



**Emma Louise Powell, MP**  
**Shadow Minister for International**  
**Relations and Co-operation**

Tel: +27 21 [REDACTED] | 0 [REDACTED]

Email: [powellemmalouise@gmail.com](mailto:powellemmalouise@gmail.com)

[REDACTED]@da.org.za

[www.da.org.za](http://www.da.org.za)

07 March 2024

To: The Honourable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State, United States of America

Through: H.E Dr Reuben Bridgety II, United States Ambassador to South Africa

### **Election 2024 - Republic of South Africa**

Following on from the letter sent to your esteemed office by the Multi-Party Charter, the Democratic Alliance, as the Official Opposition in the South African Parliament, wishes to sharpen our appeal to the international community in helping to ensure the integrity of the upcoming elections (NPE2024).

As you are aware, the NPE2024 is set to take place on 29 May 2024. This will be the most crucial election in our country since the dawn of democracy in 1994.

For the first time in democratic South Africa, the ruling African National Congress (ANC) may receive below 50% of the national vote. The ANC may further lose control of a number of provinces, thereby losing their majority in the upper chamber of Parliament, the National Council of Provinces.

Furthermore, the recent establishment of the MK Party, led by former President Jacob Zuma, is set to gain significant support in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, which may have concomitant implications at the national level. We are of the view that MK poses a substantive risk to the continued peaceful nature of our political discourse as a nation.

The fluid nature of the current political landscape thus presents both significant risks as well as opportunities.

We know that as the geopolitical sands continue to shift, those of us invested in the political values of freedom, tolerance, peace and democracy, must do everything in our power to stem the rising tides of populism, fanaticism, oppression and tyranny.

As you are aware, South Africa's peaceful transition to democracy in 1994 was supported by countries throughout the world who shared our progressive vision, and worked with us to defeat racial nationalism and political oppression.

This support is as necessary now as it was then, because when democracies work together to preserve a rules based international order that promotes democracy, individual freedom, political franchise and universal human rights, nations thrive.

Sadly, 30 years on from the dawn of our democracy, the powerful and strategic geopolitical position that our Country once occupied in promoting these values, is rapidly diminishing.



**Emma Louise Powell, MP**  
**Shadow Minister for International Relations and Co-operation**  
Tel: +27 21 462 2011 | 074 [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com | [REDACTED]@da.org.za  
[www.da.org.za](http://www.da.org.za)

It is our contention that as the ruling elite grow more desperate to retain electoral support ahead of the upcoming elections, they may be willing to put their narrow political interests ahead of our Country's broader interests and sacred constitutional values. Here, we are witnessing an increasing willingness by the ANC to forge alliances with malign international actors, whose regimes are characterised by tyranny, terror and oppression.

We therefore appeal to your government to recognize the high stakes for South Africa in the lead up to, and aftermath of the NPE2024. It is in this context that we now formally request our partners in democracy to engage with consequence in the run-up to the election.

Our requests to your government are as follows:

1. In the absence of permissions being granted by our government for increased contingents of international observers to monitor NPE2024, resources could be made available to bolster the deployment of additional, independent, domestic observers.
2. More can be done to ensure that civil society organisations are capacitated to provide voter education and capacity-building for domestic monitors.
3. Any available resources that could be directed into an Independent Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) process, run by independent organisations, would be valuable.
4. Lastly, we note with increasing alarm the potential for foreign interference in our elections by malign actors. Your Country can help to safeguard against any attempts to disrupt the democratic process or negatively influence the South African electorate through misinformation and disinformation campaigns. We therefore expect that any available technological resources, designed to mitigate against these risks, will be made available to opposition parties and independent watchdogs, to safeguard against sinister attempts to manipulate election outcomes, particularly within vulnerable communities.

We will be requesting a formal meeting with your Embassy in South Africa in coming weeks, where we will provide more specific detail in respect of our requests.

In closing, please accept our assurance that the Democratic Alliance will continue to meet with and remind the international community that South Africa is more than her government, and that the spirit of peace, humility, compromise and resilience that characterised our transition 30 years ago remains alive and well. Together, we will navigate the road ahead with bravery and hope.

Yours in democracy and freedom,

**Emma Louise Powell, MP**

**Shadow Minister for International Relations and Cooperation: South Africa**