Exploring the Factors that Contributed to the Formation of Government of National Unity (GNU) in 2024 in South Africa

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Abstract

Although the establishment of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in South Africa in the post-apartheid era (1994) has been well examined in previous works, there may not be as much research on the variables influencing the formation of a new GNU in the context of 2024. As opposition groups like the Democratic Alliance (DA), and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) have grown in popularity, political fragmentation has led to a rise in coalition governments in South Africa. Nevertheless, nothing is known about the precise

ways in which these altered coalition dynamics resulted in the establishment of the GNU in 2024. This study examines the complex interaction of political, economic, and social forces that led to the establishment of GNU in South Africa and highlights the various elements that contributed to this change. Among others is the uncovering of corruption in the ruling party by the Zondo commission, the disagreements in the ruling party on the implementation of the "step aside "clause in its constitution, and the decline in the support for the ruling party from the term of President Mbeki, growing political instability, wide-spread public dissatisfaction with the status quo, and widening socioeconomic disparities. Establishing a GNU in 2024 had a wide-ranging impact on the country's political climate in that leftist political parties and far-right political parties joined hands to run the country. The document analysis was used to examine already-published materials, including scholarly papers, government reports, legislative sessions, party manifestos, and media pieces. The formal and public conversation around the GNU's creation can be better understood using this approach. This study analyses the pre-GNU political climate by combining policy document reviews, and media analysis to offer a comprehensive understanding of the reasons behind the GNU creation. The impact of recent election outcomes and, role of internal and external forces are also discussed. The support of the ruling party to the Palestinian people and its role in the Ukraine-Russian war which is seen as biased towards Russia has made it loose enough election funding from companies that are pro-West. The emergence of political parties that formed a coalition to defeat the ruling party at the polls headed by the former President of the ruling party Jacob Zuma, and strategic talks between the main political parties are also assessed. The key findings regarding the elements that led to the GNU's formation in 2024 show how intricately South Africa's political, economic, and social forces interact. Key elements included popular discontent, economic crises, political negotiations, electoral fragmentation, and the ANC's fall. The political climate that resulted in the GNU's formation was also significantly shaped by regional factors, outside influences, and online activism. The results indicate that South Africa's persistent political and economic problems led to the need for a more inclusive, stable, and reform-minded administration.

Introduction

The first GNU in South Africa was founded in 1994, during political upheaval, to encourage inclusivity and nation-building from a historically segregated background. A Government of National Unity (GNU) is

defined as a coalition that comprises many political parties and interests represented in the legislature. GNUs are formed to bring together the broadest possible spectrum of political interests in response to a crisis. GNUs are formed to achieve national interests such as nation-building, social order, and peace and stability. Agreements within GNUs are negotiated by the national executive structures of the political parties and often have implications for governance in provincial and local spheres (Beukes, Chigwata & de Visser, 2024). According to Kortze (2017), GNUs used in transitional periods of political post-crisis stress are assessed based on their contribution towards democratisation. GNUs work in the context of incomplete party-political development, ongoing constitutional negotiations, executive dominance over the legislature in the GNU, weak electoral infrastructure, and economic crises. None of them are conducive to immediate democratisation.

South Africa's political history is said to have undergone a sea change in 1994. By voting in the nation's first democratic elections on April 27, 1994, the people of South Africa granted the National Unity Government the go-ahead to start a comprehensive national change. The elections constituted one of those rare historical moments when humankind made a significant step forward (Southall, 1994). According to the requirements of the transitional constitution, a coalition cabinet comprises representatives from the parties that had secured twenty or more seats in the National Assembly, proportionate to their strength, was now required to rule the nation. That is, the Inkhata Freedom Party (IFP), the African National Congress (ANC), and the National Party (NP) (Davenport, 1998).

Cilliers (2022) writes that the bright side was that the black majority in South Africa had faith in the African National Congress (ANC) administration to rescue the nation from extreme poverty, high unemployment, and economic downturn. But what was thought to be a series of answers to South Africa's socioeconomic issues ended up posing new difficulties for the new administration. Thus, according to Davenport (1998), developing and implementing policies became one of the unity government's biggest problems.

On matters of utmost significance, the three political parties in power—the ANC, the IFP and the NP—did not always agree. This led to significant rifts between the three groups and hindered their ability to work together. The opposition became stronger when the NP decided to leave the Unity Government. A hazardous gap was opened by the parties in the unity cabinet's inability to work things out.

However, despite the NP's withdrawal from the power-sharing cabinet, South Africa's GNU created a historic constitution, restructured the country's legal system and public service, and implemented a raft of social programmes aimed at undoing the injustices of apartheid (Screiber, 2016). Their inability to work together was confirmed by Roelf Meyer, chief negotiator for the NP government during the negotiations to end apartheid, in a hotel in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Accordingly, Meyer recalled that the daunting challenge that confronted the fractious political leaders more than two decades ago was reconciling the "impossible". The former cabinet minister, Roelf Meyer described how the effort to convert former enemies into friends—or at least to turn them into functioning parts of a new power-sharing government was difficult (Screiber, 2016).

Thirty years down the line a major political shift occurred in South Africa in 2024 when a GNU was established for the second time. The ANC's second GNU formation on 6 June 2024 involved cooperating with the DA and other parties.—thereby effectively diffusing the kingmaker status of smaller parties and building an inclusive government sphere (Beukes, Chigwata & de Visser, 2024).

During the election results acceptance speech on Sunday, 2 June 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa said:

What this election has made plain is that the people of South Africa expect their leaders to work together to meet their needs. They expect the parties for which they have voted to find common ground, to overcome their differences, to act and work together for the good of everyone. Our people expect all parties to work together within the framework of our constitution and address whatever challenges we encounter peacefully and in accordance with the prescripts of our constitution and the rule of law (The Presidency, Republic of South Africa, 2024).

By implication, 2024 election results showed public dissatisfaction with the ANC's post-1994 service delivery Therefore, this forced the ANC to craft a new strategy that would resolve the issue of delivering services to people and its internal challenges with the further purpose of repositioning itself after having lost support in the elections.

Thus, the intricate interaction of political, social, and economic forces that moulded the nation's government structure resulted in this momentous change. In this situation, the GNU was a strategic realignment intended to promote stability and national solidarity during profound challenges and differences, rather than a reaction to short-term problems (Mpanza, 2014). Against this background, a thorough analysis of South Africa's political dynamics is necessary to comprehend the elements that led to this creation. These elements include the influence of public opinion, socioeconomic pressures, party negotiations, and election results.

This article explores these elements, the GNU's drivers, and potential ramifications for South Africa. This study attempts to ascertain and comprehend the various elements that contributed to establishing the Government of National Unity in South Africa in 2024 by offering a thorough examination that integrates historical, political, economic, and global viewpoints.

The ANC won the elections by 40.2% giving it the option of forming a minority government, which is vulnerable to instability or a coalition government, but the ANC opted for a GNU. The goal of the study is to investigate the institutional, social, political, and economic elements that contributed to the establishment of the GNU in South Africa in 2024. This entails investigating how political parties, public opinion shifts, economic forces, and historical precedents might have affected the choice to create a GNU. Questions included: What impact did the 2024 general elections in South Africa's division of political power have on the choice to create a GNU? How did opposition groups and the African National Congress (ANC) contribute to the founding of the GNU? What role did the leadership and ideological changes within political parties have in the desire to build a coalition government? Which South African economic issues such as unemployment, inflation, and poverty might have encouraged parties to create a unity government? What role did protests, social unrest, or discontent with the government play in the GNU's formation? How did the GNU pledge to handle economic challenges, and what were the main forces behind economic reforms? Which institutional frameworks or constitutional clauses made it easier for a GNU to be established in South Africa? Did any procedural or legislative criteria promote or hinder the establishment of a coalition government? How did the past events in South Africa—such as the end of apartheid and the ANC's involvement in post-apartheid politics—affect the choice to establish a GNU?

How did the lessons learnt from past coalition administrations influence the creation of the 2024 government? Did outside parties such as foreign governments or international organisations have any say in establishing a GNU? How did domestic political decisions in South Africa get influenced by its foreign relations?

Methodology

This article reviewed documents. The documents reviewed included articles, reports from professional bodies, book chapters, records of

interviews of political leaders on GNU, the IEC website, websites of political parties, and other documents available on the Internet. Keywords like GNU, Nelson Mandela, the first black President of South Africa and a key figure in the GNU's establishment, Desmond Tutu, Apartheid, ANC (African National Congress), National Party (NP), Democratic Party (DP), Reconciliation, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Constitution, Transition, Coalition Government, Political Integration, Economic Reforms, Human Rights Equity, breakaway groups, and the people's voice were used to track documents relevant to the topic of this article.

The selected documents were based on relevance to the topic and the contribution they are making to the discourse on GNU. The content's authority depends on whether it was published by a reputable source, went through peer review or professional editing, or both. Relevance was assessed based on the item's contribution to the GNU discussion. However, citations were examined to evaluate the currency, indicating if the knowledge was still pertinent to the GNU discourse (Browning & Rigolon, 2019).

There was no restriction on the date of publication of the documents. However, relevant documents were selected to promote currency in the article (Mensah, 2019). This means that the general selection criteria included relevance, authority, and currency (Browning & Rigolon, 2019; Wolf et al., 2014). The relevant data was chosen and summarised. The summaries were subjected to qualitative thematic analysis (Elo & Kyngäs, 2008; Hsieh & Shannon, 2005; Mayring, 2000) and synthesised to bring out the factors that contributed to the formation of GNU in 2024 in South Africa.

Literature Review

An important political development that reflected the dynamics and difficulties facing the nation's political system was the emergence of a Government of National Unity (GNU) in South Africa in 2024. While prior works have thoroughly investigated the GNU's foundation in the post-apartheid era (1994), there may not be as much research on the factors driving the formation of a new GNU in 2024. In South Africa, political fragmentation has resulted in an increase in coalition governments due to the growing popularity of opposition parties like the Democratic Alliance (DA), uMkhonto we Sizwe party (MK) and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). However, nothing is known about the specific

ways in which these changed coalition dynamics led to the formation of the GNU in 2024.

This literature review analyses numerous academic papers, publications, and other pertinent sources to investigate the elements that led to this historical occurrence. The review covered political volatility and divisions, party fragmentation and electoral shifts, changes to governance and polarisation, socioeconomic factors, public pressure and social movements, foreign effects, and elements of leadership and institutions. to give readers a thorough grasp of the background and factors that contributed to the creation of the GNU.

Political Volatility and Divisions

South Africa's political landscape has been characterised by political instability and fragmentation. Academics contend that a GNU was required to keep governance stable and guarantee more representation because of the fracturing of political parties and the growing polarisation of South African politics (Beall et al., 2005).

Party Fragmentation and Electoral Shifts

Smith's (2023) research demonstrates how the fracturing of prominent political parties, such as the Democratic Alliance (DA) and the African National Congress (ANC), led to a convoluted electoral environment. Traditional voting patterns were upset by the rise of smaller, more radical parties, which resulted in a hung parliament and calls for a GNU to establish efficient governance (Smith, 2023). Traditional big political parties ANC, DA, and IFP had many breakaways groups. For example, in 1997, Bantu Holomisa, an ANC member of Parliament, and other disgruntled citizens broke away to form the United Democratic Movement (UDM). This was in response to the policies and leadership of the ANC. In 2008, another discontented member broke away from the Jacob Zuma-led ANC, giving rise to the formation of the Congress of the People (COPE). The COPE was led by Mosiuoa 'Terror' Lekota and Mbazima Shilowa, as President and Deputy, respectively (Twala, 2011). The COPE advocated for inclusive economic development policies that prioritised job creation, poverty alleviation, and social equality. It is believed that borrowing to fund government programmes forced the country into a perpetual debt cycle and prevented South Africa from reaching its full potential (Centre Left, 2008).

In 2013, Julius Malema and other suspended African National Congress Youth Leaguers (ANCYL), among them Floyd Shivambu, currently the Umkhonto we Sizwe Party (MKP) national organiser, formed their own political party, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). The EFF was launched in Marikana on 13 October 2013. Accordingly, Marikana was chosen because it was strategic in terms of both time and place. The party was created with the goal of becoming a more accountable and democratic political force (Soldaat, 2022). The formation of EFF brought into the party a foundational commitment to the Freedom Charter, whose principles, they argue, have been betrayed by the ANC since 1994. Its founding manifesto explained that the EFF was a socialist movement whose commitment came from an appreciation of the role played by the fathers and mothers of South Africa's liberation movement and stated that the party drew an inspiration from the radical, working-class interpretation of the Freedom Charter' (EFF 2013a). T (Mbete, 2014).

In 2017, in what was the largest dissatisfaction with the ANC-Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), a splinter group emerged. This was in the name of the South African Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU). The SAFTU was formed on 21 April 2017 in Boksburg in the current Gauteng Province. Its formation was spearheaded by Zwelinzima Vavi, the former General Secretary of COSATU. The federation is composed of new unions, some COSATU affiliates and long-existing unions which previously did not belong to any trade union federation. At its formation, SAFTU had twenty-four (24) affiliate unions representing over seven hundred thousand (700 000) workers. SAFTU asserted that it was a workers'-controlled organisation independent of political parties and employers and that it was not apolitical. The federation promised to be the voice for the growing numbers of unorganised and marginalised workers in South Africa (Nemakonde, 2018). Its formation created intense competition in the country's unionised workforce (Airport Company South Africa, 2017).

A few months before the 2024 election, the ANC witnessed another split in the form of the Umkhonto we Sizwe Party (MKP), led by the former President of the Organisation and the country, Jacob Zuma. Zuma's announcement of the launch of MKP on 16 December 2024 and expressed support for the new party raised eyebrows, as he was still a member of the ANC—leading the latter to take issue with the new party's use of the MK log and name.

Meanwhile, Patricia de Lille had founded the Independent Democrats (ID) in 1999. The ID was a split from the Democratic Party (DP), which

subsequently merged into the Democratic Alliance (DA). After the ID and DA had united in 2010, Patricia de Lille rose to prominence in the DA. De Lille, however, disagreed with the DA's leadership and strategy. Nevertheless, they eventually left the DA in 2019 to form the Good Party. She was not happy with the party's internal dynamics or leadership, which is why De Lille left the DA.

In 2020, a DA member and former mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Herman Mashaba, broke away from the DA and founded Action SA. The reason for the action was leadership squabbles and the direction the DA was taking. This was exacerbated by Mashaba's own vision for governance and policy. Then followed another split from the DA led by its former leader, Mmusi Maimane—Build One South Africa (BOSA). In another dynamic, the IFP's national chairperson Zanele Magwaza-Msibi and her backers had cut ties with the IFP- thereby forming the National Freedom Front (NFP). By implication, the political parties that had been commanding enough support were fractured. As a result, their numbers became affected at the 2024 election polls.

Challenges to Governance and Polarisation

Usually, poor governance is the result of polarisation or division in a particular political system. The term "governance" has developed in both academic and real-world settings, becoming more well-known in fields like business studies, economics, political science, and public administration. Fundamentally, governance refers to the institutions, procedures, and mechanisms that a society or organisation uses to make decisions and exercise power. Depending on the topic of study, the definition of the concept of "governance" can differ greatly. Rosenau (1992) offered one of the most well-known definitions, characterising governance as "the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs." This viewpoint includes formal and informal systems that connect social, political, and economic interactions. The socio-economic-political environments are not immune to polarisation— the ideological gap that exists between political parties, organisations, or individuals within a society. The differences in political beliefs and the decreasing overlap between opposing political groups have been the main topics of research by academics who study political polarisation. Sunstein (2009) defines political polarisation as the propensity of groups of people to create homogeneous communities of like-minded people where there is little opportunity for the exchange of differing opinions. He claims that

this is made worse by selective media and social media exposure that strengthens preconceived notions and widens the ideological gap.

Several issues contribute towards polarisation or divisions, thus posing governance challenges in South Africa. These include socioeconomic factors, public pressure and social movements, foreign effects, and elements of leadership and institutions. Moyo and Nkosi (2024) highlight how political polarisation grew more intense following the elections of 2024. They contend that a GNU was necessary to heal divisions and promote political stability because of widening ideological gaps in terms of the political parties' manifestos and the incapacity of any one party to win a majority. The first three parties in terms of election results scored as follows: ANC 40.18 % DA 21.81 %, and Mk 14.58 % (https://www.elections.org.za). These statistics indicate that for the ANC to get 50% plus to run the country, it needed other parties on board. ANC had two options: it could negotiate with other political groups to create a stable ruling coalition, or it could govern as a minority, making the government vulnerable to instability.

Following the 1994 first democratic elections, in which the ANC won with the majority of votes, South Africa started a convoluted process of nation-building and reconciliation. The ANC had by 2004 solidified its hold on power, but problems like political division and socioeconomic inequality surfaced. Lodge (2004) observes that these problems or challenges made the ANC realise the value of forging a GNU as a tool to deal with these issues by promoting diversity and wide representation.

The GNU was formed in large part due to socioeconomic factors as well. There was a need for a unified government that could handle time-sensitive issues due to social and economic challenges. Key under the socioeconomic factors is economic decline and inequality. Patel's (2024) study reveals that South Africa has notable economic obstacles, including elevated rates of joblessness, inflation, and disparities in income. According to him, a primary motivation for the establishment of a GNU was the requirement for a coordinated approach to social transformation and economic policy. In 1994, the economy's rate of unemployment was sitting at approximately 20% (SARB, 2019). It is, therefore, apparent that since 1994, the overall annual unemployment rate has been increasing. According to Stats SA (2019), in the 4th quarter of 2019, the rate of unemployment was sitting at 29.1%, a 5% increase over ten years from the 4th quarter of 2009. Employment decreased by 237 000 to 16.29 million from 16.53 million in the last quarter of 2018 (Stats SA, 2019; Trading

Economics, 2019). In comparison to Q4 2023, the official unemployment rate increased by 0.8% to 32.9 per cent in Q1 2024 (Stats SA, 2024).

Apart from the socioeconomic factors, there were others, such as the public pressure and social movements which were central to the formation of GNU. Jones (2023) indicates that social movements and public demand for economic reforms clearly explain the contribution of those factors to the GNU's establishment. Accordingly, the demands for a fair allocation of resources and protests made it clear that there was a need for a government that would be capable of addressing the socioeconomic imbalances (2023).

Other contributing factors to the GNU formation included global trends and diplomatic pressure and support to South Africa. In particular, South Africa's tilt to the GNU was influenced by its relationship with regional bodies such as the AU and dynamics within the UN and the Commonwealth. Thus, worldwide, foreign actions and worldwide political tendencies influenced domestic politics in South Africa. These aspects have been delved into, by Davis and Williams (2024), especially into how coalition governments and power-sharing agreements, which have become popular worldwide, have impacted South Africa. Accordingly, South Africa's political restructuring was influenced by the global success of GNUs in other democratic countries. On the other hand, Lee (2024) looks at how foreign countries and international organisations supported the creation of the GNU. He maintains that the GNU negotiations were facilitated and given legitimacy by the involvement of foreign diplomats and general assistance from global and regional organisations, especially the UN and AU (2024).

In addition to the above factors, there were elements of leadership and institutions critical to forming the GNU. These elements of leadership and institutions have two components to it, namely, negotiation and compromise, and institutional adaptations. What this means is that the GNU was negotiated and formed in large part due to institutional and leadership issues. One cannot ignore the importance of the politicians, individuals and organisations in the election results. As elements of leadership, most parties including the ruling party (ANC) accepted the election results. Evidence of this could be found in President Ramaphosa's speech following the 2024 election results. As far as institutions are concerned, it is discernible that the GNU revolved around the independence of the institutions of government— legislature, the judiciary, Chapter 9 institutions, and the independence of media for accountability purposes. The significance of all these institutions has been

emphasised by Roberts (2024) and Maharaj (2004), especially President Ramaphosa's reasons and or motives for including parties such as the DA, and smaller parties like the IFP and the UDM. To be precise, Ramaphosa's strategic considerations and views on the GNU revolved around putting into place government mechanisms to foster stability and legitimacy.

Against the background of Ramaphosa's strategic consideration, it became evident that a compromise was needed in the form of the GNU. The smaller parties were roped in to stabilise the political landscape the ANC had dominated since the 1994 elections in the country. For this reason, concessions were made to the small parties as a way of guaranteeing stability in all government structures and institutions—a view shared by Habib and Bentley (2006). Notwithstanding the early excitement surrounding the GNU, as Seekings (2005) observed, several challenges have surfaced—leading to frequent degradation of policy efficacy and accountability. Despite their official membership in government, smaller parties occasionally felt marginalised due to the power dynamics within the ANC—thereby calling into question whether compromise can be sustained as a method of government in a community that is so sharply divided.

Findings

Several findings were drawn from a thorough analysis of the elements that contributed to South Africa's 2024 establishment of a Government of National Unity (GNU). Electoral dynamics and political fragmentation that led to electoral fragmentation. The political landscape's disarray after the general elections in 2024 was a major contributing factor to the GNU's foundation. A hung parliament resulted from the African National Congress (ANC), which had dominated politics since the end of apartheid, losing its commanding majority. Coalition negotiations were required due to the increase in support for smaller parties, including the Democratic Alliance (DA), uMkhonto we Sizwe party (MK), and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), and several smaller regional parties. There were changes in Political Alliances. The ANC sought a coalition government despite its longstanding leadership position due to internal conflicts and a decline in its traditional support base. Since the ANC could no longer rely on its historical supremacy, it became evident that cooperation between different political parties was necessary. The trend was from ideological purity to political pragmatism, or ideological convergence. The GNU was created

because parties from all political stripes were compelled to compromise on some of their positions to create a functional alliance.

The crisis in the economy and immediate reforms put pressure on the political parties. In 2024, South Africa's economy was in terrible shape, with high unemployment rates, sluggish growth, inflation, and rising poverty rates. Demands for immediate reforms were sparked by the nation's economic woes, load shedding (power outages), and decaying public infrastructure.Unity was paramount for economic stability. The economic difficulties made it impossible for any party to effectively handle the situation on its own. There was widespread agreement that to carry out significant reforms and efficiently run the country's economy, a single government was required. To address economic concerns, the GNU provided a forum for combining the resources and knowledge of different political groups.

Fiscal Responsibility: A government with a common goal of stabilising the economy was formed because of the necessity for international investment and fiscal restraint. It was believed that having several parties in the GNU would guarantee more representation when it came to important economic policy choices.

Public Pressure and Social Unrest Growing Social Discontent. High living expenses, subpar public services, and resentment of political mismanagement and corruption were the causes of South Africa's social unrest, rallies, and strikes. There were growing calls for change, especially for more inclusive governance, in townships and cities. Public Support for Unity. South Africans were becoming more receptive to a coalition administration, especially if it meant addressing problems with social inequality, unemployment, and corruption. To better address urgent social concerns and rebuild public confidence in governmental institutions, a GNU was formed.

The ANC's power, which had been essential to South Africa's apartheid transition, started to decline because of internal corruption scandals, leadership issues, and the party's alleged inability to fulfil its socioeconomic pledges. Because no one party could handle the burden of governance alone, coalition governance became necessary as ANC influence declined. Past Examples of Unity: The concept of a national unity government was reminiscent of the first GNU established in South Africa in 1994, following the end of apartheid. This historical precedent struck a chord with certain voters and political leaders in 2024, signifying the potential to bridge differences for the nation's benefit.

Constitutional and Institutional Assistance Constitutional Framework-Through clauses that promote inclusivity and proportional representation, the South African Constitution makes it easier for coalition governments to be formed. The system offers a foundation for multi-party governance and gives minor parties a say in politics. The GNU's establishment was largely possible due to its legal and practical institutional framework. Negotiations between parties: Well-established procedures for coalition negotiations also aided in forming the GNU by direct talks between the parties. These institutional procedures were key to uniting diverse political voices despite ideological differences

International Stakeholder Pressure - Although not as strong as domestic factors, international actors like the African Union, the United Nations, and major trading partners were generally in favour of establishing a GNU because they believed it would stabilise South Africa and guarantee its continued position as a major player in regional and international affairs. Trade and Foreign Investment: South Africa faced mild external pressure to achieve political stability, particularly since investor confidence was impacted by economic crises. It was believed that establishing a GNU would demonstrate to the world that South Africa was dedicated to working together to overcome its problems.

Public Opinion and the Media Support for Unity: Public perception of the GNU's establishment was influenced by South African media. The necessity of political unity in the face of growing social and economic issues was regularly emphasised by media sources. Additionally, the significance of prioritising national interests over party politics was becoming more widely discussed. A GNU was widely supported by the people, particularly if it was thought to be a means of combating corruption, enhancing governance, and enacting reforms. But there was also doubt about the parties' ability to stay united and run the government well.

Conclusion

Political, social, and economic reasons came together to produce the Government of National Unity (GNU) in South Africa in 2024. The pressing need for a collaborative governance model was highlighted by the need for stability in the face of widening societal divides and economic difficulties. The political will of major parties to put national unity above party interests, international pressure for democratic resilience, and public demand for inclusive representation were all important motivators.

In addition to addressing urgent problems like unemployment and inequality, this historic partnership hopes to promote communication and restore confidence. With its cooperative structure that can rethink governance and establish a standard for future political agreements, the GNU is a significant turning point in the political history of South Africa. The GNU's ability to continue serving the needs of all residents while promoting a sense of shared responsibility and national healing will be crucial as the nation works through the challenges of this partnership.

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