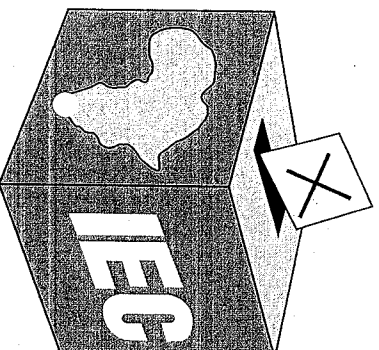


ELECTORAL COMMISSION
OF
SOUTH AFRICA

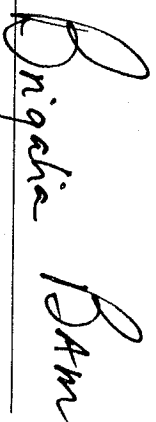


REPORT TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2002

ISBN 0-621-33197-X
RP 146/2002

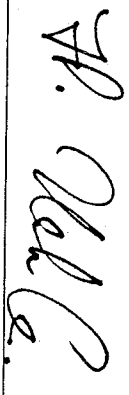
DR THE HONOURABLE F GINWALA
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Electoral Commission's Report and Audited Financial Statements for the financial year that ended on 31 March 2002 are hereby conveyed to you for formal submission to the National Assembly as required by section 14(1) of the Electoral Commission Act, 1996.



Chairperson

Date: 8 August 2002

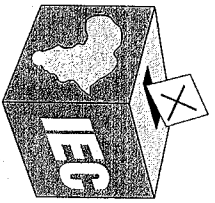


Chief Electoral Officer

Date: 8 August 2002

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Annual Report to the National Assembly
in terms of Section 14 of the Electoral Commission Act, 1996



**COMMISSION
REPORT**

COMMISSION REPORT
for the year ended 31 March 2002

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Electoral Commission Act, 1996 requires the Commission, after the end of each financial year, to submit to the National Assembly –

- an audited report of all money received from sources other than money appropriated by Parliament;
- audited financial statements on income and expenditure; and
- a report in regard to the functions, activities and affairs of the Commission in respect of that financial year.

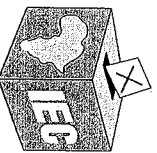
1.2 This is the submission for the financial year from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002.

2. MISSION STATEMENT

The Electoral Commission is a permanent body created by the Constitution to promote and safeguard democracy in South Africa. Although publicly funded and accountable to parliament, the Commission is independent of the government. Its immediate task is the impartial management of free and fair national, provincial and municipal elections.

In overall functional terms the Commission –

- manages general elections for national, provincial and municipal legislatures at five year intervals;
- conducts by-elections on a continuous basis;
- prepares for coming elections and by-elections;
- maintains and continuously updates infrastructure and systems, such as the voters' roll, voting districts, voting stations, logistical and financial systems, IT and GIS systems and wide area communication network;
- meets its other obligations as defined in the Electoral Commission Act, 1996, and listed in the next paragraph.



COMMISSION REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2002

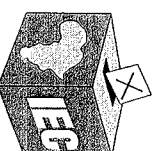
3. LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

In terms of Section 190 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996), the Electoral Commission must -

- manage elections of national, provincial and municipal legislative bodies in accordance with national legislation;
- ensure that those elections are free and fair; and declare the results of those elections within a period that must be prescribed
- by national legislation and that is as short as reasonably possible.

The functions of the Commission are set out in section 5 of the Electoral Commission Act, 1996:

- a. manage any election;
- b. ensure that any election is free and fair;
- c. promote conditions conducive to free and fair elections;
- d. promote knowledge of sound and democratic electoral processes;
- e. compile and maintain voters' rolls by means of a system of registering eligible voters by utilising data available from government sources and information furnished by voters;
- f. compile and maintain a register of parties;
- g. establish and maintain liaison and co-operation with parties;
- h. undertake and promote research into electoral matters;
- i. develop and promote the development of electoral expertise and technology in all spheres of government;
- j. continuously review electoral legislation and proposed electoral legislation, and to make recommendations in connection therewith;
- k. promote voter education;
- l. promote co-operation with and between persons, institutions, governments and administrations for the achievement of its objects;
- m. declare the results of elections for national, provincial and municipal legislative bodies within seven days after such elections;
- n. adjudicate disputes which may arise from the organisation, administration or conducting of elections and which are of an administrative nature; and



- o. appoint appropriate public administrations in any sphere of government to conduct elections when necessary.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

4. ORGANISATION

Towards the end of the previous financial year and during the first part of the year under review, the permanent staff complement of the national and nine provincial offices was reduced by 42% by way of an organogram rationalisation and retrenchment process (refer Table 1: Organisational structure). This was made possible and the reduced organogram sustained during the year under review by increased staff productivity resulting from an emphasis on

- training and skills transfer,
- the improvement of systems,
- the reallocation of functions,
- the projected devolving of certain election functions, and
- the progressive establishment over the following years of a core of well-trained part-time local officials that may make any significant increase in national office and provincial staff in election years unnecessary.

An additional effect of the rationalisation of the organogram may be that the expansion of resources during peak election periods may be greater. This risk has been identified and is being addressed and monitored through continuing staff development programmes.

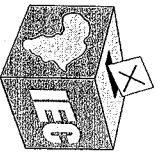


TABLE 1: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

