

Comparing Africa's Governments

Republic of Kenya &
Republic of South Africa

Let's Review

GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS – WHO HAS THE POWER?

- **Unitary**--power is held by one central authority
- **Confederation**--association of independent states that agree to certain limitations on their freedoms by joining together
- **Federal**--power is divided between central authority & several regional authorities

Let's Review

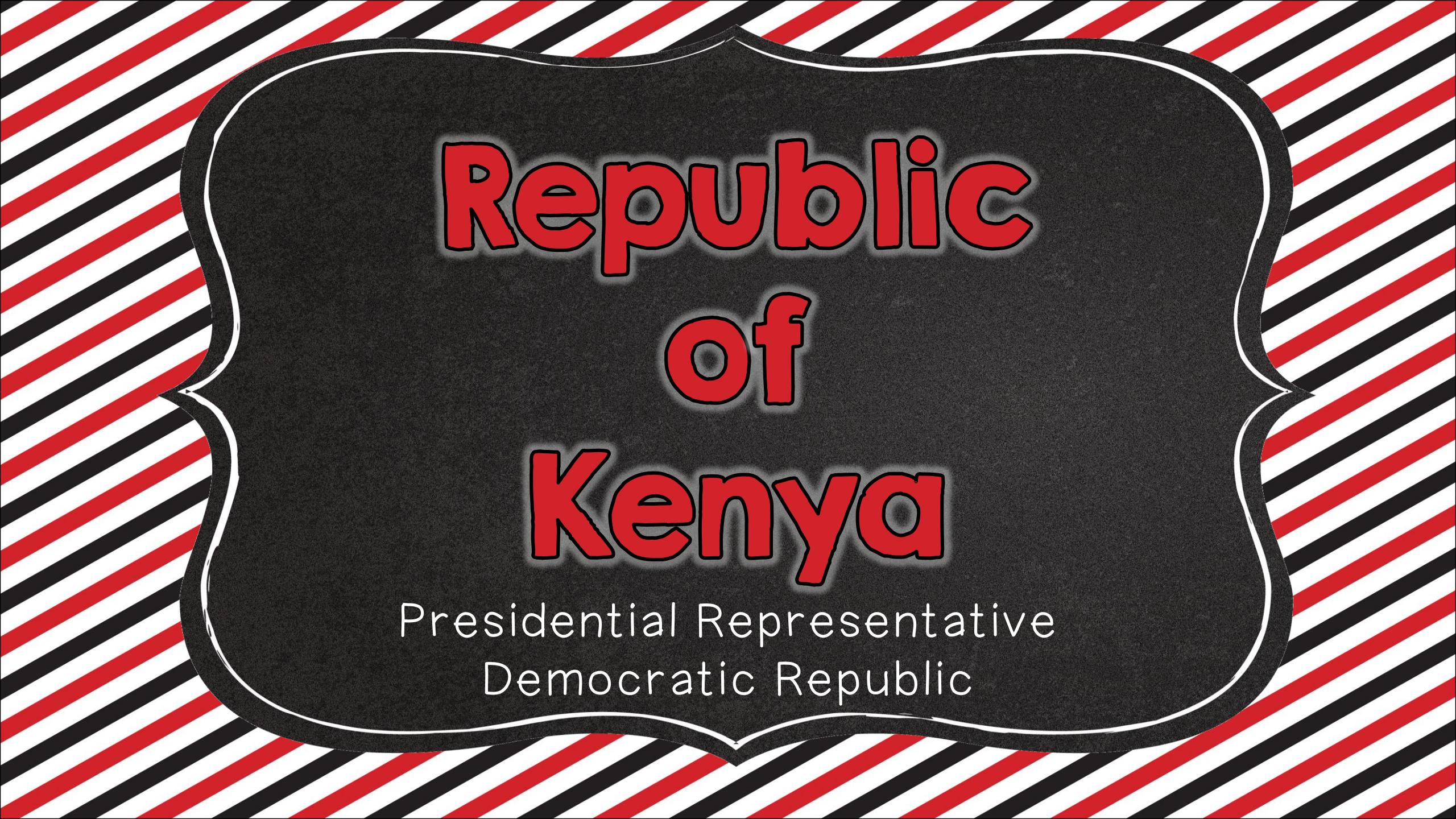
GOVERNMENT TYPES – HOW DO CITIZENS PARTICIPATE?

- **Autocracy**-- 1 person possesses unlimited power & citizens have limited role in government
- **Oligarchy**-- small group exercises control & citizens have limited role in government
- **Democracy**--supreme power is vested in the people & exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation involving free elections

Let's Review

TWO TYPES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS:

- **Parliamentary**– citizens elect members of Parliament, and then the members select the leader
 - Leader works with or through the legislature
- **Presidential**--system of government in which the leader is constitutionally independent of the legislature; citizens directly elect leader
 - Leader works separate from legislature



**Republic
of
Kenya**

Presidential Representative
Democratic Republic

Background Info.

- Kenya became independent from Great Britain on December 12th, 1963 under the leadership of Jomo Kenyatta.
- Kenya has recently experienced many changes in its government.
 - The new constitution (2010) introduced significant legislative changes, such as a new bicameral legislature, the abolishment of the prime minister, and switching from 8 provinces to 47 counties (“Districts of Kenya”).
- Kenya is currently a democratic republic with an elected president and a bicameral legislature.

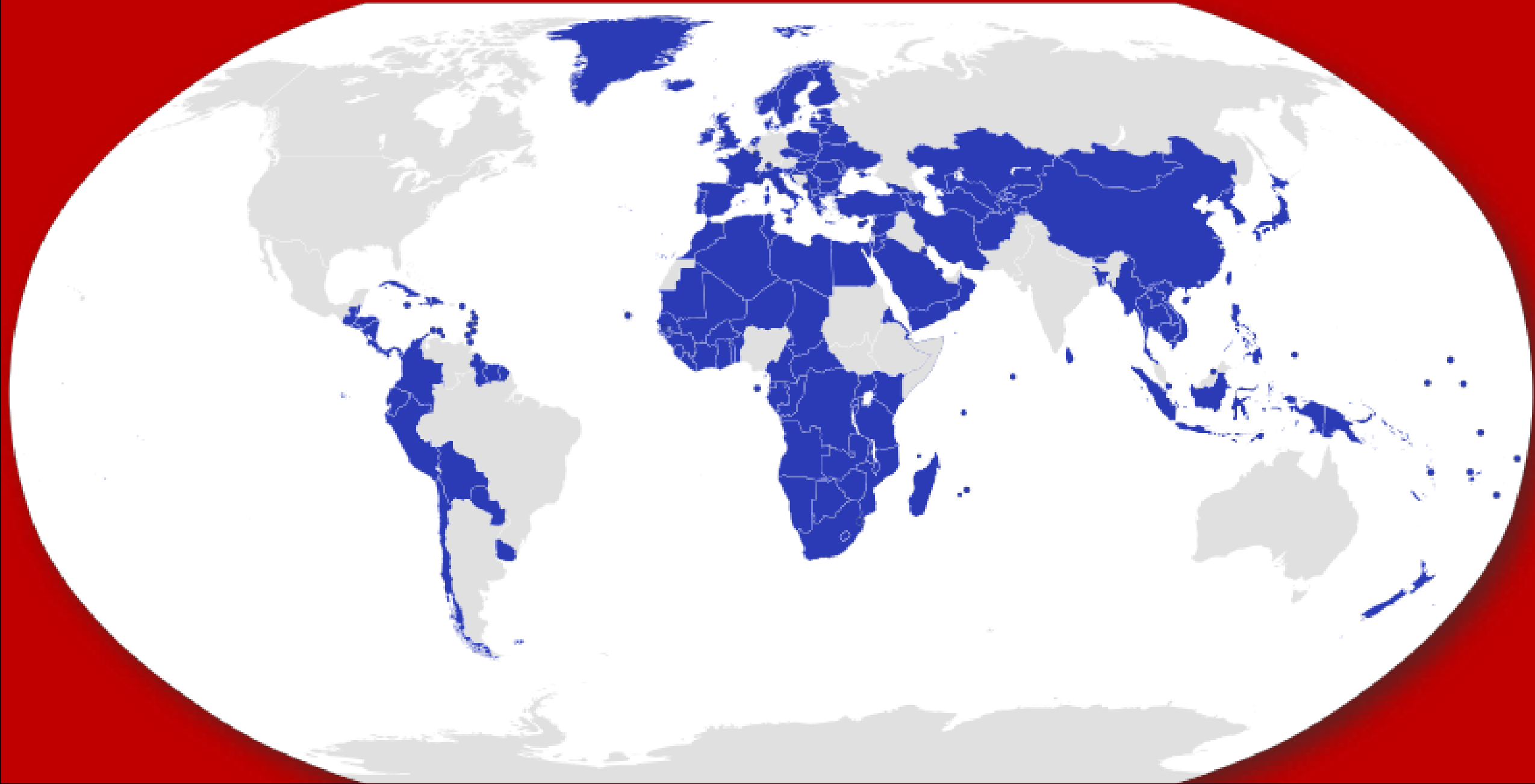
The Kenyatta International Conference Centre, in Nairobi, is home to Kenya's government.



Unitary System

- Kenya has a unitary system, which means that the national (central) government holds all of the power.
 - The counties (districts) are under central government control.
- There are 47 counties in Kenya.
 - The counties are called “Districts of Kenya” and are headed by governors, much like states in the US.

Unitary Governments



Leadership

1. **President:** holds the most political power; the president is both the chief executive and the head of state.
2. **Vice President:** helps in the day-to-day running of the government; performs ceremonial duties

Uhuru Kenyatta



Kenya's 4th President

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **President:** elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for a second term)
- **Vice President:** appointed by the president

Legislature

- The Parliament of Kenya is the country's bicameral legislature.
- It consists of:
 1. Senate (67 seats) - 47 members directly elected by their counties, 16 women nominated by the political parties, 2 members to represent the youth, and 2 members to represent persons with disabilities.
 2. National Assembly (349 seats) - 290 elected from the constituencies, 47 women elected from the counties, and 12 nominated representatives
- Members serve five-year terms.

Inside Kenya's Parliament



Presidential Democracy


- The citizens directly elect the president (every 5 years).
 - The last election was in March 2013 (next to be held in 2018).
- The president works separately from Kenya's Parliament.

Role of the Citizen

- Citizens must be 18 to vote, but voting is not required by law.
- As a democracy, its citizens can participate in voting and elections:
 - The citizens vote for the president, as well as for members of the parliament.
- Even though Kenya is a democracy, the citizens do not have too much say in the government.
 - Much of the decision-making process is made by the president and his party.
- Freedoms are written into the constitution, but government is dominated by the president.
 - However, there have been improvements in citizens' rights in recent years.

Voting in Kenya – March 2013





**Republic
of
South Africa**

Background Info.

- South Africa became independent from Great Britain in 1910.
- Until 1994, South Africa had an oligarchy that was controlled by the white leaders of Apartheid.
 - Today, the racially segregated government has ended and South Africa is a democracy.

The Houses of Parliament, in Cape Town, is home to South Africa's government.



Unitary System

- South Africa has a unitary system, which means that the national (central) government holds all of the power.
- The provinces are under central government control.
- There are 9 provinces in South Africa.

Leadership

1. **President:** holds the most political power, is the head of government and head of state, & is the leader of the party with the most seats in National Assembly

2. **Deputy President:** helps in the day-to-day running of the government; performs ceremonial duties

Jacob Zuma



South Africa's President

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **President:** leader of the party with the most seats in the National Assembly; serves a five-year term (no more than two terms)
- **Deputy President:** appointed by the president

Legislature

- The Parliament of South Africa is the country's bicameral legislature.
- It consists of:
 1. National Council of Provinces (90 seats) – the upper house of Parliament; each of the 9 provinces elect 10 members.
 2. National Assembly (400 seats) - the lower house of Parliament; is elected every five years by a system of party-proportional representation

National Assembly Chamber



Parliamentary Democracy

- The political party with the most members in the National Assembly selects the President.
- This is the major difference between a Presidential Democracy and a Parliamentary Democracy!
 - Parliamentary Democracy – legislature chooses the executive leader

Role of the Citizen

- Citizens must be 18 to vote, but voting is not required by law.
- As a democracy, its citizens can participate in voting and elections:
 - The citizens vote for members of the National Assembly (parliament), who then elects the president.
- Personal freedoms are more numerous in South Africa since Apartheid (legal separation of the races) has ended.
- Unfortunately, even though Apartheid has ended, much of South Africa's wealth does not reach the black population.
 - This has caused a very low standard of living among half of the country's population.