

South Africa – First Results

With results from around 19% voting districts counted so far, the ANC is leading with 43%, followed by the DA with 25%. The radical EFF has about 9%, while the uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MK Party) of former President Jacob Zuma is on around 8%. Final results are expected over the weekend. This is the most closely fought elections since the African National Congress (ANC) came to power 30 years ago. Source: BBC

Freedom of expression and development restricted

On 1 April 2024, Malagasy internet users were surprised by an unexpected internet price increase and the subsequent introduction of a new pricing system. The government's move saw the introduction of a fixed minimum price of MGA 4,153 (USD 0.95) per gigabyte. The average monthly income is MGA 188,891 (USD 43). As a result of this tariff increase, many Malagasy internet users have had to cut back on their spending on internet services or use internet cafés. What used to be a widely accessible service has now become a luxury in Madagascar. At a time when freedom of expression is already uncertain, this fee increase could be a pretext to censor critics and opponents in the run-up to the 8-29 May 2024 parliamentary elections in Madagascar. As the internet is one of the opposition's strategies to disseminate election results, this move would be a blatant violation of human rights and would jeopardise the country's democratic principles.

Botswana: Women on the sidelines during elections

The political parties have finalised their candidate lists for the 2024 general elections and the majority of candidates are male. In the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), only 20 of the almost 200 candidates for the National Assembly are women. In the last general elections, only 5% of women were elected to the National Assembly. Botswana uses the direct election system, where voters elect a single candidate rather than a list. While Botswana is struggling to bring more women into politics, countries such as Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe have more than 30% women in the upper and lower houses of parliament. 29.05.2024

Mosquitoes fight other mosquitoes

Djibouti has introduced a strain of non-biting male Anopheles stephensi mosquitoes to combat vector-borne diseases such as malaria. According to the biotech company Oxitec, the female Friendly™ mosquitoes are genetically modified so that the female offspring cannot live, so that only male mosquitoes are produced for release. The male GMO mosquitoes are released into the population where they mate with wild females, gradually suppressing the target population. This latest technology gives hope for the global fight against malaria. Djibouti almost eradicated malaria in 2012 with only 27 reported cases. In the following years, however, there was a dramatic increase in cases to 73,000 in 2020.

South Africa votes

On 29 May, a bank holiday, a total of 23 292 polling stations will be open from 7am to 9pm. This year, 27.79 million South Africans aged 18 and over have registered to vote, compared to 26.74 million in 2019. Registered

voters living abroad cast their votes on 17 and 18 May. Voters with special needs, including pregnant women and people with disabilities, vote on 27 and 28 May. South Africa has a proportional representation system in which parties and candidates compete for 400 seats in parliament, the National Assembly. 14,889 candidates, including 70 political parties and 11 independents, are eligible to stand in this year's election. After 30 years of dominance, the African National Congress (ANC) faces its toughest election yet: it needs 50% of the votes in the National Assembly to retain its parliamentary majority. The National Assembly will elect the president.

Cape Verde: Coran competition

The Mohammed VI Foundation of the African Oulema is organising a Quran memorisation and psalmody competition. The winners of the qualifying rounds will represent Cape Verde in the final round of the 5th Koran memorisation, recitation and psalmody competition organised by the Mohammed VI Foundation of the African Oulema. With this competition, the Mohammed VI Foundation of the African Oulema wants to awaken the interest of African Muslim children and young people in memorising, reciting, modulating psalms and studying the Koran. 28.05.2024

Zimbabwe: Elon Musk's STARLINK approved

Zimbabwe is now the ninth African country after Rwanda, Benin, Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi to grant Elon Musk's Starlink a licence to provide satellite internet services. However, Starlink will only be accessible through the company of Wicknell Chivayo, a regular guest of President Mnangagwade, which has been granted the licence rights by the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ). Last month, Starlink sent emails to its subscribers in countries where it is not registered, informing them that it will be discontinuing its services.

Comoros: Another 5 years in office

President Azali Assoumani promised to work for peace and rapid economic growth when he was sworn in for his fourth term on 26 May, after his opponents claimed that the January elections had been marred by fraud. Opposition leaders claim that the ballots were rigged, and that the election ended before the official closing time. The government rejected these allegations. Azali Assoumani was re-elected for another five-year term with 63% of the vote.

Nigeria: Not a mass wedding, but personalised ceremony

At least 100 young women, including many orphans, have been married off in separate ceremonies, sparking widespread outrage in the country. Originally, a mass wedding was to take place, but the Minister of Women Affairs, Uju Kennedy-Ohanenye, sought a court order to stop the event, fearing that some girls were underage. She reversed this decision after agreeing with the Speaker of the Niger State Assembly, Abdulmalik Sarkin-Daji, who was in favour of the mass wedding, that the young women should be married individually

More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

South Africa: Find everything you need to know about the 2024 general elections on [News24's Elections Hub](#).