as well as qualitative insight to inform operational planning and outreach. In order to better understand the Electorate and maximise the reach and impact of outreach efforts, the Electoral Commission follows a specific framework of survey-based research on electoral matters. This framework of surveying includes a pre-election survey, the Voter Participation Survey (VPS), and an Election Day survey, the Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS). Both surveys are nationally representative series which have been conducted in a similar format for national and provincial, as well as municipal elections for more than a decade. Additional *ad hoc* research studies have been conducted, focusing on internal surveying of electoral staff on issues such as gender mainstreaming and the institutional vision, as well as research into ballot paper design, usability and spoiling.

This partnership between the Electoral Commission and the HSRC has generated datasets that relate to

the socio-political dynamics of voter turnout, voter behaviour and voter participation in South Africa. A challenge associated with these longitudinal projects is that voluminous amounts of data are generated, but are often treated as stand-alone projects and not merged to form longitudinal data series that can be used to readily identify trends and emerging patterns, as well as benchmark performance. Another challenge pertains to the risk that the technology used to analyse, manage and store data is at high risk of becoming obsolete over time, rendering existing data unusable.

In order to address these challenges, the Electoral Commission contracted the HSRC to undertake a project entitled: *Trends in Voter Participation and Election Satisfaction in South Africa: Curating, Mining and Analysing Successive Electoral Commission Surveys conducted by the HSRC*. The project entailed locating data from previous rounds of the Voter Participation Survey and Election Satisfaction Survey and analysing them in order to provide a longitudinal perspective of changing electoral attitudes, experiences and behaviour, as well as democratic values in South Africa. A secondary objective of this project is to embark on a data curation exercise in order to preserve the Electoral Commission datasets for future use. This will ensure that these datasets do not become obsolete and will also enable the Commission to grant data access to external researchers or stakeholders.

This report is the output of the first objective and the result of the tracing, combining and mining of Voter Participation Surveys (VPS) as well as Election Satisfaction Surveys (ESS) and analysing the combined datasets in order to give a longitudinal perspective of changing democratic values and behaviour in South Africa. Select indicators are presented in this volume, which represent the first in a planned statistical publication series on electoral indicators. Our hope is to produce a series that will serve as a key reference for those interested in gaining insight into emerging trends on key aspects of electoral performance and voter predispositions.

## 1.2 Conceptual framework

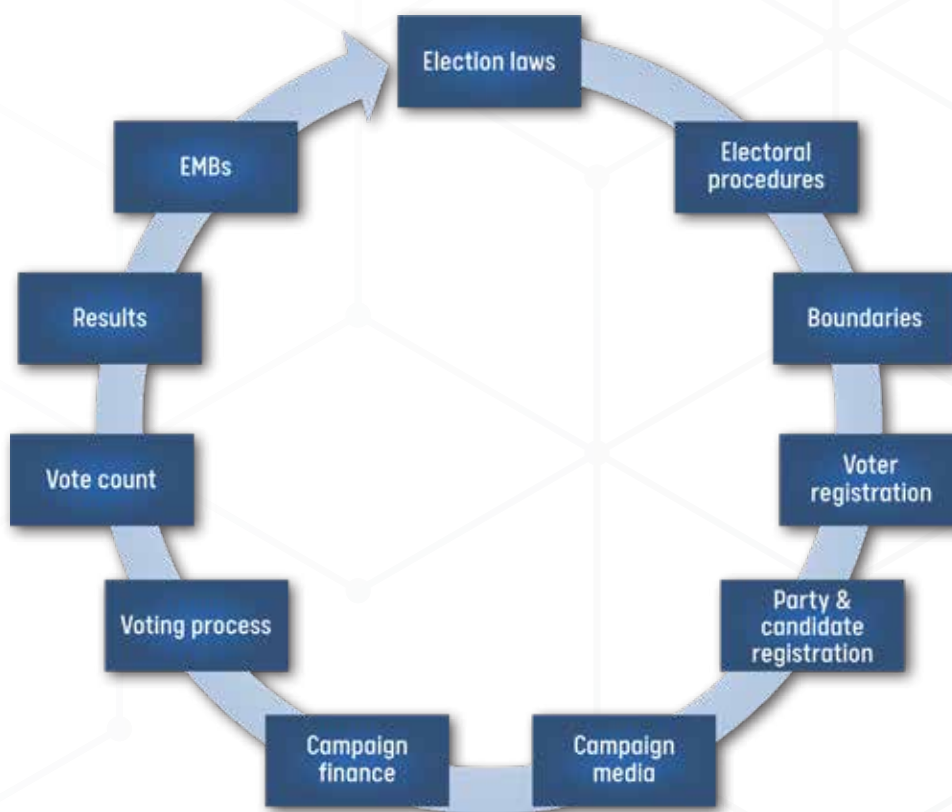
In planning this report series, we drew on three strands of the conceptual literature relating to models of political support, electoral integrity and election management. We briefly outline some of the ideas and components of these models, particularly those that had an influence on the decisions regarding the structure, content and scope of what ultimately appears in the reports.

### Electoral integrity

The last decade has witnessed a rapid growth in interest in the concept of ‘electoral integrity’ and an associated demand for policy-relevant research, evaluating different election management structures

and processes – with the aim of measuring and assessing the quality of elections over time (Norris et al., 2013). This priority has emanated, in part, from a range of challenges facing ongoing efforts to deepen and consolidate liberal democracies around the world. This includes claims of democratic ‘deficits’, ‘recession’ and ‘reversals’, a rise in authoritarian populism, instances of electoral malpractice, and declining patterns of electoral participation (LeDuc et al., 2002; Plattner, 2015; Diamond, 2015, 2020; Levitsky & Way, 2015; Foa & Mounk, 2016). This agenda is founded on a recognition that elections serve as the lifeblood of liberal democracy, by promoting policy debate, electing representatives, and determining the composition of legislatures.

Figure 1: The electoral cycle used to guide the Electoral Integrity Project’s Perceptions of Electoral Integrity (PEI) research



Source: Electoral Integrity Project, Perceptions of Electoral Integrity (PEI) (Norris et al. 2014)

Electoral integrity can be understood in different ways. Some have tended to conceptualise it negatively by focusing on problems experienced in specific electoral contests, such as manipulation, fraud and malpractice (Schedler, 2002, 2013; Birch, 2010, 2011). Other accounts have adopted a positive approach to understanding integrity by concentrating more on whether elections are free and fair, credible,

competitive and democratic in character (Elklit & Reynolds, 2005; Munck, 2009; Norris, 2017). The Electoral Integrity Project (EIP, established 2012)<sup>1</sup> has argued for a definitional approach that draws on a positive, human rights framing of electoral integrity, which may be understood as the degree to which any given election meets “international conventions and global norms governing the appropriate conduct

1 More details on the EIP can be found at: <https://www.electoralintegrityproject.com>

of elections, applying universally to all countries worldwide throughout the electoral cycle” (Norris, 2013: 564; 2014, 2017, 2019). Accordingly, election integrity is achieved when electoral procedures meet established norms and standards at each of the different stages in the full election cycle. The latter covers the pre-election period, the campaigning phase, the election day itself, as well as the immediate post-election period.

It is this positive perspective and broader periodisation of the electoral cycle that are of significance for the present report series. The examination of election-related indicators in the South African case extends beyond measures that exclusively focus on the dynamics of election day itself. We also include a range of measures on the pre-election period in particular, to provide a sense of the pre-electoral mood, views and experiences of registration procedures, the campaign period, and the immediate aftermath of the election.

### Election management and popular confidence in the electoral process

Measuring and monitoring levels of public confidence in electoral processes are central to determining the integrity of elections. The legitimacy of the electoral process is widely considered as essential for the establishment, sustainability and consolidation of well-functioning democracies (Goodwin-Gill, 1998; Elklit & Reynolds, 2005). Research has suggested that in country contexts where the bonds of trust have eroded and citizens express doubt that elections are free and fair, the consequence may be diminishing turnout levels among voters and even public protest action as an extreme response to such discontent (Bratton & van de Walle, 1997; Elklit & Reynolds, 2002; Schedler, 2006; Birch, 2008).

This leads us to the salient institutional role of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) in administering elections and promoting voter education (Maphunye, 2019). The quality of elections and the way they are delivered by EMBs are thought to influence confidence in the electoral process and, by extension, processes of democratic consolidation (James et al., 2019). From an organisational perspective, election management is regarded as one of the ways in which electoral integrity can be advanced. This is based on an understanding that the institutional design features of an EMB will indelibly shape electoral performance and outcomes (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Envisaged causal linkages between EMB design, performance and outcomes



Source: James et al. (2019), p.302

Before the turn of the century, many well-established survey infrastructures did not include indicators examining perceptions of the legitimacy and procedural fairness of elections. This has begun to change, with many comparative and national surveys starting to routinely include at least some measures to gauge popular legitimacy. In the South African case, the Electoral Commission has since its inception been concerned about the public voice and evaluations of different aspects of electoral administration. The indicators presented in the report draw from Commissioned survey research by the EMB, and touch on various aspects of public confidence in electoral

processes and assessments of preparations and performance in relation to elections in the country. While measurement tools have been developed in recent years that draw on expert opinion on electoral design, readiness and outcomes, some in conjunction with public opinion research, the focus of our report series is on the voices of the adult public and voters, more specifically on election day assessments. This does not preclude these views being compared at a later stage with expert opinion using common indicators, but for the present we limit ourselves to better understanding popular confidence in electoral processes.

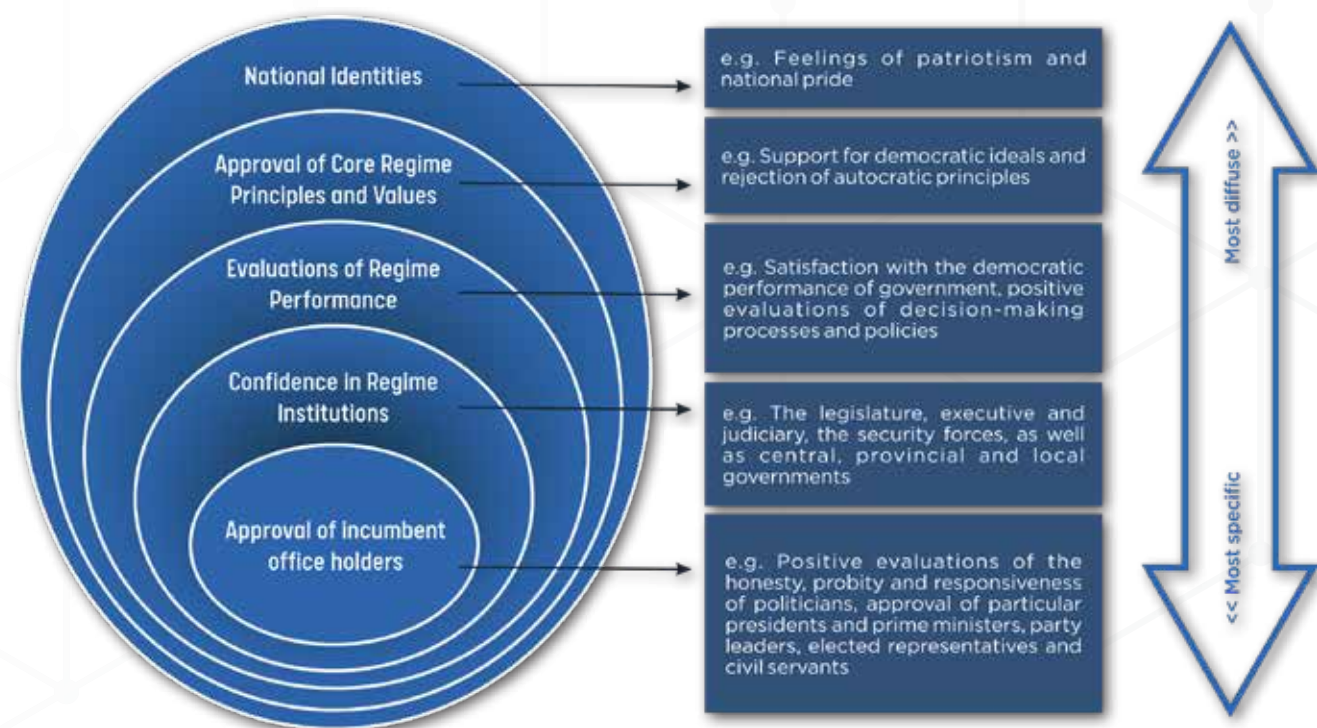
## Political support

To adequately capture political system support and general regime approval among the public, we make use of a conceptual framework developed by Norris (2011) that draws primarily on the work of David Easton (1975). Accordingly, indicators of political support are clustered into a multi-dimensional framework consisting of five components, ranging from the most generalised to the most specific. These components are: (i) national identities; (ii) approval of regime principles and values; (iii) evaluations of regime performance; (iv) confidence in regime institutions; and (v) approval of incumbent office-holders. Figure 3 depicts how these components are structured, moving from the most diffuse towards the most specific.

The first component identified by Norris, namely national identities, represents the most general set of attitudes towards belonging or attachment to the state. Common survey-based measures

and indicators for this dimension include national pride, patriotism and feelings of national identity. The second dimension of support - approval of regime principles and values - addresses support for fundamental democratic principles and values. The third dimension is evaluations of regime performance and is conceived as the views of citizens towards the democratic performance of the government, as well as assessments of decision-making processes, policies and policy outcomes. Fourthly, confidence in regime institutions refers to trust in public sector institutions. Norris (2011) views the following as public institutions: the government legislature, the executive, the judiciary and courts, the security forces, the different tiers of government (national, provincial, local) and the civil service, in addition to political parties. The press and trade unions can also be included here. The last level of support is the approval of incumbent office-holders, which entails public attitudes towards the president, ministers, party leaders and elected representatives.

**Figure 3: Conceptual overview of indicators of political system support**



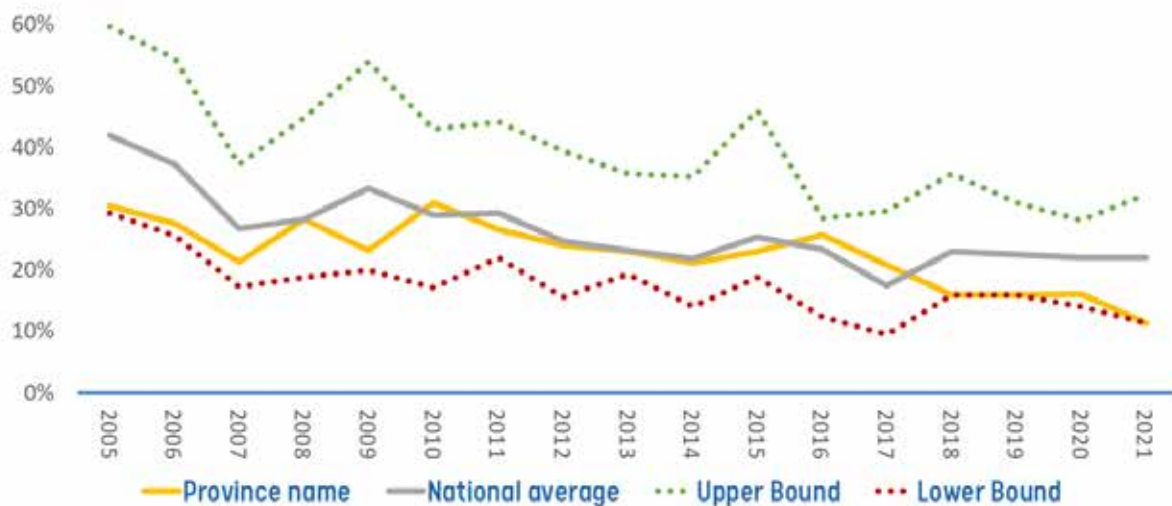
Source: Norris (2011:24) Democratic Deficit: Critical Citizens Revisited

### 1.3 Guide to indicators and their interpretation

The set of electoral indicators that presented in this report have been presented using a particular visual format that requires a brief explanation.

#### Trends in province of focus compared to national trends

In the example graph below, the trend line corresponding to the province of focus in the report is highlighted in a bold yellow colour. For comparative purposes, the national average on the indicator is presented in a dark grey colour. This is important for determining whether the province fares better or worse in any given survey year than the average for the country. This allows for quick inferences to be drawn on provincial performance in this specific area of evaluation.



#### Determining performance in province of focus relative to other provinces

Displaying the trends of each of the nine provinces as well as the national average over multiple survey years on a single graph would be impractical, since many of the lines would intersect, making it difficult to interpret. However, it is crucially important that we understand how the province of focus fares relative to other provinces, as well as the relative spread in provincial responses to the indicator in question. As such, we have inserted two additional lines in the graph, as follows:

- **Upper bound:** This is the highest provincial value on the measure in the specified survey year. Due to fluctuations in public evaluations, it should be noted that the highest value in each year will not necessarily correspond to the same province over time.
- **Lower bound:** This is the lowest provincial value on the measure in the specified survey year. Again, it is important to note that the lowest value in each year will not necessarily correspond

to the same province over time, due to variations in assessment among the public over time.

#### Table of statistics

For those wanting the exact numbers associated with each data point in the graph, we have provided a table of statistics. This displays the provincial average, the national average, and the upper and lower bound figures. In addition, the province’s rank position in each survey year is provided, with one indicating that the province has the highest value of all nine provinces, and nine the lowest relative value.

#### Data sources

Four principal sources have been used: the IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) series, which is representative of citizens aged 16 years and older; the IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) series, which is a representative sample of the voting public on Election Day; the HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) series, which is representative of the adult public older than 15 years; and official IEC statistics on registration and electoral results.



**PART**

**B**

**PRE-ELECTION  
PHASE**



## 2. PRE-ELECTION PHASE

### 2.1 Support for the political system

#### 2.1.1 National Pride

##### GOAL

To determine the general sense of belonging or attachment to the nation-state. This relates to general bonds of political support, as expressed through feelings of national pride. It underpins the priority of promoting social cohesion and national identity in the country

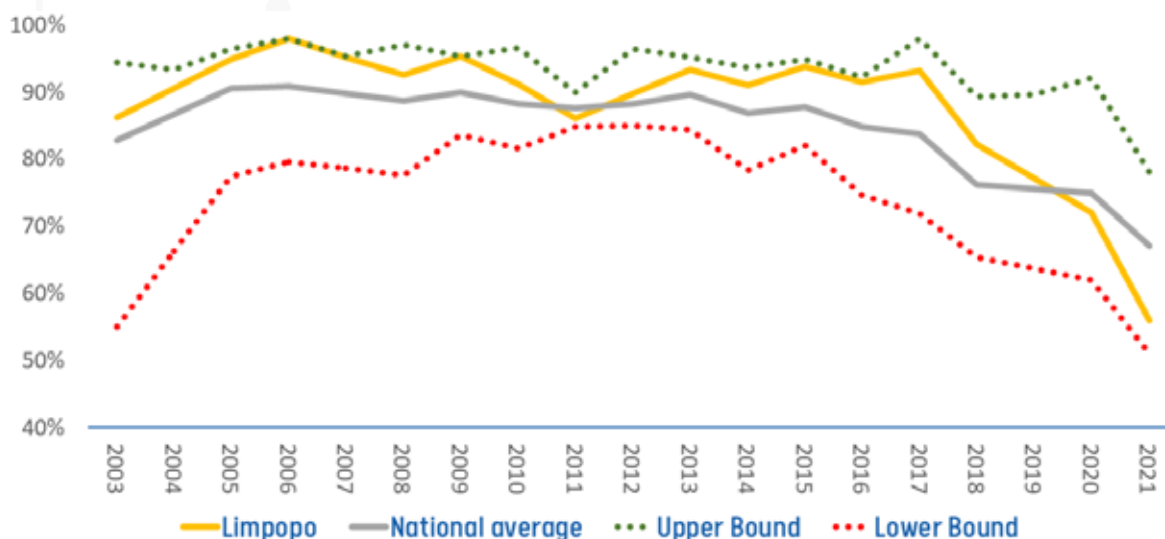
##### QUESTION

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I would rather be a citizen of South Africa than of any other country in the world." (% agree/strongly agree)

##### ANALYSIS

As is the case nationally, Limpopo residents remain generally loyal to their country and exhibit relatively high levels of attachment to the state. On average over the period, more than four-fifths (88%) agreed that they would rather be citizens of South Africa than any other nation. In line with the national trend, pride levels remained relatively stable over the 2008 to 2017 period, but followed a steep downward trend from 2017, falling from 93% in 2017 to 56% in 2021. In 2021 the province recorded its lowest result (56%), which was well below the national average. This steep downward curve is an issue that needs to be monitored in Limpopo since it might affect issues such as voting. Regardless of the downward trend over the latter period, the province still ranks fourth on this measure overall.

**NATIONAL PRIDE: "I would rather be a citizen of South Africa than of any other country in the world", 2003-2021 (% agreeing)**



%	2003	2005	2006	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	86	95	98	92	95	91	86	90	93	91	94	96	93	82	...	72	56	88
National Avg.	83	91	91	89	90	88	88	88	90	87	88	85	84	76	...	75	67	85
Upper Bound	94	96	98	97	95	97	90	96	95	94	95	92	98	89	...	92	78	89
Lower Bound	55	77	80	78	84	82	85	85	84	78	82	75	72	65	...	62	51	76
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	3	1	4	1	5	8	5	4	3	2	4	3	4	...	6	8	4

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.1.2 Demand for democracy: Support for democratic ideals

### GOAL

Evaluation of the importance of elements of democracy. This provides a sense of the demand for democracy by examining the salience attached to democratic ideals

### QUESTION

For each of the six components of democracy, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they believed each was important (mean score, 0-10 importance scale, where 0=not important and 10=very important)

...that elections are free and fair?

...that politicians listen to people before making decisions?

...that ruling parties are punished in elections when they have done a bad job?

...that citizens are able to take part in peaceful and legal protest action to express their dissatisfaction?

...that everyone is free to express their political views openly, even if they are extreme?

...that opposition parties are free to criticise the government?

### ANALYSIS

The importance attached to all six democratic ideals in Limpopo was highest in the year 2016 with the exception of dimensions 4, 5 and 6. This was followed by a distinct decline in the importance attached to all six ideals from 2018 to 2021, the only exception being dimension 2. The dimension with the highest decrease noted was dimension 5 and the lowest decrease was noted for dimension 6. Downward trends in ratings of all ideals over the period are mirroring the annual decline in national averages. However, in the last survey round, except for dimension 2, the province was below the 2021 national average and the province was ranked in the bottom three on all six dimensions.

#### DEMAND FOR DEMOCRACY: Importance attached to different democratic values or ideals, 2013-2021 (mean scores based on a 0-10 importance scale)

Mean score, 0-10 scale	Ideal 1 Free and Fair Elections				Ideal 2 Elected Listen to the Public				Ideal 3 Electoral Accountability			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
Limpopo	7.3	7.7	7.5	6.0	6.8	7.5	7.0	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.9	5.0
National Avg.	8.2	8.1	7.2	6.7	7.4	7.5	7.0	6.4	7.4	7.4	6.9	6.4
Upper Bound	8.8	8.7	8.0	7.4	8.7	8.2	7.6	7.4	8.5	8.4	7.5	7.6
Lower Bound	7.3	6.7	5.5	5.6	6.5	5.4	4.5	5.0	6.5	5.5	5.3	5.0
Lower Bound	9	7	3	7	7	6	5	9	8	7	5	7

Mean score, 0-10 scale	Ideal 4 Participation in Protest				Ideal 5 Freedom of Expression				Ideal 6 Viable Opposition			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
Limpopo	7.7	6.6	6.6	5.1	7.5	6.8	7.0	5.1	6.2	5.6	5.9	5.6
National Avg.	7.6	7.5	6.9	6.4	7.8	7.6	6.9	7.5	7.0	7.4	6.8	6.4
Upper Bound	8.5	8.2	7.5	7.6	8.8	8.2	7.5	7.4	7.9	8.6	7.6	7.4
Lower Bound	6.7	6.5	5.9	5.1	7.1	6.5	5.6	6.1	6.1	5.6	5.6	5.2
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	7	3	9	7	8	4	9	8	9	8	8

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2013-2021

## 2.1.3 Supply of democracy: Satisfaction with the functioning of democracy

### GOAL

Determine support for the way the country's political system is functioning

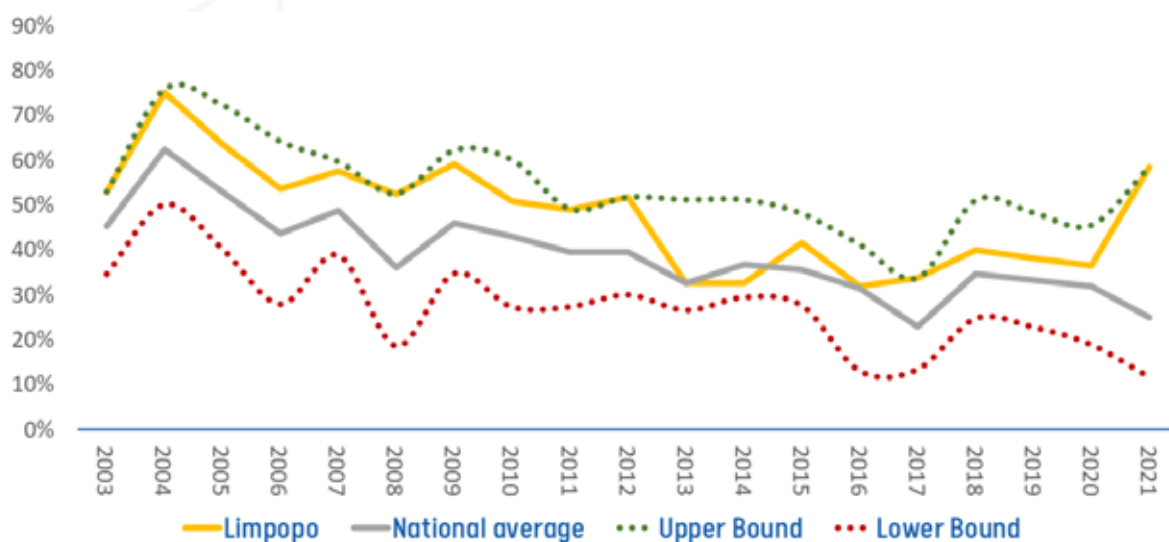
### QUESTION

How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in South Africa? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

Satisfaction with the functioning of democracy among Limpopo residents peaked in 2004, averaging 75%. However, this favourable upswing was short-lived and between 2005 and 2014, there was a general decline in satisfaction with democratic functioning, despite infrequent and modest recoveries. In 2016, 2013 and 2014 satisfaction with democracy in the province was at its lowest levels and barely a third of residents recorded that they were satisfied. Overall, Limpopo residents, however, tend to be more satisfied with democracy compared to other provinces and only scored below the national average in 2014. In 2021 there was a dramatic increase in satisfaction with democracy, from 36% in 2020 to 58% in 2021, resulting in Limpopo being rated highest of all provinces on this indicator in that year. On average, satisfaction with democracy in the province is at 48% and Limpopo is rated second highest overall on this indicator.

**SUPPLY OF DEMOCRACY: Satisfaction with the way democracy is working in South Africa, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	53	75	64	54	58	52	59	51	49	52	33	33	42	32	34	40	38	36	58	48
National Avg.	45	62	53	44	49	36	46	43	39	39	33	37	36	31	23	35	...	32	25	39
Upper Bound	53	76	72	64	60	52	62	60	49	52	51	51	48	41	34	51	...	45	58	51
Lower Bound	35	50	40	28	39	18	35	27	27	30	26	29	28	13	13	25	...	19	12	34
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	4	8	2	5	1	2	3	3	1	2

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.1.4 Supply of democracy: Country going in the right direction

### GOAL

Determine support for the country's current trajectory

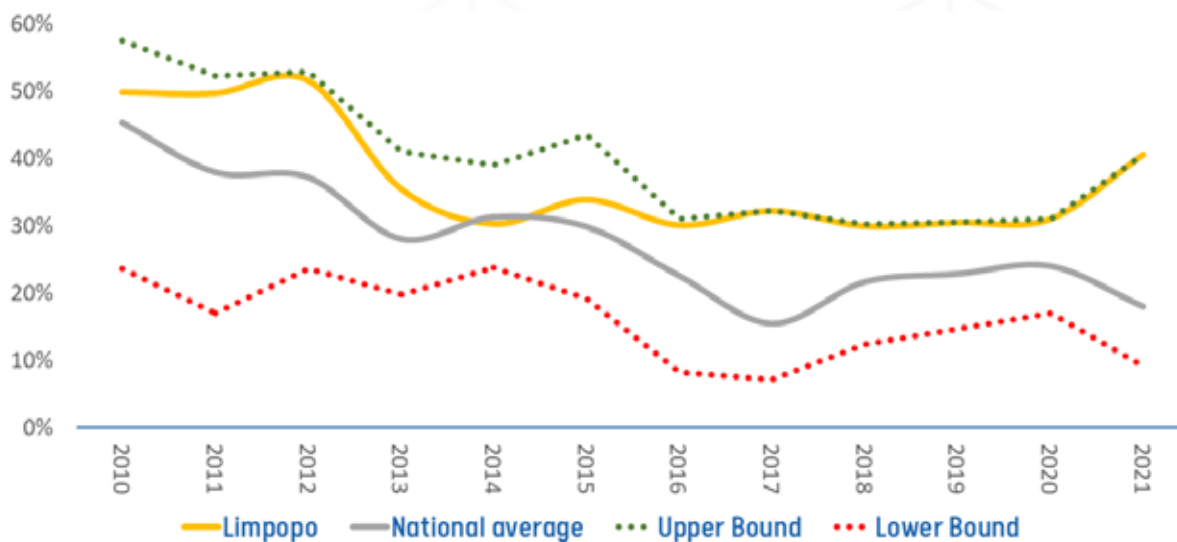
### QUESTION

Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction or going in the wrong direction? (% right direction)

### ANALYSIS

In 2010 and 2011, half (50%) of Limpopo adult residents believed that the country was heading in the right direction. Despite fluctuations in this outlook in recent years, there has been a sustained general downward pattern during the decade, reaching the lowest point of 30% in 2014, 2016 and 2018.. This improved to 31% in 2020, followed by an upswing to 41% in the last survey round. The interprovincial variation recorded on this indicator narrowed between 2017 and 2020, though it widened appreciably in 2021. On average, across the period, Limpopo ranks first out of the nine provinces, meaning that the province can be categorised as among those most optimistic. The province was ranked above the national average for most survey rounds, the only exception was 2014.

COUNTY GOING IN RIGHT DIRECTION: Percentage who believe the country is going in the right direction, 2010-2021 (%)



%	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	50	50	52	36	30	34	30	32	30	...	31	41	37
National Avg.	45	38	37	28	31	30	23	15	22	...	24	18	28
Upper Bound	57	52	53	41	39	43	31	32	30	...	31	41	37
Lower Bound	24	17	24	20	24	19	8	7	12	...	17	9	22
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	2	2	2	5	3	2	1	2	...	1	1	1

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2010-2021

## 2.1.5 Supply of democracy: Evaluation of performance against democratic ideals

### GOAL

Evaluation of elements of democracy. This provides a sense of perceived effectiveness in relation to the progressive realisation of democratic ideals

### QUESTION

For each of the six components of democracy, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they believed each applied to South Africa today (mean score, 0-10 applicability scale, where 0=does not apply at all; 10=applies completely)

...Elections in South Africa are free and fair.

...Politicians in South Africa listen to people before making decisions.

...Ruling parties in South Africa are punished in elections when they have done a bad job.

...Citizens in South Africa are able to take part in peaceful and legal protest action to express their dissatisfaction.

...In South Africa, everyone is free to express their political views openly, even if they are extreme.

...Opposition parties in South Africa are free to criticise the government.

### ANALYSIS

The first dimension in the province was highly rated in 2016 (7.5), but this was followed by a steady annual decline until it was at its lowest in 2021 (5.8). This downward trend mirrors the national decline in the degree to which people believed this ideal applies in the country. The evaluation of the sixth dimension also followed a similar declining trend between 2013 and 2021. The second and third dimensions were evaluated in a harsh light, both in the province and nationally. Residents of Limpopo's view on being able to partake in protests also declined. The provincial trends are mostly comparable to the national picture. Limpopo residents fell mostly below the national average regarding 'freedom of expression'. A steady decline is evident in the evaluation of the 'viable opposition' ideal, both provincially and nationally between 2018 and 2021.

#### SUPPLY OF DEMOCRACY: Evaluations of different democratic values or ideals, 2013-2021 (mean scores based on a 0-10 scale)

Mean score, 0-10 scale	Ideal 1 Free and Fair Elections				Ideal 2 Elected Listen to the Public				Ideal 3 Electoral Accountability			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
Limpopo	7.2	7.5	6.2	5.8	4.9	4.4	3.4	4.3	5.5	4.1	3.7	4.3
National Avg.	7.3	7.3	6.6	5.7	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.0
Upper Bound	7.8	8.0	7.2	6.7	5.3	5.2	5.2	4.8	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.0
Lower Bound	6.2	6.5	5.1	5.1	3.4	4.1	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.5
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	3	8	4	4	7	8	5	1	8	7	4

Mean score, 0-10 scale	Ideal 4 Participation in Protesst				Ideal 5 Freedom of Expression				Ideal 6 Viable Opposition			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
Limpopo	6.8	5.2	4.6	4.3	6.7	5.2	5.0	4.9	6.7	6.6	6.2	5.3
National Avg.	6.1	6.4	6.0	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.1	5.7	6.3	6.8	6.5	6.1
Upper Bound	6.8	7.3	6.5	6.5	6.7	7.7	6.6	6.6	6.8	7.8	6.9	6.9
Lower Bound	5.2	5.2	4.6	4.9	5.5	5.6	5.0	5.3	5.8	5.6	5.9	4.8
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	9	9	6	1	9	9	8	3	6	6	7

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2013-2021

## 2.1.6 Satisfaction with municipal performance

### GOAL

Determine levels of satisfaction with municipal performance

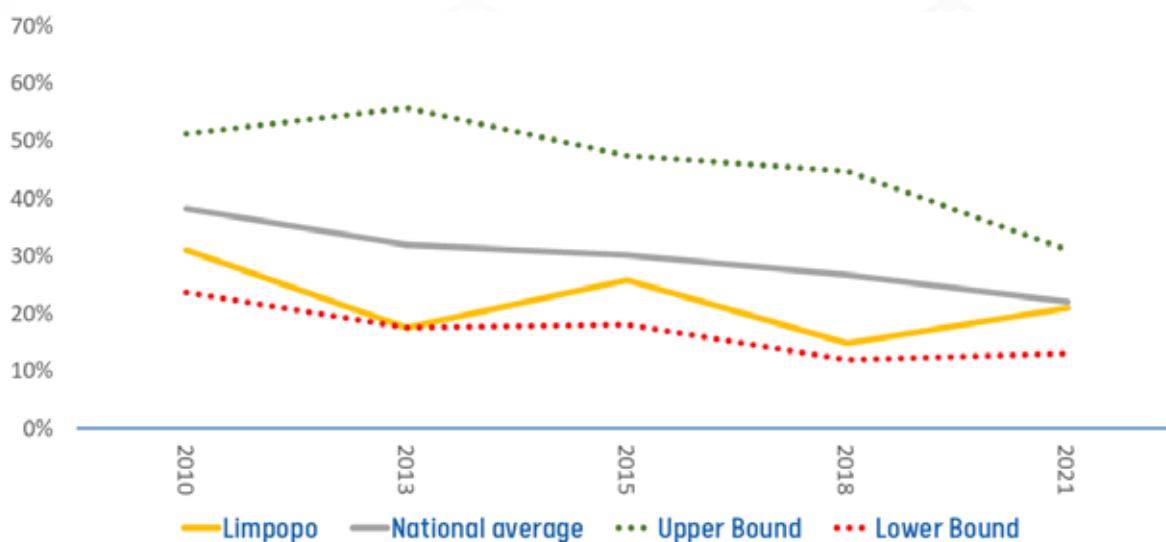
### QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way your municipality is performing its job at present? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

In 2010, there was general discontentment with the performance of municipalities among the Limpopo public with only 31% satisfied with performance. In 2013 the proportion of the provincial populace satisfied fell to a mere 18% and then recovered to 26% in 2015. Satisfaction levels fell again in 2018 to a low of 15%, but recovered and reached 21% in 2021. The period average was 22%, this was nine percentage points below the national average of 31%. The level of variance between provinces was greater in earlier survey rounds, suggesting that there is relative convergence in views on municipal performance, with generally negative evaluations increasingly common across provinces. For most survey rounds, satisfaction levels in Limpopo were below the national average. Compared to other provinces, Limpopo ranked eighth overall.

#### MUNICIPAL SATISFACTION: Satisfaction with municipal performance, 2010-2021 (%)



%	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Limpopo	31	18	26	15	21	22
National Avg.	38	32	30	27	22	31
Upper Bound	51	56	47	45	31	49
Lower Bound	24	18	18	12	13	18
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	9	6	8	8	8

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010-2021

## 2.2. Public trust in political and social institutions

### 2.2.1. Trust in the Electoral Commission

#### GOAL

Public confidence in the Electoral Commission

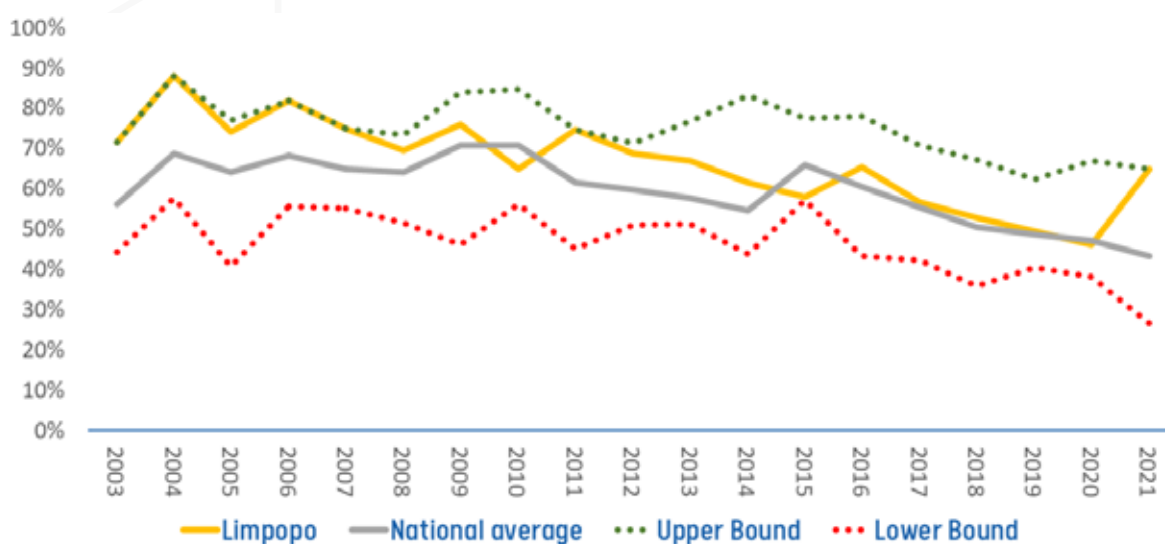
#### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust the Electoral Commission? (% trust / strongly trust)

#### ANALYSIS

After a period of relatively high trust between 2003 and 2009, a significant decline was observed between 2012 to 2020. Despite infrequent and modest recoveries there has been a steady decline in trust in the IEC among Limpopo residents during this eight-year period. The lowest level of confidence was recorded in 2020, when only 46% of the provincial population trusted the Commission. Levels of trust rebounded in 2021, with 65% of the population voicing confidence in the Commission. In many respects, the provincial pattern mirrors the national trend over time. Compared to other provinces, Limpopo ranked second on aggregate in terms of trust in the Commission across the full period. Trust in the Commission is influenced by general views on democracy, but, despite fluctuation, remains one of the most trusted political institutions in the country.

**CONFIDENCE IN THE COMMISSION: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust the Electoral Commission, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	72	88	74	82	75	70	76	65	75	69	67	62	58	65	57	53	...	46	65	68
National Avg.	56	69	64	68	65	64	71	71	61	60	58	55	66	60	55	50	...	47	43	60
Upper Bound	72	88	77	82	75	73	84	85	75	71	77	83	78	78	71	67	...	67	65	72
Lower Bound	44	58	41	55	55	51	46	56	45	51	51	44	57	43	42	36	...	38	27	54
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	5	1	2	2	2	8	3	4	3	...	5	1	2

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.2.2 Trust in National Government

### GOAL

Public confidence in National Government

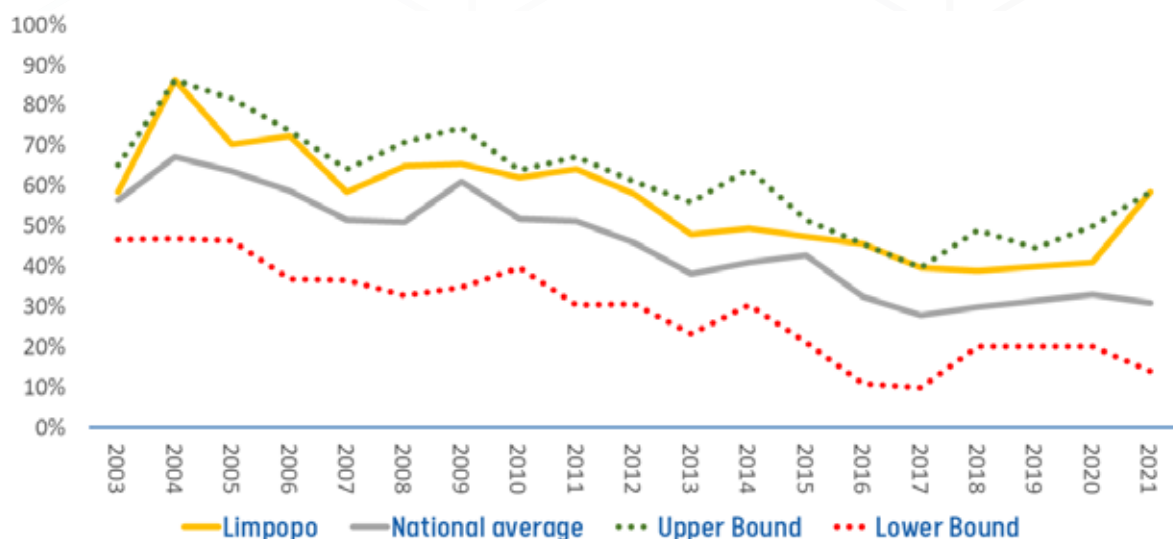
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust National Government? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

The province showed a more positive period between 2003 and 2012, with a peak of 86% in 2004. There has been a weakening of trust in national government since 2012 to 2020. The province recorded figures below 50% from 2013 to 2020, with the lowest level in 2018 (39%). Confidence levels declined by 47 percentage points between 2004 and 2018. There has been a recovery of trust in recent survey rounds, and confidence reached 58% in 2021. Between the whole period (2003 and 2021), Limpopo residents were more trusting of national government than the national average. The province ranked in the top for most of the 2003 to 2021 period, with the only exceptions being 2005 and 2015.

**CONFIDENCE IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust National Government, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	58	86	70	72	58	65	65	62	64	58	48	49	47	45	40	39	...	41	58	56
National Avg.	56	67	64	59	52	51	61	52	51	46	38	41	43	32	28	30	...	33	31	46
Upper Bound	65	86	82	74	64	71	73	64	67	61	56	64	51	45	40	49	...	50	58	56
Lower Bound	46	47	46	37	37	33	35	40	30	31	23	30	21	11	10	20	...	20	14	32
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	1	4	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	1	1	2	...	2	1	2

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021



## 2.2.3 Trust in Provincial Government

### GOAL

Public confidence in provincial government

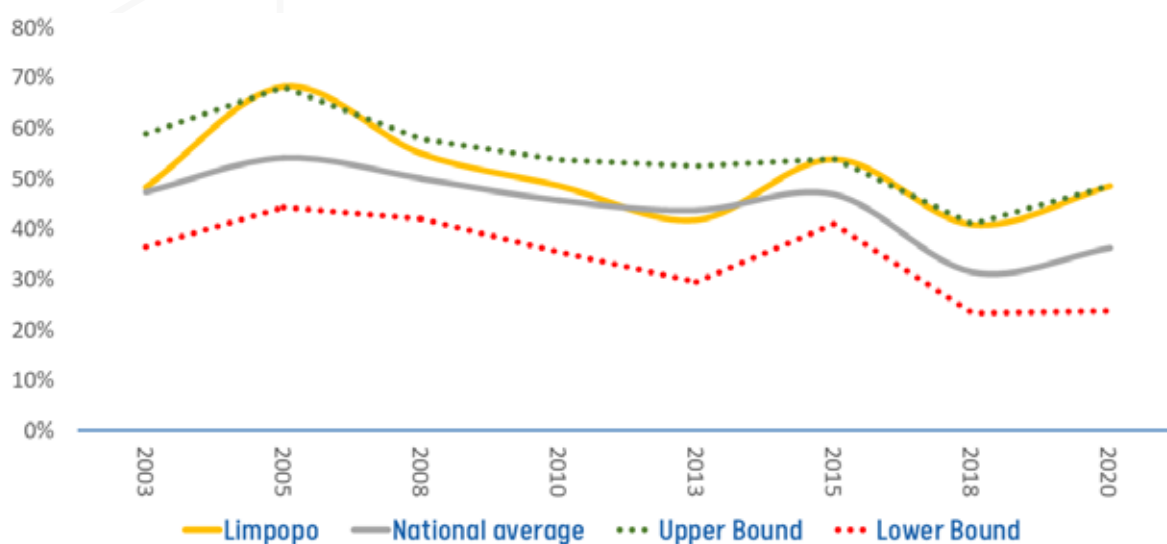
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust provincial government? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

In most SASAS rounds, Limpopo residents were on the border line with the performance of their provincial government, averaging 51% across the 2003 to 2020 period. Confidence in this sphere of government was relatively high in 2005, but afterwards displayed a modest downward tendency. The province recorded a low point in 2013 when only 42% of the population said that they had confidence in the provincial government. There was a distinct upswing in 2015 which was followed by a decline to the lowest point in 2018. This decline was short-lived and evaluations improved in 2020. For most of the period under assessment, Limpopo residents were more trusting than the national average, and in 2020 was 13 percentage points above the national average. Confidence levels were in the top three for most survey rounds, with the exception of 2003 and 2013. Trust in provincial government in Limpopo ranked first for the last survey round, as well as first for the full period under review.

**CONFIDENCE IN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust provincial government, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2020	Average
Limpopo	48	68	55	49	42	54	41	49	51
National Avg.	47	54	50	46	44	47	31	36	44
Upper Bound	59	68	58	54	53	54	41	49	51
Lower Bound	37	44	42	36	29	41	23	24	37
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	1	2	3	6	1	2	1	1

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.2.4 Trust in Local Government

### GOAL

Public confidence in local government

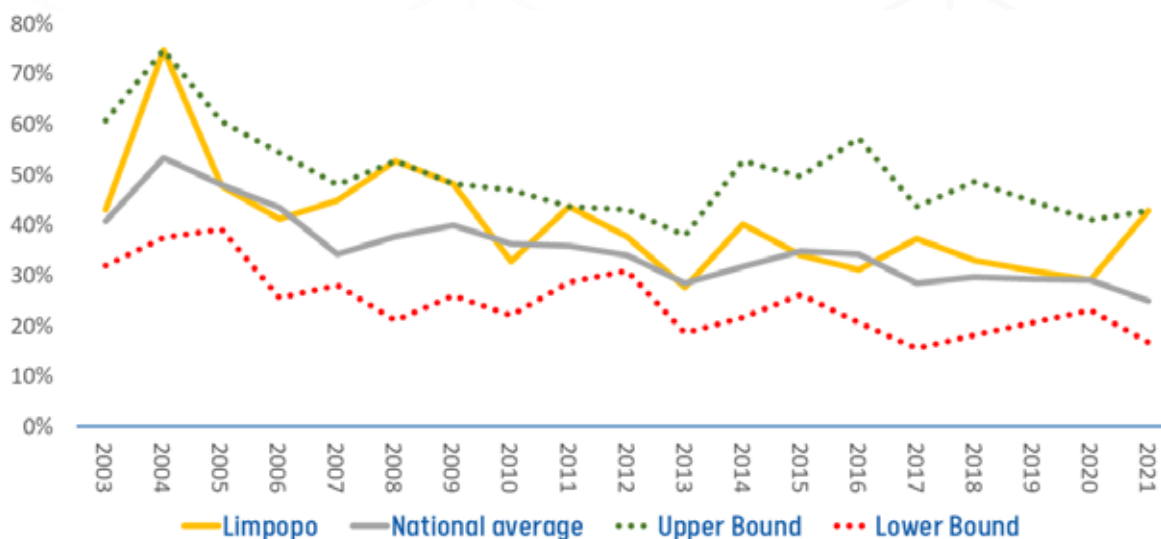
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust Local Government? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

For the bulk of the period under consideration, national attitudes became more negative towards local government over time. For most of the recent survey rounds, there was a rather large level of interprovincial variation. Although there was a significant degree of variation, the Limpopo province tended to score above the national average in most survey rounds. In 2021 the provincial ranking of Limpopo was first with second place on average over the full period. Provincial trust in local government was above the national average in 2021, averaging 43% which was 18 percentage points above the national score. This represents an increase from what was observed in 2020, when 29% of the population trusted their local government. Trust in local government is below that of other spheres of government, averaging 41% across the 2003 to 2021 period.

**CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust local government, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	43	75	48	41	45	53	48	33	44	38	28	40	34	31	37	33	...	29	43	41
National Avg.	41	53	48	43	34	38	40	36	36	34	29	32	35	34	28	30	...	29	25	36
Upper Bound	61	75	61	55	48	53	48	47	44	43	38	53	50	57	44	49	...	41	43	44
Lower Bound	32	37	39	26	28	21	26	22	29	31	19	22	26	21	18	18	...	23	17	30
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	1	5	8	2	1	1	5	1	3	5	2	4	5	2	2	...	2	1	2

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.2.5 Trust in Parliament

### GOAL

Public confidence in parliament

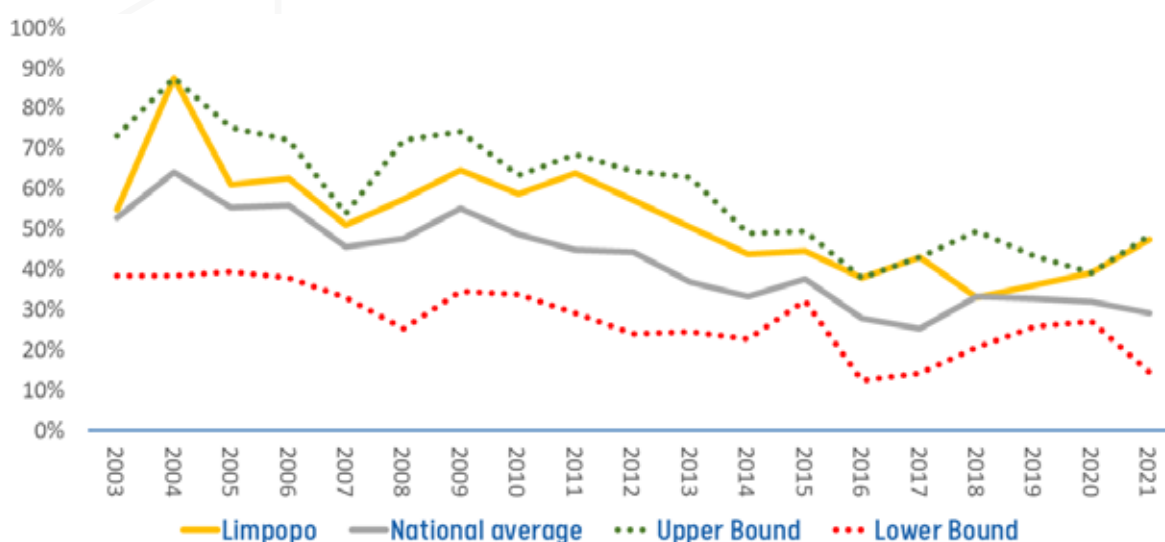
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust parliament? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

The data for Limpopo reveals that trust in Parliament declined between 2004 and 2005, falling 27 percentage points over that period. Between 2006 and 2013, the provincial rating on this issue was relatively stable, ranging from 62% to 51%. In the beginning of 2014, the level of confidence in national parliament began to go into prolonged decline and reached its lowest level in 2018 when it was 33%. For the most part, the pattern in Limpopo mirrors the national decline that has occurred in trust in Parliament during the 2010s. Nevertheless, the province tended to have higher levels of trust than the national average during the 2010s and ranked in the top three provinces for all these rounds, apart from 2014 and 2018. Confidence rebounded in the 2020 to 2021 period and reached 47% during the last survey round, 18 percentage points above the national average. A similar trend was not seen at the national average and Limpopo was ranked as second out of the nine provinces in 2021.

**CONFIDENCE IN PARLIAMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust parliament, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	55	88	61	62	51	57	65	59	64	57	51	44	44	38	43	33	...	39	47	52
National Avg.	53	64	55	56	46	48	55	49	45	44	37	33	38	28	25	33	...	32	29	42
Upper Bound	73	88	75	72	54	72	74	59	68	64	63	49	49	38	43	49	...	39	49	54
Lower Bound	38	38	39	38	33	39	35	34	29	24	24	23	32	12	14	21	...	27	14	30
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	1	5	5	3	3	4	2	2	2	2	4	3	1	1	4	...	1	2	2

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.2.6 Trust in Courts

### GOAL

Public confidence in the courts

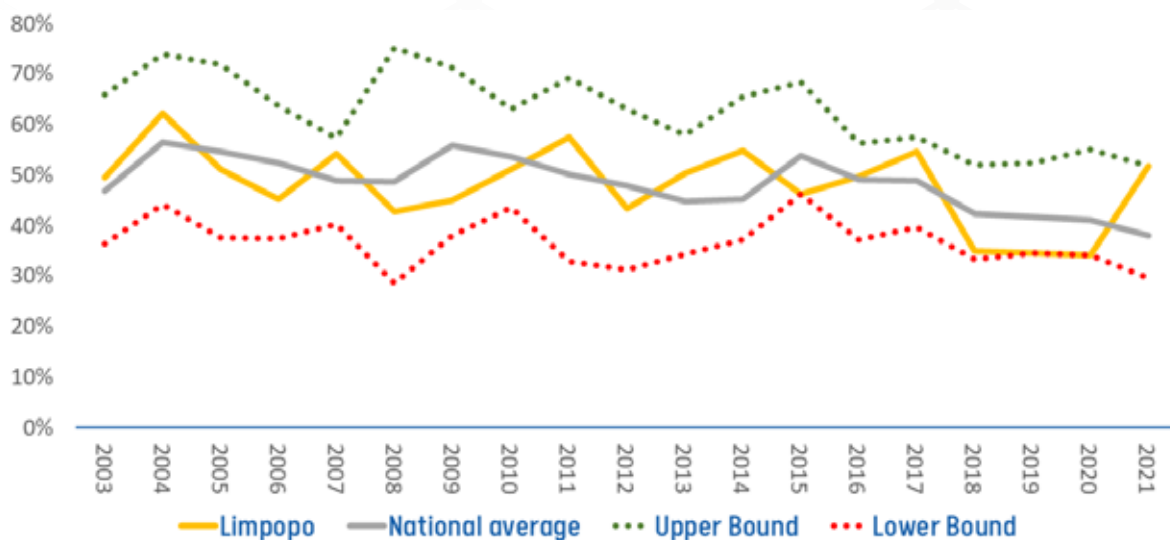
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust the Courts? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

At the beginning of the period under examination, 50% of Limpopo residents trusted the courts and the province was ranked sixth out of nine provinces. Over the 2003 to 2021 period, trust in the courts remained moderately consistent in Limpopo and mostly in line with the national average. Between 2003 to 2010, the province ranked at the bottom half, with the exception of 2007 when it ranked second. The province achieved its worst ranking in 2015 when it was placed ninth. Trust in the court system dropped significantly between 2017 and 2020, dropping from 55% to 34%. Levels of confidence rebounded in 2021 and reached its highest level (52%) since 2017. Overall, the provincial ranking of Limpopo was sixth over the full period and the average score for this period was 48%.

**CONFIDENCE IN COURTS: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust the courts, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	50	62	51	45	54	43	45	51	58	43	50	55	46	50	55	35	...	34	52	48
National Avg.	47	56	55	52	49	49	56	54	50	48	45	45	54	49	49	42	...	41	38	48
Upper Bound	66	74	72	59	57	75	71	63	69	63	58	66	68	56	58	52	...	55	52	57
Lower Bound	36	44	38	37	40	29	38	47	33	31	34	37	46	37	40	33	...	34	30	43
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	5	6	8	2	8	8	6	4	7	3	3	9	4	2	8	...	8	1	6

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.2.7 Trust in Political Parties

### GOAL

Public confidence in Political Parties

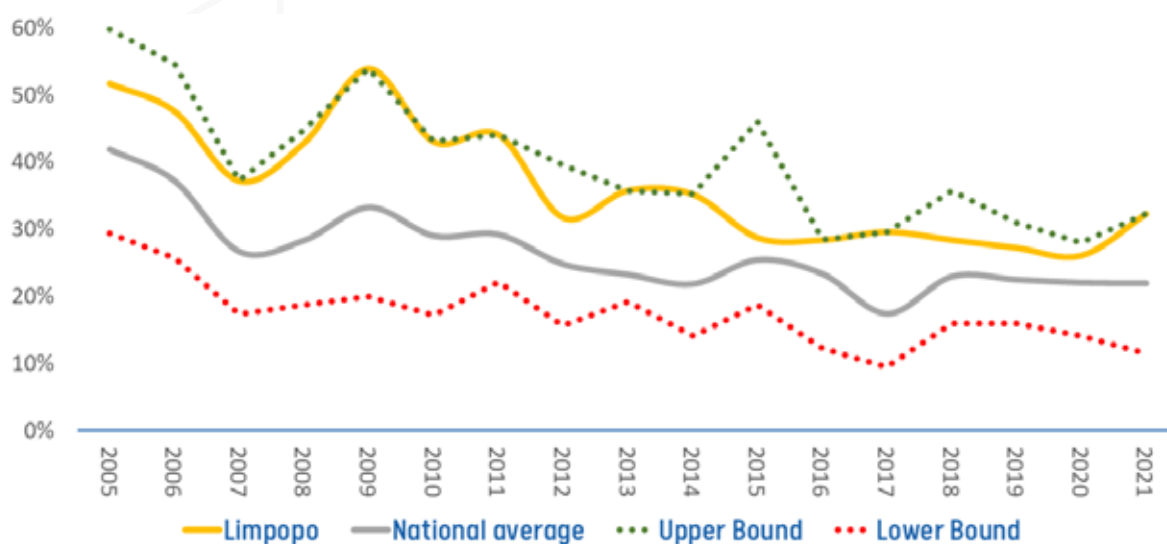
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust Political Parties? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

The data reveals that trust in political parties among Limpopo adults has remained low, averaging 38% across the 2005 to 2021 period. Between 2005 and 2007, a distinct downswing in trust occurred with confidence in these organisations falling by 15 percentage points. Confidence in political parties rallied briefly in 2009, reaching 54% in that survey round, followed by a steady and general decline in trust until 2016. The 2017 to 2020 period was stable, but an upswing in trust occurred in 2021, increasing from 26% to 32%. The data for Limpopo reveals that trust in political parties has remained fairly high when compared to the national average, averaging 38% across the 2003 to 2021 period. The province was ranked first when compared with the nine provinces and Limpopo was in the top three for all survey rounds, with the exception of 2005.

**CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL PARTIES: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust political parties, 2005-2021 (%)**



%	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	52	48	37	43	54	43	44	32	36	35	29	28	30	28	...	26	32	38
National Avg.	42	37	27	28	33	29	29	25	23	22	25	23	17	23	...	22	22	27
Upper Bound	60	52	37	45	54	43	44	39	36	35	46	28	30	36	...	28	32	37
Lower Bound	29	26	17	19	20	17	22	16	19	14	13	15	9	16	...	14	11	21
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	3	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	3	...	3	1	1

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2005-2021

## 2.2.8 Trust in Traditional Authorities/Leaders

### GOAL

Public confidence in traditional authorities/leaders

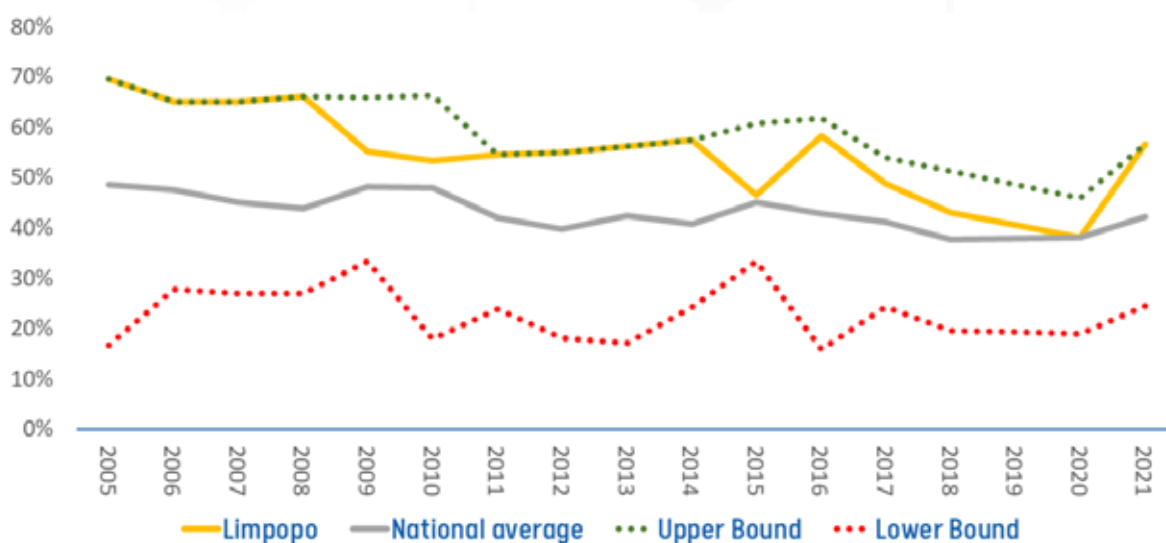
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust traditional authorities/leaders? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

Examining levels of trust in traditional authorities between 2005 and 2021, it is evident that the public remains somewhat divided in evaluation. On average over this 17-year period, 55% expressed confidence in traditional authorities/leaders. From the data for Limpopo, it is evident that faith in traditional authorities was quite high and stable during the 2009 to 2017 period. Relative to trust in other political institutions examined in this report, trust in traditional authorities remained fairly stable during this period (2009 to 2017), fluctuating in a narrow range between 58% and 46%. There was a modest decline in trust between 2017 and 2020, reducing from 58% to 38%, followed by a recovery to 57% in 2021. For most of the period under assessment, Limpopo residents were far more trusting of traditional authorities/leaders than the national average. In terms of provincial ranking, on average, Limpopo ranked first and only 2015 saw its ranking in the bottom half during the entire period.

**CONFIDENCE IN TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES/LEADERS: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust traditional authorities/leaders, 2005-2021 (%)**



%	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	70	65	65	66	55	53	55	55	56	57	46	58	49	43	...	38	57	55
National Avg.	49	48	45	44	48	48	42	40	42	41	45	43	41	38	...	38	42	43
Upper Bound	70	65	65	66	66	66	55	55	56	57	61	62	54	51	...	46	57	55
Lower Bound	17	28	27	27	33	18	24	18	17	24	33	16	24	20	...	19	25	27
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	5	2	3	3	...	3	1	1

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2005-2021

## 2.2.9 Confidence in Political Leaders

### GOAL

Determine support for the country's political leadership

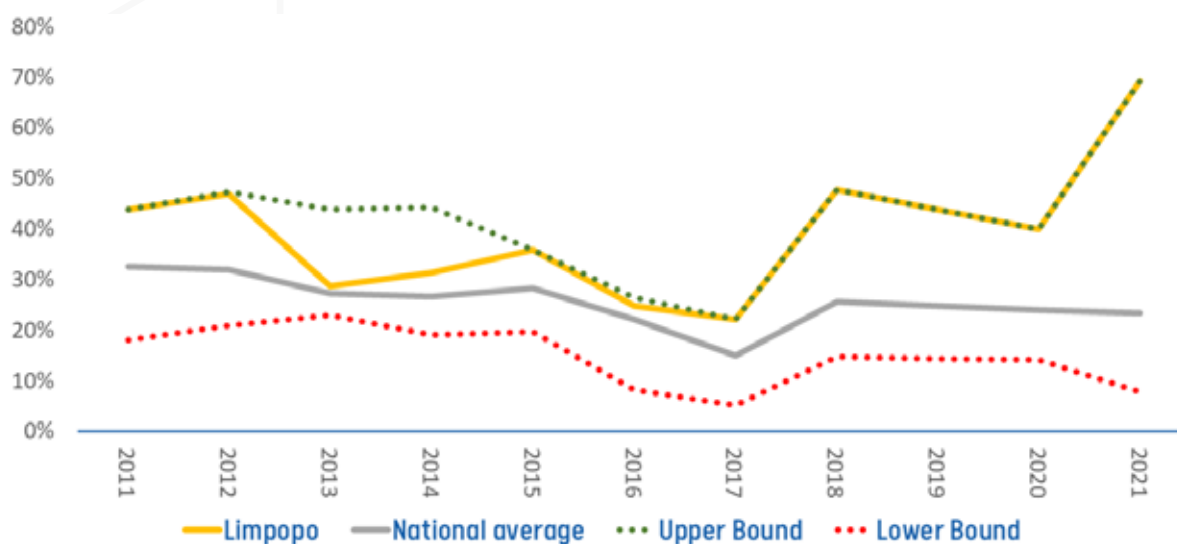
### QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current political leaders in South Africa? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

Limpopo residents were, at the start of the period, dissatisfied with political leaders and only 44% of the population said that they were satisfied with political leaders in 2011. Over the period we observe a further general decline in public confidence in political leadership in Limpopo, which reached its lowest point in 2017 at 22%. This demonstrates the general sense of discontent in the political status quo observed throughout this section. The decline was arrested and reversed in 2018, but we observed another drop in 2020 when 40% expressed satisfaction with political leaders. The proportion of the provincial population satisfied grew in 2021 and reached 69% in that round of SASAS, 46% above the national average. Limpopo was placed, out of the nine provinces, as the most trusting of political leaders over the period under observation.

**CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL LEADERS: Proportion of the public who are satisfied or very satisfied with political leaders, 2011-2021 (%)**



%	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	44	47	29	31	36	25	22	48	...	40	69	39
National Avg.	33	32	27	27	28	22	15	25	...	24	23	26
Upper Bound	44	47	44	44	36	26	22	48	...	40	69	39
Lower Bound	18	21	23	19	20	8	5	15	...	14	8	20
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	2	3	3	1	5	2	1	...	1	1	1

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2011-2021

## 2.2.10 Trust in Religious Institutions

### GOAL

Public confidence in religious institutions

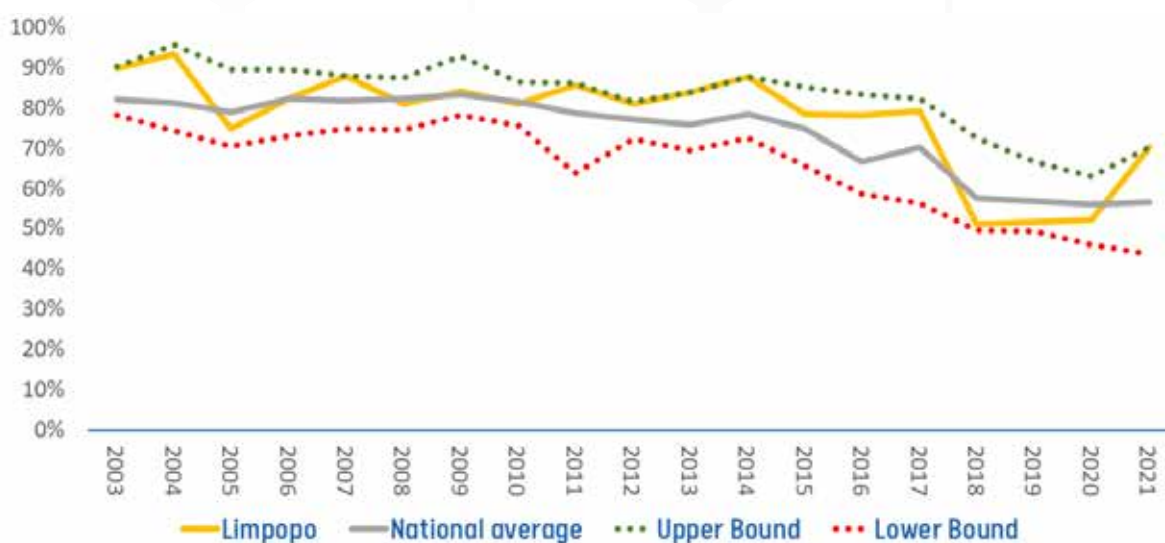
### QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust religious institutions? (% trust / strongly trust)

### ANALYSIS

Limpopo residents were rather trusting of religious institutions for most of the period under deliberation. The province has, however, shown a steady decline in the trust in religious institutions between 2004 and 2020. Over this period, evaluations of religious bodies and establishments declined by 41%, from 93% in 2004 to 52% in 2020. A general observation that is worth mentioning is that disgruntlement with political institutions (especially since 2008) seems to have spilled over to other socio-cultural institutions and has even impacted religious institutions, which have historically been highly trusted institutions. In 2021 confidence in this institution recovered to 70%, 14 percentage points above the national average. For most of this period, Limpopo residents were more trusting than the national average with the exception of 2005, 2008, 2018 and 2020. In terms of provincial ranking, Limpopo on average ranked first in 2021, but was placed second for the full period.

**CONFIDENCE IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust religious organisations, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	90	93	75	82	88	81	84	81	85	81	84	87	78	78	79	51	...	52	70	77
National Avg.	82	81	79	82	82	82	83	81	79	77	76	78	75	66	70	58	...	56	56	74
Upper Bound	90	96	89	89	88	87	93	86	86	81	84	87	85	83	82	72	...	63	70	78
Lower Bound	78	74	70	73	75	74	78	75	64	72	69	72	66	58	56	50	...	46	44	71
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	2	7	6	1	5	6	4	2	2	1	1	3	2	2	8	...	7	1	2

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021



## 2.3 Electoral predispositions: Psychological involvement in electoral politics

### 2.3.1 Political interest

#### GOAL

Determine public interest in South African electoral politics

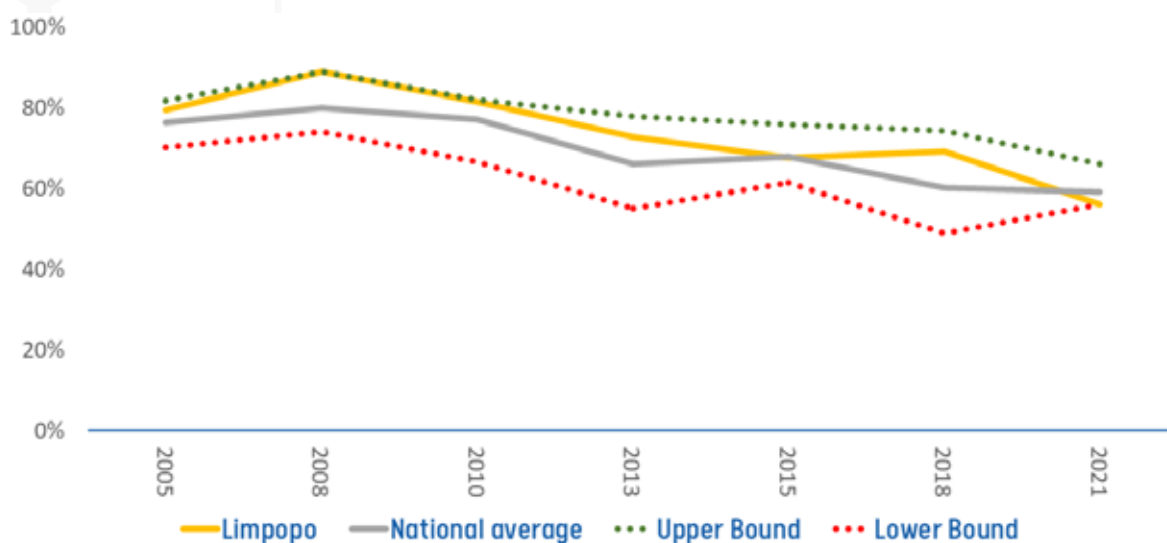
#### QUESTION

In general, how interested are you in government elections? (% very or quite interested)

#### ANALYSIS

It is apparent that a significant majority of Limpopo residents reported an interest in elections. In late 2005, 79% indicated a fair level of interest in government elections. The highest interest levels were recorded in 2008 (89%), but after this peak levels of interest slowly decreased over time to an all-year low of 56% in 2021. In this year, Limpopo also ranked lowest in terms of interest in politics. Despite this decrease and an all-time low in 2021, Limpopo ranks first overall on this indicator for the full period. This illustrates that of all the provinces over this period, Limpopo residents appear to be the most interested in politics. However, it is important to acknowledge that the gap between the provincial upper and lower provincial bounds was generally quite small in most rounds of surveying.

**POLITICAL INTEREST: Proportion of the public who was either very or quite interested in government elections, 2005-2021 (%)**



%	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Limpopo	79	89	81	73	68	69	56	74
National Avg.	76	80	77	66	68	60	59	69
Upper Bound	82	89	82	78	76	74	66	74
Lower Bound	70	74	67	55	61	49	56	67
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	1	3	3	4	4	9	1

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS), 2005-2021

## 2.3.2 Politics easy to understand

### GOAL

Determine how easy the public finds it to understand politics in the country. This relates to the concept of internal political efficacy, which addresses the belief that one can understand politics and therefore participate in politics

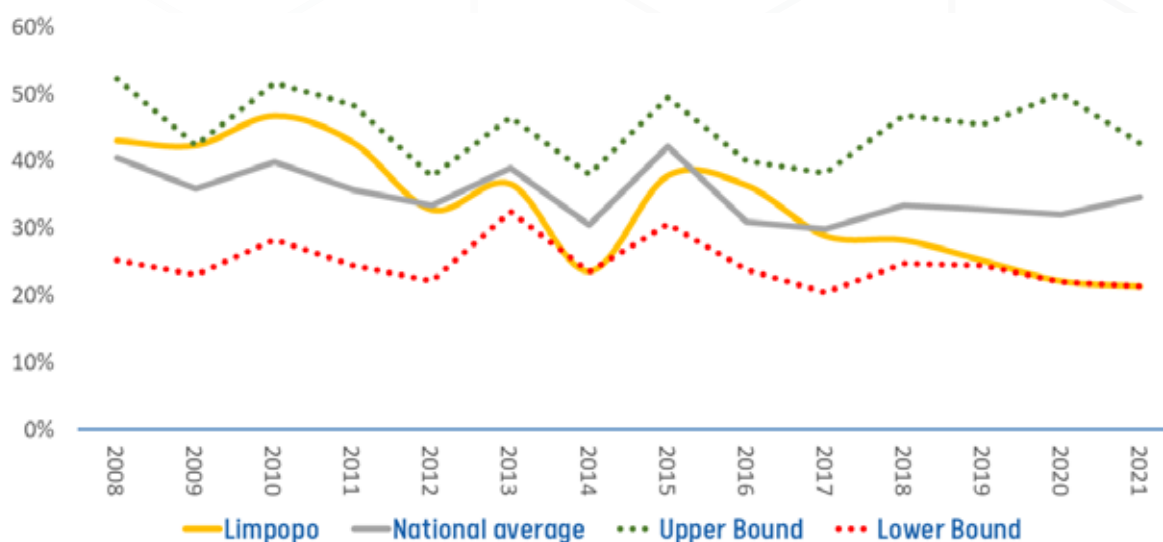
### QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement about voting? 'Politics is too complicated for me to understand'. (% never or seldom find it too complicated)

### ANALYSIS

Limpopo residents generally think that politics is difficult to understand. At best, only 47% indicated that politics is easy to understand (2010). In 2021, less than a quarter (21%) said politics is easy to understand. The provincial average over the period was 33%. Between 2008 and 2015, perceptions on the ease of politics tend to vary significantly and during this period Limpopo scored highest and lowest on this indicator. Since 2015, the trend has declined systematically, implying that fewer people found politics easy to understand. Levels of interprovincial variance observed on this indicator averaged 23 percentage points between 2008 and 2011, narrowing to 16 percentage points between 2012 and 2017. The provincial ranking of Limpopo was fifth on average over the full period. Limpopo therefore generally finds politics difficult to understand, similar to most other provinces.

**INTERNAL POLITICAL EFFICACY: Proportion of the public who think that politics is relatively easy to understand, 2008-2021 (%)**



%	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	43	42	47	43	33	37	23	38	36	29	28	...	22	21	33
National Avg.	41	36	40	36	33	39	30	42	31	30	33	...	32	35	35
Upper Bound	52	42	52	48	38	46	38	49	40	38	47	...	50	43	41
Lower Bound	25	23	28	24	22	32	23	31	24	20	25	...	22	21	29
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	3	1	3	2	6	5	9	6	2	3	7	...	9	9	5

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2008-2021

### 2.3.3 Belief in the power of one's vote

#### GOAL

Determine internal political efficacy

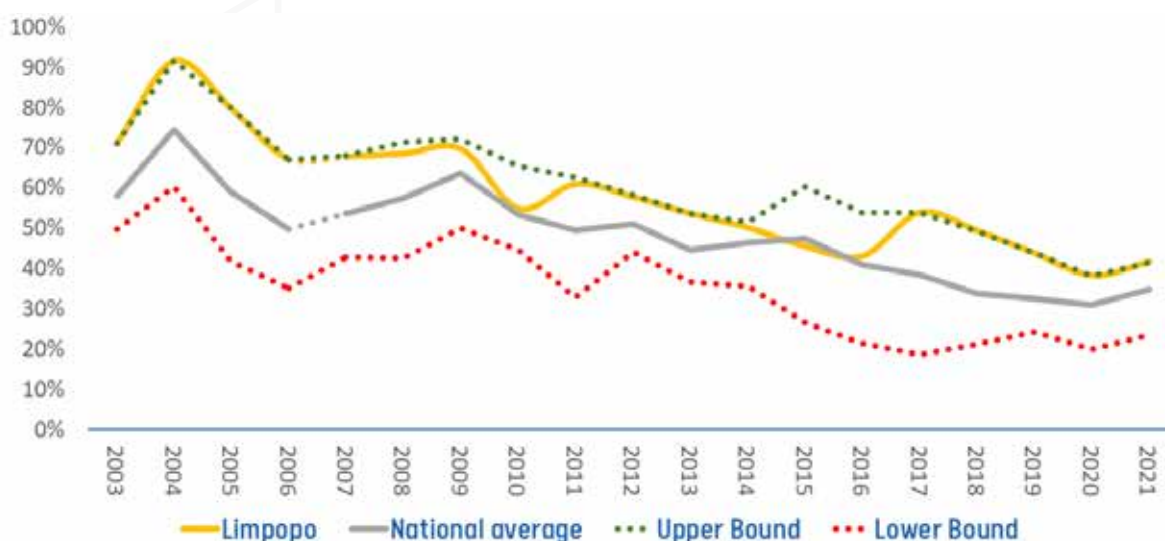
#### QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about voting: I vote because my vote makes a difference? (% agree or strongly agree)

#### ANALYSIS

As was the case nationally, residents of Limpopo have become increasingly sceptical about the power of their vote. In 2004, 92% of Limpopo residents indicated they felt their vote would make a difference and by 2021 this proportion was down to 42%. Despite this general decline in believing that voting would make a difference, Limpopo was ranked as one of the top three provinces on this indicator in all years, except 2015 and 2016 when it was ranked fifth and fourth, respectively. In most of the years, Limpopo actually ranked first on this indicator, implying that Limpopo residents remain less sceptical on this issue than other provinces. Limpopo ranked first overall on this indicator over the full period.

**INTERNAL POLITICAL EFFICACY: Proportion of the public who disagreed with the statement: "whether or not I vote makes no difference", 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	71	92	80	67	68	69	70	55	61	58	54	50	45	43	54	49	...	38	42	58
National Avg.	58	74	59	50	...	57	63	53	49	51	45	46	47	41	38	34	...	31	35	48
Upper Bound	71	92	80	67	...	71	72	65	63	58	54	51	60	54	54	49	...	38	42	58
Lower Bound	50	60	42	35	...	42	50	45	33	44	37	36	26	21	19	21	...	20	23	43
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	3	2	1	3	5	4	1	1	...	1	1	1

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.3.4 Views on the conduct of politicians and its effect on the meaning of voting

### GOAL

Determine external political efficacy

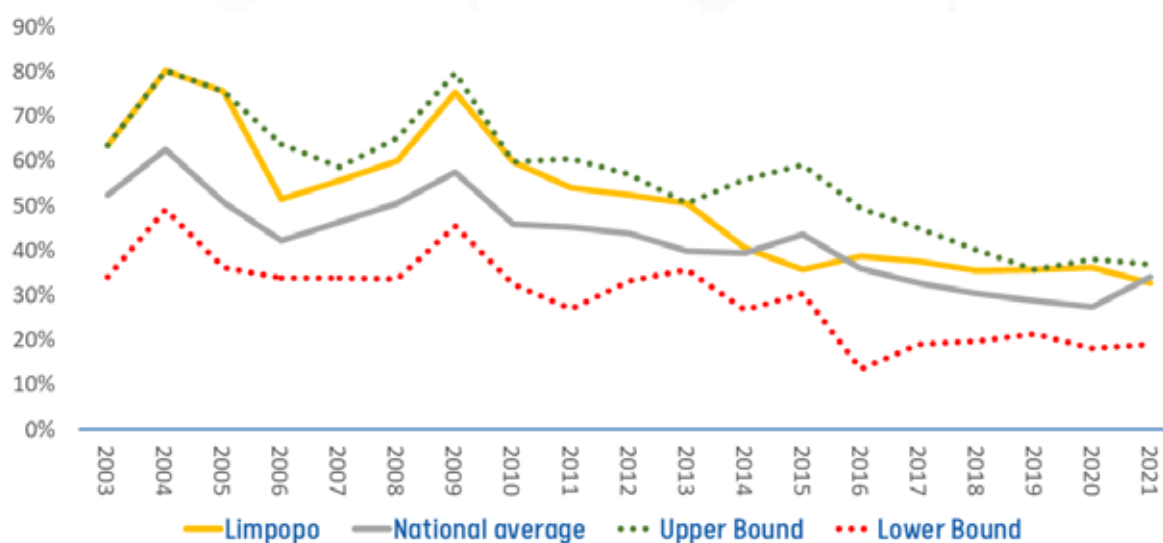
### QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about voting: Voting is meaningless because no politician can be trusted? (% disagree or strongly disagree)

### ANALYSIS

In 2003, approximately two-thirds (64%) of the adult population in Limpopo disagreed that voting lacked meaning, because they were confident in the performance of politicians. Disagreement levels increased in 2004 and reached its highest level (80%) during this survey round, whereafter disagreement levels fell in 2005 and 2006. Between 2007 and 2009, levels of disagreement increased and 75% of the population disagreed with the statement at the end of the survey round. From 2010 there was a significant decline in disagreement, falling by 27 percentage points to 2021. For most of the 2003 to 2013 period, provincial residents were generally more likely to disagree with the statement than the average South African citizen. Disagreement levels fell to its lowest in 2021 and in that survey round only 33% of the populace disagreed with the statement. Between 2014 and 2021 observed levels of disagreement were mostly in line with the national average. Limpopo was ranked sixth in 2021 but, on aggregate, was placed first out of the nine provinces.

**EXTERNAL POLITICAL EFFICACY: Proportion of the public who disagreed with the statement: "Voting is meaningless because no politician can be trusted", 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	64	80	75	51	60	75	60	54	52	51	40	36	39	38	35	...	36	33	51
National Avg.	52	63	51	42	51	57	46	45	44	40	39	44	36	33	30	...	27	34	43
Upper Bound	64	80	75	64	65	80	60	60	57	51	56	59	49	45	40	...	38	37	51
Lower Bound	34	49	36	34	34	45	32	27	33	36	27	30	13	19	20	...	18	19	39
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	1	1	2	3	2	1	3	2	1	6	6	5	4	2	...	2	6	1

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.3.5 Duty to vote

### GOAL

Determine public allegiance in participation in elections

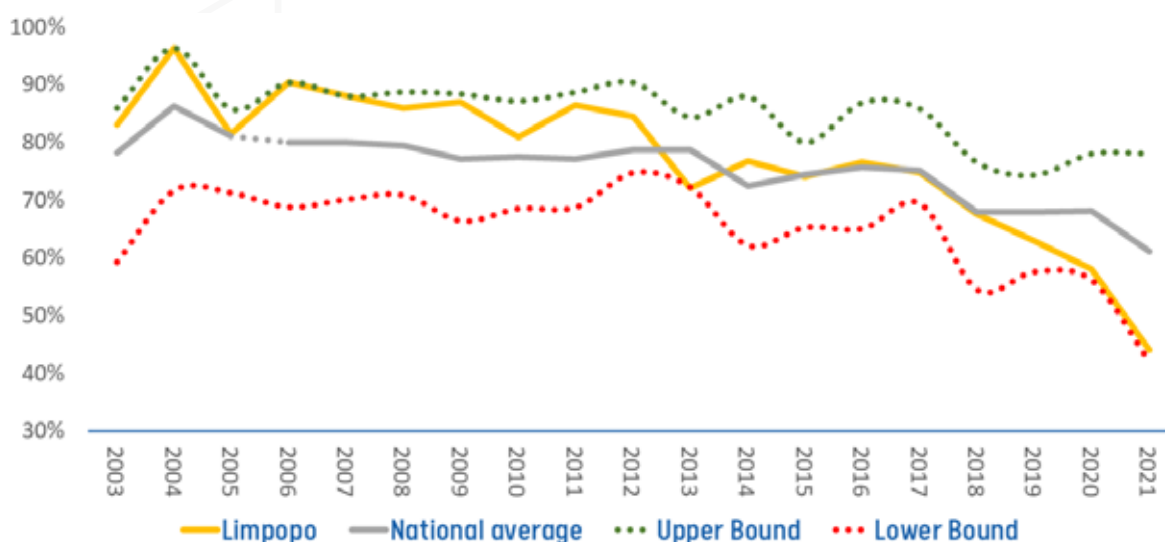
### QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about voting?: 'It is the duty of all citizens to vote.' (% agree or strongly agree)

### ANALYSIS

The belief in the duty to vote among the Limpopo public remained robust up to 2017, with more than 70% of residents feeling it is their duty to vote. At the national level there were only mild fluctuations on this measure during this period. Between 2003 and 2018, the provincial population was more positive or similar on this metric than the national average (the only exception being 2013). However, since 2020, the duty to vote has declined significantly and has remained below the national average. In 2020 and 2021 Limpopo rated second lowest among all provinces on this indicator. This downward trend is concerning and needs to be monitored. Despite the downward trend, on average, Limpopo was ranked fourth. The data is concerning, signalling perhaps the beginning of a longer-term, downward tendency.

**DUTY TO VOTE: Proportion of the public who agreed with the statement: "It is the duty of all citizens to vote", 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	83	96	81	90	88	86	87	81	86	84	72	77	74	77	75	68	...	58	44	77
National Avg.	78	86	81	80	80	80	77	77	77	79	79	72	74	76	75	68	...	68	61	76
Upper Bound	86	96	86	90	90	86	88	87	89	90	84	84	80	87	86	76	...	78	78	81
Lower Bound	62	76	71	69	70	71	66	68	76	75	72	62	65	65	69	54	...	56	42	70
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	1	5	1	1	3	2	4	3	2	9	4	5	6	6	5	...	8	8	4

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.3.6 Voting intention

### GOAL

Evaluate the voting intention of the general population

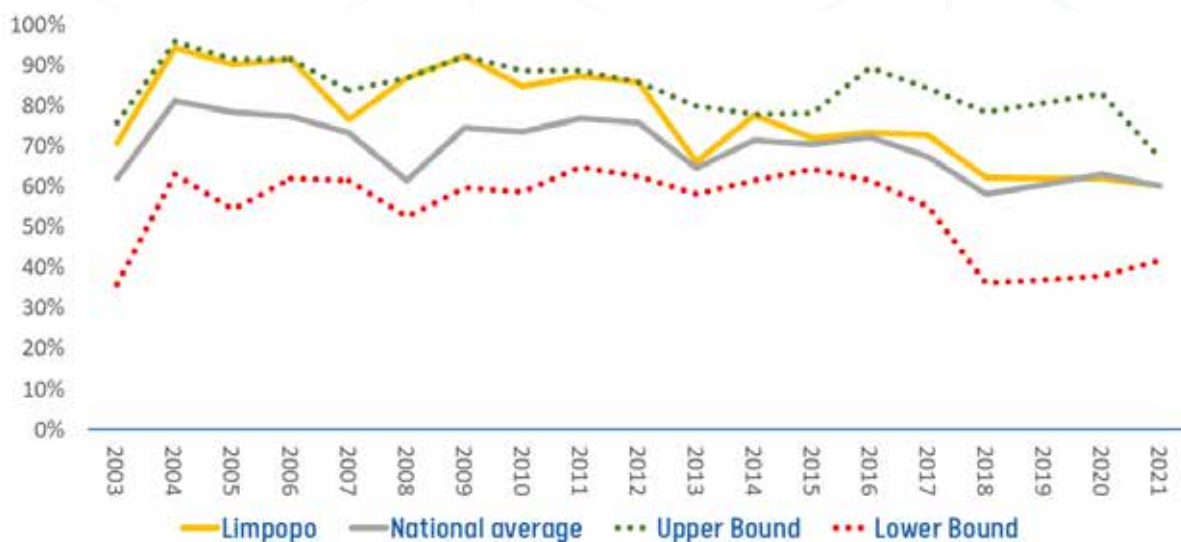
### QUESTION

If a government election was held tomorrow, would you vote? (% who would vote)

### ANALYSIS

In each round of the SASAS survey between 2003 and 2021, respondents were asked whether or not they would vote if a government election was held tomorrow. In 2021, 60% of the Limpopo public stated that they would turn out to vote if such elections were held tomorrow. This is the lowest expressed intention to vote recorded in the province between 2003 and 2021. Intention to vote has therefore generally decreased over this period, but especially since 2004 when intention to vote was at its highest (94%). During the full period, the disparity between the upper and lower provincial bounds fluctuated significantly, with larger than average provincial variation in 2003 to 2006, 2008 to 2010 and 2018 to 2020. Limpopo's figures have generally remained higher than the national average and on average Limpopo was ranked second on this indicator over the full 2003 to 2021 period.

**VOTING INTENTION: Proportion of the public who would vote if a government election was held tomorrow, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	71	94	90	91	77	87	92	85	87	86	66	78	72	73	73	62	...	62	60	77
National Avg.	62	81	78	77	73	62	74	74	77	76	64	71	71	72	67	58	...	63	60	70
Upper Bound	76	96	92	91	84	87	92	89	87	86	80	78	78	89	84	68	...	83	67	79
Lower Bound	36	63	54	62	61	53	60	59	65	62	58	61	64	61	55	36	...	38	42	61
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	2	2	1	4	1	1	2	2	1	4	2	5	4	3	4	...	4	5	2

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.3.7 Administrative barriers leading to non-voting behaviour

### GOAL

Examining the share planning to abstain in elections due to administrative barriers

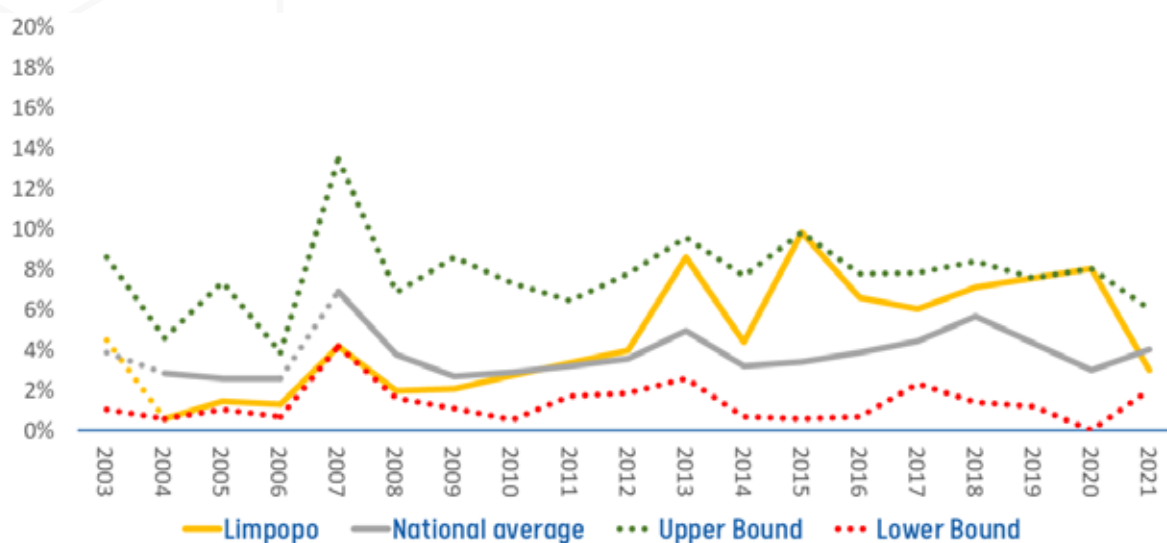
### QUESTION

What is your main reason for thinking that you would not vote if an election was held tomorrow? (% mentioning administrative barriers, averaged across voting age population)

### ANALYSIS

Planned abstention due to administrative barriers accounts for a small share of voting intentions in Limpopo. Administrative barriers include not being registered to vote, not being in possession of necessary documents, and the voting station being too far away from one's place of residence. Reviewing how these results changed in the province over the 2003 to 2021 period, it was apparent that they did not have a sizable influence on voting decisions. Although the share that claimed administrative barriers prevented them from voting was relatively high in the 013 to 2020 period, the proportion who reported this issue decreased in 2021. In 2021, only three percent of eligible adults in the province cited administrative factors as the main reason that they would not vote if an election was held tomorrow. The provincial ranking of Limpopo was fifth on average over the full period.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS: Proportion of the public who would not vote due to administrative barriers if government elections were held tomorrow, 2003-2021 (%)**



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Limpopo	4	1	1	1	4	2	2	3	4	9	4	10	7	6	7	...	8	3	3
National Avg.	4	3	3	3	7	4	3	3	4	5	3	3	4	4	6	...	3	4	4
Upper Bound	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	...	8	6	5
Lower Bound	9	5	7	4	13	7	9	7	8	10	8	10	8	8	8	...	0	2	3
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	4	9	7	8	9	8	5	4	4	2	3	1	2	3	2	...	1	7	5

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

## 2.3.8 Voter registration patterns

### GOAL

Ensure that eligible voters are registered

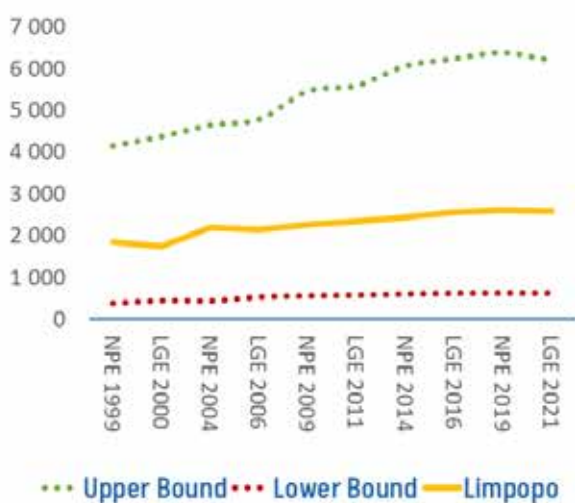
### QUESTION

Number of South Africans that is registered to vote in national and provincial elections; percentage of voting age population that is registered

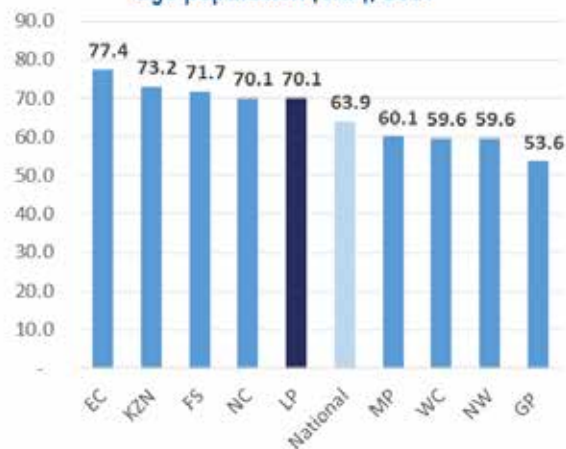
### ANALYSIS

In 1999, 1.84 million eligible voters were registered to vote in the national and provincial elections in Limpopo. Over successive elections, through sustained efforts by the Commission, an additional eight hundred thousand voters were added to the provincial Voter's Roll over the two decades between 1999 and 2021. Given the province's demography, it is not surprising that Limpopo was in line with the national average on this issue. In 2021, the share of the voting age population (VAP) in the province that was registered was 70%, which is six percentage points higher than the national average. The province's figure was also substantially higher than other provinces with large numbers of eligible voters, such as Gauteng, where 54% of the VAP is registered. In coming years, voter registration drives in the province will need to try and reduce the share that remains unregistered, while also ensuring that young, first-time voters are encouraged to register.

**REGISTRATION PATTERNS: Number of registered voters, 1999-2021 (in thousands), and percentage of the voting age population that was registered in 2021**



Registered voters as a % of the voting age population (VAP), 2021



	1999	2000	2004	2006	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	2021 as a % of voting age population
Limpopo	1 848	1 755	2 188	2 146	2 256	2 341	2 440	2 556	2 608	2 585	70,1
National Avg.	18 173	18 478	20 675	21 055	23 182	23 654	25 383	26 333	26 750	26 205	63,9
Upper Bound	4 154	4 373	4 651	4 786	5 462	5 593	6 064	6 235	6 381	6 196	77,4
Lower Bound	377	443	434	529	555	572	601	621	626	623	53,6

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official registration statistics, 1999-2021



## 2.3.9 Ease of registration

### GOAL

Ease of registration

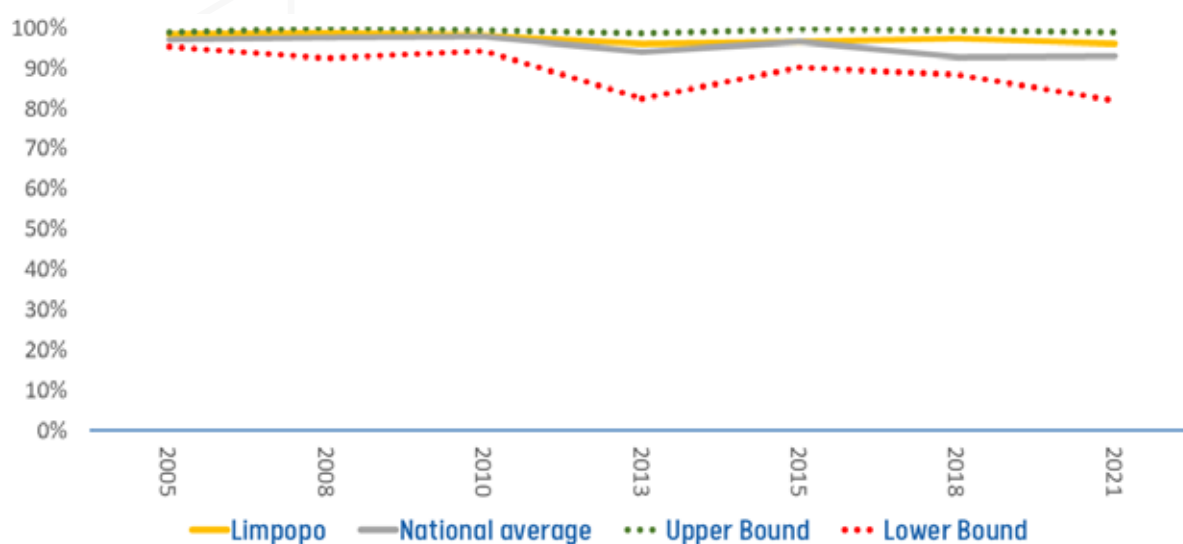
### QUESTION

How easy or difficult did you find it to register as a voter? (% easy or very easy)

### ANALYSIS

For the period under review, there was near universal agreement among registered voters in Limpopo that the voting registration process was easy. The proportion of registered voters finding the process easy increased from 96% to 97% in 2015, stayed on 97% in 2018, whereafter decreasing slightly to 96% in 2021. For most of the period, the province was above the national trend and in 2021 Limpopo was three percentage points above the national average. Limpopo ranked among the top five provinces with regard to the share evaluating the process as easy, with the exception of 2013. The province was ranked fifth in 2021, but was placed first for the full period under review. Despite these fluctuations, the view that the registration process is straightforward is widespread, and commonly observed across all provinces.

**EASE OF REGISTRATION: Perceived ease of the registration process, 2005-2021 (% finding it 'easy' or 'very easy')**



	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Limpopo	98	99	98	96	97	97	96	97
National Avg.	97	97	98	94	97	93	93	96
Upper Bound	99	100	99	99	100	99	99	97
Lower Bound	95	92	94	82	90	88	82	94
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	2	4	7	5	3	5	1

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2005-2021

## 2.3.10 Duration of registration process

### GOAL

Determine the time taken to register as a voter

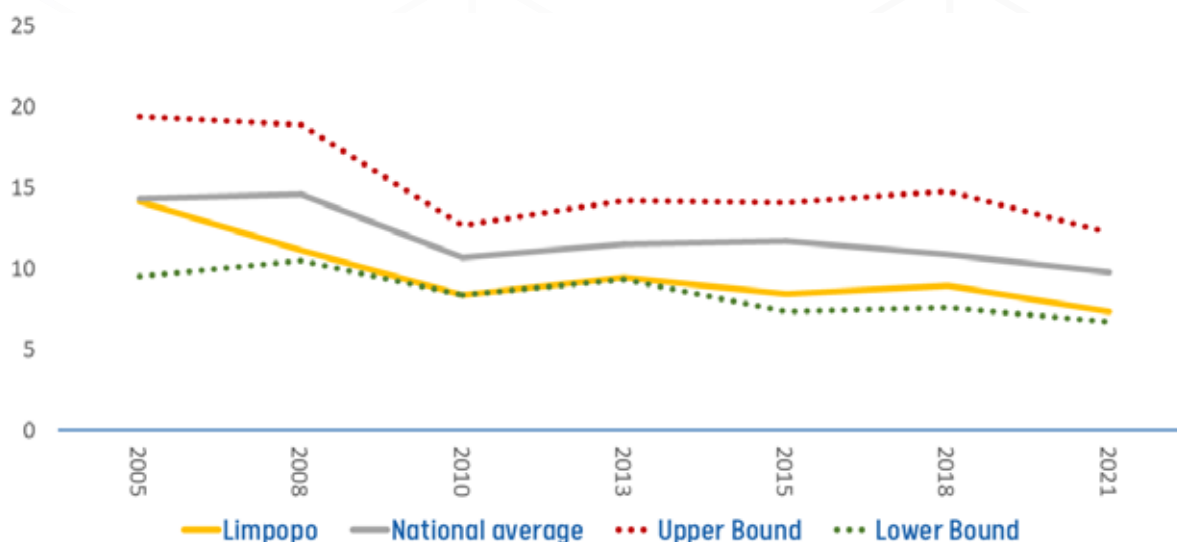
### QUESTION

How many minutes did it take you to register to vote? (average number of minutes)

### ANALYSIS

The average length of time to register in Limpopo is quite short, averaging 14 minutes in 2005. Since then, the mean time has declined, and was only seven minutes in 2021. In most survey rounds, the discrepancy between the provincial and national averages was not large. In 2018 and 2021, the disparity between the two was just three minutes. In 2018, by comparison, the difference between the upper and lower bounds was seven minutes and in 2021 the gap between the upper and lower bounds was five minutes. This result is consistent with the general finding that administrative barriers do not prevent voters from participating in government elections in South Africa. Based on this evaluation of the ease of voting, it would appear that for most the registration process is fast and easy.

**TIME TAKEN TO REGISTER: Average number of minutes that it took citizens to register to vote, 2005-2021**



	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Limpopo	14	11	8	9	8	9	7	10
National Avg.	16	17	11	13	12	12	10	12
Upper Bound	23	22	14	16	15	16	12	14
Lower Bound	10	12	9	10	7	8	7	10
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	2	1	2	3	2	4	1

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2005-2021



**PART**

**C**

**CAMPAIGN  
PERIOD**

# 3. CAMPAIGN PERIOD

## 3.1. Campaign integrity

### GOAL

Determine public views on the integrity of aspects of the election campaign period

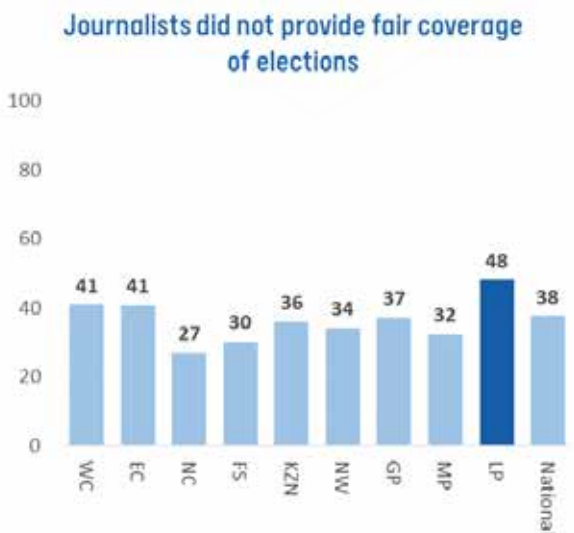
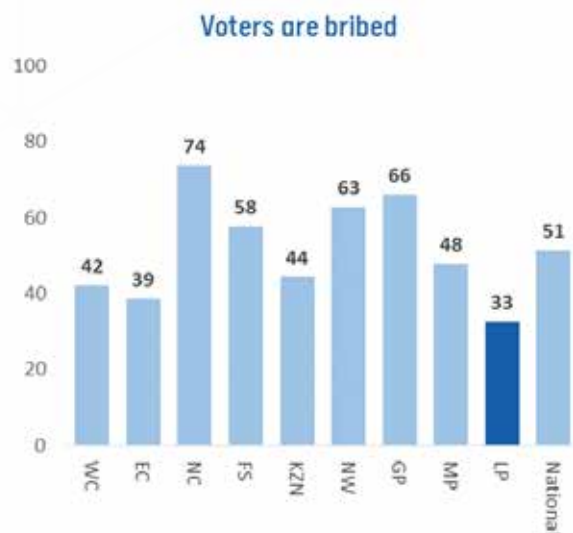
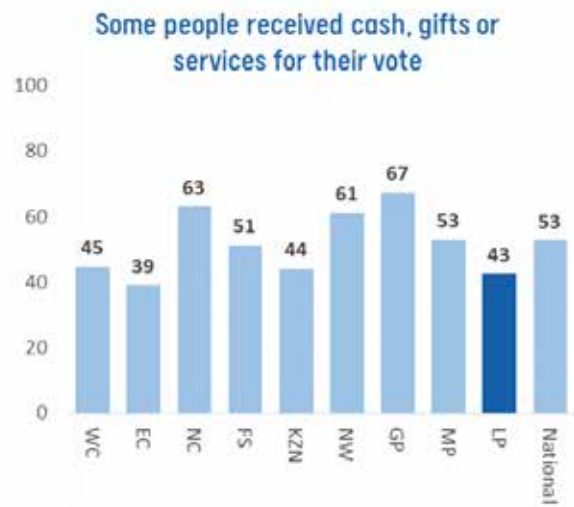
### QUESTION

In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections? (i) TV news favours the ruling party; (ii) some people received cash, gifts or services in exchange for their vote; (iii) voters are bribed; (iv) journalists did not provide fair coverage of elections; (v) rich people buy elections; (vi) voters are not offered a genuine choice at the ballot box. (% very or fairly often)

### ANALYSIS

People in Limpopo displayed high levels of cynicism regarding the integrity of electoral campaigns in 2021. More than half (52%) of the adult population believed that television news favoured the ruling party, while less than half (48%) thought that journalists did not provide fair coverage of elections. Corruption concerns were also evident, with 43% of the provincial public saying that people were receiving cash, gifts or services in exchange for their vote, 33% stated that voters were being bribed, and 31% believed that wealthy elites were influencing elections. Nearly a two-fifths (39%) of citizens in Limpopo felt that voters are not offered a genuine choice at the ballot box.

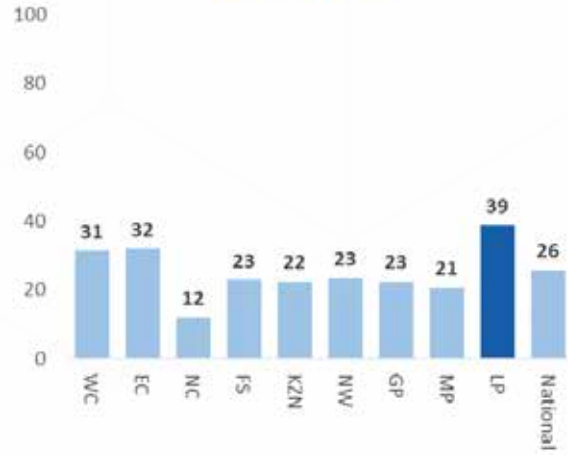
**CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY: Percentage saying different electoral occurrences happen very or fairly often in the country, 2021 (%)**



### Rich people buy elections



### Voters are not offered a genuine choice at the ballot box



	TV news favours the ruling party	Some people received cash, gifts or services for their vote	Voters are bribed	Journalists did <u>not</u> provide fair coverage	Rich people buy elections	Voters are <u>not</u> offered a genuine choice
Limpopo	52	43	43	48	31	39
National Avg.	45	53	51	38	46	26
Upper Bound	56	67	74	48	60	39
Lower Bound	38	39	33	27	31	12
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	1	8	9	9	1

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2021



### 3.1.1 Political party tolerance during campaigning

#### GOAL

Establish whether the voting public felt that political parties and candidates demonstrated tolerance during the campaign period

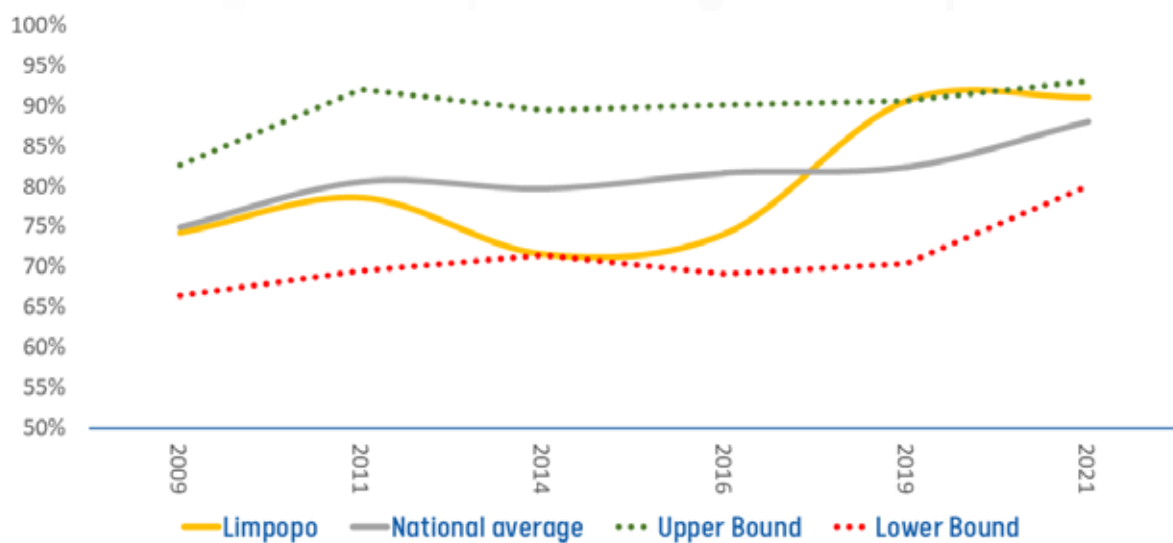
#### QUESTION

Do you think that political parties/independent candidates were tolerant of one another during campaigns for these elections? (% very / somewhat tolerant)

#### ANALYSIS

In 2009, 74% of voters in Limpopo indicated that political parties and independent candidates demonstrated general tolerance during the campaigning period ahead of elections. This positive assessment of party and candidate conduct is reflected in subsequent electoral contexts. Ninety-one percent of voters believed that political parties were very tolerant of one another during the 2021 Local Government Election campaigns. This is an improvement over the 2011-2016 period, but consistent with what was observed in 2019. Across the six elections, the average period score was 80%, which was one percent lower than the national average for the full period. The disparity between the upper and lower provincial bounds varied appreciably during the last ten years. Between the upper and lower bounds in 2021, there was a 13-percentage point disparity. The provincial ranking of Limpopo was sixth on average over the full period and third in 2021.

**POLITICAL PARTY TOLERANCE: Percentage of voters that believed political parties / independent candidates displayed tolerance during the campaigning period, 2009-2021 (% tolerant)**



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	74	79	71	74	91	91	80
National Avg.	75	81	80	82	82	88	81
Upper Bound	83	92	89	90	91	93	86
Lower Bound	66	70	71	69	70	80	77
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	6	9	8	1	3	6

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (VPS) 2009-2021

## 3.2 Voter education

### 3.2.1 Sources of information on voting

#### GOAL

Determine the main voting information sources used by the public

#### QUESTION

Where do you usually get information about voting? (Multiple response - percentage mentioning each information source)

#### ANALYSIS

Broadcast media was the most popular source of information in Limpopo and has only increased in popularity. This can be clearly seen if we look at television, 44% of the provincial public mentioned television in 2021, up from 34% in 2008. In terms of provincial ranking, the Limpopo public is on average less likely to use television as a source than those in other provinces. Radio also became more widely used over time, growing from 14% in 2018 to 33% in 2021. Newspapers became more utilised in the province during the period under review; we observed an increase of nine percent between 2018 and 2021. When compared to other provinces, Limpopo residents were the least prone to mention newspapers when asked about information sources. Posters were mentioned by only a small proportion (11%) of the population in 2021, down from 26% in 2008. Compared to these platforms, social media and informal social networks were much less popular. This was especially true of informal social networks, which dropped eight percent in usage between 2018 and 2021.

**VOTING INFORMATION SOURCES: Percentage of voting age public that used different information sources about voting, 2008-2021 (% mentioning each source)**

	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Total
<b>Television</b>							
Limpopo	36%	43%	38%	43%	34%	44%	40%
National average	47%	50%	43%	48%	57%	59%	51%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	6	6	6	9	8	9
<b>Radio</b>							
Limpopo	44%	37%	24%	24%	14%	33%	30%
National average	39%	36%	30%	30%	39%	33%	35%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	4	7	7	9	6	7
<b>Newspaper</b>							
Limpopo	20%	21%	16%	16%	11%	20%	18%
National average	34%	31%	24%	24%	28%	23%	29%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	8	8	8	9	5	9
<b>Poster</b>							
Limpopo	26%	24%	23%	23%	14%	11%	20%
National average	19%	24%	22%	22%	22%	17%	21%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	4	4	6	7	7	5
<b>Informal social networks</b>							
Limpopo	10%	17%	12%	12%	11%	3%	11%
National average	12%	15%	12%	12%	16%	8%	14%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7		6	6	6	9	5
<b>Social media</b>							
Limpopo	1%	1%	4%	6%	6%	2%	4%
National average	2%	2%	2%	6%	4%	7%	3%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	5	1	4	3	7	3

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2008-2021

## 3.2.2 Preferred source of information on voting

### GOAL

Determine the preferred sources of information on voting

### QUESTION

What would your preferred channel for information on voting be? (Single response)

### ANALYSIS

When asked about a preferred channel of electoral information, 37% of the Limpopo public opted for television in late 2021. This is a deterioration from what was seen in 2018 and 18 percentage points below the national average. Other sources were much less popular, and this is consistent with what was seen at the national level. Of the non-television options, radio was found to be comparatively popular in the province and 24% selected this option. Newspapers were relatively popular and 15% of the provincial public opted for this source. This is a significant change from 2013 when four percent of Limpopo residents selected newspapers. Considering the 2008 to 2021 period as a whole, posters were preferred by six percent, while informal social networks were mentioned as a preferred source of voting information by a mere four percent. Social media remained unpopular over the period, and only three percent of the provincial population selected this option in 2021.

#### PREFERRED INFORMATION SOURCE: Most preferred source of information about voting among the voting age public, 2008-2021 (%)

	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Total
<b>Television</b>							
Limpopo	26%	54%	69%	56%	55%	37%	50%
National average	57%	57%	58%	60%	53%	55%	57%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	7	1	6	4	9	9
<b>Radio</b>							
Limpopo	53%	21%	7%	20%	10%	24%	23%
National average	21%	15%	13%	12%	15%	14%	15%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	3	9	2	7	1	1
<b>Newspaper</b>							
Limpopo	6%	4%	4%	0%	4%	15%	5%
National average	8%	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%	6%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	7	7	9	7	1	6
<b>Poster</b>							
Limpopo	2%	3%	10%	1%	11%	10%	6%
National average	3%	7%	8%	5%	8%	5%	6%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	8	3	8	1	1	3
<b>Informal social networks</b>							
Limpopo	1%	4%	2%	9%	6%	1%	4%
National average	2%	2%	4%	5%	5%	3%	3%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	1	7	3	3	9	5
<b>Social media</b>							
Limpopo	2%	2%	1%	4%	6%	3%	3%
National average	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%	8%	3%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	3	8	6	5	7	7

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2008-2021



### 3.2.3 Demand for information on voting

#### GOAL

Establish demand for more information on voting

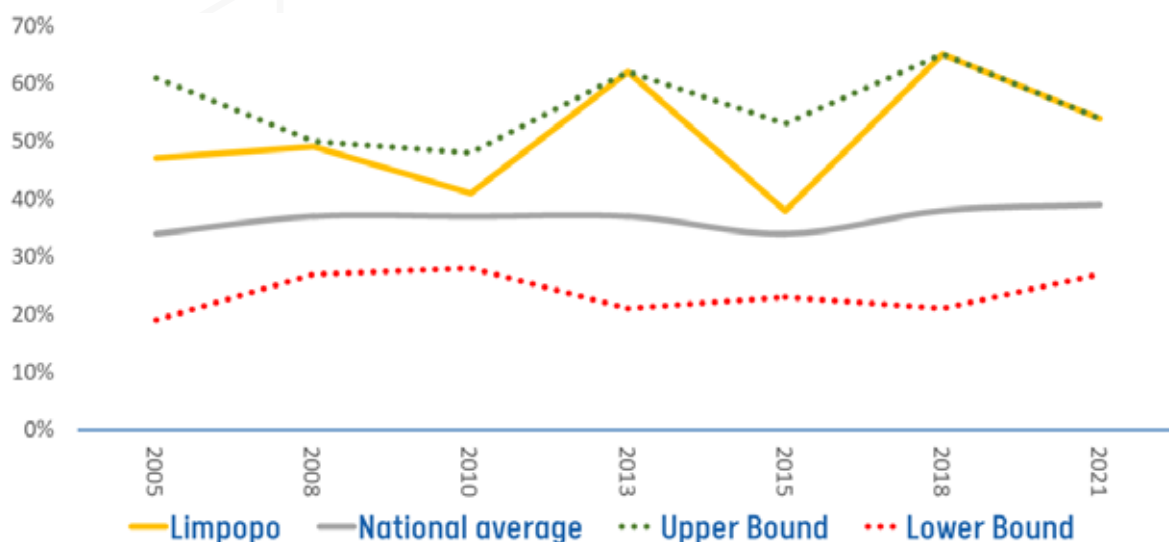
#### QUESTION

Do you think you have too little or too much information on how to vote? (% Too little / far too little information)

#### ANALYSIS

Among the voting age public in Limpopo, 47% expressed a desire for more information on voting in 2005. This constantly increased until it reached 62% in 2013 (with the exception of 2010), after which it dropped again to reach 38% in 2015. After this, the level of demand for information increased and reached 65% in 2018, before dropping to 54% in 2021. Although the trend is unstable over the period, it nonetheless suggests that there is a growing demand for electoral information in the province. Over the 2005 to 2021 period, the demand for information in Limpopo was above the national average and, relative to other provinces, the province was ranked first. The discrepancy in most VPS rounds between the upper and lower provincial bounds was quite sizeable. There was a disparity of 44 percentage points in 2018, before dropping to a disparity of 27 percentage points in 2021.

**DEMAND FOR VOTING INFORMATION: Reported demand for more information on voting, 2005-2021 [% stating that they receive 'too little' or 'far too little' voting information]**



	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Limpopo	47	49	41	62	38	65	54	51
National Avg.	34	37	37	37	34	38	39	37
Upper Bound	61	50	48	62	53	65	54	51
Lower Bound	19	27	28	21	23	21	27	31
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	2	4	1	4	1	1	1

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2005-2021

### 3.2.4 Number of Civic and Democracy Education (CDE) events

#### GOAL

To determine the number of CDE events per 100, 000 of the voting age population

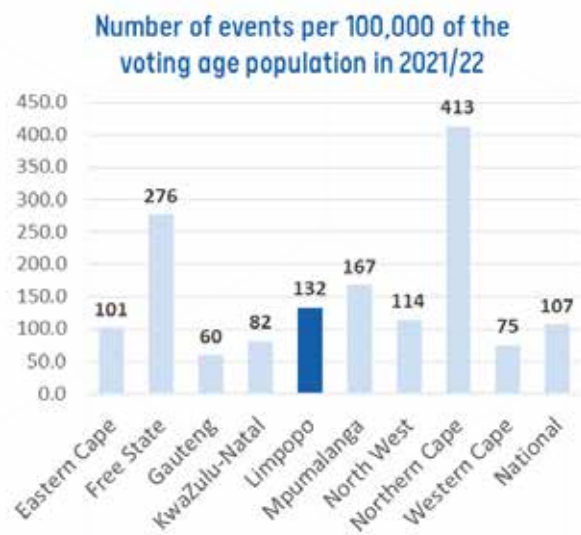
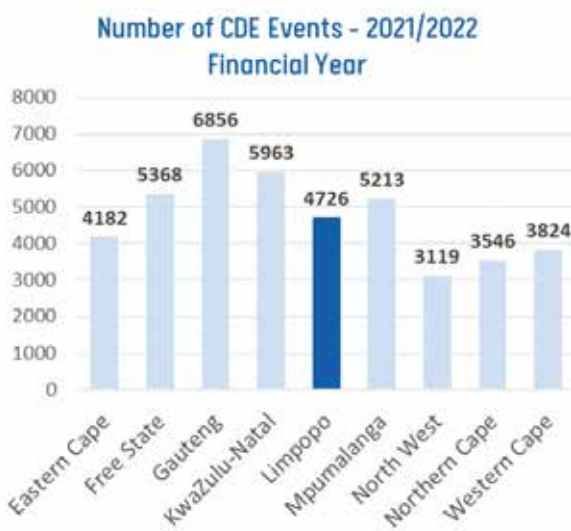
#### QUESTION

How many CDE events were offered in each province in 2021/2022?

#### ANALYSIS

In Limpopo, 4 726 CDE events were held during the 2020/2021 financial, implying that the province had a moderate number of events over this period (in absolute numbers). However, in order to compare the reach of these events across provinces, it is advisable to take into account the size of the voting age population (VAP) per province. Due to economies of scale, the ratio is more likely to be higher in smaller provinces, such as the Northern Cape, but the population size of a province is a variable that needs to be considered when planning CDE events. Viewed in this way, it is evident that the province had a relatively high ratio (132 events per 100,000 of the VAP). The ratio is greater than the national average (107 events per 100,000 of the VAP) and an improvement over what was seen in the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 financial years.

**NUMBER OF CDE EVENTS: Absolute number of CDE events, and number of events per 100,000 of the voting age population for the 2021/2022 year**



	Number of CDE events				Number of events per 100,000 of the voting age population (VAP)			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Eastern Cape	11022	4175	1132	4182	280.5	101.2	27.2	101.5
Free State	5768	2262	1497	5368	297.7	118.7	76.9	276.0
Gauteng	11272	5774	2714	6856	107.4	52.8	24.2	59.9
KwaZulu Natal	15275	4108	2218	5963	212.5	57.6	30.7	81.8
Limpopo	9179	3719	2068	4726	263.2	101.2	58.1	132.3
Mpumalanga	9232	2336	294	5213	323.0	78.4	9.6	167.4
North West	6114	3000	1716	3119	769.3	113.6	63.3	113.8
Northern Cape	6142	2343	1022	3546	240.8	280.5	119.7	413.4
Western Cape	8383	3009	375	3824	182.1	62.0	7.5	75.4
<b>National</b>	<b>82 388</b>	<b>30 726</b>	<b>13 036</b>	<b>42 797</b>	<b>217.7</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>106.6</b>

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official statistics 2019-2022

### 3.2.5 Perceived effectiveness of voter education campaigns

#### GOAL

Appraising the effectiveness of voter education campaigns

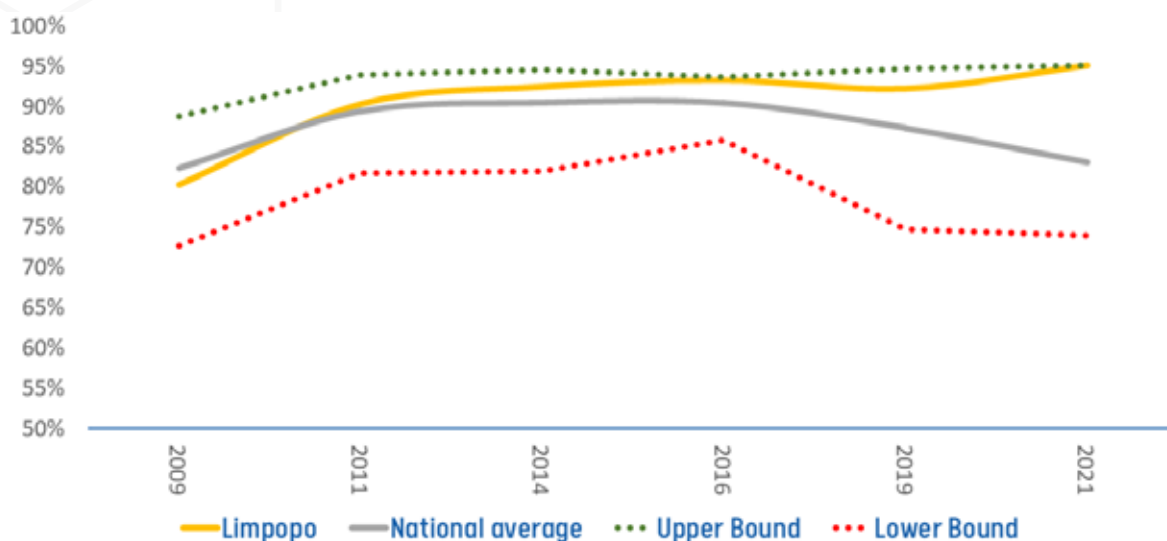
#### QUESTION

How effective was the IEC’s voter education campaign for these elections? (% very effective, somewhat effective).

#### ANALYSIS

Four-fifths of voters in Limpopo believed that the Commission’s voter education campaigns were effective in 2009. Attitudes on this indicator improved by 10 percentage points in 2011, reaching 90% in the province and staying stable at this high level for the 2014 to 2019 period. The share that believed Commission’s voter education campaigns were effective increased by three percentage points in 2021, reaching 95% during that survey round. Although there were minor differences over this period, the rank position of Limpopo relative to other provinces has remained in the top two from 2014 to 2021 and above the national average for the 2011 to 2021 period. However, these rank differences were based on negligible variances between provinces for the period 2009 to 2016. We can detect growing levels of interprovincial variation on this metric over time; a 20% and 21% difference emerged between the lower and upper bounds in 2019- and 2021, respectively. Limpopo ranked first on this indicator in 2021 as well as first on average for the 2009 to 2021 period.

**CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVENESS: Percentage of voters who thought that the IEC’s voter education campaign for elections was effective, 2009-2021 (% effective)**



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	80	90	92	93	92	95	91
National Avg.	82	89	91	90	87	83	88
Upper Bound	89	94	95	94	95	95	90
Lower Bound	73	82	82	86	75	74	87
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	5	2	2	2	1	1

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2009-2021

**PART**

**D**

**ELECTION DAY**

# 4. ELECTION DAY

## 4.1 Voting station evaluations

### 4.1.1 Time to get to voting station

#### GOAL

Determining the average time taken to get to voting stations

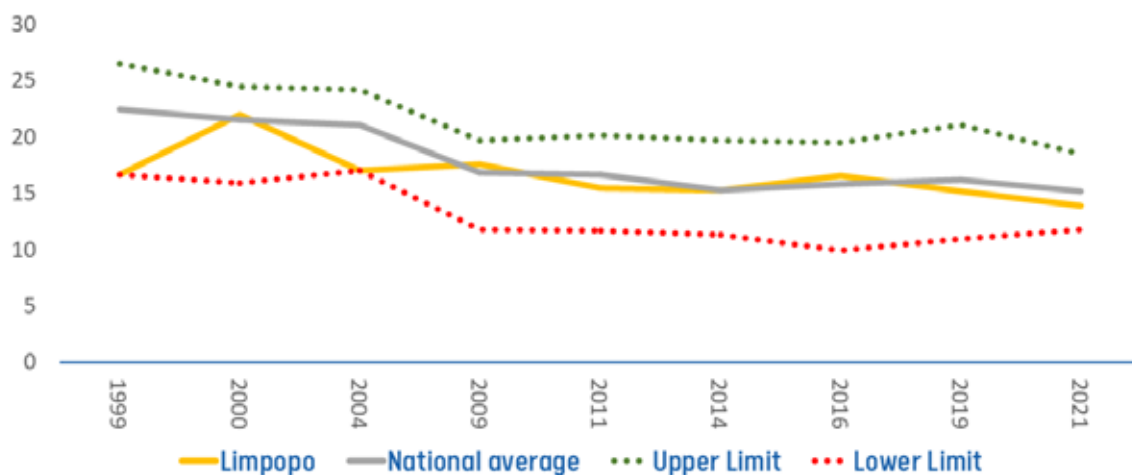
#### QUESTION

How long did it take you to get to the voting station? (average number of minutes)

#### ANALYSIS

The average time it took all voters in all provinces to get to their voting stations in 2021 was 15 minutes, one minute more than it took Limpopo voters. The disparity between the upper and lower provincial bounds across the different survey rounds varied in a narrow range between seven and ten minutes. The average time of 14 minutes that it took voters in Limpopo to get to their voting station was two minutes above the lower bound score. The time taken to reach one's voting station in the province has remained fairly stable over time, as well as consistently in line with the national average, with the exception of 1999 and 2004. The province ranked fourth from 1999 to 2021 and was fifth in the last survey round.

**TIME TO GET TO THE VOTING STATION: Average number of minutes that it took citizens to get to the voting station, 1999-2021**



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	17	22	17	...	18	15	15	17	15	14
National Avg.	22	21	21	...	17	17	15	16	16	15
Upper Bound	27	24	24	...	20	20	20	20	21	18
Lower Bound	17	16	17	...	12	12	11	10	11	12
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	6	1	...	5	4	7	6	5	4

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

## 4.1.2 Queuing time at voting stations

### GOAL

Determining the average queuing time at voting stations

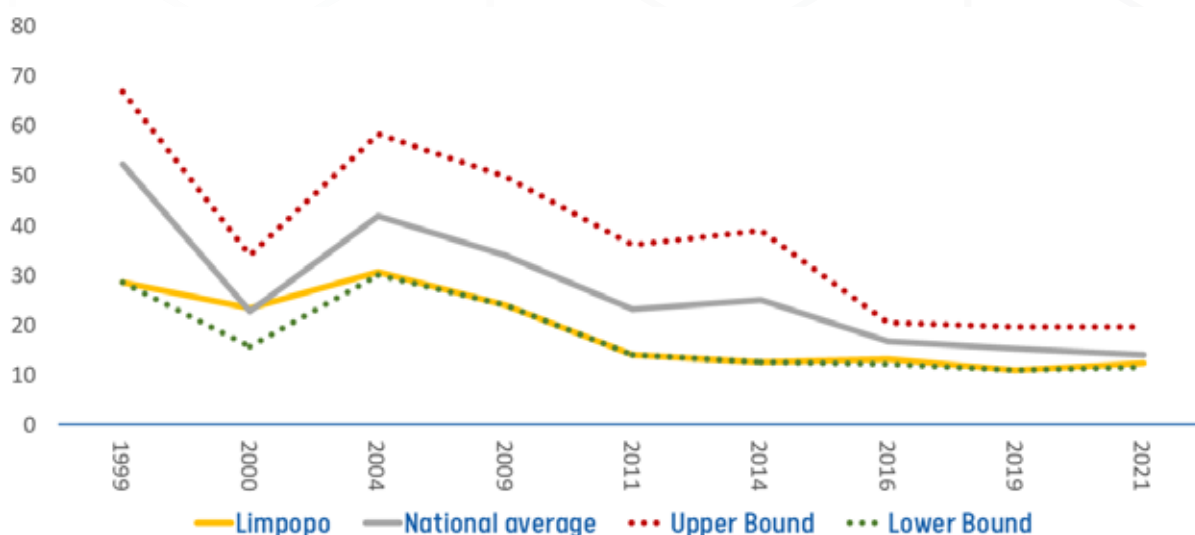
### QUESTION

How long did you queue before voting? (average number of minutes)

### ANALYSIS

Between 1999 and 2021, the average length of time voters spent queuing in the province was 19 minutes. The average queuing time for voters has steadily improved since 1999, when it took 29 minutes. The mean time had declined to only 12 minutes in 2021, a fall of 17 minutes. However, one must also note that in 2021 comparatively fewer voters went to the polls to cast their vote, as had already been discussed in this report. The graph showed considerable interprovincial discrepancy on this measure during much of the 1999 to 2014 period. There was a 26-minute disparity between the upper and lower bounds during the 2014 period. This discrepancy was much smaller in the 2016 to 2021 period, suggesting that interprovincial variations fell in the more recent survey rounds. There was only an eight minute disparity between the upper and lower bounds in 2021. The ranking of Limpopo was first on average over the full period, but reached a third place in 2021, lower than in most survey rounds (with the exception of 2000 and 2016).

**TIME TAKEN TO QUEUE: Average number of minutes that it took citizens to queue, 1999-2021**



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	29	23	31	24	14	13	13	11	12	19
National Avg.	52	23	42	34	23	25	17	15	14	27
Upper Bound	67	34	58	50	36	39	20	19	20	31
Lower Bound	29	16	30	24	14	13	12	11	12	19
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	6	2	1	1	1	3	1	3	1

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

### 4.1.3 Safety and security

#### GOAL

Determine the perceived effectiveness of safety and security measures at voting stations

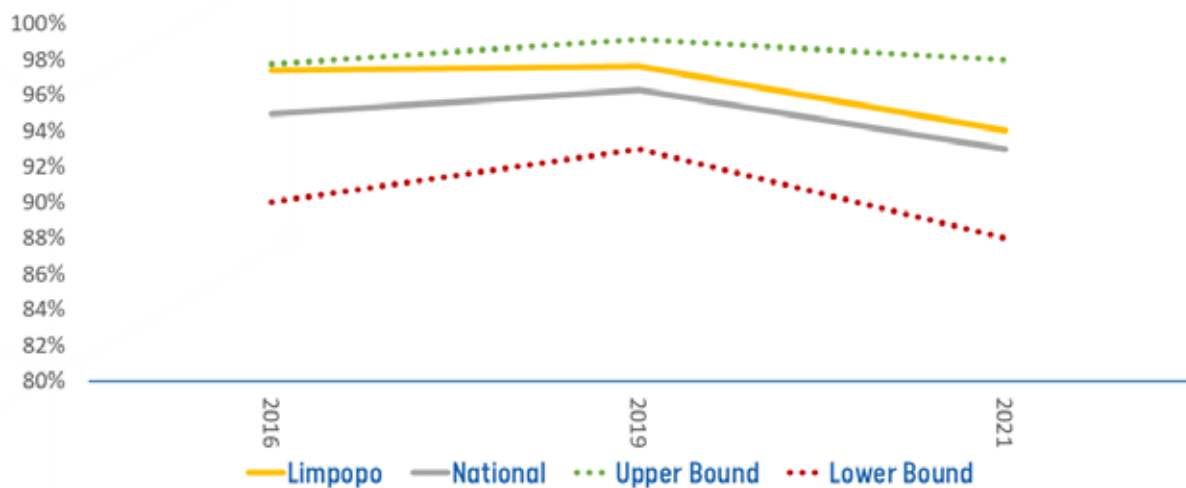
#### QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the safety and security provided at the voting station? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

#### ANALYSIS

On average, voters appear broadly satisfied with the safety and security provided at voting stations. In 2016, 97% of voters in Limpopo expressed satisfaction with the safety and security at their voting stations. Levels of satisfaction decreased to 94% in 2021 and, because of this downswing, Limpopo ranked below three other provinces in 2021. But there was relatively little variation in satisfaction scores between provinces in these three rounds of observation. The difference between the upper and lower provincial bounds in all survey ranged between six to eight percentage points. Given the high level of satisfaction and the increase observed between 2016 and 2019, the comparative findings indicate that Limpopo is one of the provinces where more attention is not needed on the issue of safety and security.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY AT VOTING STATION: Satisfaction with the safety and security at the voting station, 2016-2021 (%)**



	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	97	98	94	96
National Avg.	95	96	96	95
Upper Bound	98	99	99	98
Lower Bound	90	93	93	92
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	5	4	4

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2016-2019

## 4.1.4 Accessibility of voting station to persons with disabilities/the elderly

### GOAL

Determine accessibility of voter stations to persons with disabilities and/or the elderly

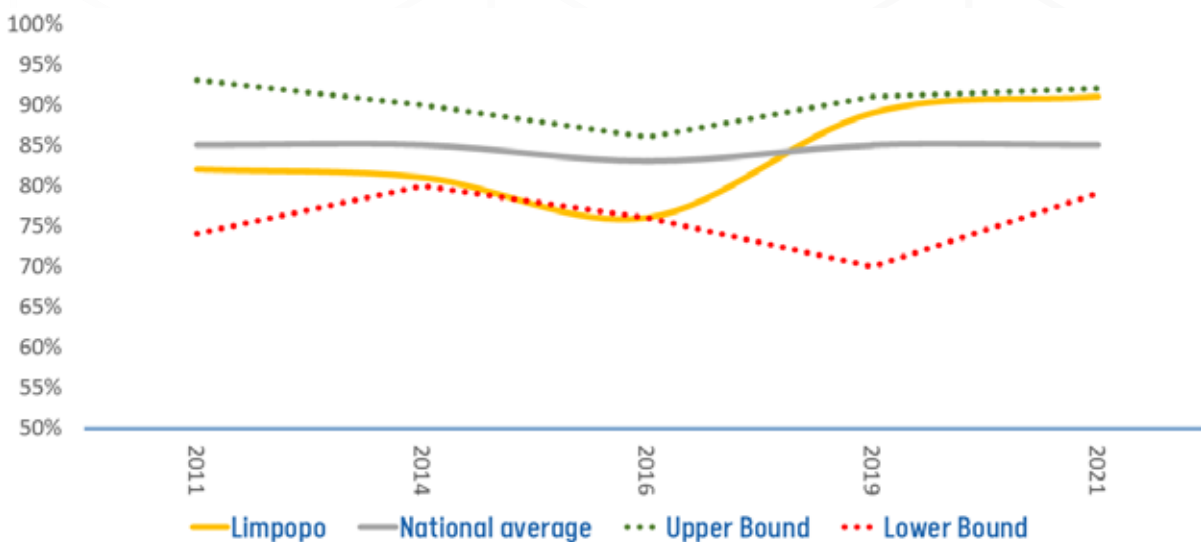
### QUESTION

How easily accessible was the voting station to persons with disabilities or the elderly? (% accessible / very accessible)

### ANALYSIS

The proportion of Limpopo voters who felt that voting stations were accessible to persons with disabilities and or the elderly was high in all survey rounds. We can observe a gradually decrease in satisfaction on this issue between 2014 and 2016, falling from 82% at the beginning of the period to 76% at the end. There was an increase in satisfaction in 2019 and 2021, suggesting that voters have become more satisfied with the accessibility provided to the disabled and elderly. In that survey round, 91% of voters said that they were satisfied in 2021 and the province ranked second in that survey round. Fairly low interprovincial variations were noted on this measure for this period with the exception of 2019. In that survey round there was a 21-percentage point difference between the upper and lower bounds.

ACCESSIBILITY OF VOTING STATIONS FOR THE DISABLED/ELDERLY: Satisfaction with the quality, 2011-2021



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	82	81	76	89	91	84
National Avg.	85	85	83	85	85	85
Upper Bound	93	90	86	91	92	89
Lower Bound	74	80	76	70	79	77
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	8	9	3	2	6

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2011-2021



## 4.1.5 Quality of service rendered by IEC officials

### GOAL

Determine the perceived quality of service rendered by IEC officials at voting stations

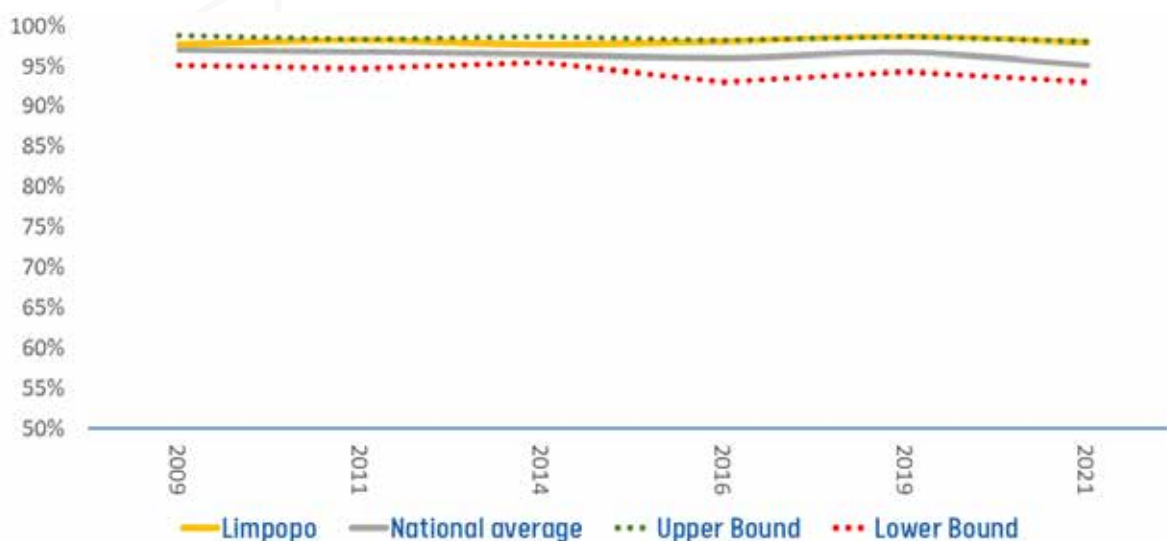
### QUESTION

Are you satisfied with the quality of service that the IEC officials provided to voters? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

Among voters, almost universal satisfaction was recorded regarding the quality of services provided by the Commission to voters on Election Day in six successive elections held between 2009 and 2021. In Limpopo, satisfaction levels fluctuated in a very narrow band between 98% and 99%, mirroring the national average. Given this positive assessment, it is not surprising to observe that Limpopo ranked high relative to other provinces, with the exception of 2009. The province ranked first on this indicator in 2021, while it also ranked first on average over the full 2009 to 2021 period. However, there has only been nominal variation in evaluation between provinces in terms of the share satisfied with the service rendered by electoral officials at voting stations. On aggregate, only a four to five percentage point deviation was detected between the upper and lower bounds in any given year during the 2009 to 2021 period.

**QUALITY OF IEC SERVICE: Satisfaction with quality of service rendered by IEC officials, 2009-2021 (%)**



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	98	98	98	98	99	98	98
National Avg.	97	97	96	96	97	95	96
Upper Bound	99	98	99	98	99	98	98
Lower Bound	95	95	95	93	94	93	95
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	1	4	1	1	1	1

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2009-2021

## 4.2 Voting procedure

### 4.2.1 Assessment of electoral procedures

#### GOAL

Assessing how the voting procedure was perceived

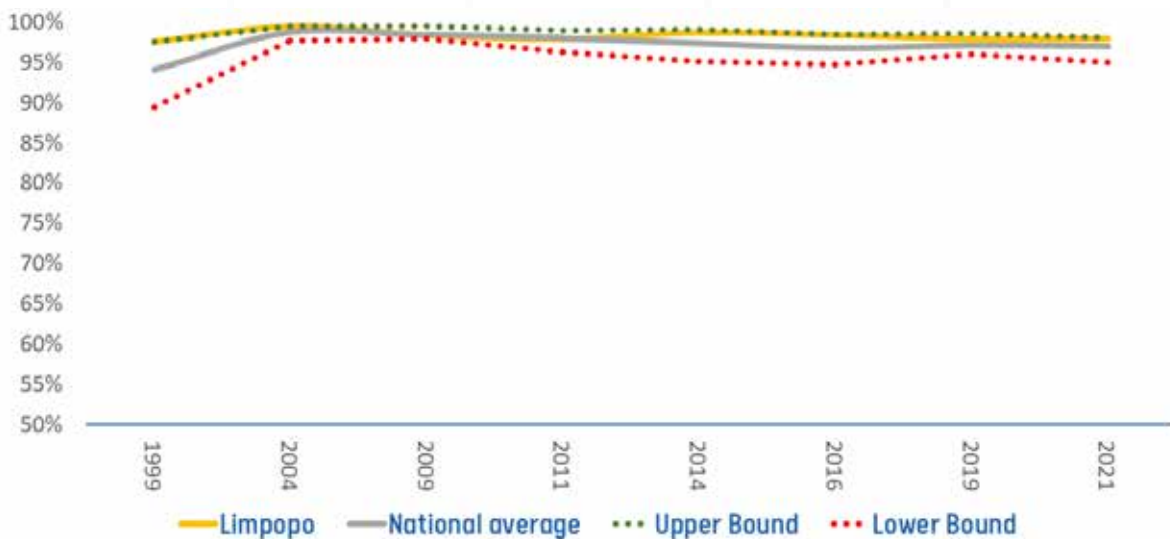
#### QUESTION

Was the voting procedure inside the voting station easy or difficult to understand? (% easy / very easy to understand)

#### ANALYSIS

When examining public opinion on the user experience of voting procedures in Limpopo between 1999 and 2021, a largely positive picture emerges. Over this period, the vast majority (98%) of voters in the province found the voting procedures inside the voting station easy to understand. We find a broadly consistent pattern of results across National and Provincial Elections as well as Local Government Elections, with the share indicating that the voting procedures were “easy”, ranging between 93% and 99%. The position of Limpopo relative to other provinces has fluctuated over the last two decades, but thereafter rank differences reflect subtle inter-provincial variations due to the clustering of satisfaction levels at an extremely high level. Limpopo, however, was ranked first in 2021, as well as first compared to the other provinces for the full period under review.

**ELECTORAL PROCEDURAL ASSESSMENT: Proportion of voters who believed that the voting procedure inside the voting station was easy to understand, 1999-2021 (% easy / very easy to understand)**



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	98	93	99	98	98	99	98	98	98	98
National Avg.	94	94	99	98	98	97	97	97	97	97
Upper Bound	98	98	99	99	99	99	98	99	98	98
Lower Bound	89	92	98	98	96	95	95	96	95	96
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	6	1	4	6	3	1	3	1	1

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

## 4.2.2 Assessment of procedural accommodation of the elderly

### GOAL

Assessing whether the voting procedure accommodated the elderly

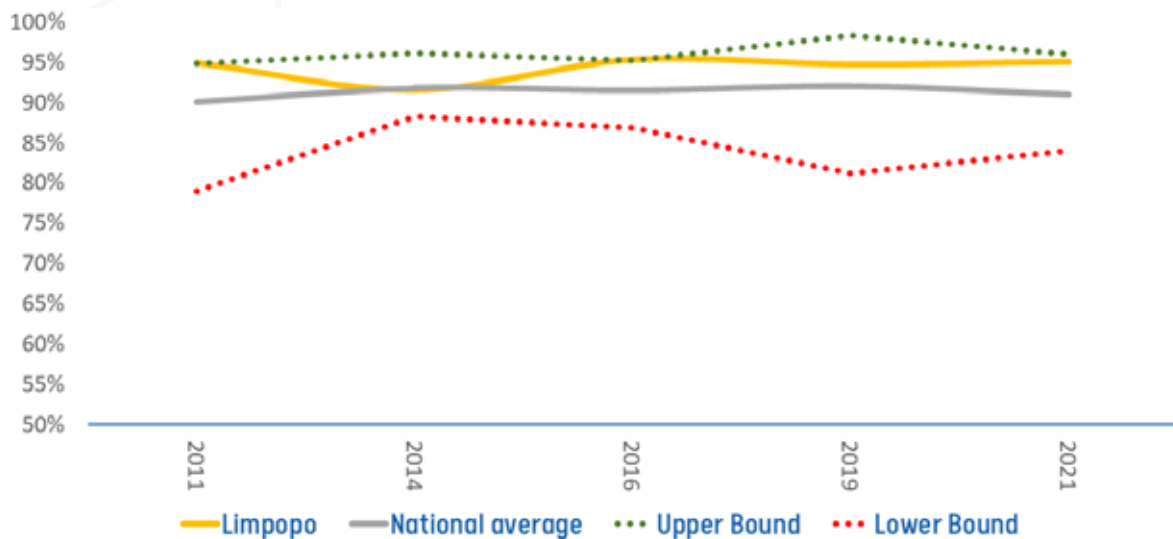
### QUESTION

To what extent did the voting procedure at this voting station consider the needs of the elderly? (% to a great / some extent)

### ANALYSIS

Almost all (95%) of the voters in Limpopo thought that voting stations accommodated the needs of the elderly in 2021. These results are very similar to previous survey rounds, and only negligible differences were observed over this period. On aggregate over the 2011 to 2021 period, 94% of voters in the province felt that the voting procedures considered the needs of the elderly. This suggests that voters were suitably convinced that the procedures in place at voting stations addressed the needs of the elderly. Although there has been modest variation in the share believing that the needs of the elderly had been accommodated (92% to 95%), the provincial rank position of Limpopo on this indicator has fluctuated, but occupied the top three in 2011, 2016 and 2021. However, this reflected largely negligible differences in evaluation between provinces, so that small changes produce more sizeable shifts in rank order position.

**ELDERLY PROCEDURAL ACCOMMODATION: Percentage of voters who thought that the voting procedure at the voting station considered the needs of the elderly, 2011-2021 (% to a great/ some extent)**



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	95	92	95	95	95	94
National Avg.	90	92	91	92	91	91
Upper Bound	95	96	95	98	96	94
Lower Bound	79	88	87	81	84	84
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	6	1	4	2	1

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2011-2021

## 4.2.3 Assessment of procedural accommodation of persons with disabilities

### GOAL

Assessing whether the voting procedure accommodated the needs of persons with disabilities

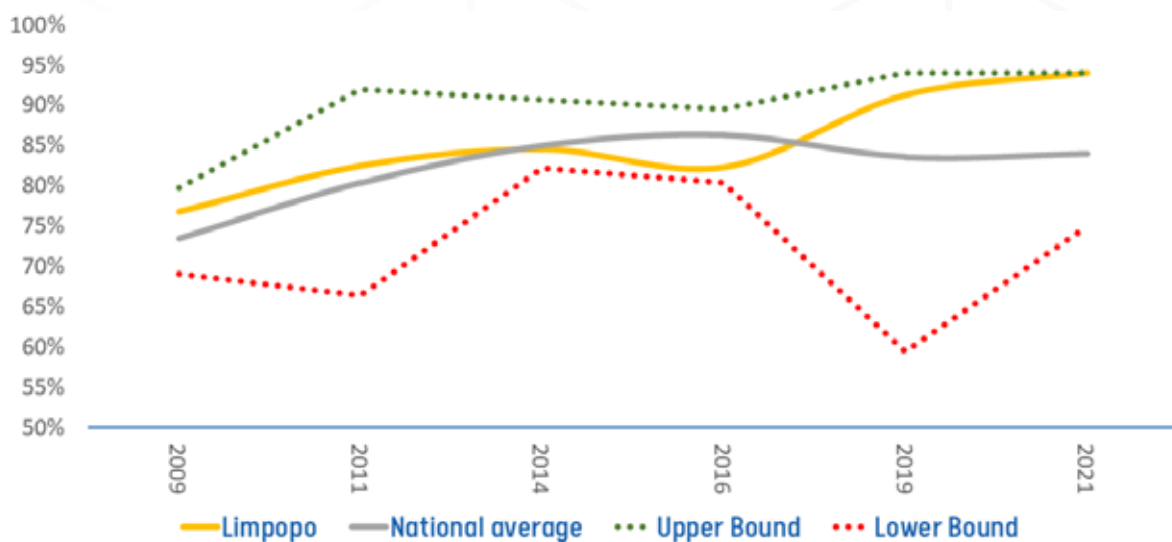
### QUESTION

To what extent did the voting procedure at this voting station consider the needs of persons with disabilities? (% to a great / some extent)

### ANALYSIS

The majority (77%) of voters in Limpopo in general said that the voting stations accommodated the needs of persons with disabilities in 2009. The proportion giving this answer increased to 82% by the time of the next round of surveying in 2011. We noted relative stability on this indicator for the period 2011 to 2016. We can observe an increase over the 2019 to 2021 period, with voters becoming more content with the procedural arrangements made at voting stations for persons with disabilities. On average, 85% of voters thought that procedures at the voting station considered the needs of this group over the full 2009 to 2021 period. This was three percentage points above the national average and the province was ranked first for the full period. The position of Limpopo has fluctuated over the last decade, varying between eighth in 2016 to first in 2021.

**PROCEDURAL ACCOMMODATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Percentage of voters who thought that the voting procedure at the voting station considered the needs of persons with disabilities, 2009-2021 (% to a great/ some extent)**



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	77	82	85	82	91	94	85
National Avg.	73	80	85	86	84	84	82
Upper Bound	80	92	91	90	94	94	85
Lower Bound	69	66	82	80	59	75	76
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	4	6	8	4	1	1

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2009-2021

## 4.2.4 Assessment of procedural accommodation of blind and visually impaired voters

### GOAL

Assessing whether the voting procedure accommodated the needs of visually impaired voters

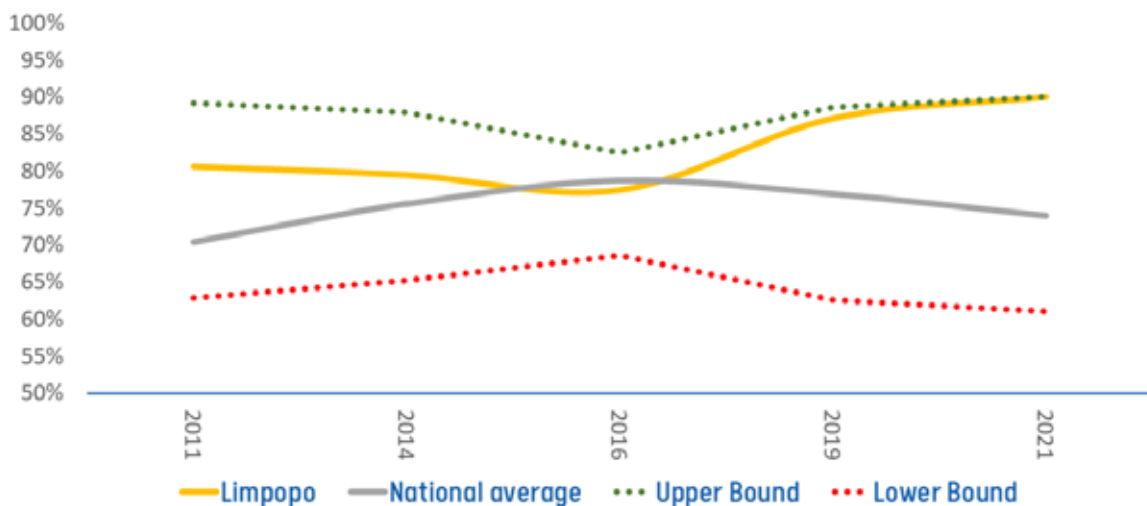
### QUESTION

To what extent did the voting procedure at this voting station consider the needs of the partially-sighted or blind? (% to a great / some extent)

### ANALYSIS

Almost all (90%) of the voters in Limpopo believed that the voting stations had put in place procedures that considered the needs of blind and visually impaired people in 2019. This figure was above the national average and this outcome was quite analogous to 2016 and an improvement over what was seen in 2014 and 2011. Positive evaluations on this issue fell in 2021 and was 83% in that survey round. Over the 2011 to 2021 period, an average of 81% of voters in the province expressed the view that the voting procedures accommodated the special needs of blind and visually impaired people. By and large, voters were relatively satisfied with how voting stations are performing in relation to this issue. The rank of Limpopo has fluctuated over the last decade, from its highest in 2021 to its lowest in 2016 at seventh position. The province ranked first nationally over the full period.

**PROCEDURAL ACCOMMODATION OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED VOTERS: Percentage of voters who thought that the voting procedures at the voting station considered the needs of partially sighted or blind voters, 2011-2021 (% to a great/ some extent)**



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	79	77	87	90	83	81
National Avg.	70	76	79	77	74	75
Upper Bound	89	88	83	89	90	83
Lower Bound	63	65	69	63	61	65
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	4	7	2	1	1

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2011-2021

## 4.2.5 Assessing the secrecy of the vote at voting stations

### GOAL

Assessing whether voters were satisfied that the voting station procedures ensured the secrecy of their vote

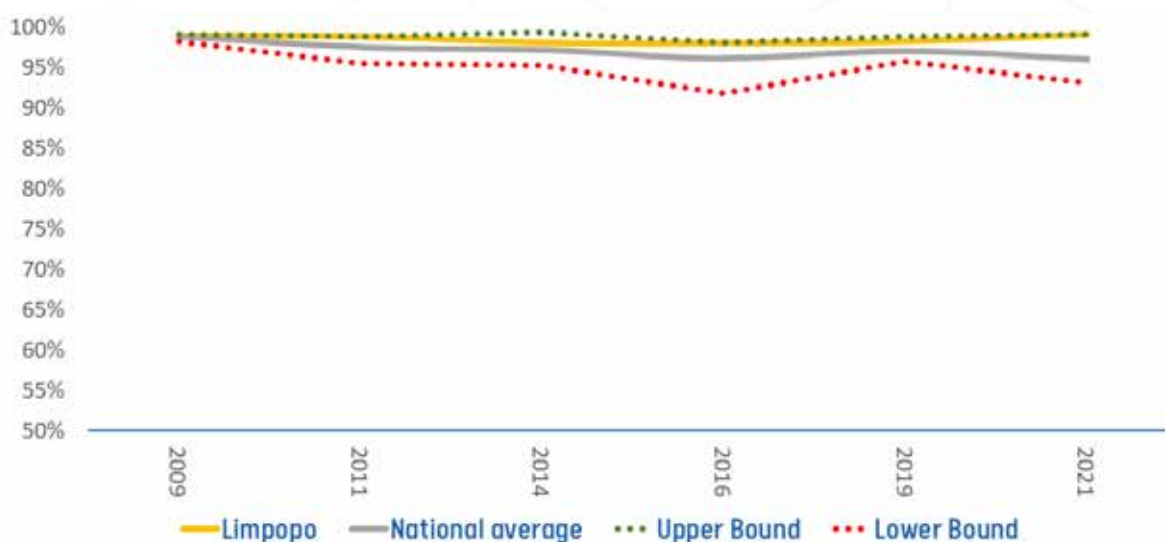
### QUESTION

Are you satisfied that your vote in this voting station was secret? (% very satisfied/satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

Nearly all (99%) of the voters in Limpopo had faith in the arrangements made by voting stations to ensure the secrecy of their vote in 2021. This finding is comparable to previous survey rounds, and only nominal differences were observed in the province over the 2009 to 2021 period. The average share of voters in the province who was content with the secrecy of the vote during the period 2009 to 2021 was 98%. Overall, voters were therefore relatively satisfied with how the voting stations are performing in relation to ensuring the confidentiality of votes cast. The rank position of Limpopo relative to other provinces has remained in the top three over time, with the exception of 2009 when it ranked fifth. Notwithstanding these observed variations, the level of difference between provinces is marginal, and the changes in rank position should not be a cause for concern.

**SATISFIED WITH SECRECY OF VOTE: Percentage of voters who were satisfied with the measures to ensure the secrecy of their vote at their voting station, 2009-2021 (%)**



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	99	99	98	98	98	99	98
National Avg.	99	97	97	96	97	96	97
Upper Bound	99	99	99	98	99	99	98
Lower Bound	98	96	95	92	96	93	93
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	1	3	1	2	1	1

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2009-2021

## 4.2.6. Ballot paper usability and satisfaction

### GOAL

Overall satisfaction with ballot paper used in the 2019 national and provincial elections

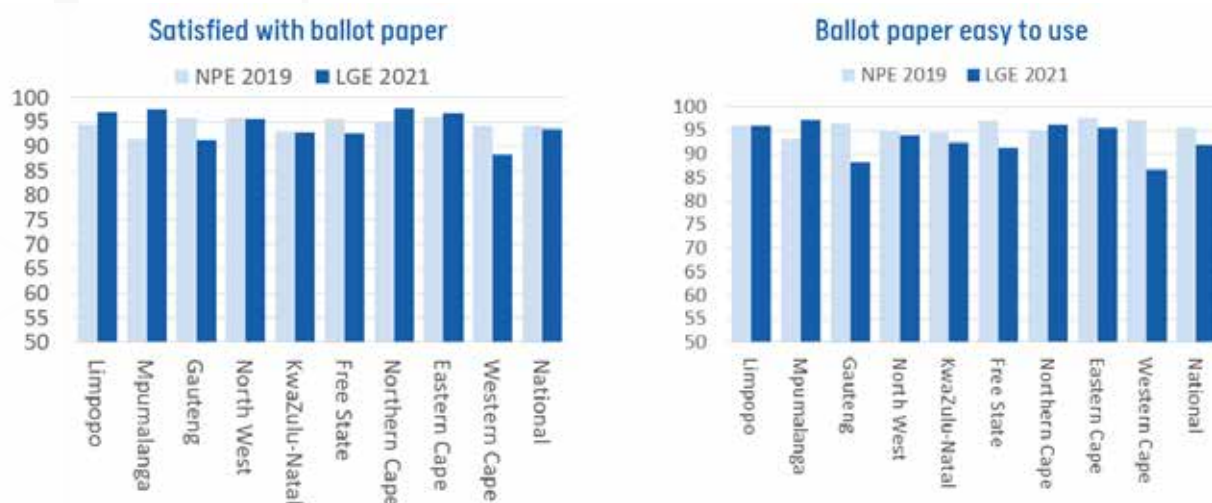
### QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the ballot papers used in this election? (% very satisfied / satisfied)  
How easy or difficult was it to find your party of choice on the ballot papers? (% very satisfied / satisfied)

### ANALYSIS

A considerable majority (94%) of voters in Limpopo was satisfied with the ballot papers used in the national and provincial elections in 2019. This figure approximates the national average (94%) in that survey round. This demonstrates that, overall, voters were fairly pleased with the ballot paper design. Reinforcing this message, 97% of voters in the province found it easy in general to find their party of choice on the ballot paper in the 2019 National and Provincial Elections. The changes in percentages between 2019 and 2021 are minor. Satisfaction with the ballot paper increased to 96% in 2021, while the usability of the ballot paper declined by only one percentage point to 96 in 2021 from 97 in 2019. Only small percentage point differences were observed between the upper and lower bounds, which implies a low level of interprovincial variation. Although the level of difference between provinces is minor, Limpopo can be favourably compared to other provinces.

**BALLOT PAPER SATISFACTION: Percentage of voters who were satisfied with the overall design of ballot papers and their usability, 2019-2021 (%)**



	Overall satisfaction with ballot paper		Ballot paper usability	
	2019	2021	2019	2021
Limpopo	94	96	97	96
National Avg.	94	93	95	92
Upper Bound	96	98	98	97
Lower Bound	94	97	96	87

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2019-2021

## 4.3 Coercion

### GOAL

Determining experiences of political coercion at the voting station

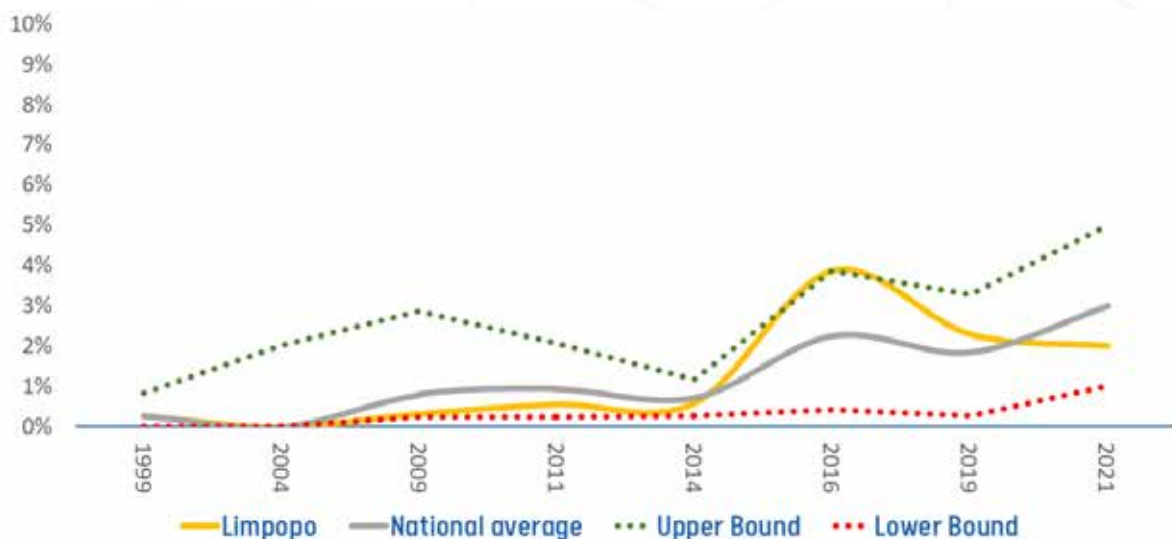
### QUESTION

Did anyone try to force you to vote for a certain political party or independent candidate at the voting station (while outside or inside)?

### ANALYSIS

In general, it is evident that political coercion at the voting station in Limpopo is not a common occurrence. Although it remains rare, there is evidence that there have been periods where it has become more common. We can observe upswings in coercion at provincial voting stations in 2016 when four percent of voters reported experiencing coercion. This data demonstrates that there might be a need for the Electoral Commission to monitor coercion in future elections, even though there was a decline to two percent in 2019 and 2021. On the whole, only a two-percentage point divergence was recorded between the upper and lower provincial bounds, implying a low level of interprovincial variation in reported coercion. The rank of Limpopo has fluctuated significantly over the last decade, varying between seventh and first. On average, over the full 1999 to 2021 period, the province ranked third on this indicator and only one percent of the voters reported experiencing coercion.

**POLITICAL COERCION: Proportion of voters who said that they had experienced political coercion at the voting station (outside or inside), 1999-2021 (% experienced)**



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	2	2	1
National Avg.	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
Upper Bound	1	4	2	3	2	1	4	3	5	2
Lower Bound	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	2	2	7	4	5	1	2	4	3

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021



## 4.4 Election turnout

### 4.4.1. Total votes cast, valid votes and spoilt votes in National and Provincial Elections (national vote), 1999-2019

	EC	FS	GP	KZN	MP	NC	LP	NW	WC	Out of country	Total
<b>1999 National Election</b>											
Total votes cast	2 222 394	1 115 326	3 744 958	3 011 732	1 157 229	335 177	1 691 609	1 333 858	1 616 179	...	16 228 462
Valid votes	2 188 184	1 094 776	3 704 449	2 958 963	1 132 517	327 950	1 660 849	1 307 532	1 601 922	...	15 977 142
Spoilt votes	34 210	20 550	40 509	52 769	24 712	7 227	30 760	26 326	14 257	...	251 320
% spoilt	1.5	1.8	1.1	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.0	0.9	...	1.5
<b>2004 National Election</b>											
Total votes cast	2 310 226	1 042 120	3 553 098	2 807 885	1 157 963	329 707	1 686 757	1 353 963	1 621 839	...	15 863 558
Valid votes	2 277 391	1 022 044	3 504 363	2 765 203	1 134 092	323 201	1 657 596	1 323 761	1 605 020	...	15 612 671
Spoilt votes	32 835	20 076	48 735	42 682	23 871	6 506	29 161	30 202	16 819	...	250 887
% spoilt	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.0	1.7	2.2	1.0	...	1.6
<b>2009 National Election</b>											
Total votes cast	2 344 098	1 069 127	4 391 699	3 574 326	1 363 836	421 490	1 570 592	1 135 701	2 049 097	...	17 919 966
Valid votes	2 309 643	1 051 858	4 345 613	3 527 234	1 343 253	414 502	1 547 636	1 113 411	2 027 579	...	17 680 729
Spoilt votes	34 455	17 269	46 086	47 092	20 583	6 988	22 956	22 290	21 518	...	239 237
% spoilt	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.5	2.0	1.1	...	1.3
<b>2014 National Election</b>											
Total votes cast	2 278 555	1 051 027	4 638 981	3 935 771	1 408 269	443 714	1 543 986	1 147 786	2 188 236	18 446	18 654 771
Valid votes	2 243 497	1 034 337	4 592 219	3 874 833	1 385 407	436 065	1 523 169	1 126 691	2 168 147	18 132	18 402 497
Spoilt votes	35 058	16 690	46 762	60 938	22 862	7 649	20 817	21 095	20 089	314	252 274
% spoilt	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.8	0.9	1.7	1.4
<b>2019 National Election</b>											
Total votes cast	2 052 818	919 549	4 580 285	3 715 985	1 290 908	417 248	1 530 837	1 012 250	2 133 062	19 909	17 672 851
Valid votes	2 020 527	907 212	4 537 402	3 652 577	1 271 979	410 842	1 510 568	994 220	2 112 170	19 882	17 437 379
Spoilt votes	32 291	12 337	42 883	63 408	18 929	6 406	20 269	18 030	20 892	27	235 472
% spoilt	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.0	0.1	1.3

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, national and provincial elections 1999-2019

#### 4.4.2 Total votes cast, valid votes and spoilt votes in Local Government Elections (provincial summary, ward plus proportional representation votes), 2000-2021

	EC	FS	GP	KZN	MP	NC	LP	NW	WC	Total
<b>2000 Local Government Elections</b>										
Total votes cast	2 782 038	1 203 821	3 779 947	3 258 711	1 260 857	507 471	1 475 846	1 125 276	2 240 990	17 634 957
Valid votes	2 713 773	1 176 898	3 710 595	3 188 189	1 224 228	493 674	1 444 308	1 094 270	2 209 911	17 255 846
Spoilt votes	68 265	26 923	69 352	70 522	36 629	13 797	31 538	31 006	31 079	379 111
% spoilt	2,5	2,2	1,8	2,2	2,9	2,7	2,1	2,8	1,4	2,1
<b>2006 Local Government Elections</b>										
Total votes cast	3 237 836	1 245 605	4 035 819	3 945 826	1 432 103	558 645	1 920 089	1 419 621	2 352 316	20 147 860
Valid votes	3 159 626	1 213 162	3 971 580	3 867 456	1 393 452	545 594	1 883 661	1 374 183	2 313 646	19 722 360
Spoilt votes	78 210	32 443	64 239	78 370	38 651	13 051	36 428	45 438	38 670	425 500
% spoilt	2,4	2,6	1,6	2,0	2,7	2,3	1,9	3,2	1,6	2,1
<b>2011 Local Government Elections</b>										
Total votes cast	3 600 649	1 528 612	6 214 394	5 707 689	1 914 850	724 878	2 337 728	1 677 863	3 475 194	27 181 857
Valid votes	3 517 267	1 500 732	6 127 020	5 607 192	1 880 599	711 431	2 293 052	1 637 592	3 436 613	26 711 498
Spoilt votes	83 382	27 880	87 374	100 497	34 251	13 447	44 676	40 271	38 581	470 359
% spoilt	2,3	1,8	1,4	1,8	1,8	1,9	1,9	2,4	1,1	1,7
<b>2016 Local Government Elections</b>										
Total votes cast	3 748 448	1 649 073	7 196 467	6 622 974	2 149 917	758 390	2 565 627	1 823 458	3 881 005	30 395 359
Valid votes	3 667 247	1 616 890	7 095 642	6 487 321	2 114 364	746 162	2 525 600	1 780 478	3 829 967	29 863 671
Spoilt votes	81 201	32 183	100 825	135 653	35 553	12 228	40 027	42 980	51 038	531 688
% spoilt	2,2	2,0	1,4	2,0	1,7	1,6	1,6	2,4	1,3	1,7
<b>2021 Local Government Elections</b>										
Total votes cast	3 017 803	1 278 484	5 385 382	5 224 937	1 615 109	663 326	2 288 999	1 404 152	3 015 332	23 893 524
Valid votes	2 951 848	1 254 836	5 311 565	5 118 308	1 583 282	650 123	2 247 577	1 369 308	2 981 077	23 467 924
Spoilt votes	65 955	23 648	73 817	106 629	31 827	13 203	41 422	34 844	34 255	425 600
% spoilt	2,2	1,8	1,4	2,0	2,0	2,0	1,8	2,5	1,1	1,8

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, local government elections 2000-2021

### 4.4.3 Spoilt ballots

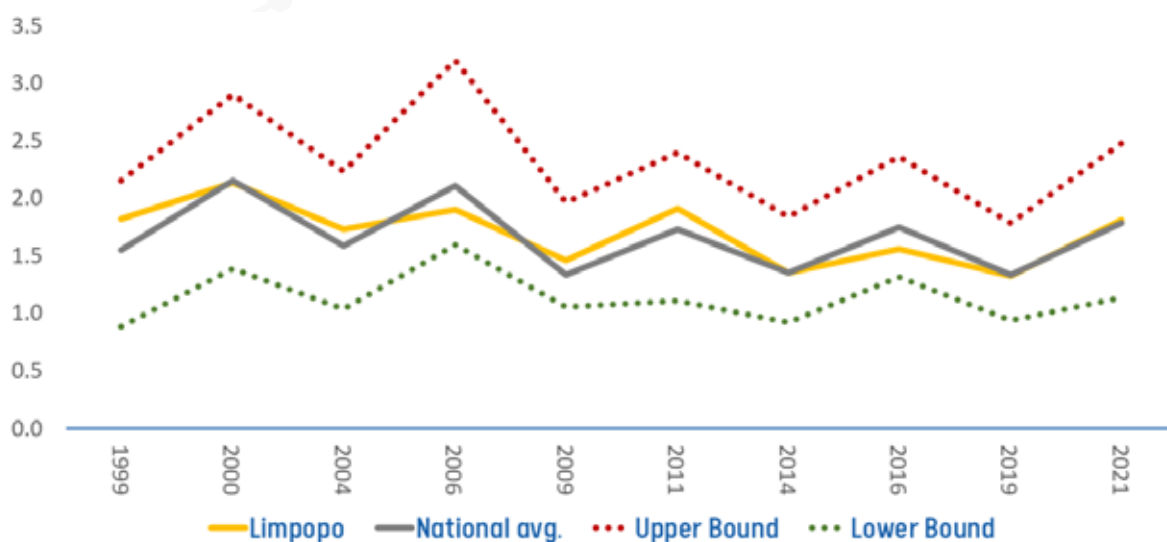
#### GOAL

Determining the share of total votes cast that were spoilt by voters

#### ANALYSIS

Spoiling may reflect unintentional error in filling in ballot papers on Election Day, as well as a form of deliberate electoral protest. Understanding the character of spoiling will be important in future in ensuring that unintentional spoiling is addressed through improved ballot paper design and balloting education activities. Of the total votes cast in National and Provincial Elections as well as Local Government Elections conducted between 1999 and 2021, the percentage of ballots that was spoilt in Limpopo averaged 1.7% on aggregate. The level of spoiling ranged between 1.3% and 2.1% across the full period, while the provincial figures tend to reflect the national average. An above average level of spoiling was recorded in Limpopo for the 1999 NPE, 2004 NPE, 2009 NPE and the 2011 LGE. Limpopo ranked seventh on this indicator for 2021 and, on average, over the full 1999 to 2021 period was also placed seventh.

**SPOILT BALLOTS: Percentage of total votes cast that were spoilt by voters on Election Day in National and Provincial Elections and Local Government Elections, 1999-2021 (%)**



	1999	2000	2004	2006	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.8	1.7
National Avg.	1.5	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.7
Upper Bound	2.2	2.9	2.2	3.2	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.4	1.8	2.5	2.3
Lower Bound	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.1
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	7	5	7	6	3	7	7	7	7	7

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, 1999-2021

## 4.4.4 Turnout in National and Provincial Elections as a percentage of registered voters

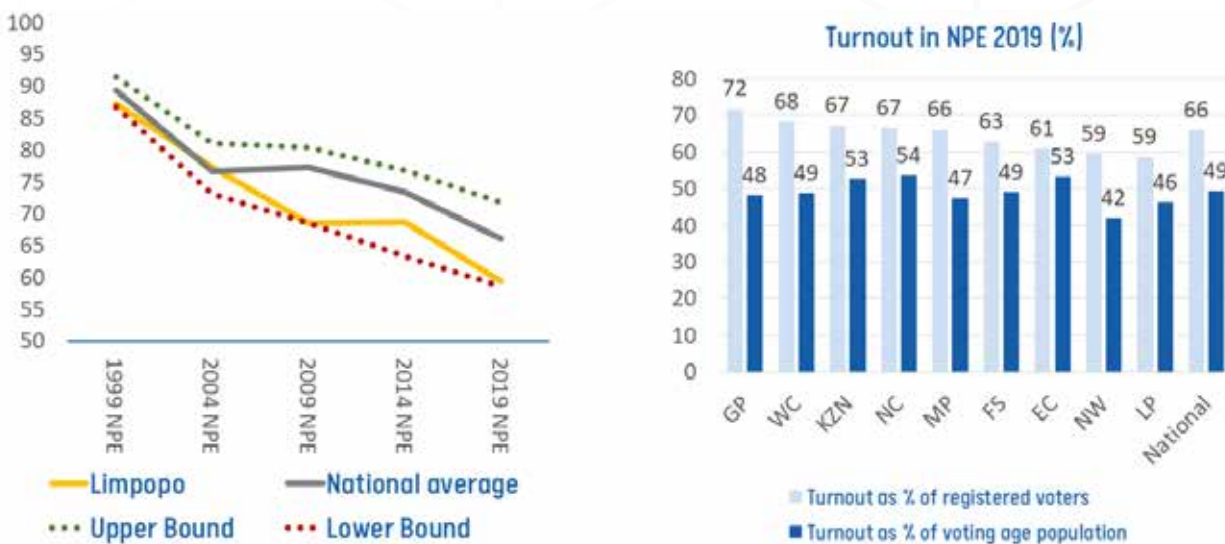
### GOAL

Determining electoral turnout as a percentage of registered voters

### ANALYSIS

Turnout in National and Provincial Elections in Limpopo between 1999 and 2019 has declined over time. In the 1999 NPE, it stood at 87%, but fell to 59% in the 2019 NPE. The province fell below the national average in most survey rounds, except for 2004, with the same percentage as the national average. Compared to other provinces, Limpopo ranks eighth on aggregate over the five elections and is five percentage points below the national average. Another factor to consider is that these turnout statistics are expressed as a percentage of registered voters. The figures presented here would lower if one looks at turnout as a percentage of the voting age public. For instance, in 2019, turnout in the province was 46% of the voting age public, which is 13 percentage points lower than the national average.

**ELECTORAL TURNOUT: Percentage of registered voters that turned out to cast their vote on Election Day in National and Provincial Elections, 1999-2019 (%)**



	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019	Average
Limpopo	87	77	69	69	59	72
National Avg.	89	77	77	73	66	77
Upper Bound	92	81	80	77	72	79
Lower Bound	87	73	69	63	59	72
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	4	9	8	8	8

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, 1999-2019

## 4.4.5 Turnout in Local Government Elections as a percentage of registered voters

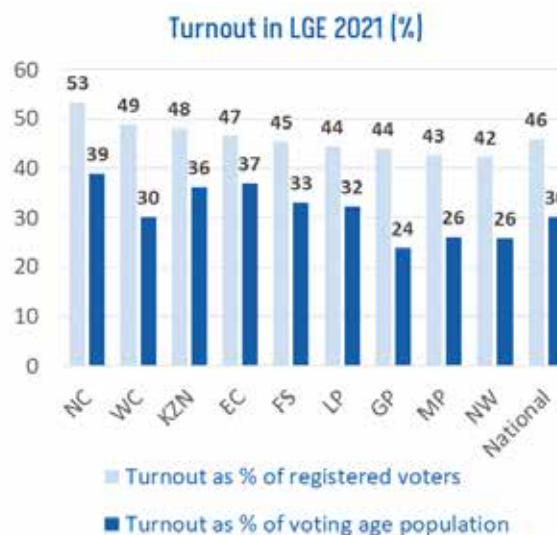
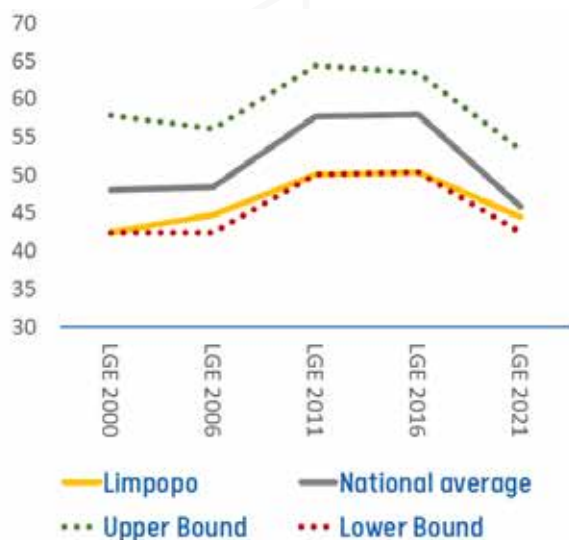
### GOAL

Determining electoral turnout as a percentage of registered voters

### ANALYSIS

Turnout in Local Government Elections in the Limpopo between 2000 and 2016 remained quite stable, but below the national average. LGE turnout was at 42% in 2000 and 45% in 2006, and the province compared unfavourably to other provinces on this indicator. Turnout increased to 50% in the 2011 LGE and 2016 LGE, but declined to 44% during the 2021 LGE. Turnout of registered voters in the province in the 2021 LGE was two percentage points below the national average in that survey round. Compared to other provinces, turnout in Limpopo ranks ninth on aggregate over the five elections, but the province was placed sixth in the 2021 LGE. Another factor to consider is that these turnout statistics are expressed as a percentage of registered voters. Consider, for instance, that LGE turnout in the province was 32% of the voting age public, which is two percentage points higher than the national average.

**ELECTORAL TURNOUT: Percentage of registered voters that turned out to cast their vote on Election Day in Local Government Elections, 2000-2021 (%)**



	2000	2006	2011	2016	2021	Average
Limpopo	42	45	50	50	44	46
National Avg.	48	48	58	58	46	52
Upper Bound	58	56	64	63	53	58
Lower Bound	42	42	50	50	42	46
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	8	9	9	6	9

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, 2000-2021



**PART**

**E**

**POST-ELECTION**

# 5. POST-ELECTION

## 5.1. Evaluation of the elections as free and fair

### GOAL

Determine the extent to which voters rate the elections as free and fair

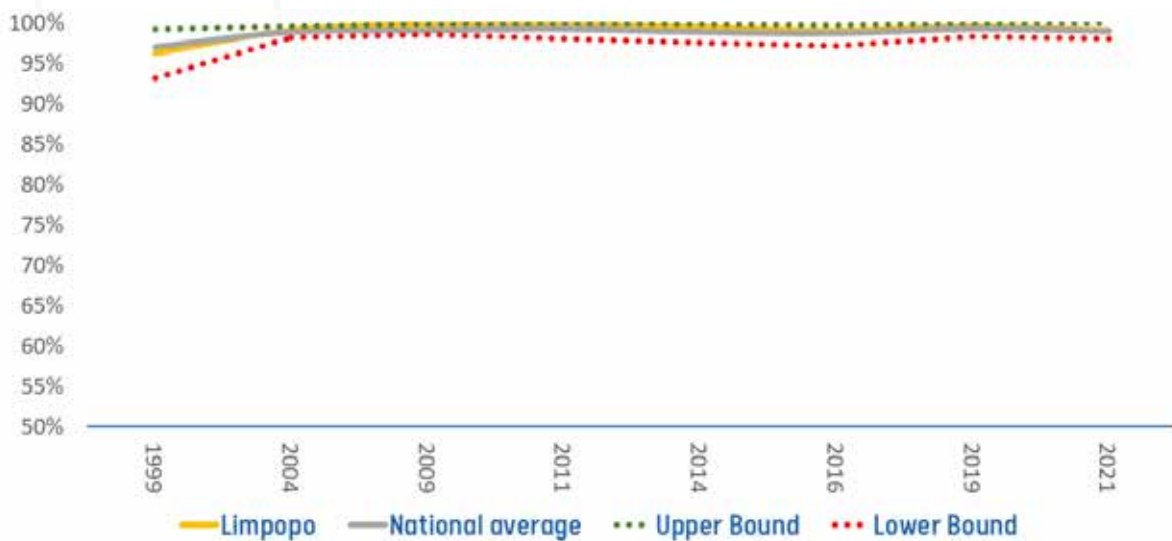
### QUESTION

Do you think that the election procedures were free and fair? (% yes)

### ANALYSIS

Looking at the 2021 elections survey results, an overwhelming majority of voters in Limpopo (99%) felt that the election procedures were free and fair. This was a resolutely positive result and is consistent with previous survey rounds. On average over the full 2004 to 2021 period, the share of voters in the province who thought that the voting procedures were both free and fair was 99%. It is clear that voters were satisfied with the election procedures in the context of the nine elections being considered. The rank of Limpopo relative to other provinces has changed over time and has been in both the lower and upper half of the provincial rankings. In general, the position of the province was low, resulting in an overall rank position of fifth for the 1999 to 2021 period. Given that the levels of satisfaction among voters are high in all provinces, these rank differences reflect subtle percentage point changes rather than sizeable shifts in perspective.

**PERCEPTIONS OF ELECTION FREENESS AND FAIRNESS: Proportion of voters who thought that the voting procedures were free and fair, 1999-2021 (% yes)**



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	96	97	99	100	100	99	99	99	99	99
National Avg.	97	96	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98
Upper Bound	99	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99
Lower Bound	93	89	98	98	98	98	97	98	98	97
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	6	4	2	2	3	5	5	3	5

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

## 5.2 Vote count

### GOAL

Assess confidence in the accuracy of the vote count

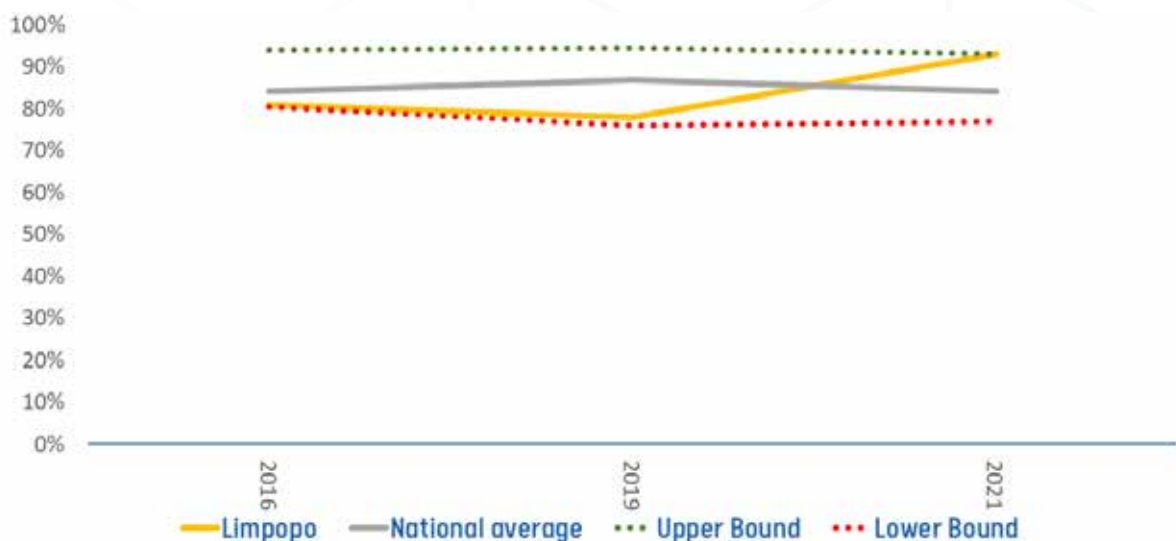
### QUESTION

How confident are you that your vote will be accurately counted? (% completely confident / very confident)

### ANALYSIS

In the 2019 national and provincial elections, a clear majority of voters in Limpopo (78%) believed that their vote would be accurately counted. This is an encouraging finding that speaks of confidence in electoral staff in performing this duty, although below the 2016 survey results. In the 2021 local government elections, the greater part of voters in the province (93%) also thought that their vote would be accurately counted. During the 2016 to 2021 period, the average proportion of voters in the province who had confidence in the count was 84%, this was one percentage point below the national average. In comparison with other provinces, voters in Limpopo ranked first on average in 2021 and this is an improvement over what was observed in 2016 and 2019. This is an encouraging finding that shows confidence in electoral staff in performing this duty.

**CONFIDENCE IN THE ACCURACY OF THE VOTE COUNT: Proportion of voters who thought that the vote would be accurately counted, 2016-2021 (%)**



	2016	2019	2021	Average
Limpopo	81	78	93	84
National Avg.	84	87	84	85
Upper Bound	94	94	93	91
Lower Bound	80	76	77	79
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	8	1	6

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2016-2021





**PART**

**F**

**ELECTORAL  
REFORM**

# 6. ELECTORAL REFORM

## 6.1. Electoral outcomes - best possible government

### GOAL

Overall satisfaction with the electoral system and support for electoral reform

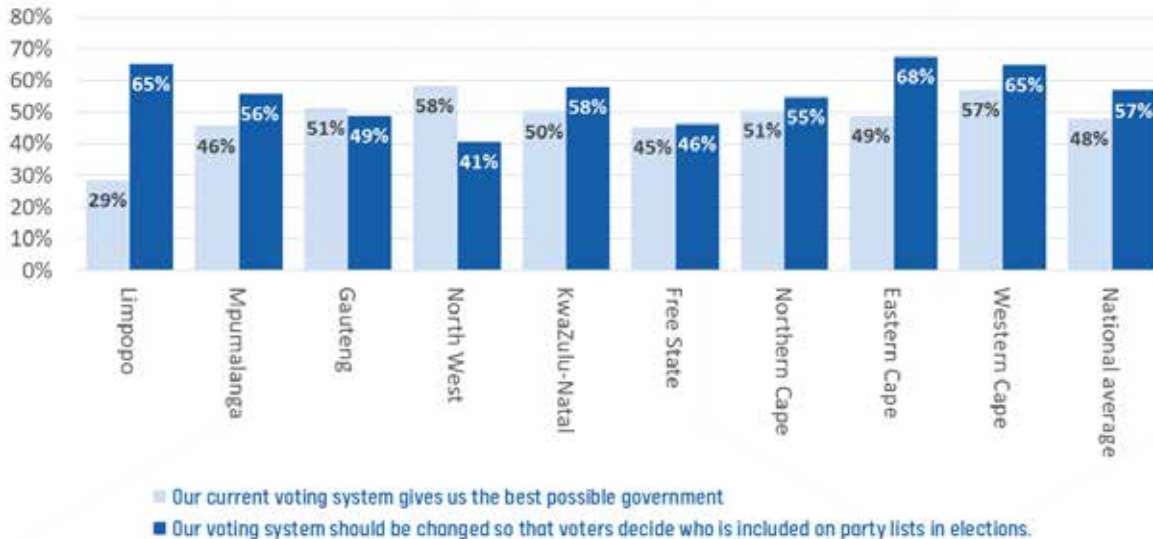
### QUESTION

Our current voting system gives us the best possible government. (% strongly agree/ agree)  
 Our voting system should be changed so that voters decide who is included on party lists in elections. (% strongly agree/ agree)

### ANALYSIS

Citizens in Limpopo were generally negative over whether the voting system delivers the best possible government in 2019. The proportion (29%) who agreed with this statement was substantively below the national average (58%). This demonstrated a degree of negativity in the province about whether the electoral system is functioning in accordance with expectations of democracy. More than half (65%) of citizens in Limpopo thought that they should have more say over who to include on party lists in elections. Relative to other provinces, Limpopo was ranked second on this indicator and ninth on the first indicator. This suggests robust levels of support for this type of reform in the country, and perhaps reflects a demand for greater levels of accountability.

**SATISFACTION WITH THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM: Percentage of citizens who agree that the voting system provides the best possible government, and believe that the system should be reformed to allow greater voter influence on party list candidates, 2019 (%)**



	Current electoral system provides the best possible government 2019	Voting system should be change so voters decide on party list candidates 2019
Limpopo	29	65
National Avg.	58	57
Upper Bound	58	68
Lower Bound	59	41
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	2

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2019

## 6.2. Electronic voting

### 6.2.1. Perceived effectiveness of electronic voting

#### GOAL

Evaluation of the perceived effectiveness of electronic voting

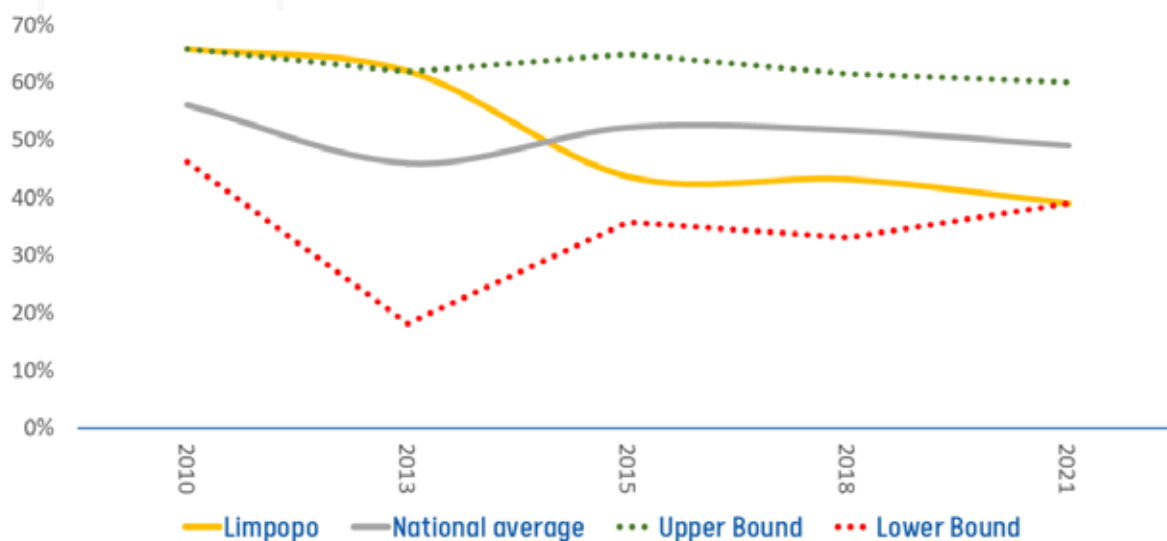
#### QUESTION

Electronic voting will make voting easier and more effective. (% strongly agree/agree)

#### ANALYSIS

In 2018, about two-fifths (43%) of citizens in Limpopo thought that electronic voting would be easier and more effective than the present system of paper ballots. This was below the national average of 56% and suggests that the public in the province remains relatively negative on the issue of electronic voting. There is a significant decline in view across successive survey rounds from 2010 when 66% of the province viewed electronic voting positively. Attitudes became more negative in 2021 with only 39% stating that electronic voting would make voting easier and more effective. This was 10 percentage points below the national average. On average across the 2010 to 2021 period, 53% of citizens in the province had a positive view of this electoral reform. Relative to other provinces, the rank of Limpopo has fluctuated over time, ranking third overall across the full 2010 to 2021 period. It is evident that some citizens would be quite sceptical if the Election Commission decided to introduce an electronic voting system, while others would openly welcome it.

**EASE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTRONIC VOTING: Proportion of adult citizens who thought that electronic voting would make the system more efficient, 2010-2021 (% agreeing)**



	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Limpopo	66	62	44	43	39	53
National Avg.	56	46	52	56	49	51
Upper Bound	66	62	65	65	60	59
Lower Bound	46	18	36	30	39	38
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	1	6	6	8	3

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010-2021

## 6.2.2 Concerns of possible fraud associated with electronic voting

### GOAL

Assess concern over possible fraud associated with electronic voting

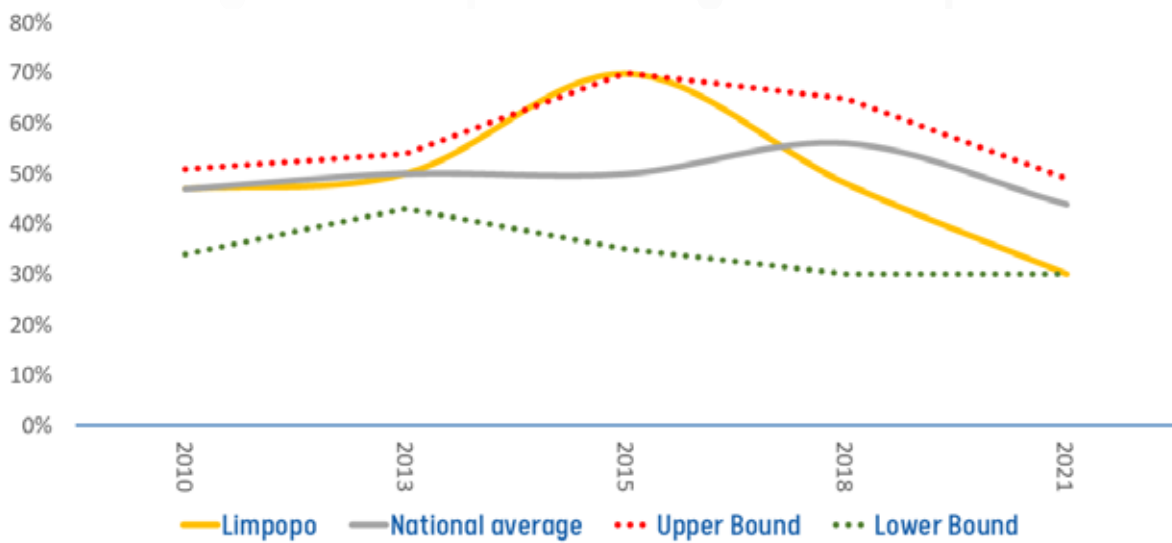
### QUESTION

Electronic voting will introduce more electoral fraud. (% strongly agree/ agree)

### ANALYSIS

Nearly a third (30%) of adult citizens in Limpopo believed that an electronic voting system would introduce more fraud relative to the current electoral system in 2021. This was 14 percentage points below the national average, indicating that the public in the province is not so concerned about potential negative consequences associated with electronic voting. Fears of voter fraud in an electronic voting system has declined between 2015 and 2020, dropping by 40 percentage points over this period. This is contrary to the national pattern which showed fears of voter fraud in an electronic voting system intensified between 2010 and 2018. For the full period, 54% of citizens in the province expressed this concern over e-voting which is slightly above the national average of 51% for the period. These findings suggest that the Electoral Commission would need to convince citizens of the security of any e-voting system that is considered for introduction in future elections.

**ELECTRONIC VOTING AND CONCERN OVER FRAUD: Share of adult citizens who believe that electronic voting would introduce more fraud into the election system, 2010-2021 (% agreeing)**



	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Limpopo	47	50	70	48	30	54
National Avg.	47	50	50	50	44	51
Upper Bound	51	54	71	62	49	54
Lower Bound	34	43	35	40	30	37
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	4	1	6	9	1

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010-2021

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