Elections 2014

Crunch time for the African National Congress. There is widespread speculation that party will lose ground amongst urban Africans but make up some of the losses in rural Kwazulu-Natal – driving regionalisation of party. The economic heartland of Gauteng is seen as the test case. Jacob Zuma’s fate may hang on this.

The Democratic Alliance hopes to retain the Western Cape, win Gauteng (in an alliance with other parties), make a serious challenge in the Northern Cape (although DA leaders privately admit this is unlikely), make a spirited run in the Eastern Cape (especially in alliance with other parties) and win 30% of the vote nationally.

Mamphela Ramphele launched AgangSA with vigour. Policies, interim leadership and some party structures are in place but focus and emphasis will be Election2014. I think the party has got some chance of picking up urban African votes the DA can’t reach – but the upside is limited because of ‘taint of elitism’.

Can Julius Malema’s party pick up votes from the disaffected youth? Can the party’s leadership stay out of prison long enough to get up and running? Malema et al/ are preternaturally good at identifying issues to maximise mobilisation and excellent at ‘flying picket’ type organisation. If they get moving they might just take off.

The IFP and the National Freedom Party will slug it out in Kwazulu-Natal, COPE and Bantu Holomisa’s UDM will attempt to be the kingmakers in the Eastern Cape and the African Christian Democratic Party has lots of natural upside, with charismatic and or/ conservative churches growing strongly amongst African South Africans.