



South African Political Scene Pre- and Post 2024

FERTASA ANNUAL CONGRESS

20 April 2023

Theo Venter

Professor in Practice

School of Public Management, Governance and Public Policy

College of Business and Economics

University of Johannesburg

tpventer@iafrica.com



Extra-ordinary times: South Africa



Global con
19, Russ
Ukraine, loc
and cl

ESKO
loadshedd
other failin



A

iguity

performing South
economy and lack of
ess confidence.

ss of confidence in
overnance at local
ernment. Numerous
civil unrests.





Volatile

We live in a world that is constantly changing, becoming more unstable each day, where changes big and small are becoming more unpredictable, more dynamic and faster and faster. As events unfold in unexpected ways it is becoming very difficult to determine cause and effect.



Uncertainty

It is becoming more difficult to anticipate events or predict how they will unfold. Historical forecasts and past experiences are losing their relevance and are rarely applicable as a basis for prediction. Very difficult to plan for investment, development and growth as it becomes increasingly uncertain where things are heading.



Complexity

Our modern world is more complex than ever and problems and their repercussions are more multi-layered and harder to understand. The different layers intermingle, making it impossible to get an overview of how things are related. A wicked world emerge where fake news flourish and making extremely difficult to choose the right path.

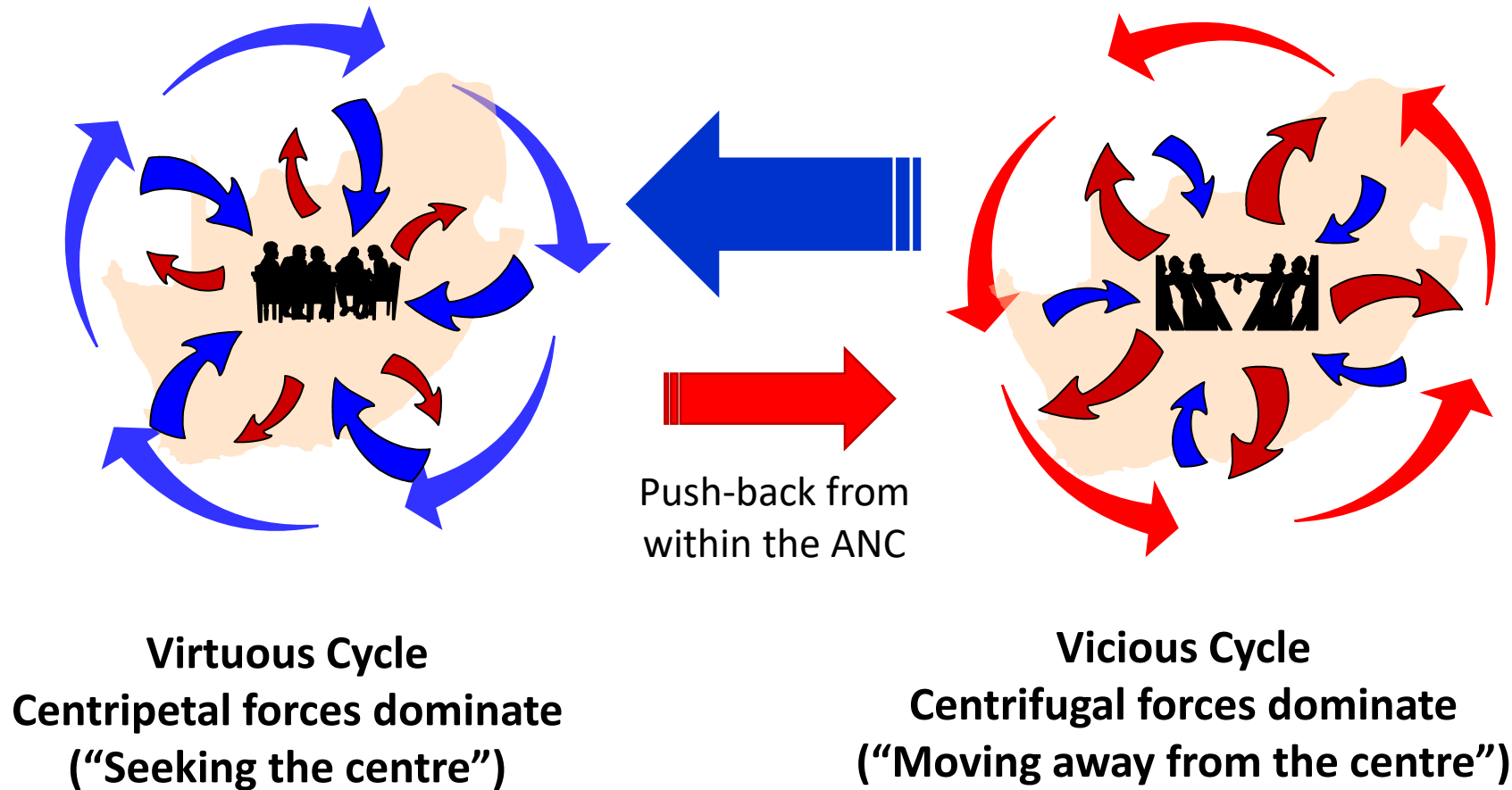


Ambiguity

“Best practice” and dogma’s have been relegated to yesterday. It is rare for things to be precisely clear or determinable. No black and white – grey is becoming the new normal. Things are both contradictory and paradoxical, challenging our personal value systems to the core. Decisions require courage, awareness and willingness to make mistakes.

The Virtuous and Vicious Cycles

The focus of the Ramaphosa Presidency



The Ramaphosa presidency (blue) is build on the following:

- To get the economy going through several policies and projects.
- To end corruption and to strengthen the legal system.
- To reactivate the NDP as a national project.
- To undo the legacy of the Zuma years of state capture.
- To develop a capable state.

Opposition to Ramaphosa not really from opposition parties, but primarily from within the ANC (red):

- Undermine his policies.
- Continue corrupt activities.
- Factionalism in the ANC.
- Exploit Covid 19 and Eskom crisis.

A new and bigger Cabinet – at last!



Ngwathe mayor believes violent protests in Parys are led by corrupt

news24 Ntwaagae Seleka



Ngwathe municipal building on fire after it was torched locals

Ntwaagae Seleka

© ZAPURO
DAILY MAVERICK 3-8-22



Sponsorship of British Soccer at the wrong time!



State of the Nation: Better diplomat than leader?



State of Disaster Cancelled!



Global risks ranked by severity over the short and long term

"Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period"

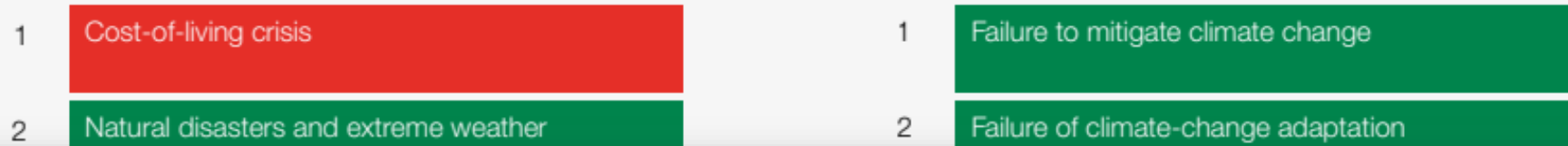


FIGURE D

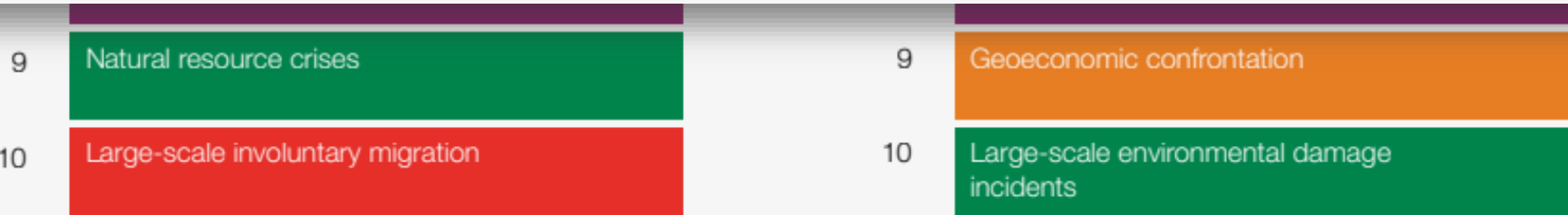
Currently manifesting risks

"Please rank the top 5 currently manifesting risks in order of how severe you believe their impact will be on a global level in 2023"



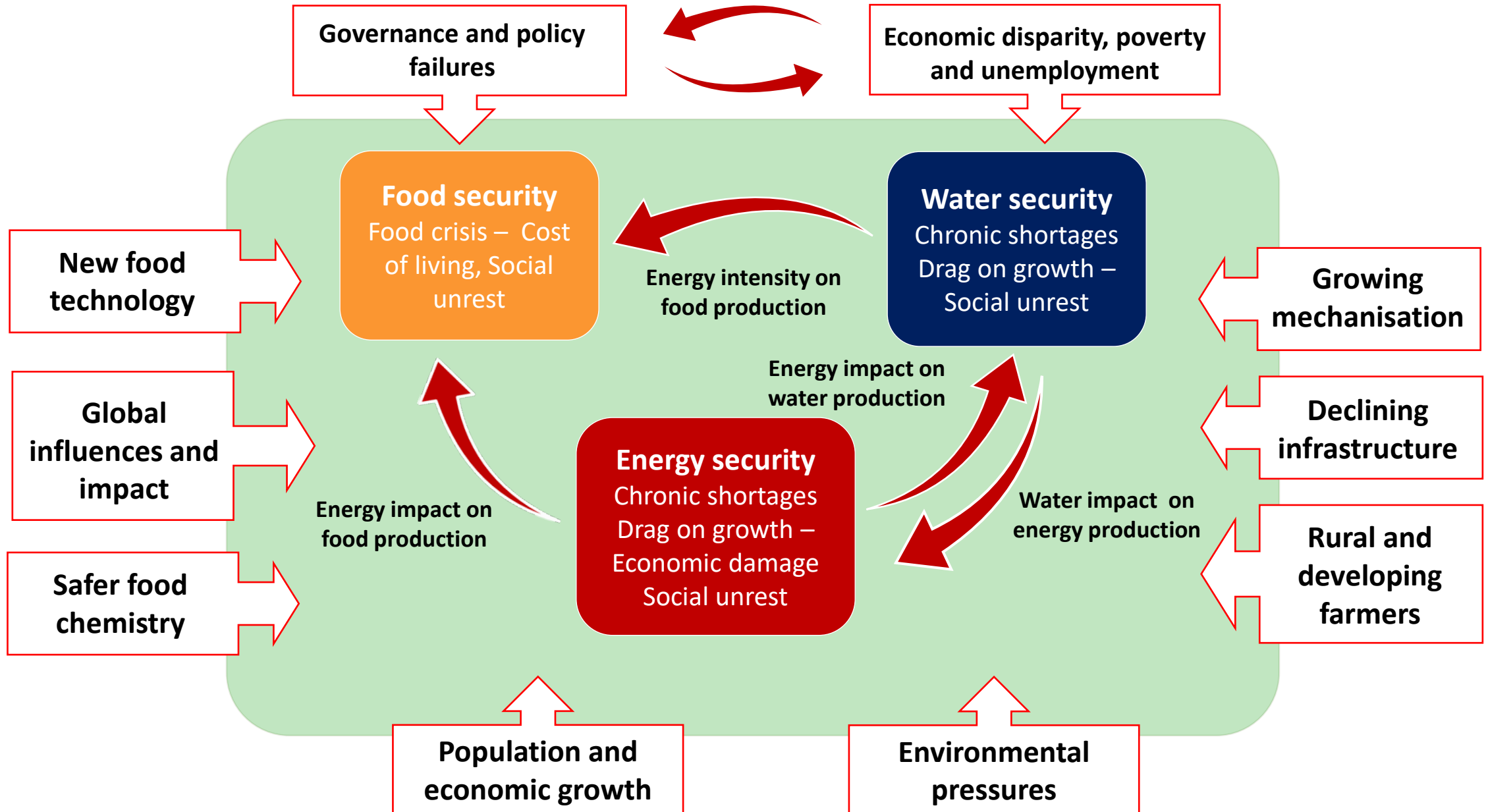
Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Perception Survey 2022-2023.

Risk categories: Economic, Environmental, Geopolitical, Societal, Technological



Risk categories: Economic, Environmental, Geopolitical, Societal, Technological

Food, water and energy nexus: the agricultural dilemma



South African Risks 2020, 2021 and 2022

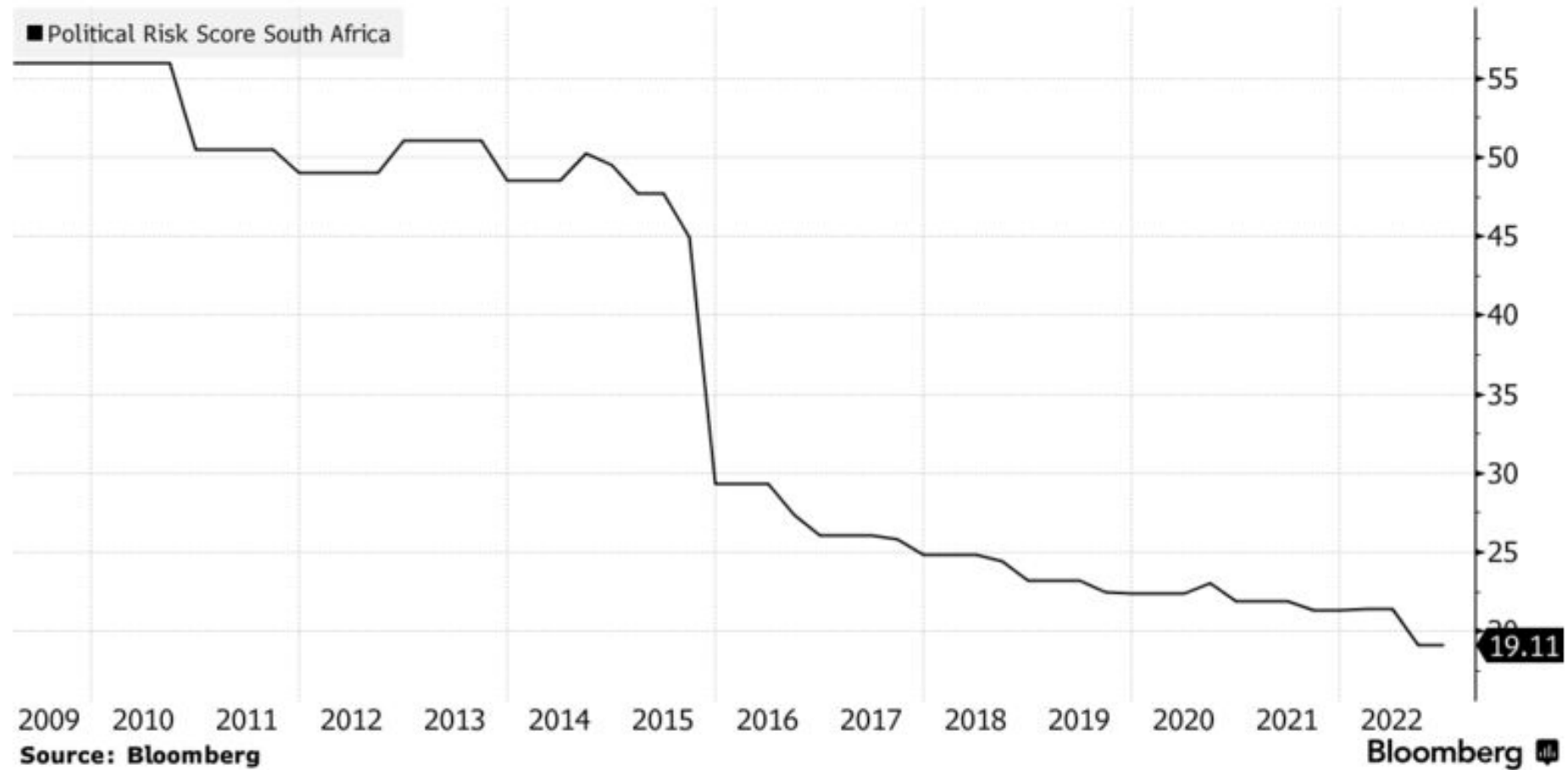
Top five risks

2021	2022	2023
Unemployment	Economic stagnation	State Collapse
Water crisis	Employment and livelihood crisis	Debt crises
Collapse of national governance	State collapse	Collapse of services and public infrastructure
Social instability	Collapse of public infrastructure	Cost of Living crisis
Collapse of critical infrastructure	Illicit economic activities	Employment and livelihood crisis

Political Risk Score down

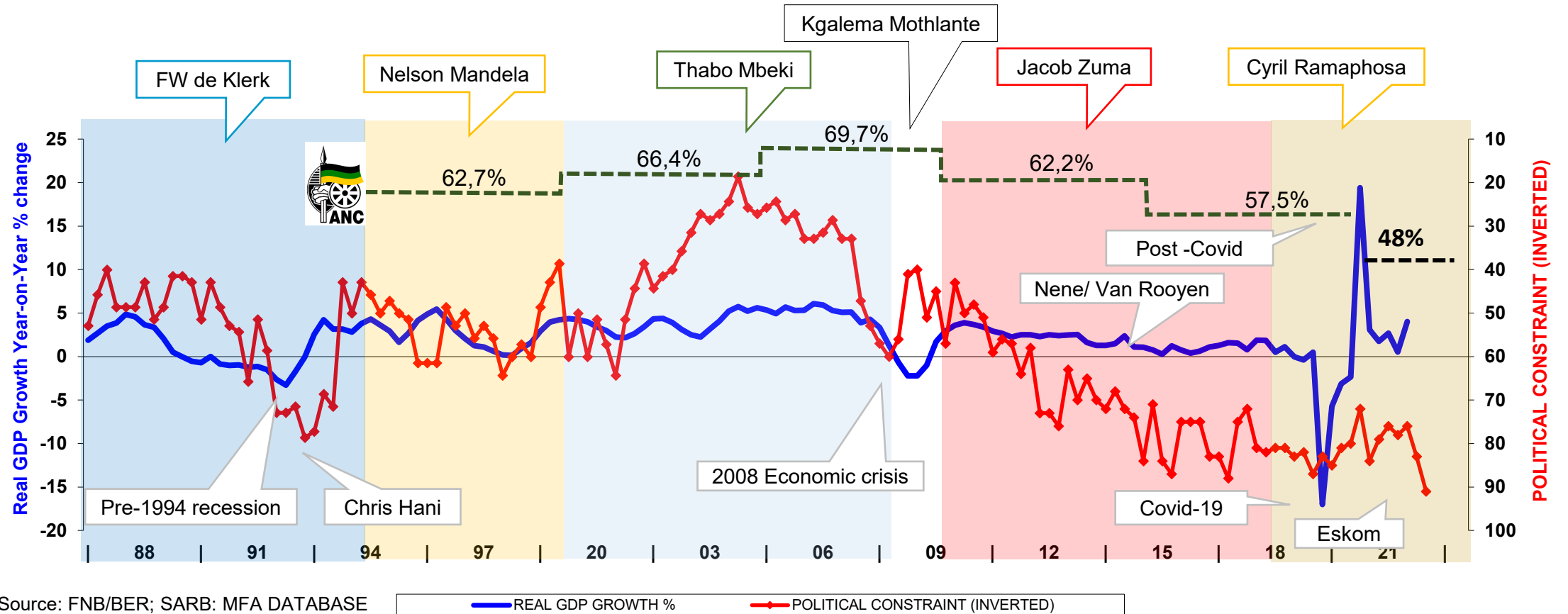
Risky Asset

South Africa's risk score has plunged

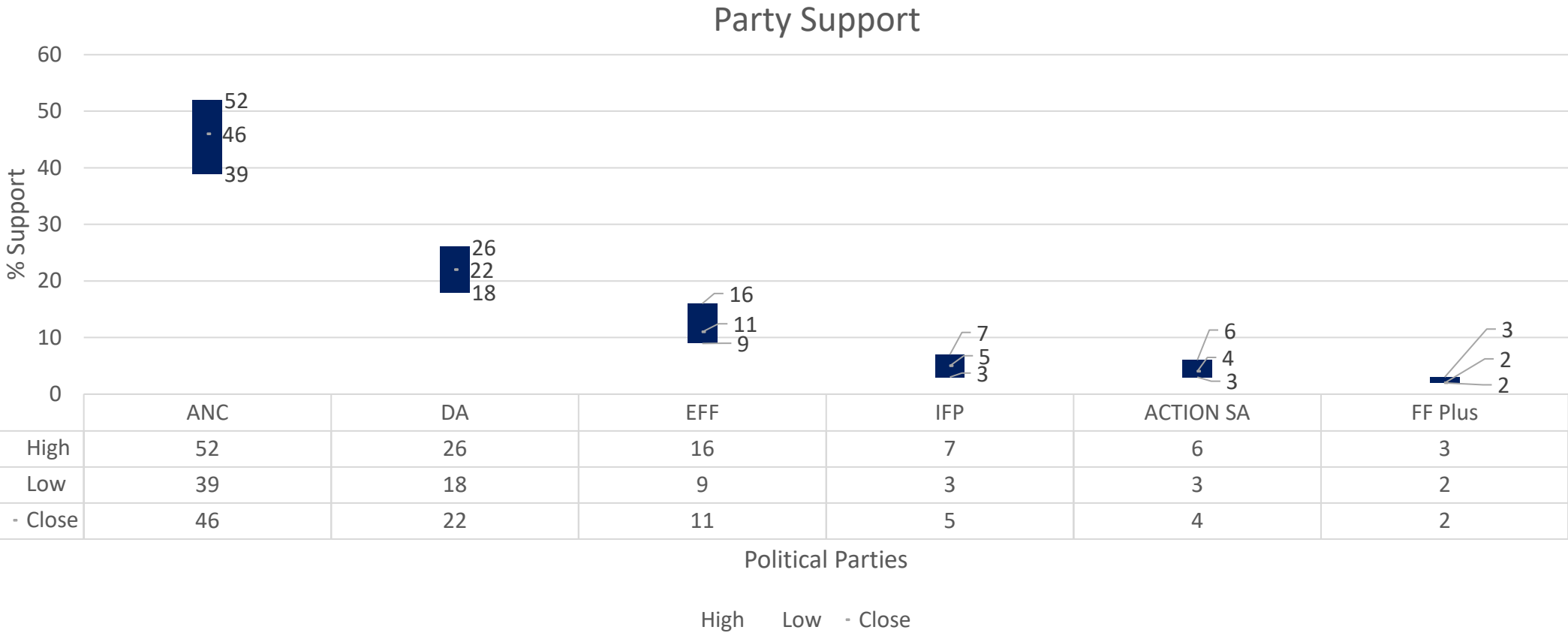


The Political and Economic nexus

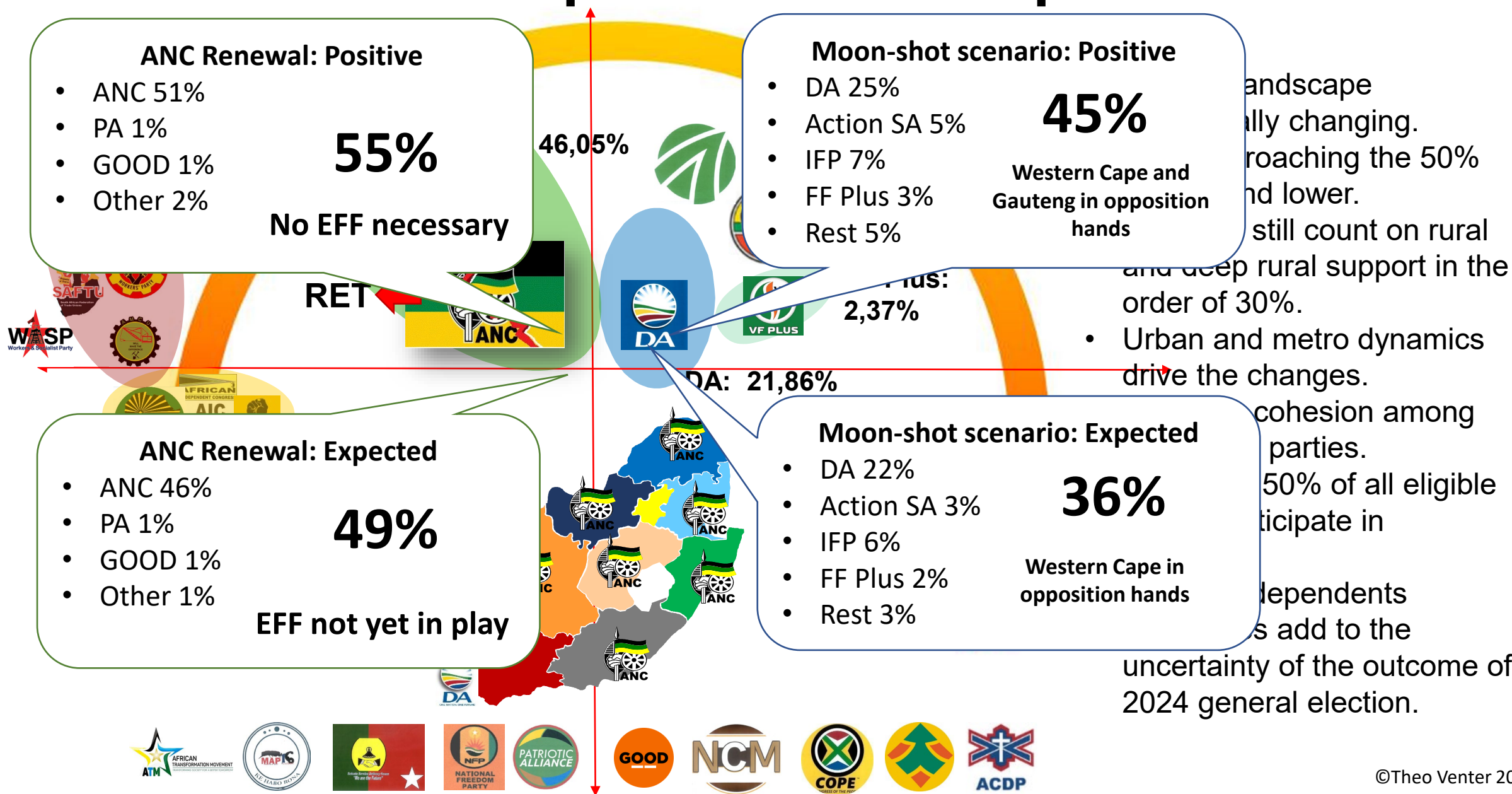
Real Year-on-Year percentage GDP Growth and the Political Constraint



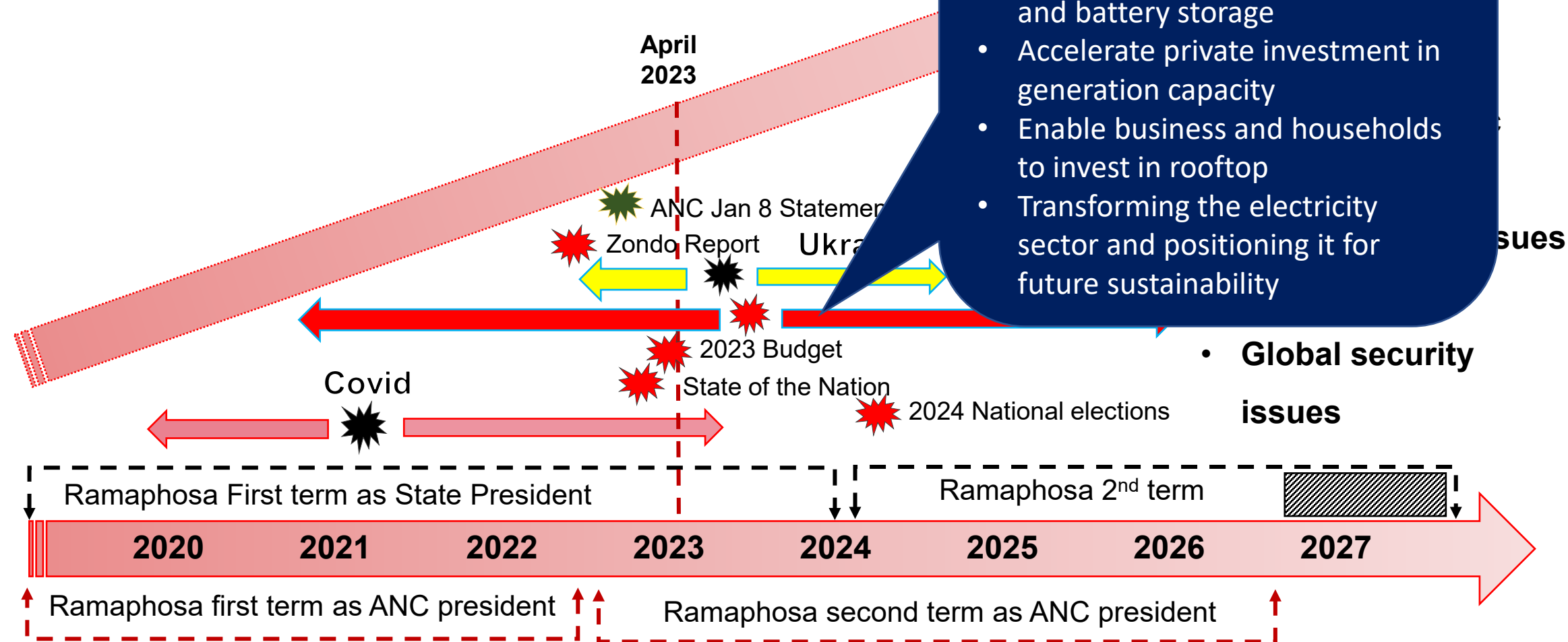
Range of political support: 2024



The 2022 - 2024 political landscape



The Road Ahead: Known Unknowns in Politics





Conclusion (i)

1. The ruling ANC is confronting a major electoral challenge primarily through scoring own goals.
2. The trust deficit between government and the electorate at an all-time low.
3. The general level of frustration driven by load-shedding and cost-of-living issues is superseding the liberation dividend.
4. Opposition parties sense a crack in the 30 year old dominant party system.
5. The ANC may hold onto power by a small margin or in coalition with a few 1% parties.

Theo Venter

School of Public Management, Governance and Public Policy
College of Business and Economics
University of Johannesburg





Conclusion (ii)

6. There is a real possibility that the ANC may lose two provinces in 2024 beyond the Western Cape.
7. The EFF will not come into play in 2024, but 2029 may be a different story.
8. Will the stay-away-voting pattern be broken?
9. The impact of independent candidates in 2024 increase the uncertainty.
10. Next local elections in 2026 may even be more negative for the ANC including the end of the second Ramaphosa term as ANC presidency. Which may come sooner on the back of Phala-Phala!

Theo Venter

School of Public Management, Governance and Public Policy
College of Business and Economics
University of Johannesburg

