

South Africa elections: ANC keeps power in South Africa but scandals cost it votes

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Pretoria: The African National Congress retained control of South Africa's parliament but its share of the vote fell, a rebuke from voters fed up with corruption scandals and racial inequalities that remain entrenched a generation after the party took power.

Provisional results on Saturday showed the ruling party secured 57.51% of the votes in Wednesday's general election. The main opposition party Democratic Alliance (DA) picked up 20.76% and the leftist Economic Freedom Fighters garnered 10.79%, the Independent Electoral Commission said on its website.

The ANC's victory secures it enough seats in parliament to give President Cyril Ramaphosa another five years in office but may leave him short of ammunition to battle party rivals who oppose his reforms to galvanise the economy and counter graft.

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The ANC had not previously won less than 60% of the vote in a national poll.

The provisional results also showed the ANC won a tight provincial race in Gauteng, where South Africa's biggest city and commercial centre Johannesburg and the administrative capital Pretoria are located, with 50.19% of the vote.

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- Reuters