

VOTING STATION



South African Council of Churches



Empowering Democracy Through Citizen Observation 2026 Provincial Elections



www.nfdi.org.za

www.sacc.org.za

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Why Observation Matters

- Rising mistrust and misinformation threaten election credibility
- Limited reach and local understanding by international observers
- Faith-based footprint is the most ubiquitous community representative in South Africa
- Local observers are trusted, cost-effective, and culturally aware
- Observer qualification criteria: Grade 12+, tech-savvy, politically neutral and trusted community-based individual
- Faith-based peacekeepers help de-escalate tensions and mediate solutions
- Citizen observers increase public confidence in electoral integrity



The SACC/NFDI Domestic Observer Approach

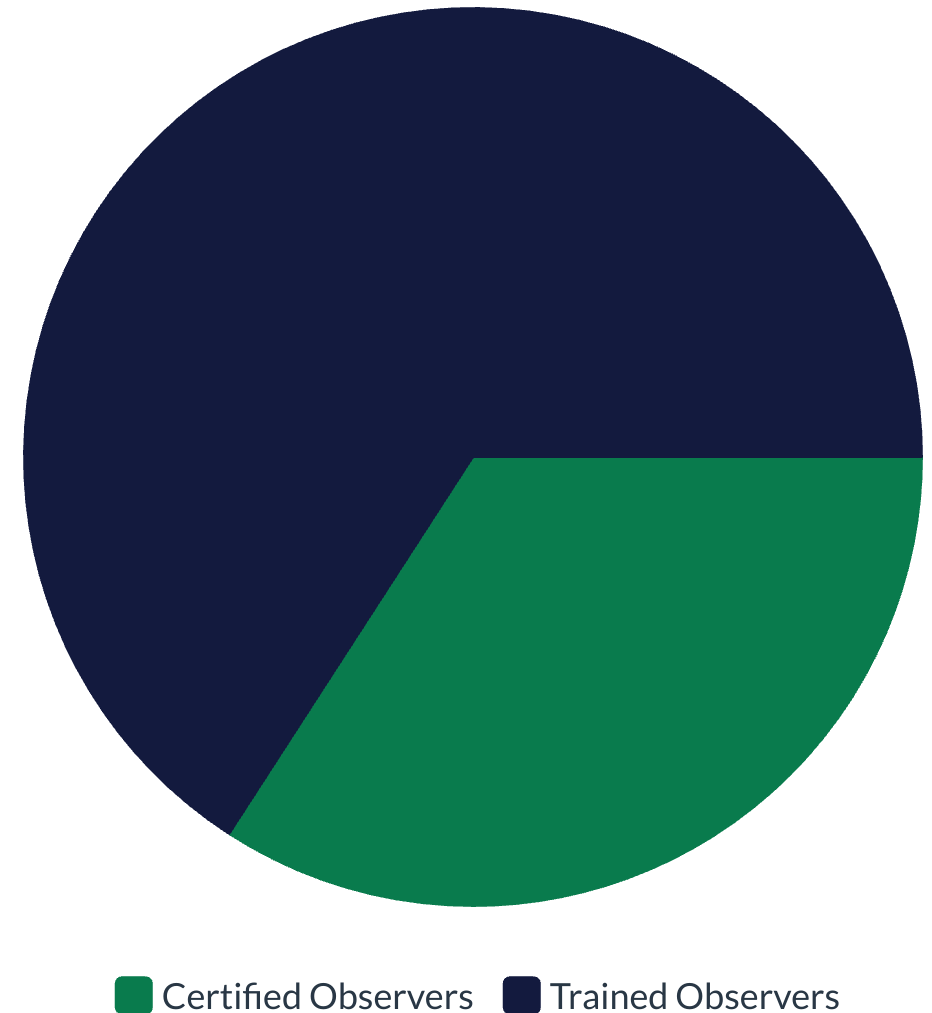
- Independent Observer Mission South Africa (IOMSA) is led by credible institutions: SACC & NFDI
- IOMSA was amongst xx groups to support the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in the 2024 National Elections
- Community recruitment's using churches as a base is the most effective decentralized approach
- Recruits anchored from faith-based structures result in values-driven participation
- IOMSA offers structured training: webinars, assessments and seamless IEC registration processes
- Local deployment: observers are placed at polling stations in their own community
- IOMSA provides propriety software to Observers in a real-time mobile reporting system



Proof of Concept Tested Model

- In May 2024, 622 certified Observers from 1200 trained were deployed across 9 provinces in 2024
- Urban, rural, high demand and historically volatile polling stations were covered
- Propriety digital reporting software ensured uniformity in reporting, efficiency in data gathering and verifiable accuracy
- IOMSA's application of global standards and prompt feedback into IEC processes avoids mischief that results from delayed elections results announcements

Accredited Observers By The IEC - 2024 Elections



Focus on Youth Inclusion & Civic Growth

- Youth election participation has been declining since 2014
- IOMSA strategy to significantly increase youth participation as observers in the 2026 Local Government Election
- IOMSA will promote civic education and youth leadership development



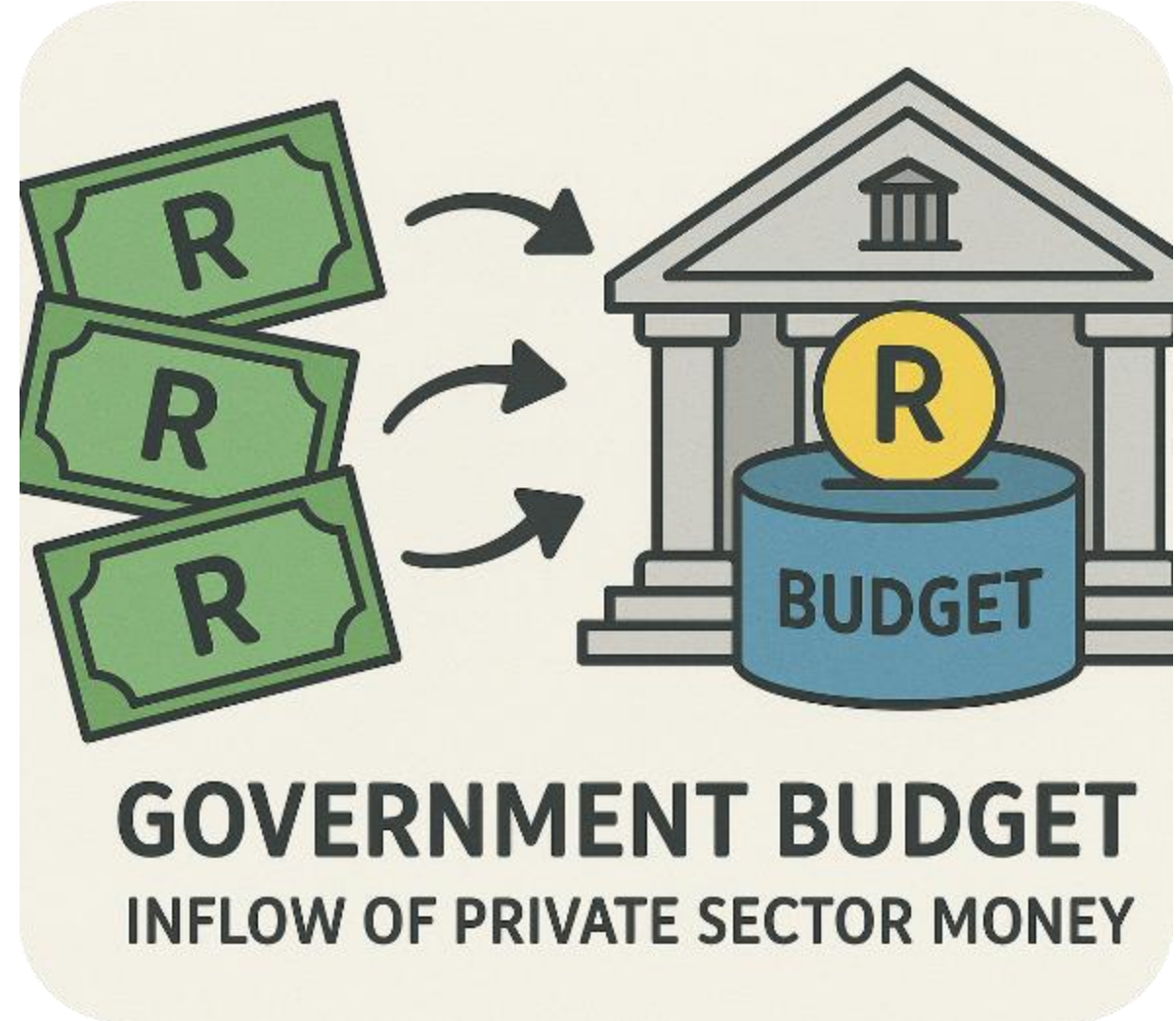
Trust & Credibility

- Backed by SACC & NFDI, trusted faith-based and civil society institutions with long-standing national presence
- Recognised by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) as an accredited observer mission
- Observers are rooted in local communities and nominated through transparent, community-led processes
- Trusted faces at voting stations reduce public anxiety and promote confidence in outcomes
- Monitoring and oversight of observers with embedded escalation processes ensure voting reports are submitted from all designated voting stations confirming our operating procedures are credible and accountable



The Case for Donor Support

- IEC like many government funded institutions is delayed and/or denied it's required capacity building requests
- International Observer Groups with limited funding are trending towards high risk elections
- IOMSA fills the operational gap left by international observers
- IOMSA is a citizen-led intervention that requires private sector funding support
- Investing in peaceful and credible elections assures post-election tranquility





Thank You

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Join us in securing democratic integrity for South Africa in 2026!