

Bavuse! for Community Self-Mobilisation: Using a Cell Phone and Free Dial Codes

What is Bavuse?

Bavuse! or Grassroot is a communication tool that anyone in South Africa can use for community self-organising. The aim of Bavuse! is to make it easy for communities and activists to use their cell phones to organise themselves in ways that are free or cheap.

Who created Bavuse?

Bavuse! is developed by [Grassroot](#), a non-profit organisation. [PHM-SA](#) is a development partner that assists in testing, training and implementing Bavuse! at community level. At PHM-SA, we call Grassroot's communication tool Bavuse! and our groups are Bavuse! groups.

Join PHM-SA's Bavuse! group

If you want to receive information about PHM-SA campaigns, activities and events, please join our Bavuse! group: **Dial *134*1994*7147#** (it's free).

What can I do with Bavuse?

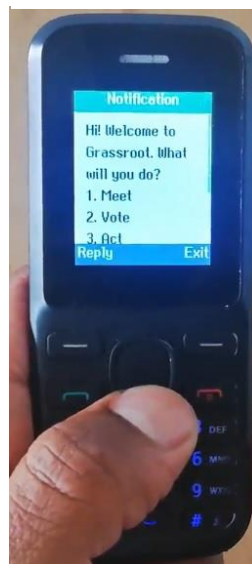
On any cell phone, you can use Bavuse! to:

- Create a profile
- Create groups and add members
- Create group organisers
- Call meetings
- Call votes
- Assign tasks to members
- Ask for information
- Ask for volunteers

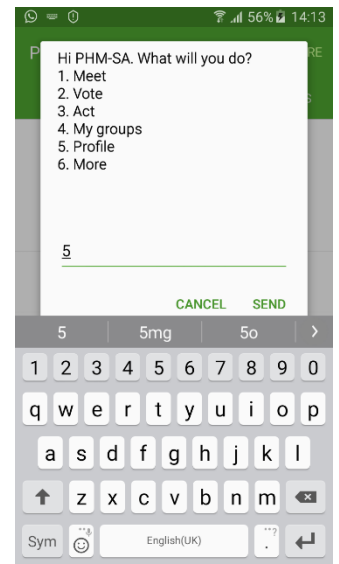
On the Grassroot website, you can also:

- Send SMS, email and social media broadcasts
- Create campaigns and link to [Amandla Awethu](#) petitions
- Monitor group activity, and import and export membership lists

Basic Cell Phone



Smartphone



What does Bavuse! cost?

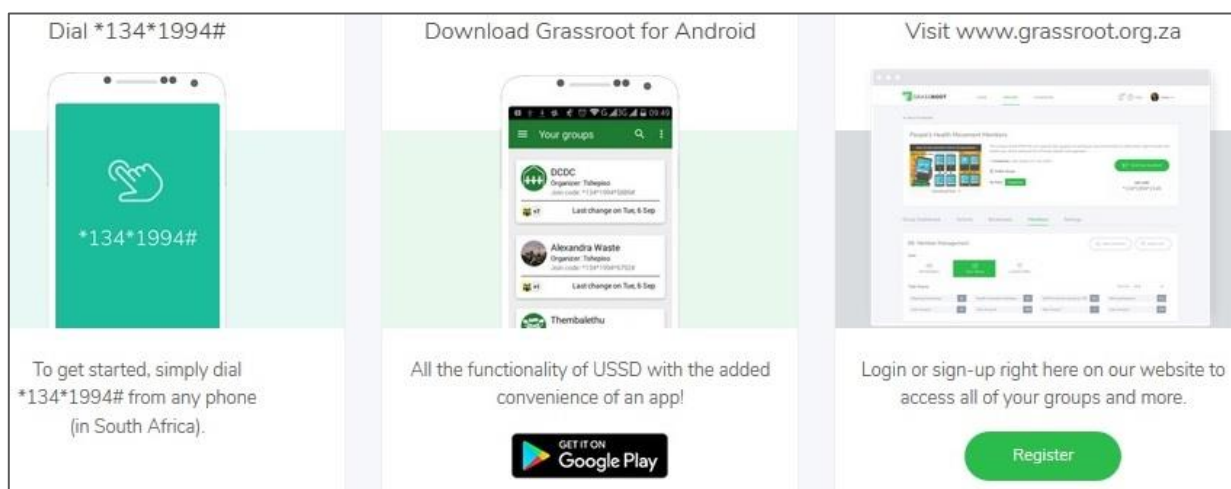
Bavuse!/Grassroot is currently free for groups of up to 250 members. Every group can send 3 free SMS or USSD messages per month. (Additional capacity and advanced functions like campaigns require a Grassroot Extra account.)

PHM-SA has additional capacity to sign up thousands of members in each of our groups and to send them thousands of messages.

How do I use Bavuse?

You can use Bavuse! in any of these ways:

- On any cell phone, dial *134*1994# (it's free)
- On a smartphone, download the Grassroot for Android app from the Google Play Store
- Register on the Grassroot website: <https://www.grassroot.org.za/>



In this instruction pamphlet, we focus on using a cell phone and free USSD dial codes:

How do I create my Bavuse! (Grassroot) profile?

1. Dial *134*1994# (it's free)
2. Reply **5** to choose 5. Profile. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
3. Reply **1** to choose 1. My name. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
4. Reply by typing your name. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
5. Return to the main menu and repeat the process to specify your Language, Town and Email.

Note: If the session disconnects before you are done, or if you want to change your details at a later time, just dial *134*1994# again and repeat the process.

How do I create a group and a group join code?

1. Dial *134*1994# (it's free)
2. Reply **4** to choose 4. My groups. Then press **OK** or **Send**. (If you are already a member of any groups, you will first see a list of them).

3. Reply **1** to choose 1. Create a new group. Then press **OK** or **Send**. (*Note: The number to create a new group may be different if you are already a member of any groups, because they will be listed first*).
4. Reply by typing the name of your group. Then press **OK** or **Send**. (*Hint: Keep the group name short, or it will use up too much text in messages*).
5. To get an SMS with your group's join code, reply **3** to choose 3. SMS me join code. (You can give other people your join code if you want them to join your group. Just ask them to dial it on their cell phones).

How do I add members or organisers to my group?

You can add members and organisers to your group: An ordinary member can't call meetings/votes and they can't add other members to the group. But an organiser can call meetings/votes and they can add other members.

There are two ways to add members to your group: You can give them your group's join code to dial. Or you can add new members or organisers yourself:

1. Dial *134*1994# (it's free)
2. Reply **4** to choose 4. My groups. Then press **OK** or **Send**. (You will now see a list of your groups).
3. Type the number of the group you want to pick. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
4. To add an ordinary member, reply **1** to choose 1. Add someone, then press **OK** or **Send**. Or, to add an organiser, reply **2** to choose 2. Add organizer, then press **OK** or **Send**.
5. Reply by typing the cell number of the person. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
6. You can add another person's number, or reply **0** to finish. Then press **OK** or **Send**.

Note: You can add members and organisers to a group that you created. But to add members or organisers to someone else's group, the owner/organiser of that group will first have to assign the necessary permissions to your profile.

How do I call a meeting?

It's easy to call a meeting, but you must be the owner/organiser of a group. When people receive your SMS notice, they can RSVP by dialling *134*1994# (free) and you will receive their confirmations by SMS.

1. Dial *134*1994# (it's free).
2. Reply **1** to choose 1. Meet. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
3. Choose a group (or first create one. Then press **OK** or **Send**).
4. Type the meeting topic. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
5. Type the place. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
6. Type the date and time. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
7. To send the notice, reply **1** to choose 1. Yes. Then press **OK** or **Send**.

How do I call a vote?

1. Dial *134*1994# (it's free)
2. Reply **2** to choose 2. My Vote. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
3. Reply by typing the question/issue that people must vote on. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
(*Hint: Keep it short as you have only about 30 letters and the session may time out*).
4. Choose your vote options:
Option 1: For Yes and No vote options, reply **1** to choose 1. Just Yes and No. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
Option 2: To type your own vote options, reply **2** to choose 2. My own options. Then type each of your options one by one and press **OK** or **Send** after every option.
When you have added all your options, reply **0**. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
5. Choose the Group that must vote: Reply by entering the group's number. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
6. Choose when the vote must close: In 5 minutes, an hour, a day, a week, or enter your own date. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
7. You will see a preview of the vote. If it looks okay, reply **1** to choose 1. Yes, send out.
If you want to change the topic of the vote, reply **2** to choose 2. No, change topic.
If you want to change the date or time of the deadline, reply **3** to choose 3. No, change date or time.

How do I ask for volunteers?

1. Dial *134*1994# (it's free)
2. Reply **3** to choose 3. Act. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
3. Reply **2** to choose 2. Need volunteers. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
4. Choose the Group from which you need volunteers: Reply by entering the group's number. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
5. Reply by typing the task that you need volunteers for. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
(*Hint: Keep it short*).
6. Choose the time when you need volunteers: Type **1** if you need them now. Or type another day/time. Then press **OK** or **Send**.
7. You will see a preview. If the message looks okay to send, reply **1** to choose 1. Yes.
If you want to change the task, reply **2** to choose 2. Change subject.
If you want to change the date or time, reply **3** to choose 3. Change date or time.

What must I do if the session disconnects?

If the session times out before you are done with a task, just dial *134*1994# again. You will get the option to continue with the task you were busy with.

*Join the PHM-SA Bavuse! group:
Dial *134*1994*7147# (it's free)*