



AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY
2016 MANIFESTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS





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AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

2016 MANIFESTO

THE AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ACDP) is a political party based on biblical principles.

WE RECOGNISE that South Africa is at a critical juncture in its history with severe social, economic and political challenges. Our policies aim to build social cohesion, address poor governance at local level, create an environment conducive to job creation and poverty alleviation, restore integrity and investor confidence, and protect and strengthen communities.

WE HAVE A VISION for a strong, healthy and prosperous nation. We are committed to seeing genuine change and renewal in our country that is modelled on value-based norms such as integrity, justice, honesty and respect.

WE WANT TO FOSTER a spirit of true reconciliation and inclusivity, where respect for God and for one another becomes the hallmark of South Africa's legacy.

WE ARE COMMITTED to providing reliable, trustworthy councillors who are passionate about addressing the needs and improving the lives of people in their respective municipalities.

SERVICE DELIVERY

The core function of local government is to provide roads, water, electricity, sanitation and housing. Proactive maintenance to prevent permanent and extensive damage to existing infrastructure will be the ACDP's first priority. At the same time we are also facing critical water shortages due to the ongoing drought, and sustainable alternatives must be prioritised.

The ACDP will:

- Give priority in municipal budgets to basic service delivery by maintaining and upgrading water, sewerage, road and electricity infrastructure;
- Insist on skilled and experienced municipal managers and staff;
- Ensure that those accused of corrupt conduct are speedily prosecuted, and, where found guilty, held personally liable to refund the state;
- Ensure that municipal public accounts committees exist and function effectively;
- Include community-based organisations in the oversight of service delivery programmes;
- Embark on extensive education programmes on the importance of recycling and promote subsidised recycling initiatives to create economic opportunities;
- Hold companies accountable for pollution such as acid drainage from mines and other water or air-polluting activities;
- Build and maintain dams, reservoirs and sewerage infrastructure;
- Improve storm water drainage to prevent flooding and potholes; and

- Ensure municipal-owned new and existing houses and buildings are, where feasible, fitted with rainwater harvesting devices, grey water gardening mechanisms, energy efficient lighting, solar panels and geyser blankets.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The National Development Plan envisages that the small business sector will create 90% of the expected 11 million jobs by 2030. The ACDP believes that small business is a catalyst for economic growth and should play a far more significant role in job creation and poverty alleviation.

The ACDP will:

- Provide financial assistance and other support, where feasible, to locally-owned spaza shops in townships and rural areas to assist them to enter the mainstream economy;
- Ensure that there is fair and equal access to markets for local owners who compete with increasing numbers of foreign-owned businesses;
- Enact and enforce by-laws to ensure that no trader sleeps or stays in food stores as this unhygienic practice exposes people to possible health risks and diseases;
- Employ more health inspectors to monitor small businesses trading in food to ensure that they operate in accordance with food safety and hygiene regulations;
- Provide skills training and mentorship programmes to aspiring local entrepreneurs, with a special emphasis on empowering women and youth; and
- Ensure that no non-funded local spaza shop owner loses business to subsidised foreign traders.

EDUCATION

Although schools are a national and provincial competence, the ACDP will support local schools in their efforts to raise the standard of education.

The ACDP will:

- Prioritise basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy, and attract and retain skilled and experienced teachers through better remuneration, working conditions and career opportunities;
- Support increased municipal sport and recreation budgets for additional sporting facilities, activities, and professional coaching in under-privileged communities; and
- Promote greater partnership between parents, schools and the broader community, to provide schools with additional resources.

ACCESS TO HOUSING

The ACDP is committed to extending property ownership to as many citizens as possible. We will ensure that people have more decision-making power in the acquisition of their homes and the development of their communities. Services providing electricity, clean water and sanitation to homes will be prioritised along with other measures to ensure a

healthy environment for people to live in.

The ACDP will:

- Promote the development of affordable housing through the provision of community-owned self-help schemes;
- Provide better-quality housing more efficiently through the use of cost-effective technology;
- Urgently review the data-base of persons on waiting lists for housing, and publish the lists;
- Ensure newly built homes are properly inspected and that contractors are held accountable for poor workmanship, including blacklisting repeat offenders;
- Ensure that parks, libraries, playgrounds and other facilities are safe, accessible and well-maintained; and
- See that infrastructure such as sewerage treatment plants and land-fill sites keep pace with housing developments to prevent pollution and unhygienic living conditions.

ACCESS TO HEALTH

At the heart of the ACDP is a firm belief in the dignity and value of each person, from conception to death. We are therefore committed to improving access to health and social care services.

The ACDP will:

- Ensure that municipal clinics are 'elderly, child and baby friendly', well stocked, expertly staffed and service oriented;
- Facilitate the provision of accessible transport for those who need regular treatment;
- Support community initiatives to help prevent teen pregnancy and provide assistance for young mothers-to-be;
- Ensure pregnant women are fully informed regarding the child they are carrying, the risks of abortion and the options available to them;
- Introduce drug and alcohol out-patient treatment centres at municipal clinics, and partner with private treatment centres and NGOs;
- Raise awareness in communities around the benefits of personal hygiene and healthy living; and
- Improve home-based care programmes with a particular emphasis on the elderly and those affected by HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis.

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Rising costs and inefficiencies in the transport system place workers under enormous stress and affects productivity and family life.

The ACDP will:

- Ensure accountability and performance standards that will result in safe, reliable and affordable integrated public transport services;
- Improve access by emergency vehicles in informal settlements;
- Spread the cost of road construction and maintenance in urban areas by replacing toll roads with an increase in the fuel levy;

- Work with the local taxi industry in order for the public and the taxi industry to realise the benefits of a fully integrated transport system;
- Prioritise delivery of safe, reliable and affordable bus and rail network services in rural areas; and
- Encourage the use of alternative transport to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and encourage healthy lifestyles, by introducing a network of cycle lanes, lock-up facilities and motorcycle parking bays.

RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The rural areas are the heartland of our nation, yet these are the most under-funded and neglected areas of the country.

The ACDP will:

- Promote agricultural development by protecting and supporting farmers (including small, subsistence and emerging farmers) to provide employment and ensure food security;
- Focus on developing rural towns through promoting small businesses and tourism;
- Encourage the sharing of qualified municipal employees and administrative systems to assist dysfunctional rural municipalities; and
- Encourage alternative energy and rainwater harvesting initiatives in rural communities and fast-track basic services to these areas.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The primary role of government is to protect its citizens. The ACDP is committed to ensuring our communities are safe and secure.

The ACDP will:

- Strengthen law enforcement by increasing police visibility and conducting more road blocks, stop and search operations and random drug and alcohol testing of drivers;
- Support and assist communities in their struggle against gangsterism and substance (drug/alcohol) abuse by inter alia successfully arresting and prosecuting more drug lords and drug dealers, shutting down 'drug dens' and illegal shebeens;
- Encourage and support community structures such as police forums and trauma services; and
- Support the establishment of trauma centres and safe havens in municipalities.

The ACDP is committed to implement these policies to ensure a safe, healthy and prosperous nation. Let's stand together and make a difference!

