Analyzing the role of government of national unity in enhancing governance and public service delivery in South Africa

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Abstract

After 30 years of dominance in South African politics, the African National Congress (ANC) has lost its parliamentary majority, prompting the formation of a Government of National Unity (GNU) for the first time. This paper examines the implications of this political shift for governance and public service delivery in South Africa. By analyzing historical case studies from Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Lesotho, the study explores both the potential advantages and challenges associated with GNUs. To address the research problem at hand, the researcher conducted a comprehensive literature review employing a qualitative research approach providing insights into the possible role that could be played by the Government of National Unity (GNU) in enhancing governance and public service delivery in South Africa. The findings suggest that while the GNU has the potential to enhance accountability, transparency, and public service delivery, significant challenges such as ideological differences among coalition parties and a lack of precedent for such governance models in South Africa pose risks to its success. The study concludes with recommendations for ensuring effective governance and service delivery through GNUs, emphasizing the need for political compromise, transparent decision-making, and community engagement.

Keywords: Citizens; Dominance; Government; Service Delivery

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1. Introduction

On May 10, 1994, millions of South Africans saw Nelson Mandela take the oath of office as the first president of the new South Africa. Although this event signalled the conclusion of the country's struggle for freedom, it did not ensure its survival as a democracy. Since that momentous day, the African National Congress (ANC) has continuously obtained roughly 70% of electorate support and is now the dominant party in South Africa (Wieczorek, 2012). Since 1994, South Africa's post-apartheid political scene has been dominated by the African general Congress (ANC), which has won six straight general elections with a clear majority of votes (Khambule et al., 2020). The ANC's national vote percentage rose from 62.7% in 1994 to 66.4% in 1999 and 69.7% in 2004. In 2009, the ANC's national vote percentage fell to 65.9%. In 2014, the ANC's support dropped to 62.2% of the national vote. The ANC's worst national showing came in the 2019 elections. For the first time, it got less than 60%, with 57.5% at the national level (Africa, 2020). Post-apartheid democratic South Africa's fifth democratically elected parliament (2014-2019) struggled with corruption, state capture, parliamentary scrutiny, and misuse of political power and state institutions, highlighting the dangers of one-party rule (Khambule et al., 2020). South Africa's ruling African National Congress lost its 30-year parliamentary majority, marking the country's most significant political transition since apartheid's end. During the 29 May 2024 election, the ANC received 40% of general elections (Lordache, 2024). Table 1 shows the evolution of the South African political landscape over time, with the EFF, MK establishment, and DA gaining support as the ANC's support declined. Citizens have been switching to various political parties over the years as they are dissatisfied with the ruling party.

Table 1. National results of the ANC, DA, IFP, EFF and MK, 1994–2024

Political Party	Percentage of Votes						
	1994	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019	2024
Africa National Congress	62.7	66.4	69.7	65.9	62.2	57.5	40.1
Democratic Alliance	1.7	9.6	12.4	16.7	22.2	20.8	21.8
Inkatha Freedom Party	20.4	8.6	6.9	4.6	2.4	3.4	3.9
Economic Freedom Fighters	NA	NA	NA	NA	6.4	0.8	9.5
Umkhonto Wesizwe	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	14.6

Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (1994-2024)

President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) announced that the party would invite other political parties to create a national unity government. This comes after the 2024 general election, in which the ANC lost its majority for the first time since apartheid's discriminatory regime was ended 30 years ago. According to President Ramaphosa government of national unity id the best option for South

Africa (Usher, 2024). On June 14, 2024, the Government of National Unity (GNU) agreement was signed in the Cape Town International Convention Centre, which hosted the first session of the seventh Parliament. This agreement comprises the Democratic Alliance (DA), Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), National Freedom Party (NFP), Patriotic Alliance (PA), African National Congress (ANC), and several small political groups (Thorne, 2024). The GNU agreement state that it seeks to stabilise local government, restructure the public service for efficiency and effectiveness and ensure professional, merit-based, non-partisan, developmental public service that puts people first. The purpose of this paper is to examine the possibilities of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in ensuring sustainable public service delivery, based on the preceding assumption.

2. Methodology

This article analyses the prospects of the Government of National Unity in improving governance and public service delivery in South Africa and makes recommendations for ensuring effective governance and service delivery through GNUs. The GNU arrives at a critical juncture in South Africa, where the government has been plagued by corruption, a lack of political will, poor public service delivery, service delivery protests, and a lack of public accountability and transparency over the last 30 years. After 30 years of democracy, the South African government, led by the ANC, has failed to produce the much-needed democratic fruits that all voters enjoy equally. South Africa has the most unequal societies in the world, with more citizens living in poverty; the failure of government is a major cause of these challenges faced by the citizens. To address the research problem at hand, a comprehensive literature review was carried out using a qualitative research approach. This methodology was chosen to gather valuable insights and a deeper understanding of the prospects of GNU in improving the governance and public service delivery in South Africa.

3. Discussion and results

3.1. Conceptualising Governments of National Unity (GNU)

The definition of GNU varies to each country, leading to disagreement among academics and politicians. The phrase can refer to 'horizontal' agreements between elites or 'vertical' linkages between states and communities (Mukuhlani, 2014). The Government of National Unity (GNU) is a coalition of all political parties in parliament that play a crucial role in transitioning from a national political crisis, such as war or oppression, to a more stable governance. Collective actions aim to promote inclusive participation in resolving political issues and advancing national stability (Thinane, 2023). GNU is a coalition government that aims to include all political participants in its governmental structures. This comprises civil service, cabinet, diplomatic positions, judicial, military, police, and intelligence. Equitable involvement reduces conflict and promotes country stability, integration, and prosperity (Chigora and Guzura, 2011). The term "government of national unity" refers to a ruling coalition that includes all major political parties in the country (Mapuva, 2010). As a means of resolving disputes, the Government of National Unity (GNU) is a power-sharing arrangement composed of various and conflicting political groups (Tumbare, 2014). Nhengu and Murairwa (2020) concur that GNU is a power-sharing government made up of major political parties working together to resolve conflicts. It is aimed

to allow all opposing political players to participate in government structures. Equitable involvement among contenders is expected to reduce conflict and improve governance, development, integration, and social service delivery to residents.

3.2. Government of National Unity (GNU) in Africa: Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Lesotho - Case studies

The political arrangement known as the government of national unity (GNU) is not a new phenomenon in either industrialised or developing countries (Tshishonga, 2024). The growing popularity of GNUs in Africa has significant ramifications for both political and economic development. GNU has the potential to disrupt political stability if not managed properly (Peter et al., 2012). In Africa, GNUs are often used as a shortcut to maintain power and foster electoral irregularity. The GNU phenomenon has weakened democracy by bringing together hostile political parties after disputed elections to establish an inclusive administration and execute structural reforms (Mapuva, 2010). In Africa, national unity/coalition administrations are becoming increasingly prevalent. These are often the result of violent political conflicts and social divisions (Chigora and Guzura, 2011). In Africa, GNUs are often used to maintain power and promote electoral irregularity. The GNU phenomenon has weakened democracy by bringing together hostile political parties after disputed elections to establish an inclusive administration and execute structural changes. Political scientists have projected that this type of political arrangement might lead to the extinction of democracy on the continent (Maunganidze, 2009).

3.2.1. GNU in Zimbabwe

In September 2008, Zimbabwean politics entered a new phase when key political groups reached an agreement to form a national unity government. The unity government gave optimism to Zimbabweans and the world community, as it was seen as a sign of positive progress for the country's status in the region and beyond (Chigora and Guzura, 2011). Zimbabwe's Government of National Unity took office with a devastated economy, non-functioning social services, and destroyed public trust. The Inclusive Government aimed to reconstruct Zimbabwe's social, political, and economic fabric, despite significant hurdles (Mapuva, 2010). Zimbabwe was administered by the Government of National Unity (GNU) from February 2009 to July 2013, after lengthy discussions between the country's three main political parties to resolve the political and economic crises. The discussions occurred after a disputed presidential election in 2008, a failing economy with runaway inflation, and severe state-orchestrated violence as President Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu-PF) party battled for power at any cost (Chuma, 2018). The GNU, which lasted nearly five years, is credited with stabilising the economy, putting a stop to political violence, and resuming recovery efforts (Mukuhlani, 2014). The GNU lasted nearly five years until July 2013, when ZANU PF gained a landslide victory in the country's elections. The GNU served as a transitional administration with the goal of restoring democracy and reviving the economy for the sake of the nation. However, others argue that it contributed to the decline of democracy. Despite suspicions of insincerity, the GNU brought significant reforms to the economy, including a multi-currency regime, economic development, and an end to hyperinflation (Chinyere, 2014).

3.2.2. GNU in Kenya

After controversial elections, a GNU was also established in Kenya in 2008. In December 2007, amid a tumultuous election characterised by violence and intimidation, Mwai Kibaki of the Party of National Unity (PNU) was allegedly defeated by Raila Odinga of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) (Muguti et al., 2012). The GNU lasted from 2008 till 2013 in Kenya (Bogaards, 2023). Kenya is an excellent example of a country using a GNU operating system. Following the 2007 presidential election and accompanying violence, Kenya was ruled by a Government of National Unity led by Mwai Kibaki of the Party of National Unity and Raila Odinga of the Orange Democratic Movement in 2008. The ODM won most seats in the National Assembly but lost the presidential election by a questionable margin (Mukuhlani, 2014).

3.2.3. GNU in Lesotho

Lesotho created its first coalition government in 2012 after a hung cabinet following the national election. The newly formed Democratic Congress (DC) won most parliamentary seats in the election on May 26, 2012 (Mashinini, 2020). Lesotho, a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), was governed by the GNU following three indecisive elections in 2012, 2015, and 2017. No single party emerged victorious (Thinane, 2023). Lesotho has received three consecutive GNUs, the first two GNUs only lasted two years after its founding, while the third showed early signs of dissolution (Nhengu and Murairwa, 2020). Lesotho has struggled to achieve long-term political, social, and economic stability under various coalition governments, with limited success (Mashinini, 2020). GNU in Lesotho has succeeded in converting Basotho's political nature from one of fighting among political parties to one of collaboration to achieve peace for the first time in history (Nhengu and Murairwa, 2020). Due to insufficient parliamentary seats, parties have had to form post-election coalitions to run government under majority rule, posing a significant challenge to government (Mashinini, 2020). The political analysis of Lesotho's lack of GNU arrangements, while the war scenario in Lesotho is fertile ground for the success of a GNU, coalition government failures are mostly caused by a lack of congruence among the political leaders involved. Political leaders frequently fail to enforce compliance with GNU framework criteria, as well as to keep their commitments to provide social benefits to citizens. (Nhengu and Murairwa, 2020).

4. Prospects of GNU in promoting sustainable public service delivery in South Africa

The prospects of the GNU in promoting sustainable service delivery will be based on the GNU basic minimum programme of priorities and founding principles as stated in the signed Statement of intent of the 2024 Government of National Unity:

4.1. Building a merit-based, non-partisan and professional public service that puts the people first

The South African public sector effectiveness has been hampered by appointment of individuals that lacked the necessary skills, expertise, and qualifications in many strategic positions within the sector. This is mostly notable in the local government sphere where cadres are deployed to strategic positions due to their alignment with ruling political party and political connections. Shava and Chamisa (2018) alluded that South Africa's local

government parastatals are in disarray because to the practice of cadre deployment, which creates challenges for governance and management. The GNU's push for merit-based, non-partisan, and professional public service that prioritises people will undoubtedly improve service delivery in all levels of government, including the embattled local government sphere, which is closer to local communities and hailed as a vehicle of democracy in South Africa. The Cadre Deployment Policy (CDP), developed by the National African Congress (ANC), South Africa's ruling political party since its independence in 1994, is a contentious issue (Thusi et al., 2023). The GNU has the potential to put an end to such policies because the ANC will no longer make decisions alone, as it has for the past 30 years. Parties involved in the GNU will hold each other accountable, which will improve public service delivery because qualified individuals will be employed in the public sector. In Supported Zulu et al. (2022) indicated that the Democratic Alliance (DA) and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) are among the political parties that oppose the CDP. They criticise it as being the root cause of cronyism and widespread corruption, which has resulted in a decline in service delivery nationwide. Additionally, the DA alleges that the ANC adopted and enforced the CDP to gain control over state institutions, further aggravating the challenges faced by local governments in delivering satisfactory services. To achieve a merit-based, non-partisan and professional public service that puts the people first, the GNU can push for implementation of the national framework towards the professionalisation of the public sector in all government spheres. According to Department of Public Service and Administration (2023) Implement the professionalisation framework as part of major reforms to improve productivity and efficiencies, especially given the financial constraints that, if not addressed, may affect the accessibility of quality public services.

4.2. Accountability, transparency, and community participation in government

For many years, the South African government sector has struggled with a lack of accountability and openness, which has nearly led to its collapse. This has been a serious issue for the sustainable supply of services, resulting in numerous service delivery demonstrations. The GNU's push for accountable and transparent government has a potential to enhance stabile and enhance service delivery in the local government sphere as many parties will be involved in pushing for change to build a responsive public sector for citizens. According to Shava and Mazenda (2021) South African public administration faces challenges related to transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Lack of accountability and transparency negatively impacts the efficacy and impartiality of the public sector (Mlambo et al., 2022). South African government has faced a lack of accountability in all spheres of government, undermining the constitutional mandate of the public sector to provide services to those who live in South Africa. The ANC's dominance has contributed to a lack of accountability and transparency in the public sector, particularly in local government, where service delivery protests occur more frequently. As more parties participate in the GNU, accountability and transparency will improve because no single party will dominate South African political space and government for the next five years. The GNU parties can promote transparency and accountability in all spheres of government by strengthening promoting anti-corruption reforms, legislative strengthening, and consequence management in the public sector.

4.3. Integrity, good governance, and accountable leadership

South African political office bearers have repeatedly undermined their office and citizens by becoming embroiled in corruption scandals, symbolising a lack of integrity, poor governance, and leadership that is not

accountable to the public. According to Thusi et al. (2023) whether South Africans can trust the government has come under scrutiny due to the politicians' lack of dedication in their leadership positions. Those who are less fortunate and more dependent on the government are the ones who suffer the most from the public sector's lack of political accountability. Service delivery is hampered by the management and leadership crises brought on by ineffective management and leadership, which is mirrored in the South African public sector's lack of vision, philosophy, and goal setting (Mbunge, 2020). Poor governance and a lack of popular rules persist, resulting in a crumbling democracy. Poor political leadership and anti-corruption agencies have led to increased corruption, threatening South Africa's democracy (Mokoele, 2020). The GNU's push for Integrity, good governance, and accountable leadership has the potential to promote sustainable public service delivery in the next five years. As more political parties would be involved in governing the country, political office bearers who are not doing their work will be exposed and they will not be able to hide under the dominance if the ANC has slipped to 40%. The GNU can achieve integrity, good governance, and accountable leadership by strengthening the institutions supporting democracy in South Africa of which is the: The Public Protector, The Auditor-General, The Constitutional Court, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Judicial Service Commission Financial, Fiscal Commission and Public Service Commission. These oversight institutions have the capacity to promote integrity, good governance, and accountable leadership in South Africa through their oversight role. The ANC led government in the past have kept the capabilities of these institutions as minimal capacity, the GNU has the potential to optimise the function of these institutions to promote good governance and accountable leadership in South African government.

4.4. Local government: Stabilise local government and enhance governance

South African local government has witnessed many services delivery protests due to poor public services delivery and citizens has lost confidence in the sphere. The ineffective governance of the sphere has also added to the challenges faced by this sphere of government. According to Mamokhere (2020) South African municipalities have faced criticism for weak management, leading to inadequate public service delivery. Fraud and corruption in local government and public service pose a significant barrier to effective governance. State monies are sometimes unaccounted for and used for personal advantage. The public sector lacks an effective reporting system to promote good governance. According to Msenge and Nzewi (2021) the local government context in South Africa has been tarnished by ongoing public demonstrations. These demonstrations have been linked to the disdain for public involvement in local administration and service delivery that is unresponsive, among other things. The GNU's push to stabilise local government and enhance governance will enhance service delivery in the next five years in South Africa. There is a possibility that the local government sphere will witness lowered number of service delivery protests. The South African local government sector is facing more challenges due to their staff establishment that lacks capacity, skills and competencies, the cadre deployment, nepotism, and corruption also played role. To Stabilise local government and enhance governance the GNU can push for implementation of the national framework towards the professionalisation of the public sector as the framework advocate for matching skills, expertise and experiences in filling when employing public servants.

4.5. Public service: Restructure the public service for efficiency and effectiveness

South African public service that caters for all citizens equally has been operating for three decades, it has had many achievements and shortcomings. The reforms in the operations of the sector can enhance services provision. The public sector has been dominated by the ANC government for three decades. Reforms have taken place but not in a fast pace. The GNU has a role to play by pushing for much needed reforms in the public sector to ensure the constitutional mandate of the sector is realised. Governments worldwide have issues with antiquated organisational designs, hierarchical structures, processes, and functions within their divisions. Government institutions are often condemned for their bureaucratic processes in delivering public goods and services, which have been shown to be unresponsive, ineffectual, and inefficient to citizens' needs (Nel and Masilela, 2020). To improve efficiency, flexibility, and adaptability of public sector goods and services, it is necessary to restructure and review current service delivery mechanisms and develop new methods that make better use of limited resources (Gildenhuys and Knipe, 2000). The GNU parties can work together to find methods to restructure South Africa's public sector so that it can respond to citizens' needs. These restricting methods may include the following: streamline and simplify processes in the public sector, promote merit-based recruitment and promotion, enhance accountability and oversight, leverage technology and innovation to restructure the public service for efficiency and effectiveness.

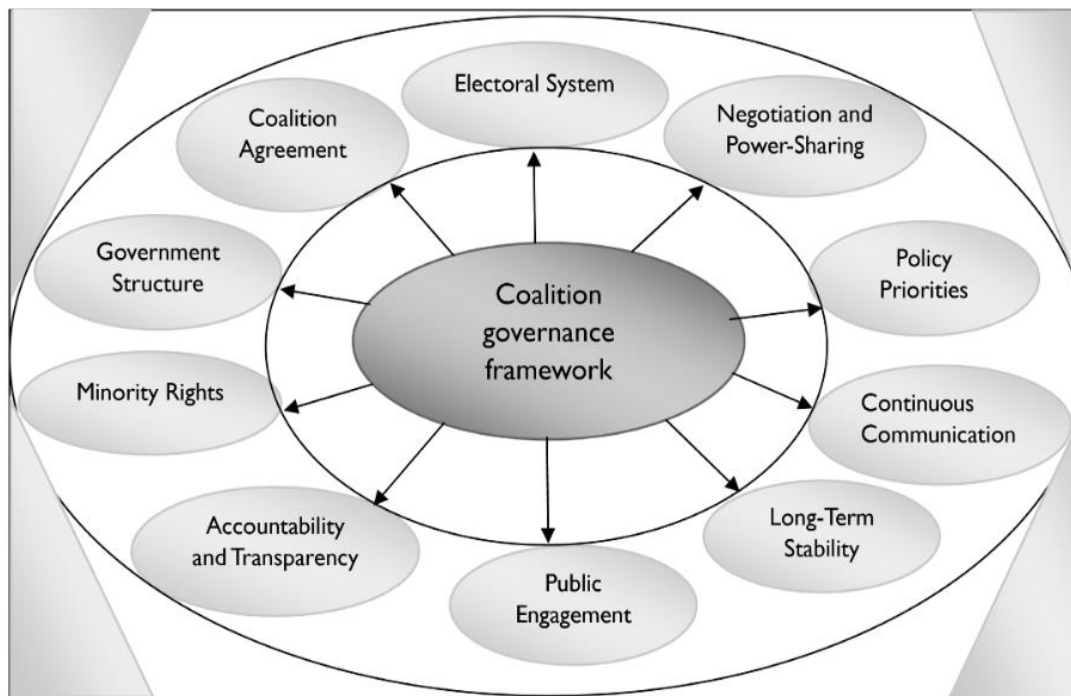## 4.6. Corruption-free and developmental public service

The South African public service has been plagued by corruption perpetrated by government officials in all government departments, entities, and sectors, undermining citizens' rights to basic requirements as guaranteed by the South African constitution. The ANC's 30-year domination over the public sector has exacerbated the crisis. In South Africa, high-ranking public officials have been indicted for crimes committed in their offices. The GNU bears a significant duty for combating corruption in the government sector to stabilise the public sector. The GNU must promote transparency and hold corrupt officials accountable. The ANC office bearers have frequently committed crimes while being covered by the ANC's control; such days are over, and the GNU will hold all political office bearers accountable; therefore, one of the fundamental principles and priorities is to combat corruption in the public sector. The GNU must promote for the implementation of anti-corruption frameworks and strategies in South African government and propose for reforms if the existing frameworks and strategies that seek to encounter corruption are not effective in combating corruption.

For the GNU basic minimum programme of priorities and founding principles to be achieved as reflected in the signed Statement of intent of the 2024 Government of National Unity, the coalition framework at the national level is imperative. This will ensure stable governance at the national level, and this is very imperative for the political stability in the country. Figure .1 present a possible coalition framework that could be adopted by the GNU is South Africa to ensure stable coalition between parties within the GNU.

- **Coalition Agreement:** The GNU statement of intent paves the way as an agreement signed by political parties committing to uphold the GNU's fundamental principles. While the GNU appears to be heading in the right direction, this statement of intent must be formalised through a clear coalition framework that will allow the participating political parties to hold each other accountable.

- **Policy Priorities:** The GNU must devise a way on reaching consensus about policies to tackle challenges faced by citizens across South Africa. The GNU statement's intent is to prioritise the

following social issues for citizens: poverty, spatial inequalities, food security, high living costs, and poor service delivery. The political parties in the GNU have different ideologies and approaches to policy; therefore, it is critical for the GNU to create a clear coalition framework that will ensure that all parties can express their views.

Figure 1. Potential framework for a coalition government in South Africa. Source: Kikasu and Pillay (2024)

- **Negotiation and Power-Sharing**: Establish a transparent negotiation process for all parties involved. This procedure should outline how authority will be distributed, cabinet positions assigned, and policy priorities established. Ensure minority parties have a significant voice in politics while respecting the majority's preferences (Kikasu and Pillay (2024).

- **Accountability and Transparency**: The South African government faces numerous challenges because of a lack of public accountability and transparency, as well as responsive governance to citizens' needs. The GNU must promote accountability and transparency, hold political office bearers accountable for their actions, and support oversight institutions in South Africa such as the Public Protector, Auditor General of South Africa, Constitutional Court, Parliament, and Standing Committees on Public Accounts, to name a few. For the GNU to be stable for the next 5 years, public accountability and transparent government must be promoted.

- **Government Structure:** Describe the coalition government's organisational structure, including the number of ministries, their tasks, and how positions are distributed among members. To promote

justice and fairness, consider establishing systems that share or rotate essential functions (Kikasu and Pillay (2024).

- **Continuous Communication**: All political parties within the GNU must continue to express their views and protect the interests of voters by ensuring that all founding parties within the GNU are constantly engaged in addressing the challenges that citizens face.

- **Public Engagement**: The GNU must always engage with the public, they must not keep the citizens at the dark, citizens trust and faith in the GNU is critical and public participation and transparency is critical for GNU to obtain the citizens' trust.

- **Minority Rights:** The 2024 South African GNU is mostly made up of three large and prominent parties of which is DA, ANC and IFP, the other parties are minorities these parties are Patriotic Alliance, Good Party, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, Freedom Front Plus, United Democratic Movement, Al Jama-ah, Rise Mzansi, and United Africans Transformation. It is critical for GNU to take this parties serious as without them there would be no GNU, their views must also be respected for the GNU to be sustainable.

5. Challenges that could be face by GNU in promoting sustainable public service delivery in South Africa

The GNU, while a remarkable move, is essentially a coalition that has had varied results at the metro level. Previous coalitions in cities such as Johannesburg and Nelson Mandela Bay have encountered several obstacles, including political instability and frequent leadership changes. The GNU's effectiveness will be determined by its ability to handle these obstacles while maintaining coherent governance (Panchia, 2024). The ANC gaining a majority in the last five elections, South Africa lacks a long-standing record of building and ruling coalitions (Hairsine, 2024). The coalition must negotiate the perilous waters of political compromise, making certain that policy differences do not lead to gridlock. They must also address the concerns of the Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto we Sizwe, who feel marginalised and have accused the election process of fraud. Maintaining social cohesiveness and averting any political disintegration will be important. This government of national unity provides a unique opportunity to influence South Africa's destiny. It represents a hopeful image of a country in which political opponents might work together for the greater benefit (Sns, 2024). One significant downside of GNU is the possibility of political instability. Having several parties with opposing and inconsistent stances on a variety of policy topics can become cumbersome. Even while many South Africans are optimistic about the potential of a unity government, leaders from different parties will seek to discredit each other notwithstanding their agreement (Hairsine, 2024). The ideological differences between the ANC and the DA are potential flashpoints. The ANC and DA frequently disagree on issues like foreign policy, land reform, and National Health Insurance. These could become flash points that jeopardise coalition cohesion (Panchia, 2024).

Table 2 present strategies that can be adopted by South African government to strengthen the Government of National Unity (GNU). These strategies are like the one used by German coalition government at national level. Since the Second World War, effective coalition governments, whether of the left or the right, have led to democratisation, inclusive economic growth, and industrialisation in Germany (Gumede, 2018).

Table 2. Strategies that could strengthen the GNU in South Africa

1. **Compromise** - Coalition building is about identifying a shared path ahead, even if it involves adhering to painfully negotiated political compromises
2. **Transparency and accountability** - The Coalition agreement must be made public
3. **Issues first, positions follow** - Ministerial portfolios will be assigned to parties and individual politicians who may have relevant experience for a certain job if it is obvious what the coalition intends to do and achieve during its stay. This method removes the political sting from some policy disputes, as well as ensuring that the conversations are about what is best for the country and its people, rather than power dynamics.
4. **Get broad support and legitimacy** - Once negotiators have reached a coalition agreement, it is critical to get the parties on board. Regardless of how this is accomplished, members of the party or its institutions must give the agreement broad credibility, since this will contribute to the coalition's stability and longevity.
5. **Create mechanisms to solve disputes** - There is a need for a framework and method to settle conflicts.
6. **Build Trust** - In the end, everything comes down to one thing. There must be a minimum of trust amongst the actors involved. Procedures leading to a coalition agreement can help build trust.
7. **Political not legislative rules** -Compliance with a coalition or coalition agreement is not governed by law. Rather, by political calculation, since parties and their leaders know that they will be evaluated at the next election on their track record in a coalition and their capacity to execute effective policies.
8. **GNU/Coalition framework** - There must be a crafted framework that will govern the coalition for its entire existence.

Source: Peschke, 2023

6. Concluding remarks

The South African political parties who have agreed to create the Government of National Unity must set aside their differences, prioritise people who elected them, and collaborate to propel South Africa to new heights. This is an important time to foster national stability, assist citizens, and set an example. South African inhabitants have faced several challenges, including poor service delivery, unemployment, inequality, poverty, and a high crime rate. Political parties have no choice but to collaborate to ensure that the benefits of hard-won democracy are not reversed. This might be a new dawn for marginalised citizens, as they will finally have a responsive, accountable, and corruption-free government ready to serve them with dignity and dedication.

7. Recommendations for future research

- In the future, researchers can look at how the ideologies of different political parties affect the Government of National Unity (GNU).
- Research studies in the future could also look at how much GNU can improve good governance and ethical leadership.
- The main goal of future research studies should be to figure out why so many GNUs have failed in African countries.
- Future studies should investigate whether GNUs can help build democratic institutions and oversight bodies.
- Finally, future studies should investigate whether GNUs have any real benefits for the citizens compared to a government run by a single political party.

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