

Press Release

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South African Institute of Race Relations

The power of ideas

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Opinion polls take SA's temperature: people losing confidence

The proportion of people who believe that the Government is performing well dropped by 37%, from 74% in 2002 to 54% in 2012. This is according to the 2013 *South Africa Survey*, published by the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR) in Johannesburg recently.

The *Survey* is the annual yearbook on all social, economic, and political aspects of South Africa that the IRR has been publishing since 1946.

Only 55% of South Africans have confidence in Parliament, 52% in provincial government, and a mere 49% in local government. Some 35% of South Africans are not interested in politics and elections, while one in four South Africans said they would not be voting in the 2014 national and provincial elections. When asked why, 44% of respondents said that 'things will stay the same no matter who wins'.

The data was sourced from several surveys, including ones conducted by Ipsos, Pondering Panda, and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation.

Georgina Alexander, a researcher at the IRR, said, 'While the accuracy of opinion polls is open to debate, it is a way to get a general idea of how people in South Africa feel and what they think about particular current issues. They allow us to take the temperature of the population, so to speak. These surveys tell us that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction and disillusionment. Political parties would be wise to address these issues'.

Ends
