



## **ANALYSIS OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION 2012/13 ANNUAL REPORT**

8 October 2013

### **1. Introduction**

The Electoral Commission is a permanent body created by the Constitution to promote and safeguard democracy in South Africa. Although publicly funded and accountable to Parliament, the Commission is independent of the government. Its immediate task is the impartial management of free and fair elections at all levels of government.

Section 14(1) of the Electoral Commission Act, 1996 (Act 51 of 1996) requires the Electoral Commission to submit annually to the National Assembly, an audited report of all money received from sources other than the money appropriated by Parliament, as well as the audited statements on income and expenditure and a report in regard to the functions, activities and affairs of the Commission.

Section 40(1)(e) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999), requires the Chief Electoral Officer as accounting officer, to submit to Parliament the Commission's Annual Report and financial statements together with the Auditor-General's Report on those statements. This is an analysis of key aspects of the 2010/11 annual report of the Electoral Commission (IEC).

### **2. Summary of Auditor-General (AG) report**

The IEC has received a Clean Audit opinion after two years of unqualified reports. There are thus no matters of emphasis in 2011/12 and no issues on predetermined objectives. One additional matter is mentioned by the AG in that 9 out of 41 targets (22%) set by the IEC were not achieved. This is said to be due to the IEC considering evidential requirements during strategic planning. The AG also noted that there is currently an investigation into the tender awarded for accommodation of the Electoral Commission Riverside Office Park.

### **3. Performance Against Set Targets**

The IEC have 41 performance indicators across their five programmes. The IEC managed to exceed or achieve 32 of these (78%). This is compared to 35 achieved out of 49 targets (60%) in 2011/12. This is admirable compared to many other entities in government. In addition, many of the un-achieved targets were in fact mostly achieved and/or postponed to allow for further consultation. The lowest achieving programmes were Outreach where 5 out of 8 objectives were achieved (62%) and Corporate Services where 9 out of 14 targets (64%) were achieved.

### **4. Human Resources**

The IEC reported 132 vacancies out of an approved establishment of 928 (14%). This is compared 58 vacancies out of 871 posts (7%) in 2011/12, however the number of approved posts has increased by 6%. This is relatively good compared to other government departments. One area of concern is that It operations has 18 of its 32 positions unfilled (56%) as compared to 50% in 2011/12.



The IEC performed well on employment equity and on staff training and development. Although the IEC can be commended for significant and ongoing engagement with persons with disabilities regarding special voting; they commission still does not report on the number of persons with disabilities it has employed.

#### **Questions to the Electoral Commission**

1. The high performance against set targets of the IEC as compared to other entities in government is commendable. What has contributed to the improved financial and performance compliance?
2. In the corporate Services Programme why did the skills audit delay the HR plan being implemented? Has it since been implemented?
3. Why does the planned target for the comprehensive support services strategy refer to a 'plan' being approved by 31 March 2013 whereas actual performance is stated as a 'framework' being approved with no date?
4. Is a final training strategy in place yet?
5. What has led to the continued low capacity in the IT operations component?
6. What is the percentage of persons with disabilities employed by the IEC, and why does this continue to not be reported on in the annual reports?

#### **Sources**

Electoral Commission (2012) Annual Report 2012

Electoral Commission (2013) Annual Report 2013

Electoral Commission (2012) Annual report and Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2011. Presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs.

Salmon, A (2012) Analysis of the IEC 2011/12 Annual Report