



Report to

**THE HONOURABLE MINISTER
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

MOSELEWAPULA POLLING DISTRICT
BY-ELECTION





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Honourable Minister
Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
Private Bag 006
Gaborone

The Honourable Minister,

In accordance with Section 65 A (13) of the Constitution of Botswana, we are submitting to you on behalf of the Independent Electoral Commission, a report on the activities associated with the preparations for, and conduct of the Local Government by-election in the Moselewapula Polling District in the Francistown West Constituency, following the passing on of its elected Councillor.

On the 22nd June 2022, the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Rural Development issued an Election Instrument, pursuant to Sections 154 (1) of the Electoral Act. The instrument designated 7th July 2022 as a day for receiving nominations and 30th July 2022 for taking of any poll that may become necessary. The by-election for the polling district was therefore, held accordingly on the 30th July 2022. We now have the pleasure to submit our report on this election.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Honourable Justice A. B. Tafa
Chairman
INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION



Mr. Jeff Siamisang
Secretary IEC
INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This report provides an overview of the by-election held in the Moselewapula Polling District on 30th July, 2022. The campaigns during the build up to the by-election were marked by a few acts of intolerance and violence between political parties. Notably, the Moselewapula by-election was the first of its kind where the Returning Officer had to use a public address system to disperse citizens who were continuously gathering at the entrance of the polling stations contravening Section 113 of the Electoral Act. The Special Support Group (SSG) was also called to prevent possible threats during counting due to disturbances at polling stations throughout the day. Nonetheless, the Moselewapula by-election was a success despite the threats and disturbances, as the results were announced without interference.

Pre-By Election Phase

Sensitisation and Outreach

From June 22nd to July 29th, 2022, mobile publicity was conducted every evening to improve voter education. Polling district walkabouts were conducted in order to engage voters and distribute flyers. Additionally, patients and children on visits to the clinic and schools were issued with flyers so that they could help spread the by-election message. Kgotla meetings were also conducted even though the attendance was low.

The Commission also organised training sessions for poll staff, candidates, polling agents and security personnel to ensure that everyone involved was well equipped for the by-election. In order to build trust and promote transparency in the election, the Secretary to the Commission also addressed a meeting with the Francistown Party Liaison Committee (PLC) where he requested them to assist in the delivery of a free, fair and credible by-election.

Issuance of Duplicate Cards

To encourage and enable the participation of individuals in the by-election, duplicate voter registration cards were issued to individuals who had misplaced or lost their originals prior to the by-election. Duplicates were issued at both polling stations and the Office of the Principal Elections Officer, Francistown, from 13th June to 29th July 2022.

Media and Elections

Recognising the significance of the media in elections, the Commission initiated focused communication initiatives to keep all stakeholders informed about the by-election and the electoral process. The Commission conducted media campaigns primarily through social media platforms, radio, television, and print media.

Radio & Television

Due to their considerable coverage, Radio Botswana (RBI) and Botswana Television (BTV) were utilised to inform the general public about the by-election.

Newspapers

The Commission used a range of publications as part of its publicity strategy to reach out to the broader public. Newspapers, due to their lengthy news cycles and vast distribution, were used for publishing advertisements regarding the by-election.

Social Media

The IEC and BW Government Facebook pages and YouTube were used to interact with young people and the general electorate to encourage them to participate in the by-election.

Recruitment of Election Officials

During the by-election, 29 Public Officers were appointed as poll staff, including one (1) Returning Officer and Three (3) Assistant Returning Officers. The remaining officers were Presiding Officers, Polling Officers, and Tallying Officers. All poll staff were trained on how to conduct the election in conformity with the electoral framework.

Logistics

A significant portion of the election preparations involved obtaining transportation, as well as acquiring and packaging election materials. The Commission therefore, deployed an efficient logistical planning approach to ensure that all logistics were well coordinated.

Ballot Papers

The Commission ensured that Two Thousand One Hundred (2 100) ballot papers were printed and delivered in time for the by-election.

Polling Booths

To ensure that all voters could vote freely and secretly, each polling station was provided with Two (2) polling booths to ensure that all voters voted freely and secretly.

Distribution of Election Materials

To ensure that the by-election was conducted well, all election materials were issued on time. The Returning Officer collected and distributed sensitive electoral materials to the Presiding Officers of each polling station. Other election materials were equally distributed to both polling stations.

Election Phase

Nominations

In accordance with Section 35 of the Electoral Act, nominations for the Moselewapula Polling District were received on 7th July 2022. Three (3) candidates were validly nominated to contest in the by-election, namely:

- *Mr. Ntoga Ngwisiwa of Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)*
- *Mr. Tebo Ndanyala Gift of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC).*
- *Mr. Wairi Oagile of Botswana Congress Party (BCP)*

Polling



A Voter in a queue early in the morning to cast their vote during the Moselewapula by-election.



Voters in a queue to cast their votes during the Moselewapula by-election.

Figure 1: Voter turnout of Moselewapula by-election

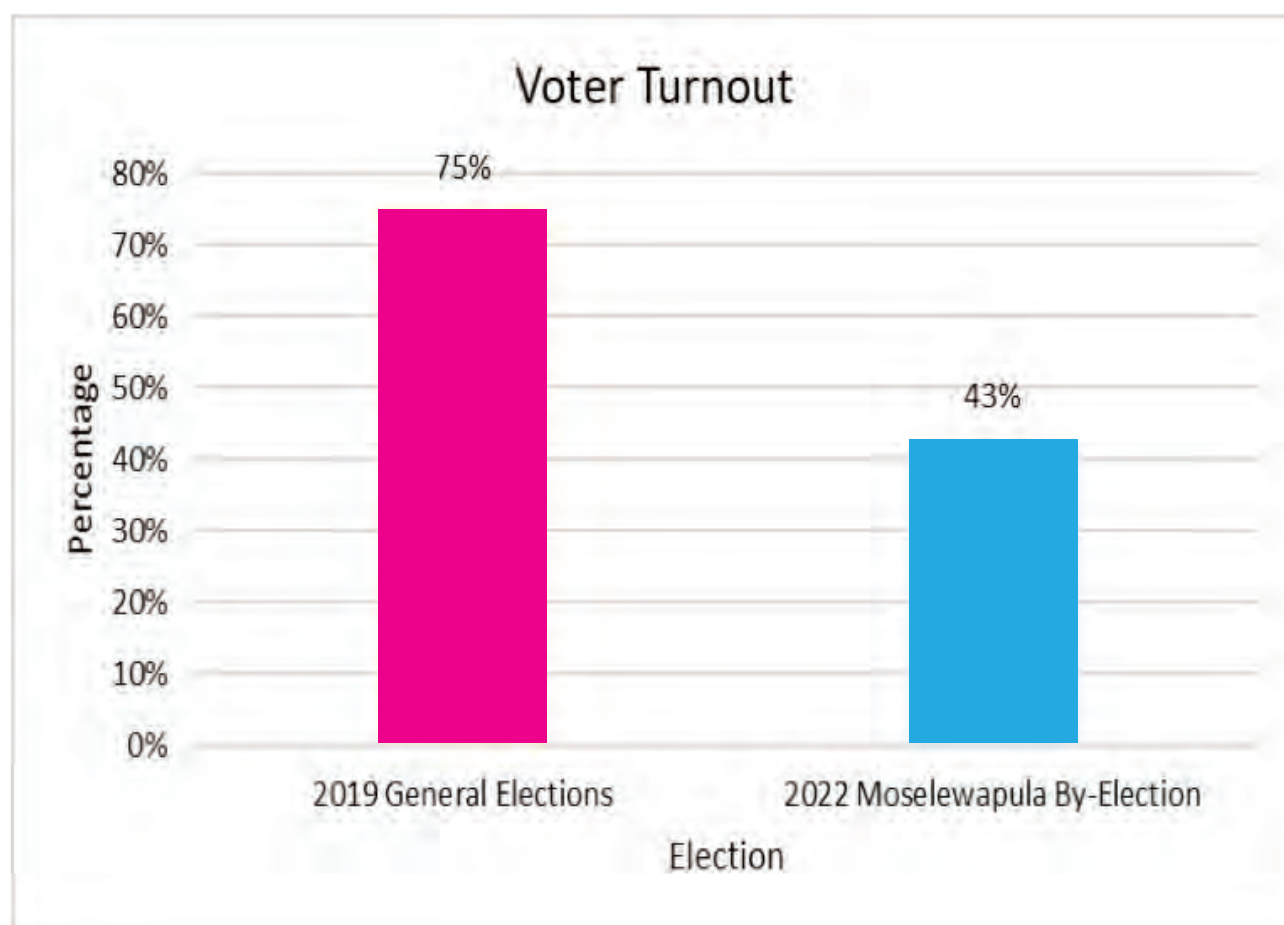


Figure 1 above illustrates the voter turnout for the July 2022 by-election in the Moselewapula Polling District. The voter turnout was 43% of the total number of registered voters, which totalled 1834. This voter turnout was around half of the total turnout in the 2019 General Election for the same Polling District.

Counting

After closing of the poll, the Presiding Officers conducted a ballot paper account for each polling station and brought ballot boxes to the Counting Centre, where verification was conducted by the Returning Officer. This approach verified that the number of used and unused ballots matched the number of ballots distributed to the Presiding Officer by the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer then presided over the process of counting of ballots cast. As votes were counted, each candidate's total was tallied on a tally sheet. This administrative approach has proven to increase the accuracy of counting and reduced the time taken to announce results.

Results

Section 77 of the Electoral Act authorises the Returning Officer to declare the election results at the location of counting and subsequently submit them to the Secretary to the Commission. The results of the Moselewapula by-election were released incident-free within Seven (7) hours after closing of the poll.

Figure 2: Percentage of votes received per political party

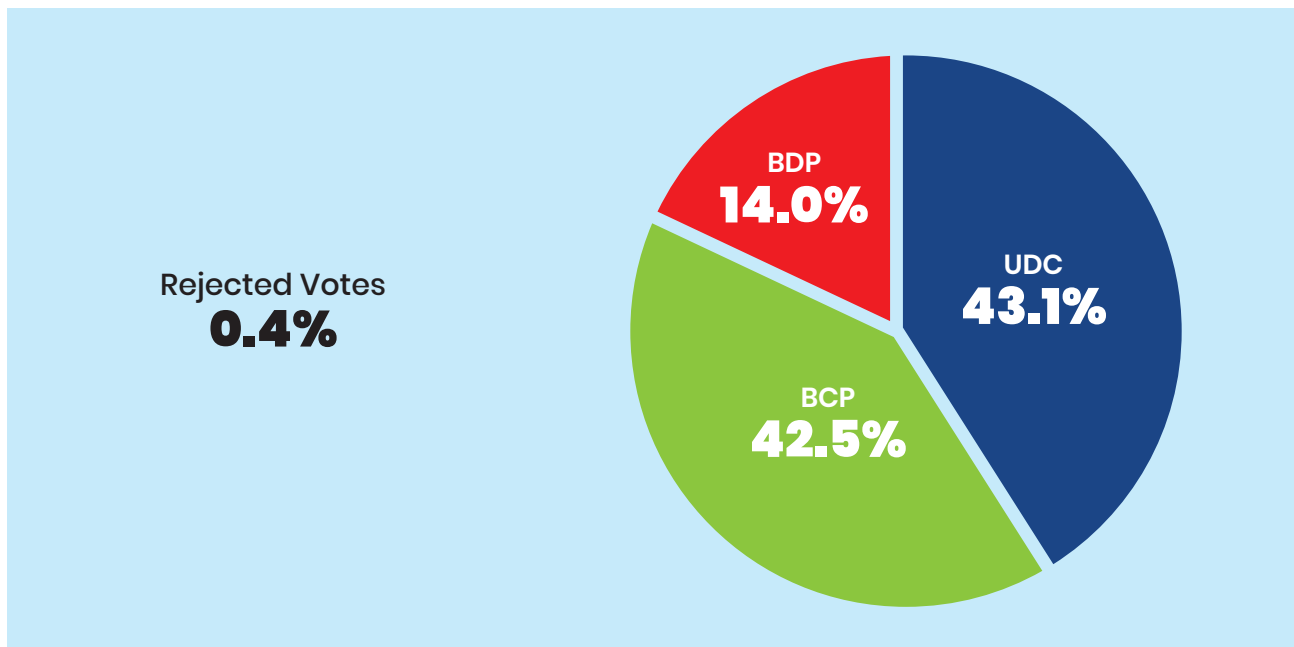
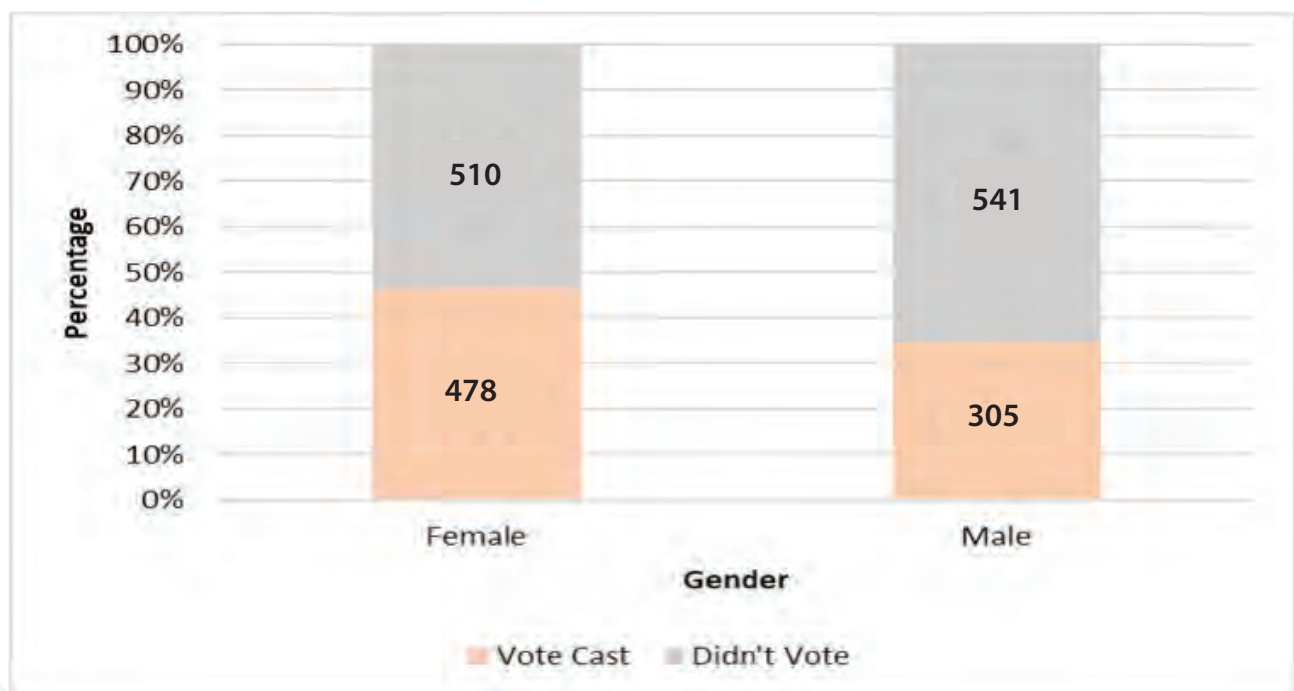


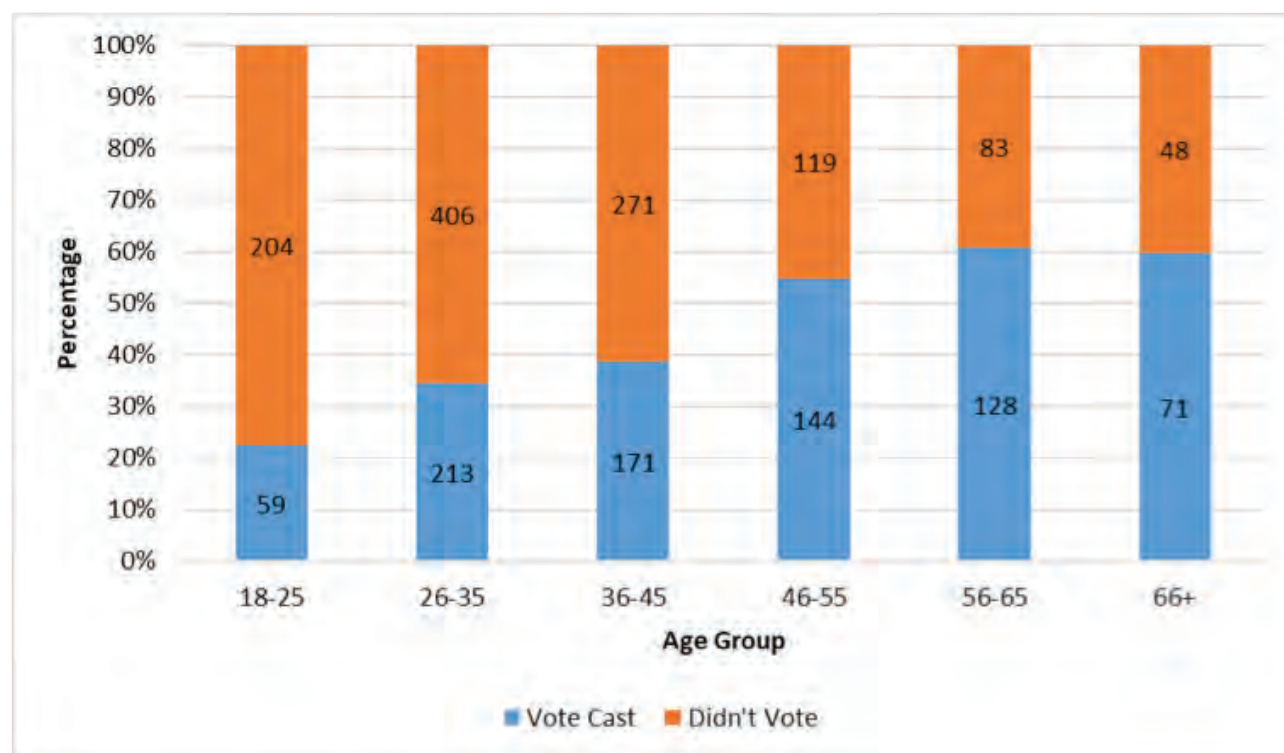
Figure 2 above depicts the percentage of votes cast for each political party. The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) obtained 43.1% of the popular vote, followed by the Botswana Congress Party with 42.5% and the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) with 14.0%. There were Three (0.4%) rejected votes.

Figure 3: Percentage of votes according to gender



The percentage of votes cast in the Moselewapula by-election, broken down by gender, is depicted in Figure 3 above. Out of the 988 females who were registered to vote 46% voted. Similar to past by-elections, more females than males voted in this election.

Figure 4: Percentage of votes per age group



A comparison of votes cast by age group demonstrates that youth participation is quite low, as depicted in figure 4 above. Only 22% and 34% of youth between the ages of 18 – 25 and 26 – 35 respectively who were registered to vote actually did so. Nonetheless, more than 60% of those who were above 55 years voted. This is an indication that voter apathy amongst the youth continues to thrive and is a cause for concern. This emphasises the important need for youth-specific voter education programmes to enhance their election participation.

For further details on the analysis of the by-election results, see annexures A to E.



A voter casting his vote during Moselewapula by-election

Election Observation

Election observation provides an assessment of the extent to which democratic election ideals are adhered to. Seven (7) local news agencies were formally accredited and covered the by-election.

Election Petitions

Election petitions are a key component of the democratic process. The electoral law permits petitioners to contest the outcome of an election on the grounds of alleged irregularities, disqualification, corruption, or illegal practises. A voter or candidate in a voting district may register a petition with the High Court. The petition must be filed within Thirty (30) days of announcement of the results, and it must be heard and decided within Ninety (90) days of filing. No petitions were submitted to contest the results of the by-election in the Moselewapula Polling District.

Payment of Poll Staff

A basic allowance based on the number of hours worked is paid to poll staff in order to compensate them for the overtime worked. In this by-election poll staff was compensated in accordance with the Public Service Act of 2008. The payments were processed promptly and everybody has been paid.

Expenditure

Elections are inherently expensive. The budget estimate for the Moselewapula Polling District by-election was One Hundred and Eighty-One Thousand Pula, and Eighty-Four Thebe (P181 000.84). The actual expenditure was Two Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Eight Pula, and Fifty-Seven Thebe (P223 388.57). The budget included a vast array of essential pre-election activities and materials. The budget estimate was exceeded by Forty-Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Seven Pula, and Seventy-Three Thebe (42 387.73) resulting from overtime allowance caused by unanticipated extension of time for counting. Below is a breakdown of the actual expenditure:

Table 1

Item/Vote	Justification	Amount
Office Supplies	Procurement of stationery; toners, Printing paper etc.	P4661.22
Domestic	Procurement of garden tools for clearing polling station, COVID 19 Prevention materials, Cleaning Material etc.	P5571.60
Conferencing	Training of Poll Staff, Preparatory meetings ,snacks for poll staff, Counting centre meals	P25059.70
Portable Toilets	Provision of portable toilets for School for the Disabled Poling Station	P4275.00
Poll Staff Overtime	Weekend Overtime for Poll staff (polling and Counting)	P129 592.51
Temporary Assistance	Payment of 1 night watchman watching over the tent at School for Disabled	P697.65
Casual Labour	Payment of Casual Labourers for clearing polling station, pitching and removal of tents	P3920.40
Overtime for IEC Officers	Overtime for IEC Officers (preparing for by-election and polling and counting)	P49 673.85
Grand total		P223 388.57

Challenges

The following challenges were observed during the by-election:

- Some supporters engaged in acts of intimidation and violence, contrary to the provisions of the Constitution and Electoral Act.
- Some supporters gathered within 200 metre radius of polling stations on polling day, chanting slogans, wearing political party regalia and shouting obscenities at election officials.
- Vehicles used by supporters intercepted official vehicles while driving erratically and violently, posing a great threat to the safety of poll staff and the general public.

CONCLUSION

The Moselewapula Polling District By-Election Report highlights crucial aspects of the 30th July, 2022 by-election. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the entire process, as well as the challenges encountered for future reference.

In addition, it is vital to enhance engagement with political parties in order to curb the rising acts of intimidation and violence. The engagement will promote trust and transparency in the whole process.

In order to correct the low voter turnout that was observed during the by-election, efforts will be intensified to encourage citizen participation in the election process. Voter education will also be improved to ensure that voters are equipped with the necessary knowledge to vote effectively and reduce on the incidences of rejected ballot papers.

The report indicates that notwithstanding a few isolated cases of intolerance and violence, the by-election was in the main delivered successfully, with the results being released without incident and therefore, viewed as free, fair and credible.



ANNEXURES

Moselewapula By-Election Results

ANNEXURE A: Results

Polling District Code	Polling District Name	First Name	Last Name	Gender	Age	Party	Registered Voters	Votes Received	Valid Votes Cast	Rejected Votes	Total Votes Cast	% Voter Turnout	Win Margin
84	MOSELEWAPULA						1834		783	3	786	43%	5
		NDANYALA	TEBO	M	34	UDC		339					
		OAGILE	WAIRI	M	43	BCP		334					
		NGWISIWA	NTOGWA	M	45	BDP		110					

ANNEXURE B: Votes cast by Gender

	Female			Male			Grand Total
	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	F Total	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	M Total	
Mahudiri Primary School	255	290	545	266	172	438	983
School for the Disabled	255	188	443	275	133	408	851
Grand Total	510	478	988	541	305	846	1834

ANNEXURE C: Votes cast by Age Group

Polling Station	18-25		26-35		36-45		46-55		56-65		66+		Grand Total
	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	
Mahudiri Primary School	84	34	172	128	130	97	60	81	47	76	28	46	983
School for the Disabled	93	24	207	84	127	73	55	63	33	52	15	25	851
Grand Total	177	58	379	212	257	170	115	144	80	128	43	71	1834

ANNEXURE D: Mahudiri Polling Station vote cast per Age Group by Gender

Polling Station	Age Group	Female			Male			Grand Total
		Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	F Total	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	M Total	
Mahudiri Primary School	18-25	30	22	52	54	12	66	118
	26-35	88	77	165	84	51	135	300
	36-45	64	61	125	66	36	102	227
	46-55	31	51	82	29	30	59	141
	56-65	26	53	79	21	23	44	123
	66+	16	26	42	12	20	32	74
Grand Total		255	290	545	266	172	438	983

ANNEXURE E: School for Disabled Polling Station vote cast per Age Group by Gender

		Female			Male			
Polling Station	Age Group	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	F Total	Didn't Vote	Vote Cast	M Total	Grand Total
School for the Disabled	18-25	41	13	54	52	11	63	117
	26-35	94	46	140	113	38	151	291
	36-45	64	37	101	63	36	99	200
	46-55	26	40	66	29	23	52	118
	56-65	19	38	57	14	14	28	85
	66+	11	14	25	4	11	15	40
Grand Total		255	188	443	275	133	408	851



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