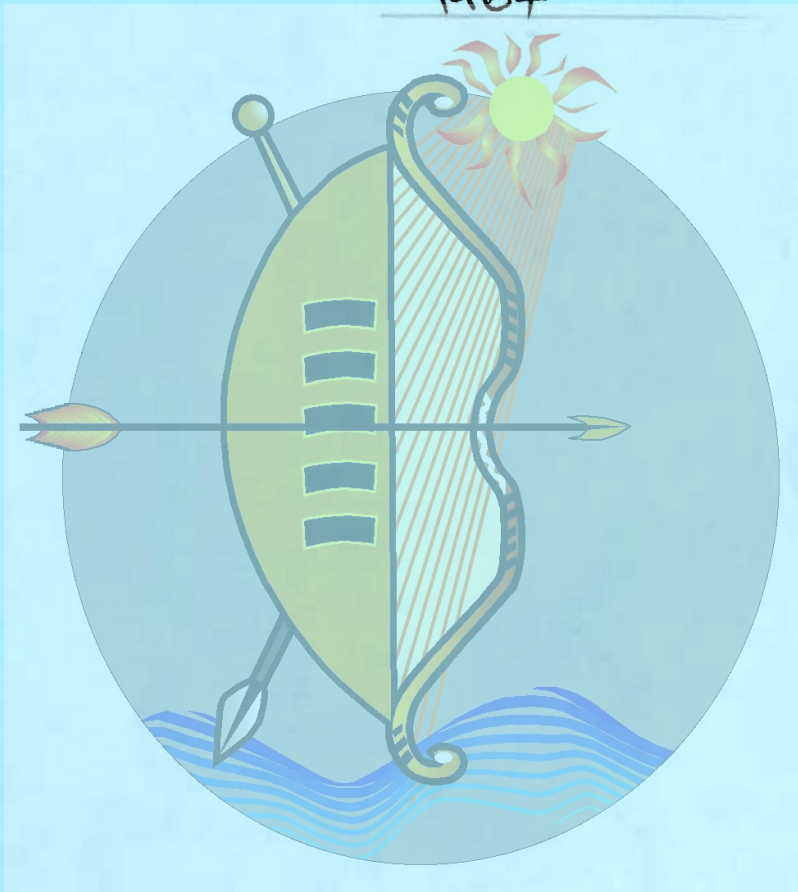


THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN COUNCIL

1964



The South African Indian Council, originally called the National Indian Council, was established as an advisory body in 1964. The Council consisted of 25 appointed members under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Indian Affairs. This was a purely administrative arrangement designed to create the necessary machinery for providing contact and facilities for consultation. In this way, it became the first mouthpiece of the Indian population to be recognised by the Government. The Council functioned in this capacity until 1968 when it became a statutory body with greater responsibility. It was then that the South African Indian Council Act, 1968 was promulgated. It empowers the Council inter alia to advise the Government on all economic, social, cultural, educational and political matters that affect the Indian population. The Council can make recommendations about any planning which it thought would promote the interests of the people as well. It also serves as a direct link between the Government and the Indian community.

During September 1974, a proclamation was promulgated to provide for an increase in the number of members of the Council - from 25 to 30, 15 of which were to be elected by electoral colleges in each of the provinces of Natal, the Transvaal and the Cape. The election of the 15 members and the appointment of the other 15 members appointed by the Minister took place during November 1974.

Opening the third session of the Council, the then Prime Minister announced that the Government envisaged that the Council would eventually become an all-elected body.

That time has now arrived. Every registered Indian voter now has the right, for the first time in the history of our country to bring out his or her vote on 26 March 1980. On that historical day you have the opportunity to elect the man you think best qualified to represent you on the South African Indian Council. For the first time in South African history, the South African Indian Council will be a fully elected body and it is your participation that will ensure that this memorable occasion will be a milestone to be remembered for all times. It is important for every registered voter to vote - so please make the effort to cast your vote. It is your vote that counts.

WHO MAY VOTE

1. Only registered voters will be entitled to take part in the election. A registered voter is a person who registered as such during the registration campaign and whose name appears on the voter's list supplied for use at the election.
2. A person who wishes to vote must -
 - (i) report in person at the polling station;

- (ii) his name must appear on the voter's list supplied for use in the polling station;
- (iii) he must establish his identity by producing his identity card, identity document, driver's licence, passport or any other proof of identity on which a photograph of such voter appears, issued to him by the State (including the Railways and Harbours Administration and a provincial administration) or any statutory body.

WHEN MUST I VOTE

- 3. The election will take place on Wednesday, 26 March 1980. The hours of voting will be from seven o'clock in the morning to 9 o'clock in the evening. Voters are advised to cast their votes as early as possible.

WHERE MUST I VOTE

- 4. A voter may only cast his vote in the electoral division in which he is registered and if that electoral division has been subdivided into polling districts at the polling station established for his polling district. There will be 123 easily accessible polling stations distributed throughout the provinces of Natal, Transvaal and the Cape of Good Hope.

5. Notices indicating the whereabouts of the polling stations in a particular electoral division will be posted outside the main entrance of the magistrate's office of every district in which the electoral division or any portion thereof is situated.

HOW DO I VOTE

6. At the polling station, the voter must patiently await his turn to vote. He should have his identification document ready, so that the voting procedure can be carried out speedily and efficiently. Without a prescribed identification document a prospective voter will not be allowed to cast his vote.
7. The voter then hands his identification document to the polling officer. When the polling officer has satisfied himself that the voter is entitled to vote he will hand a ballot paper to the voter. The voter shall take the ballot paper to a voting compartment provided for this purpose and signify the candidate for whom he desires to vote by secretly placing a cross in the block on the ballot paper opposite the name of that candidate. The voter may vote for One candidate only.
8. The voter must fold the ballot paper so that the official mark on the reverse side is visible and the

names of the candidates and the cross made by him are not visible. He must then show the ballot paper to the designated officer so that he can see the official mark. The voter then places the ballot paper into the ballot box.

9. The voter must vote without delay and leave the polling station as soon as he has dropped the ballot paper into the ballot box.

10. The names of the candidates who are participating in the election appear on the ballot paper.

11. To illustrate the procedure, we shall call the candidates A, B and C. On the actual ballot paper, the names, addresses and occupations of the participating candidates will appear in full.

12. The voter must draw a cross on the ballot paper in the block opposite the name of the candidate for whom he wishes to vote.

13. A voter must vote for One candidate only.

14. The cross must be drawn clearly within the block.

15. The ballot paper must now be folded in such a way that only the official mark remains visible.

16. Nobody, not even the polling officers, can therefore, know for whom one has voted.
17. The official mark must be shown to the official at the ballot box, so that he can ensure that the ballot paper has not been forged. The ballot paper is now placed in the ballot box.
18. This man has voted correctly.
19. Every prospective voter must identify himself, as prescribed, before he can be issued with a ballot paper.
20. Let's see whether this woman is voting correctly.
21. Here she is making a very big mistake. Instead of drawing a cross she is writing her name opposite that of the name of the candidate for whom she wishes to vote.
22. No voter may enter his name or initials on the ballot paper and a ballot paper marked in this way is considered to be a spoilt paper and will not be counted.
23. As the result of this incorrect action by the woman her candidate will lose a valuable vote.
24. Any person who is blind or who is incapacitated by any other physical cause or who cannot read or write and

cannot vote in the manner specified in the Act, may -

- (a) personally request the presiding officer to mark his ballot paper for him; or
- (b) choose to be assisted by his father, mother, brother, sister, wife, son, daughter or friend who has attained the age of 18 years.

25. Here too, the vote is secret.

26. The blind person indicates for whom he wishes to vote and his friend assists him to make the cross in the correct place.

27. The ballot paper is folded so that no one besides the blind person and his friend will know for whom the blind person has voted.

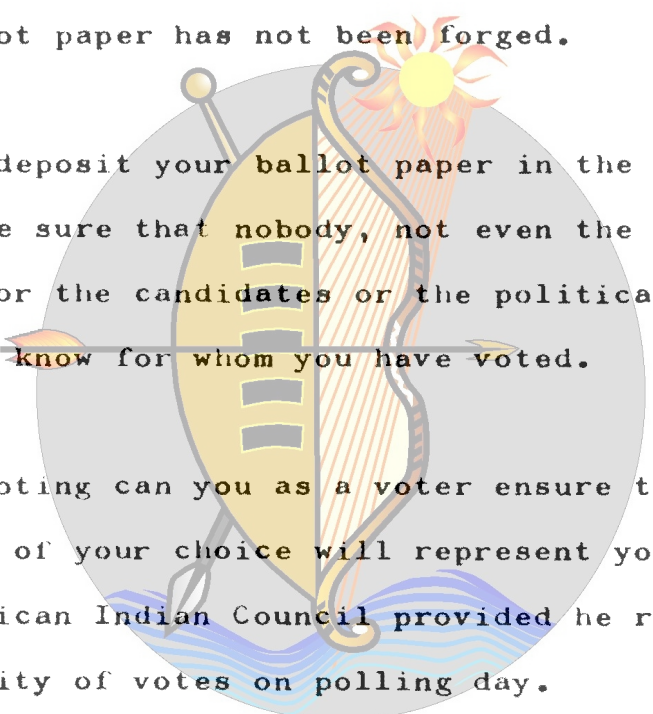
28. Only the official mark is shown to the official who must ensure that the ballot paper is not a forgery. The ballot paper is then placed in the ballot box.

29. Exactly the same procedure is followed when a person who cannot read or write wishes to vote, except that in this case he requests the presiding officer to vote on his behalf.

30. He is asked for whom he wishes to vote and indicates the name of the candidate to the presiding officer who

then draws the cross opposite the name of that particular candidate.

31. His ballot paper is folded and placed in the ballot box.
32. The voter is satisfied as he feels that his vote has been correctly cast on his behalf.
33. Remember, in order to be allowed to vote you must identify yourself with one of the prescribed identification documents namely -
- (i) your identity card;
 - (ii) your identify document (Book of Life);
 - (iii) your driver's licence;
 - (iv) your passport or
 - (v) any other proof of identity on which a photograph of yourself appears, issued to you by the State (including the Railways and Harbours Administration and a provincial administration) or any statutory body.
34. Hand it to the polling officer.
35. And remember, you can only vote once.
36. You must vote for one candidate only.

37. Make your cross clearly opposite the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.
38. Do not sign your name on the ballot paper.
39. Once you have voted, your ballot paper must be folded so that only the official mark is visible
- (a) to satisfy the polling officer that the ballot paper has not been forged.
40. When you deposit your ballot paper in the ballot box you can be sure that nobody, not even the polling officers or the candidates or the political parties, will ever know for whom you have voted.
41. Only by voting can you as a voter ensure that the candidate of your choice will represent you on the South African Indian Council provided he receives the majority of votes on polling day.
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