



ACDP

AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY
2021 MANIFESTO LOCAL GOVT ELECTIONS



ACDP

African Christian
Democratic Party

2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ACDP MANIFESTO

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**VOTE FOR
LIBERTY**

VOTE ACDP

Foreword

27 years have passed since the dawn of South Africa's democratic dispensation with its promise of a free and brighter future for all. Yet today we see ever-increasing levels of corruption and mismanagement at municipal level and poor, inefficient service delivery to our communities. The protracted Covid-19 lockdown has also severely constrained some of our personal freedoms, and left businesses – especially small businesses – under extraordinary pressure to survive. Many South Africans have lost their jobs as a result and have joined the ranks of those already struggling and living well below the poverty line. In addition, many South Africans say they feel unsafe and are afraid of becoming the target of opportunistic criminals who do not fear the law. Women, children and the elderly remain especially vulnerable, as do our farmers and their workers.

Now is the time to elect leaders of integrity who have your best interests at heart; leaders committed to rooting out corruption and dishonesty at all levels of government, keeping your community safe, bolstering the economy, and upholding your rights and freedoms. By electing ACDP councillors to your local municipality, you are entrusting honest, caring and decisive leaders to efficiently and effectively deliver services that are above all, affordable.

As a party with a strong Biblical foundation, the ACDP seeks to honour God and put you and your needs at the centre of our policies. We are determined to address critical issues without fear or favour and are here to serve you and help you fully realise the South Africa you deserve; a South Africa ripe with opportunities in which you and your family can flourish and grow.

VOTE FOR FREEDOM. VOTE ACDP.

Rev. Kenneth Meshoe MP
ACDP PRESIDENT

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ACDP MANIFESTO

Section 1

Building a thriving Local Government

South Africans are fully aware of the failures of their local municipalities and we are determined to fix them. These are our solutions.

EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

Government has a constitutional mandate to improve the lives of all citizens through the delivery of quality services but corruption has crippled our state institutions. It's time for a clean sweep! We need decisive and ethical leaders who are committed to building an efficient and ethical local government where respect, justice and service is its central aim.

The ACDP will:

- Install ethical, accountable and skilled municipal managers and staff, regardless of their race, sex, age or religion;
- Give priority in municipal budgets to basic service delivery by prioritising the maintenance and upgrading of water, sewerage, road and electricity infrastructure;
- Ensure that those accused of corruption are speedily prosecuted, and where found guilty, held personally liable to refund the state;
- Ensure that municipal public accounts committees function effectively;
- Ensure there is rigorous and transparent financial reporting to council and the public at regular intervals;
- Support poor households with improved free-basic services and other initiatives that enable their participation in the economy;
- Include and strengthen community-based organisations; and
- Stop illegal dumping by introducing a law enforcement task force.

RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY SUPPLY

Eskom's unreliable electricity supply has resulted in widespread load-shedding which has had a devastating impact on economic growth and job creation.

To fix this, the ACDP will:

- Amend the regulatory environment to allow independent developers to set up power plants up to 100 megawatts;
- Allow municipalities that are in good financial standing to generate and purchase power from independent power producers;

- Encourage mines, farms, factories and other commercial enterprises to invest in their own generating plants, as this will contribute to local economic development and job creation and is preferable to other emergency measures being adopted, such as the costly planned powerships.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Small business is the lifeblood of our economy. They are the engines of economic growth and security. Not only do they allow for honest and rewarding employment, they also encourage entrepreneurs to create abundant job opportunities for others. By empowering small businesses we will address poverty alleviation and job creation, and ultimately impact the lives of individuals, communities and business potential.

The ACDP will:

- Empower citizens and ensure ease of doing business by reducing 'red tape';
- Work together with entrepreneurs to create favourable conditions to achieve their potential;
- Provide fair financial assistance, education and other support to deserving small businesses to assist them to thrive in the mainstream economy;
- Encourage skills training and mentorship programmes for aspiring local entrepreneurs, with a special emphasis on empowering women and youth;
- Collaborate with funders to establish funding schemes;
- Work with business to roll out paid internships;
- Promote investment;
- Ensure that there is fair and equal access to markets for local owners who compete with increasing numbers of foreign-owned businesses; and
- Employ more health inspectors to monitor small businesses trading in food to ensure that they operate in accordance with food safety and hygiene regulations.

ACCESS TO HOUSING

The ACDP is committed to protecting and extending property rights of ownership to as many citizens as possible. We will ensure that state land is justly and more productively utilised, that people are able to secure title deeds and have more decision-making power in the acquisition of their homes and the development of their communities.

The ACDP will:

- Award title deeds to qualifying residents of municipal-owned housing units, as the ACDP did during our tenure in the City of Johannesburg government;
- Maximise the use of state land that is not being fully utilised by ensuring it is allocated for the residential and agricultural needs of communities;
- Eradicate the social housing backlog by promoting the development of

affordable and inclusionary 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 database of persons on waiting lists for housing, and publish one national list to deal with any duplications;
- Ensure newly built homes are properly inspected and that contractors are held accountable for poor workmanship, which includes blacklisting repeat offenders;
- Complete a municipal land audit in order to release suitable land for housing and economic activities;
- Eradicate informal settlements by prioritising permanent solutions over temporary; and replace communal toilets with bulk water and sanitation infrastructure;
- See that infrastructure such as sewage treatment plants and land-fill sites keep pace with housing developments to prevent pollution, unhygienic living conditions and environmental pollution;
- Eradicate the bucket system by ensuring that all dwellings have a flushing toilet; and
- Ensure transparency in the awarding of housing development tenders which will go through rigorous evaluation and approval stages.

ACCESS TO HEALTH

Your well-being and the well-being of your loved ones is of paramount importance to us. We have learnt the lessons from Covid-19 pandemic. We need better structures and support; healthcare systems that are equipped to serve our people with integrity and expertise. We firmly believe in advancing the dignity and value of each person's health from conception to death. We are therefore committed to serving all our communities and improving access to all forms of health and social care services.

To improve health and social care services, the ACDP will:

- Improve the quality of service at municipal clinics by prioritising the elderly, children and babies, by keeping them well stocked, expertly staffed and service oriented. For example, we would extend service hours to better suit patients needs;
- Facilitate the provision of accessible transport for those who need regular treatment;
- Support community initiatives that aim to 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;
- Further expand the alcohol and drug treatment programme first introduced in 2007 by the ACDP in Cape Town, and successfully expanded since;
- Raise awareness in communities around the benefits and importance of

- personal hygiene and healthy living;
- Improve home-based care programmes with a particular emphasis on the elderly, juveniles at risk and those affected by HIV/AIDS, TB and Covid-19; and
- Design programmes with social partners, including the church, to triage and rehabilitate street people and those who are homeless.

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Growth is enabled through infrastructure development. To achieve renewed state capacity, we need effective, expanded transport and infrastructure systems that are run and maintained by skilled, ethical professionals.

The ACDP will:

- Maintain and expand safe, efficient, affordable and reliable public transport;
- Seek to work with honest and competent staff;
- Establish accountability and performance standards that will result in a reliable and affordable integrated public transport service, including in rural areas;
- Improve safe access of emergency vehicles in informal settlements;
- Work with the local taxi industry so that they and the public better understand the benefits of a fully integrated transport system; and
- Oppose the Gauteng e-toll system, and will scrap toll fees and parking fees for bicycles and motorcycles.

RURAL, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

The ACDP believes in good stewardship and will provide an accelerated and just land reform and development programme. By empowering rural and agricultural communities, we empower the fundamental livelihood and prosperity of all South Africans.

The ACDP will:

- Promote agricultural development by protecting and supporting farmers (including small, subsistence and emerging farmers);
- Oppose the expropriation of land without compensation and advance land reform and development;
- Return ethical leadership to rural municipalities;
- Empower and develop rural towns through the promotion of small businesses and tourism;
- Actively renew and capacitate dysfunctional rural municipalities by deploying qualified municipal employees and administrative systems;
- Encourage alternative energy and rainwater harvesting initiatives in rural communities and fast-track basic services to these areas;
- Prioritise agricultural development and food security, and assist small and emerging farmers to become commercially viable by having better access to

- finance and markets;
- Promote rural development through incentives for industries to relocate to rural areas;
- Clean, protect and develop freshwater bodies including rivers, dams and aquifers, while increasing testing and the frequency of reporting on water quality;
- Strategically utilise our 'blue economy' to ensure positive impact;
- Embark on extensive education programmes on the importance of recycling, increase the number of waste drop-off sites and create subsidised recycling economic opportunities to reduce municipal reliance on landfills; and
- Hold companies accountable for pollution such as acid drainage from mines and other water or air-polluting activities.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Safety starts with ethical and decisive leadership. 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 ensuring ethical and effective policing;
- Protect our communities and borders by increasing police visibility, conducting more roadblocks, stop and search operations, and the random drug and alcohol testing of drivers, and by preventing land invasions of public and private property;
- Actively assist communities in their struggle against gangsterism and drug and alcohol abuse by successfully arresting and prosecuting more drug dealers, increasing the number of sniffer dogs, and shutting down 'drug dens' and illegal shebeens;
- Introduce fines for suppliers of alcohol to illegal liquor outlets;
- Ensure that our communities, economic hubs, parks, libraries, playgrounds and other public facilities are kept safe, accessible and well-maintained;
- Support and strengthen community structures such as police forums, neighbourhood watches, trauma services and safe havens for victims of violence; and encourage citizens to fully participate in the monitoring of crime in their communities by equipping and training them; and
- Ensure that services that support public safety (e.g. street lights) are installed, maintained and prioritised.

The ACDP is committed to implementing these solutions and policies to ensure that our communities are safe, clean, well-maintained and able to thrive. On 1 November 2021, elect leaders who are committed to Godly governance and to serving you and your community with integrity.

Section 2

Defending your rights and freedoms

On 26 March 2020, South Africa entered into a protracted period of lockdown said to be aimed at lessening the potentially disastrous burden that Covid-19 might have on our healthcare system. In the name of mitigating the risk of infection or worse, certain constitutional freedoms were severely curtailed, such as the right to gather and freedom of movement. As time progressed, the army was brought in to enforce compliance, and many South Africans received criminal records after being fined for jogging or walking their dogs, and other minor lockdown infractions.

The true impact that Covid-19 has had on our lives and our economy is immeasurable. Some have lost loved ones, and many have fought or are battling the infection with varying degrees of severity. We have also seen the impact it has had on those fighting on the frontline, especially in the medical and social sectors. We commend them for bravely being there to help others in their time of crisis, knowing the risk.

While the ACDP agreed that certain regulations and protocols should have been in place to help mitigate risk, there are some we believe to be irrational, excessive or unnecessary. Our goal is to see South Africans learning to mindfully 'live' with Covid, free from unnecessary restraints on their rights, and to urgently get South Africa back on a path to economic recovery.

REDUCE THE BURDEN ON HOSPITALS

We believe Government's message to South Africans should include practical and affordable ways to prime and protect one's immune system and manage personal health.

IVERMECTIN AND THE TREATMENT OF COVID-19

The ACDP was the only political party to engage the High Court against the Minister of Health and SAHPRA to make Ivermectin available to South Africans as a treatment for Covid-19. The subsequent High Court order on the 6th of April 2021 was a great victory for freedom, for doctors and the people of South Africa, as it allows much broader access to the medicine which has been shown to be a safe, affordable and effective treatment.

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE vs FORCED VACCINES

As South Africans, we have a right to privacy, human dignity, health care and information. We also have the right to freedom of movement and the right to choose. The ACDP opposes, in the strongest terms, any attempt to force vaccination on anyone or to ignore our Bill of Rights. Your rights extend to the workplace and to places of education. No one should lose their jobs or education

for choosing not to vaccinate. And no minor should be vaccinated at schools without the explicit knowledge and consent of their parents or legal guardian.

INFORMED CONSENT

Informed consent relates to a person's right to bodily integrity and autonomy. Our laws provide that before any treatment is administered, a person must first be fully informed before giving consent, and that such consent must be voluntary, not coerced or enticed.

Every person has a right to a choice and to say NO, and therefore must be provided with full and accurate information on the Covid vaccines including their proven long term safety and efficacy profile, as well as any other viable and affordable prophylactic and early treatments for Covid-19, in a language they understand and in a manner that takes into account their level of literacy to ensure their understanding of the information given, that respects the person's values and personal belief systems, along with the implications of acting on such information, the nature of the illness, the recovery rate of Covid-19, the reality and long term efficacy of natural immunity, and the risks and potential side-effects associated with all forms of treatment.

PUBLICISE VACCINE 'ADVERSE EVENTS REPORTING SYSTEM' FINDINGS

The ACDP is committed to full public transparency and accountability from government regarding Covid vaccines. As such we have called for all Adverse Events Reporting Systems to publicise any and all side effects experienced after receiving a vaccination. By making these findings public, South Africans can make a more informed decision over whether or not they choose to vaccinate.

OPEN THE CHURCH

The ACDP has actively fought for churches to re-open under lockdown, even up to 100% capacity. This is in defence of your right to freedom of religion, expression and association. Never again should government close churches, and never again should churches allow government to close their doors.

MOVING BEYOND LOCKDOWN

The ACDP has consistently warned of the dire consequences that a hard and protracted lockdown would have, particularly on our economy. We will continue to call for the removal of restrictions on businesses, schools and churches, ensuring that your rights to freedom of trade, occupation and profession are upheld. The ACDP opposes vaccine passports and restricting taxpayers from accessing facilities and services that their taxes are paying for. The state and our private sector must respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights in the Bill of Rights.

VOTE YOUR VALUES. VOTE FOR FREEDOM. VOTE ACDP.

