



COPETM

INSTALL MY DIGNITY

2021

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
MANIFESTO**

VOTE		COPE	X
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FOREWORD BY COPE PRESIDENT MOSIUOA LEKOTA

Fellow South Africans, local government in our country is in disarray. Many municipalities are dysfunctional and broke.

I don't need to tell you about that. It's a lived experience for so many of us.

Roads are full of potholes. Sewage flows onto the streets. Water supply is interrupted, sometimes for months on end. Rubbish lies heaped on the side of the roads. Streams are contaminated. Violence and crime continue to escalate in many areas of the country.

Many municipalities cannot even offer essential basic services on a sustainable basis. At the same time rates and tariffs are increasing to a point that people just cannot afford electricity or water.

All of COPE Councillors have been trained to understand and implement the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and where it is violated, to blow the whistle without fear or favour.

COPE will ensure better run councils, job creation, accountability, transparency, rule of law, promotion and development of entrepreneurs and quality services at affordable tariffs.

In our view democracy is defined as a government of the People, by the People, for the People, with the People.

The Freedom Charter envisaged a time when "the People shall govern". We undertake to realize that key objective of the Freedom Charter.

Our Constitution makes every one of us equal before the law. However, when communities surrender their power and influence on a political party, as has been happening for many years, politicians live large and become a law unto themselves. The local government elections on 1 November 2021 offers you an opportunity to make things better for yourself, your community, and South Africa.

Congress of the People (COPE) is a party that will continue to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law with full commitment. We will not stray from the Constitution as the supreme law of the country. We interpret the Constitution to be in favour of the People and in support of accountability and transparency.

Voting for the Congress of the People will ensure that what you want is written into each municipality's Integrated Development Plan. That is the only way in which a municipality can be legally and morally compelled to deliver developments to each area.

COPE's manifesto carries a load of positive needs of the people of South Africa.

Vote for COPE so that together we can bring municipalities into health again and allow for them to spearhead real economic development to transform all under-served areas and townships. Vote for the real plans you like. Vote for COPE to ensure that those plans are implemented.

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Mosiuo Lekota

President of COPE

In every municipality the IDP is what everyone should focus on. Promises mean nothing. You have learnt that over the past 25 years.

Every political party must show you what is going into the IDP and especially so for the underdeveloped areas and for the townships. Why?

Soon after the election, each political party will be invited to submit its IDP proposals for 2022 – 2026.

The majority of parties make no proposals whatsoever in spite of huge promises in their manifestos. Therefore, nothing will happen.

Here's what COPE will propose must into the 2022 – 2026 Integrated Development Plan (IDP):

1. ECONOMIC INCLUSION

The municipality will give the highest priority to genuine economic inclusion for all. It will do so by ensuring that economic development for the underdeveloped areas and for townships is prioritised. Five percent of the municipality's annual budget will be ring-fenced for this purpose.

The following ten-point SMART CARTS economic development plan will be implemented in each underdeveloped area through new zoning and land availability for:

- a. Services
- b. Manufacturing (small scale manufacturing);
- c. Agriculture (urban agriculture);
- d. Retail (formal retail)
- e. Technology centres (Internet, computer training, coding, etc);
- f. Cultural showcasing;
- g. Arts – visual and dramatic for purposes of entertainment;
- h. Retrofitting, recycling and refurbishment of equipment etc.;
- i. Tourism (local tourism); and
- j. Sports events, coaching etc.

The municipality will utilise the Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant from National Treasury and its own assets to create an enabling environment, plan new catalytic projects, lay out services and when everything is shovel ready, invite local cooperatives and outside investors to take each project forward.

In line with the National Development Plan recommendation, sweat equity will be encouraged. People can invest in such projects through their labour at prevailing rates.

The municipality will actively seek partners from all sectors and every community to ensure high level and sustained economic growth.

Skills development to allow local work seekers to find opportunities close to where they live will be prioritised and funded.

2. AFFORDABLE ENERGY

The municipality will actively promote Small Scale Embedded Electricity Generation. Owners of buildings with roofs that are north facing will be given options to install photovoltaic panels. The municipality will also benefit from cheaper electricity being fed into its grid during daylight hours.

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The municipality will annually provide 1000 X 5250 litre tanks free to indigent residents and another 2000 X 5250 litre tanks to qualifying residents at a 50% discount. Rain harvesting will be supplemented by 6 kl of water per month for those who are in the indigent group.

The municipality will also provide a scheme where residents will be able to get a 5250-litre tank installed on site and to be paid for over 30 months in equal monthly instalments.

The municipality will annually invest in the treatment of all waste water and make this affordable at a lower tariff for washing, industrial and agricultural purposes.

The municipality will over a period of ten years also begin to implement a dual piping system so that houses are supplied with potable water (for drinking and cooking) through one pipe and reclaimed water which is adequately treated through a second pipe for washing, watering of the garden and flushing of toilets. This will promote resilience and also bring down the cost of water.

The municipality recognises that it is not economically viable to use potable water for purposes other than drinking or cooking. The cost is too high and the threat to water security is too high.

7. HOUSING

The municipality will address both the shortage of housing itself and where new houses are built. As land close to economic hubs is very scarce and people want to be able to walk or cycle to work, the municipality will encourage potential house buyers to favour cohousing. The development of semi-communal housing, consisting of a cluster of private homes and a shared community space or spaces, will allow the housing development to be organized, planned, and managed by the residents themselves and in a manner that suits their common purposes. Cost benefits, heightened security and community interaction will arise.

The municipality will also invite people to invest sweat equity so that bigger and better homes can be built with limited resources. As the national government will no longer be paying for top structures, people must use their own labour to do more with fewer resources.

The municipality will also provide aspirant home owners with information on prefabricated, modular or panelised houses that can be erected very quickly and very affordably.

Sites close to good work opportunities and schools will be made available for attractive housing opportunities.

The municipality will insist that every housing development will have conditions attached to all land use rights approvals, requiring private developers to set aside a certain percentage of new units for purchase by low income and low middle-income earners who may not otherwise afford to buy a property in those developments.

8. AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE TRANSPORT

The municipality will seek to create a Municipal Transport Company. It will hold 51% of the shares in the company. The rest will be made available preferentially to all role players in the transport industry. Taxi owners will be encouraged to get their taxi operation/s valued by qualified valuers and exchange their going operation with all assets for shares in the Municipal Transport Company.

The municipality will seek to be a multidimensional service provider using aircraft, rail, light rail, busses, taxis and electric Tuk-Tuks to allow for door to door scheduled and specially arranged transport by air and over land. As such the municipality will petition the President to allow for Metro Rail to come into the Municipal Transport Company as a shareholder.

The municipality will seek to make the transport “cake” very large so that taxi wars and feuding can be eliminated and all participants can increase their income. To further enhance the prospect of all role players coming together, the municipality will assist legally and administratively to bring all passengers into a Municipal Passenger Association to allow them to enjoy a competitive service, protect their safety and assure them regularity of schedule. Organised passengers must have a big say in transport matters affecting them.

In view of the climate emergency, a swift transition to electric vehicles will take place. With cheaper electricity becoming available, cheaper transport will be provided to everyone living in the municipality.

9. UPGRADING THE MUNICIPALITY’S SEWERAGE SYSTEM

The municipality will ensure that it has suitably qualified engineers to upgrade, on a continuous basis, the sewerage system. Sewage flowing onto the street and into people’s homes is simply not acceptable. Sewer inspectors will be appointed to ensure that people are continuously educated about how the sewerage system works and how they can help to ensure that blockages are prevented.

The municipality will continuously implement plans to find commercial uses for sewage sludge. Start up companies will be assisted to utilise the sludge for the creation of environmentally friendly products.

The municipality will take great care to ensure that pumps are both safeguarded and routinely maintained so that their functioning is not compromised. Pumps fixed on trucks will be used when a pump at a pumping station fails so that sewage spills are quickly addressed.

The flow of sewage into streams will always be regarded in a very serious light. Sewer inspectors will prosecute offenders and ensure that the municipality itself complies with all protocols and regulations.

A well-run municipality is one where the sewerage system works 100% of the time.

10. ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The municipality will ensure that a climate emergency protocol is in place. Droughts, storms, deluges and wildfires are wreaking utter havoc with people’s lives and property in municipalities around the world.

The municipality is determined, therefore, to protect its citizens. Whatever declaration is made after the COP 26 Climate Conference in Glasgow in November 2021 will immediately be incorporated into the municipality’s IDP. We owe this to our children and to future generations

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and swiftly transitioning away from fossil fuels is the goal of the municipality. A wide level ban on most vehicles using internal combustion engines after 2030 will come into effect in the municipality. Provision will be made to assist those who lose their jobs to be reskilled and given opportunities in renewable energy generation.

Individuals and companies wishing to erect charging stations for electric vehicles on municipal property will have a five-year rent holiday.

Our country is blessed with solar irradiation and wind. The municipality will do everything possible to encourage people and businesses to invest in renewable energy. It will help to mitigate the climate

emergency and help citizens adapt to a new way of sustainable living. Furthermore, neither the municipality nor its citizens can bear the annual tariff increases for electricity.

To the fullest extent that is possible, the municipality will seek to go off the grid. This will save the municipality millions in buying electricity for its own use and fuel for its fleet. Spare electricity it generates will be fed into the grid and enable the municipality to dispense with the greatly hated availability charges.

The municipality will take advantage of the numerous offers of loans at 2% interest to borrow and invest heavily in solar voltaic panels and wind turbines on its properties and disused landfills.

11. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE NEED TO CREATE A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

One person's waste is another person's feedstock. The municipality will appoint a full-time researcher whose function will be to undertake research on how different municipalities around the world are utilising waste as a resource rather than dumping it in a costly manner.

The separation of waste at source will enable entrepreneurs to fetch glass, paper, plastic, organic waste, aluminium and rubble at their own cost and use the same to manufacture new products. The municipality will no longer see waste as waste.

Gatherers will be licensed to make piles of different items that are discarded to sell to manufacturers.

The municipality will seek with the cooperation of higher levels of government to ban certain plastics that are choking the rivers and oceans. All packaging products should be made of materials that can be recycled.

Refurbishing and retrofitting will be encouraged by providing sites and electricity at a subsidised rate so that no electronic device is dumped and no useful product is discarded.

When all waste is given a new lease of life and municipal streets are free of litter, the economy will benefit and people's health will be safeguarded.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING AND SAFETY

Many neighbourhoods in the municipality are thoroughly faulty by design. Policing cannot be effective unless the design itself is altered one block at a time. Communities were removed by force from where they lived and dumped into areas that dissolved the cultural and social glue that bound families together. What was damaged by ill-conceived apartheid planning has to be reversed by new planning. Where communities that are fed up with crime and societal decay are willing to invest their own labour at a going rate but brought into consideration only at the end of a project, old structures can be brought down in phases and newly designed structures built in their place. The deferred payment can then be used as a deposit in purchasing a new apartment in a greatly improved setting and with better security and recreational features.

Each neighbourhood will have a Safety Marshal with ongoing training. With a far greater range of economic opportunities close by and clustered sporting and social amenities surrounded by three storey buildings to protect them against vandalism, more people will be at work and children will have healthy activities to resort to. The Safety Marshal will ensure that no house becomes a crime den, that no open space is used for dumping bodies and that the community is standing united in making every criminal unwelcome. Safety will also be seen as an environmental issue and

environmental degradation will be vigorously addressed. A good environment and good economic opportunities in an area will inhibit crime.

Neighbourhood policing will work with the Safety Marshal and other law enforcement agencies. They will also work with community volunteers to keep the streets clear of crime and violence.

Cameras will be installed to monitor hot spots and those who are out on the streets as vendors and service providers will be recruited to keep an eye out for trouble makers and to report what they observe to the Safety Marshal.

Where communities no longer need to depend on help of gangs for sustenance and where they can create a united force for good, neighbourhoods can be improved and made safer.

The municipality will ensure that neighbourhood watches and community policing forums are supported.

CONCLUSION

The advantage of presenting COPE's Draft IDP should be clear to all voters. You can amend what is being proposed and you can add to it. You will also know what COPE is going to forward to the municipality's IDP office after the elections; and if there is considerable support for what is being proposed by COPE and this is shown during the Public Participation Process, it will be written into the IDP.

Voilà. Action will quickly follow and according to the written script.

As projects become visible, employment opportunities increase, people will see a transformation taking place to make for happier living.

For the first time ever, you will see economic development in your area, better service delivery, lower tariffs and greater accountability.

Because we want to be fully honest with voters, we are giving them the exact wording of our IDP proposals and inviting them to help improve the plan.

It is better for voters to support a clear plan than to be taken in by huge promises and be disappointed.

COPE and only COPE is presenting you with a concrete IDP proposal. COPE deserves your support. Use your PR vote wisely.

When you vote COPE, you are voting for a plan that has already been put out for you to interact with and make it your own.

COPE believes in the NEXT GENERATION of leaders

- We believe in access to decent housing
- We believe in smart education for every child
- We believe in equal opportunities and creating for all.
- We believe in a Smart Connected City
- We believe in Good Governance for smart speedy delivery

- COPE believes in INCLUSIVE Partnerships for Economic Growth.

We believe in you to create the next COPE for a better smarter municipality

Believe in us