

South Africans vote in local elections

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)- Early results Thursday put the ruling African National Congress well ahead in local elections, despite voter unhappiness with the rate of progress in improving the lives of poor Blacks.

With more than 80 percent of ballots counted, the ANC led with 68 percent of the vote, while the Democratic Alliance had 17 percent, according to the Independent Electoral Commission.

Results from Cape Town — the most hotly contested city council — were not yet declared.

Electoral commission head Brigilia Bam praised the conduct of the elections — the third local poll since the advent of multiparty democracy in 1994.

"We are very proud that there has been no violence recorded in any part of this country for these elections," Bam told journalists in Pretoria. "There has been visually no people being harassed or threatened with any form of intimidation in our elections."

President Thabo Mbeki was first to vote in the capital, Pretoria, and urged the nation's 21 million registered voters to cast their ballots "because we need a very strong and legitimate local government."

Nelson Mandela, the first



Voters queue to cast their votes in local government elections in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa.

democratically elected president, was cheered at his polling station in Johannesburg. "Even if I go to my grave I will wake up and come and vote," joked the 87-year-old. "One of the manifestations of pride (in your country) is to vote for your country, and I am very happy for

it," Mandela said, according to the South African Press Association.

Bam said that provisional figures indicated voter turnout at 47 percent, although many analysts had predicted a lower turnout. Voters were seen as frustrated with the ANC, but unwilling to sup-

port any party but the one that toppled apartheid.

South Africa has made huge economic, political and social strides in the 12 years since the end of apartheid. The government has built nearly 2 million new homes for impoverished Black South Africans, and dramatically improved services like sanitation, electricity and education.

The ANC has promised to take advantage of sustained economic growth to spend more than \$66 billion over the next five years on jobs and infrastructure.

But there is mounting frustration that the progress is too slow. Some 16 million people out of South Africa's total population of 45 million remain without adequate sanitation, and 3.7 million have no access to clean water. About 1.8 million households are still living in shacks and nearly a quarter of a million households use buckets for toilets.

There is also widespread unhappiness at incompetent and corrupt local officials.

In Cape Town, there was additional anger over 10 days of prolonged power outages that have caused havoc and

misery. Polling stations were equipped with candles and other basic supplies to cope with the outages, forecast to continue through Thursday.

The outcome in Cape Town will hinge on the city's mixed-race community, which makes up nearly half the population and which often complains it feels neglected by the ANC.

"The ANC looks after its own," said John Robert, who said he voted for the ANC last time but was switching to the Democratic Alliance. "Only a few people get a

piece of the cake."

Robert, who lives in the poor mixed-race fishing community of Hout Bay, just outside Cape Town, complained that no new houses had been built in his neighborhood and that soaring unemployment among fishermen was forcing him into illegal poaching.

Veronica Adonis, a 61-year-old fish factory worker, disagreed.

"The government is doing nice work," she said. "It takes time. Progress won't happen overnight."

U.S. says coca crops up in Bolivia, Peru

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)- Coca cultivation was up in Bolivia and Peru last year and Venezuela is doing little to halt the smuggling of Colombian cocaine across its borders, the U.S. government said in its annual narcotics report Wednesday.

Growth of coca leaf, the raw ingredient of cocaine, was up 38 percent in Peru and 8 percent in Bolivia last year compared with 2004, despite coca eradication and programs that encourage farmers to grow alternative crops, the U.S. government said.

Critics of the multimillion-dollar U.S.-funded war on drugs in the region pointed to the increased cultivation in the second- and third-largest coca-producing nations as evidence of its failure.

(See Coca, Page 18)

Starbucks to soon offer Rwandan-grown coffee

SEATTLE (AP) - Starbucks Corp. announced Tuesday that it will soon start selling its first Rwandan-grown coffee in North American stores.

Rwanda Blue Bourbon is the company's 10th variety in the Black Apron Exclusives line of high-end coffees produced in limited quantities. Half-pound fuchsia foil bags in decorative black boxes will sell for \$12 in the United States and \$16 in Canada, beginning March 13. Blue refers to the blue-green color of the unroasted coffee cherries, and bourbon refers to a variety of arabica species.

Starbucks, the world's largest specialty coffee retailer, said it decided to start buying beans from the central African nation after visiting it in 2004 to gauge its potential as a premium coffee supplier.

Historically, Rwandan farmers have grown only low-grade beans as a cash crop and almost quit growing coffee entirely after the genocidal civil war that killed more than half a million Rwandans in 1994.

In 2001, Rwandan farmers started producing specialty coffee for the first time with help from the U.S. Agency for International Development and another group, Agribusiness Development Activity in Rwanda, Seattle-

based Starbucks said in a fact sheet provided to The Associated Press.

The agencies taught farmers how to cultivate premium arabica coffee beans; and secure bank loans needed to buy equipment and build coffee-washing stations, where coffee beans are fermented, then washed.

In its last visit to Rwanda, Starbucks picked two mills to work with, both of them in Cyangugu, a province in the southeastern part of the country along the border with the Republic of Congo and Burundi.

Both mills produce coffee grown at high altitudes — as high as 5,500 feet — in soil rich with volcanic ash.

Dub Hay, Starbucks' senior vice president of coffee, would not disclose how much Rwandan farmers were paid for their Starbucks beans, but said the company pays a global average of \$1.28 per pound to its producers, and follows green coffee purchasing guidelines that reward performance in several environmental and social categories.

The company said the coffee it's buying is grown by small farmers who have about 175 trees per farm.

Starbucks buys coffee from 26 countries in Latin America, the Asia-Pacific region and East Africa.

30th
ANNIVERSARY SEASON
OUR GREATEST PERFORMANCES 2006 2005

Jazz at
Lincoln Center's
Afro-Latin
Jazz Orchestra
Saturday, March 11
\$45 - \$60 - \$90

Led by Arturo O'Farrill (son of jazz great Chico O'Farrill), Jazz at Lincoln Center's Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, called "hard-swinging" and "grand," performs the classics of the Afro-Latin jazz tradition as well as new works that it has commissioned.

(702) 895-ARTS (2787)
<http://pac.unlv.edu>

Performing Arts Center
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS