

IT'S BETWEEN ANC AND DA

Two battle it out for votes

Ido Lekota and Katlego Moeng

WITH millions of voters expected at the polls tomorrow, the battle for the country's major cities has become a two-horse race between the African National Congress and the Democratic Alliance.

The latest survey conducted by Marknor has shown that the ANC could receive 62 percent and the DA 26 percent of the over 20 million registered voters.

"Smaller parties are unlikely to fare well throughout the country and will be limited to only a few municipalities.

"Cope is unlikely to make any impact at all. The real battle will be between the ANC and DA, with the smaller parties becoming coalition targets to secure a majority in some of the municipalities," a survey by Media Tenor – an organisation that analyses media coverage of the election – has also found.

The two-horse race is, on the one hand, driven by the ANC's determination to wrestle control of Cape Town and Midvaal municipalities from the DA, while the DA is gunning for Johannesburg and Tshwane.

By yesterday afternoon the two parties were still campaigning, hoping to win over the 19 percent identified by the Marknor poll as being undecided.

Speaking in Riverlea, southwest of



NO IMPACT: Cope leader Mosiuoa Lekota during his election campaign in Emalandeni outside Umlazi, in Kwazulu-Natal yesterday.

Johannesburg, ANC president Jacob Zuma said the ANC was a party with history, vision and programmes for municipalities.

"We have delivered but have not done everything. The damage of apartheid cannot be reversed in 17 years.

"We delivered freedom as

promised. We are now saying we want to change the quality of life in South Africa. We will deliver."

Zuma promised.

He said ANC councillors would be held accountable because he wanted to see faster development.

Speaking at Bargwanath taxi rank in Soweto, DA leader Helen

Zille said the ANC was trying to divide the country along racial lines while failing to deliver services.

"If you want racial division and failed service delivery, you should vote for them. But if you want a growing economy, real opportunities, improved service delivery, redress and reconciliation, the DA is the

logical choice," Zille told the crowd.

Analysts believe that despite the intense electioneering from the two parties – the political permutations will remain the same when it comes to the country's metros.

They believe that the DA will retain Cape Town with the ANC retaining Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Nelson Mandela Bay and Ekurhuleni.

"The ANC has nothing to worry about when it comes to Johannesburg, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni," HSRC researcher Mcebisi Ndletyana said.

He believes the DA may gain some white votes because of Johannesburg's recent billing chaos but "the most affected were the middle-class, which is not the ANC's major support base".

He said internal instability and allegations of corruption involving ANC members in the Nelson Mandela Bay metro could lead to voter apathy – but the ANC would still come out as the majority party.

Both Ndletyana and independent analyst Elvis Masoga believe that the ANC's internal squabbles in the Western Cape would cost the party Cape Town.

Ndletyana said nominating Cosatu's Tony Ehrenreich was a clever move – but it would still not win the ANC Cape Town.

"Ehrenreich is like a breath of fresh air, unfortunately he came in a bit too late," Masoga said.

He also believes that the statement by government spokesperson Jimmy Manyi about coloureds in the Western Cape would cost the ANC some votes.

Both analysts believe that the jury is still out on Midvaal.

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