



FW de Klerk
FOUNDATION

THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION

Our constitutional democracy, a reality for all South Africans

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Assessment of Compliance of Election Manifestos for the 2024 South African National Elections with the Bill of Rights

In the lead-up to the National and Provincial Elections on 29 May 2024, anticipated to be the largest and most significant in recent memory, the FW de Klerk Foundation has embarked upon a project. This project involved conducting an assessment of 17 parties, including grassroots movements and established political entities. It aimed to evaluate how well each manifesto aligned with the Constitution's core values, with a particular emphasis on compliance with the Bill of Rights.

Through meticulous analysis, this assessment highlights the commitment of political parties to realising the vision of a constitutional democracy that caters to the needs and rights of all South Africans. Central to this mission is the promotion of equality, freedom, dignity, and justice, principles that are enshrined in the Constitution and serve as guiding beacons for the nation's progress.

While exploring the diverse array of policy proposals and ideological perspectives put forth by the parties, certain commonalities emerge. One significant thread is the shared dedication to **making our constitutional democracy a tangible reality for every citizen**, irrespective of their background or circumstances. This commitment resonates with the mission of the FW de Klerk Foundation, which advocates for the promotion of the Constitution, national unity, reconciliation, and the celebration of diversity.

Despite the optimism surrounding the democratic process, the assessment does not shy away from acknowledging the shortcomings found within certain manifestos. **Identified threats** include proposals for the reinstatement of the death penalty, ambiguous stances on immigration policies, insufficient clarity on fundamental rights such as privacy, freedom of expression and minority rights and potential encroachments on individual property rights.



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In navigating these challenges, the assessment underscores the importance of robust debate, civic engagement, and unwavering vigilance in safeguarding the hard-won gains of democracy. Additionally, we have **ranked** each party's compliance on a **visual table** as well as on a **ranking list** to provide a clear comparison of their alignment with constitutional principles.

By upholding the principles of inclusivity, justice, and respect for human rights, South Africa can forge a path towards a brighter future where every individual's dignity is upheld, every voice is heard, and every right is protected.

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08 April 2024

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