



MEDIA STATEMENT

SABC ANNOUNCES NEWS BROADCAST PLANS FOR THE WEEK OF THE 2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS

Johannesburg - Tuesday, 07 May 2019 - The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) is pleased to announce its readiness and broadcast plans for the 6th general elections taking place on Wednesday, 08 May 2019. SABC News will be at the forefront providing balanced coverage across its four television stations, 19 radio stations and digital platforms, including the SABC News mobile app, which can be downloaded from Android (Playstore) and iOS (App Store).

As part of these broadcast plans, SABC News has deployed radio and television reporting teams across the country to ensure comprehensive coverage in the lead-up to the elections.

SABC News coverage will include special votes on the 6th and 7th of May, a focus on the Independent Electoral Commission's (IEC) state of readiness, the build-up to voting day and a watching brief on voting districts. The public news service will continue to keep the voice of the electorate at the heart of its coverage, including the sentiments of first time voters.

The SABC has set up a state-of-the-art interactive studio at the Results Operation Centre in Pretoria, where it will share critical information on the election with the South African public. It will provide comprehensive results coverage and analysis with all role-players as well as international observer missions. Additionally, SABC News will have teams at all IEC results centres around the country providing in-depth, up-to-the-minute updates.

Studio programming will be anchored by some of the most seasoned television and radio journalists like Sakina Kamwendo, Leanne Manas, Tsepiso Makwetla, Stephen Grootes, Desiree Chauke, Peter Ndoro and Francis Herd.

Additional election programming on television will be broadcast as follows:

- SABC 1 – Wednesday, 08 May to Friday, 10 May 2019 (21h00 to 21h30);
- SABC 3 – Monday, 06 May to Friday, 10 May (17h30 to 18h00); and

SABC 2, as the broadcaster's designated election channel, will provide wall-to-wall 24-hour coverage on Wednesday, 08 May 2019, and further comprehensive results-related broadcasts from Thursday, 09 May 2019

until Saturday, 11 May 2019, when the official results of the elections are expected to be announced. SABC News channel will also provide wall-to-wall 24-hour coverage.

The schedule for SABC 2 on these particular days will be as follows:

DAY	TIMESLOT
Wednesday 08 May 2019	05h00 to 17:30
	19h00 to 20h55
Wednesday 08 May 2019 into Thursday 09 May 2019	22h00 to 05h00
Thursday 09 May 2019	05h00 – 09h30
	12h00 – 15h00
	19h00 – 21h00
	22h00 – 00h00
Friday 10 May 2019	06h00 – 09h30
Saturday 11 May 2019	IEC to confirm results announcement

With more than 150 election-related programmes broadcast since the beginning of the year, SABC News declares this as one of the largest election projects produced with limited resources. The special programming included town-hall debates on the SABC News Channel, radio stations, free-to-air television channels, as well as SABCNews.com.

As the May 08 elections come at a time when the country is celebrating 25 years of democracy, the public service broadcaster is committed to delivering unrivalled, unrestrained coverage in all official languages during this period and beyond, in an independent and impartial manner.

***The pictures of the News Anchors are available on request.**

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