

# Press Release



SOUTH AFRICAN  
INSTITUTE OF  
RACE RELATIONS

South Africa's Leading Research and Policy Organisation

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## Coalition-run councils increase

Local councils run by coalitions have almost doubled in number in the last two years, according to the latest *South Africa Survey*, published last week by the South African Institute of Race Relations.

In 2011 there were 278 councils in South Africa. Of these, 43 were run by coalitions, up from 25 in 2009, according to the data, which was gathered from Gaffney's Group A council is run by a coalition if no single party wins more than 50% of seats. Since 2007 it has become more common for parties to fail to win a majority in councils.

The increase could also be attributed to the decline of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) in KwaZulu-Natal, which lost 30 municipalities to the ANC and the National Freedom Party (NFP) in the 2011 municipal election. The IFP controlled 28 local councils in 2009, but this number decreased dramatically to two in 2011.

Ms Georgina Alexander, a researcher at the Institute, said, 'Coalition-run councils may find it harder to reach consensus on key issues of municipal governance. This may impede agreement on policy implementation. On the other hand, while coalition-run councils may have to work harder to reach consensus, this process may result in better-considered policies and will avoid the domination of a single party.'

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