



**SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY
AMBASADA REPUBLIKI POŁUDNIOWEJ AFRYKI**

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18 January 2019

Dear Fellow South Africans in Poland

2019 ELECTIONS

Very best wishes to each and every one of you for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019!

As you all no doubt know, one of the main events of this year for South Africans will be our national elections. The date for this year's elections has not yet been set.

Our last National Assembly elections were held on 7 May 2014. According to our Constitution, the National Assembly is elected for a term of five years which means that the term of the current National Assembly will expire on 6 May 2019. The Constitution further stipulates that "if the National Assembly is dissolved in terms of section 50, or when its term expires, the President, by proclamation must call and set dates for an election, which must be held within 90 days of the date the Assembly was dissolved or its term expired." This means that if the National Assembly expires on 6 May 2019, the next elections have to be held within 90 days, that is by 4 August 2019. In the past, our Presidents have set the election dates well within the 90 day time limit.

In terms of our Electoral Act, South Africans abroad are eligible to vote in the National Assembly elections only (and not in the Provincial elections) at foreign missions, i.e. South African Embassies abroad. To do so these voters have to be registered and in addition inform the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in advance of their intention to vote abroad and at which Embassy they wish to vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name.

If you are already registered as a voter, you do not have to register again. You can verify whether you are registered on the IEC website (<https://www.elections.org.za/regweekend/>).

South Africans abroad who are not yet registered, can do so at foreign missions during office hours between 1 and 4 February 2019. In the case of our Embassy in Poland, you can register at the Embassy on these dates between 09:00 – 16:00. In order to do so, please bring **both** your green, bar-coded South African ID book; smartcard ID; or valid Temporary Identity Certificate (TIC) **AND** your valid South African passport or temporary passport.

The Embassy's physical address is 54 Koszykowa Trade Centre, 54 Koszykowa Street, 00-675 Warsaw. Please note that the entrance actually is Entrance B on Poznańska Street (next to the Post Office). The Embassy is on the 6th floor.

According to the IEC website, if you wish to vote abroad, "You **must** notify the IEC of your intention to vote abroad, and select the foreign mission at which you intend to vote by submitting a **VEC10** notification during the period specified in the election timetable (15 days from the date on which the election is proclaimed). You must submit the VEC10 even if you register abroad and intend to vote where you registered. If you do not submit a VEC10 **before the deadline** specified in the election timetable, **you will not be able to vote**. Once you have submitted a VEC10, you can check the status of your VEC10 notification online."

On its website, the IEC further states that:

"If you submit your VEC10 and it is **approved**, you will be able to vote at the foreign mission you selected.

1. Take **both** your green, bar-coded South African ID book; smartcard ID; or valid Temporary Identity Certificate (TIC) **AND** your valid South African passport or temporary passport to the foreign mission indicated on the confirmation we sent you via email or text. **You can only cast your vote on the date specified in the election timetable. Under no circumstances can votes be cast on any other date.**
2. Your thumbnail is marked with indelible ink.
3. Your ID book is stamped.
4. You receive the national ballot paper.
5. You mark the ballot in secret, place and seal the ballot in the unmarked envelope given to you.
6. The unmarked envelope is placed in another envelope that is marked with your name and ID number. The use of two envelopes is to ensure the secrecy of your ballot (the outer envelope is discarded before counting).
7. The envelope is placed in a secure ballot box for special votes."

For more information on registering and voting abroad, please refer to the IEC website, <http://www.elections.org.za/content/For-Voters/How-to-register-and-vote-abroad/>

Please do not hesitate to contact the Embassy, should you have any questions. You can do so by calling us at (+48) 22-622 10 31/22-622 10 05 or sending an email to warsaw.political@dirco.gov.za.



The Embassy staff look forward to meeting those of you who will come to register between the 1st and the 4th of February 2019, and all registered voters who come to vote later for our National Assembly elections.

Lastly, I would like to inform you that my term as South African Ambassador to Poland will end at the end of this month, on 31 January 2019, when I will be returning home. My successor has not yet been appointed. In the meantime, Mr Chris Botha, the Counsellor, will be act as the head of our Embassy in the capacity of Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

It was a great pleasure for me to represent South Africa in Poland and to work with so many enthusiastic members of the South African community in Poland. I wish you all well.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



Simon Jabulani Ntombela
Ambassador