

# New Heart. New Nation.

## ELECTION 2009 NEWSLETTER

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### Dear Voter

This is the first in a series of newsletters leading up to the April elections to inform you about the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) and its 'new heart, new nation' vision for 2009.

### The ACDP today — just another small party or are they making a difference?

The ACDP presently has 5 members in National Parliament, 7 members in the Provincial Legislatures and 90 councillors around the country.

You may very well ask what kind of influence can just 5 members make in such a large parliament? Here is just one example:

#### **Child Justice Bill**

ACDP MP, Steve Swart, serves on the Justice Committee which had to consider and pass the Child Justice Bill. When it came to appointing a subcommittee to consider the bill, the chairperson asked Steve and one other member (ANC) to

finalise the bill.

Steve was chosen because of his legal background and also because he is one of the most senior MPs on the Justice Committee. In addition, Steve is a well-known advocate of restorative justice principles. This in effect gave the ACDP a 50% influence in the finalisation of the bill at the subcommittee level, which Steve used to promote ACDP policy.

This illustrates that it is not the number of people a party has in parliament that makes the difference, but rather the calibre and the willingness to get involved that ultimately makes a difference. •

### The ACDP stands for:

*Biblical Principles, family values, freedom of religion, community empowerment, an open market economy with a social conscience and human rights in a federal system.*

## Did you know?

The ACDP is the only political party that has submitted audited account information as well as sources of private donations to the Institute of Democracy in SA. This proves that the party supports political transparency and accountability to the electorate.

## Common myths about the ACDP

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### Christians should NOT be involved in politics

**NOT TRUE.** Christians are called to be involved in every domain of society, including politics!

### The ACDP is the Church in Government

**NOT TRUE.** The ACDP is made up of Christians in the marketplace, which in this case is politics.

### The ACDP does not stand for Freedom of Religion

**NOT TRUE.** The ACDP not only stands for freedom of religion, but also for a free market economy (with a social conscience) and human rights in a federal system.

## Why should you vote for the ACDP?

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The ACDP brings to South Africa hope for a strong, healthy and prosperous nation by recognising family values as the building block of society. Our hope lies in God Almighty and in our Christian Democratic value system.

With the high levels of corruption presently in South Africa we need uncompromising leaders of integrity that are prepared to fight corruption and to hold civil servants accountable. They must be bold and not afraid to follow the courage of their convictions.

The call to integrity is the internal compass we must all carry. We need a New Heart for a New nation. We need honesty and transparency in government at all levels.

If we are to see true moral renewal in our country, it must first start with us and then our families. We cannot hope to build a nation while at the same time destroying families.

The ACDP will accelerate moral regeneration by amending liberal and humanistic government policies and legislation that have systematically undermined family values. Some examples of these include:

- Inappropriate sex education in schools;
- The reduction in the age of sexual consent;
- Access to contraceptives and abortion by children as young as 12 years (without parental consent);
- The banning of corporal correction in schools and efforts to ban it at home; and
- Legalising pornography, gambling, same-sex marriage and abortion on demand.

The ACDP is not only concerned with the moral issues, but will also address the critical challenges facing the nation, as set out in its manifesto for these elections. •

*Truth, justice and a love for God and one's neighbour should be the pillars on which we build our democracy and in which we can hope for a prosperous and vibrant South Africa!*



**ACDP**

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## Who's Who?

### PRESIDENT

Rev. Kenneth Meshoe MP

### DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Jo-Ann Downs MPP (KZN)

### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Rev. Kenneth Meshoe

Cheryllyn Dudley (Whip)

Steve Swart

Hendry Cupido

Wesley Douglas (NCOP)

### EXECUTIVE DEPUTY MAYOR OF CAPE TOWN

Cllr. Grant Haskin

## INTERESTING FACTS

### Things you didn't know about the ACDP

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1. The Western Cape Constitution recognises the authority of God in its Preamble, thanks to the involvement of the ACDP. This was challenged in the Constitutional Court and the ACDP was vindicated, with the Preamble being retained in its present form. This now opens the way for the inclusion of a similar Preamble in the National Constitution.
2. The ACDP has been part of a multi-party government in the Western Cape since the local government election of 2006. The ACDP continues to impact the governing of the City of Cape Town through ACDP Councillor, Grant Haskin, who serves as the Executive Deputy Mayor of Cape Town, as well as a number of councillors, two of whom hold Sub-Council Chairmanships, a position equivalent to that previously known as town mayors.

## IN PARLIAMENT

### What has your party been doing for you lately?

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The most recent battle in parliament concerned the firing of Adv Vusi Pikoli, head of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

Adv Pikoli was suspended by former President Mbeki purportedly due to a breakdown in relations between him and the then Minister of Justice Ms Mabandla.

The Ginwala Inquiry then vindicated Adv Pikoli and recommended that he should be reinstated as head of the NPA.

Notwithstanding this recommendation, President Motlanthe decided to fire Adv Pikoli on grounds that he had ignored issues of national security.

A parliamentary committee was appointed to consider this decision.

The ACDP was represented by Steve Swart and Wesley Douglas, who argued vigorously that the only reason why Adv Pikoli was suspended and fired was to protect the national police commissioner, Mr Jackie Selebi, from prosecution, and that the issue of "national security" was a smokescreen added at a later stage to justify the unlawful firing of Adv Pikoli.

Whilst parliament regrettably endorsed President Motlanthe's decision, Adv Pikoli will undoubtedly challenge this decision in the courts. •

## Please pray:

*Please pray for God's wisdom and protection for all our MPs and MECs on the election trail.*

## ELECTION NEWS

### ACDP launches its Election Manifesto

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On 14 February 2009 an estimated 4,000 ACDP supporters from all 9 provinces attended the official launch of its Election Manifesto in Soweto. The keynote speaker was the President of the ACDP, Rev Kenneth Meshoe, who focused on our family values as well as highlighting other issues from the manifesto. He also introduced the 9 Premier Candidates as well as the top 20 candidates on the ACDP's National List for parliament.

For the first time in the ACDP's history, this launch was broadcast live on SABC TV 2, with further wide media coverage from other television and radio stations, as well as in various newspapers. •

## ACDP CAMPAIGN TRAIL

### ACDP President to visit the North West Province **12-14 March**

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*Thursday 12 March (contact Marinda van Niekerk, 082 635 7835)*

**RUSTENBERG • 10:00 • COMMUNITY LEADERS** • Waterval AFM Congregation

*Friday 13 March (contact Cllr. Wisdom Matsheka, 079 266 4996)*

**MAFIKENG • 11:00 • RALLY/MEETING** • Ext 39 - unit 15, Mmabatho Community

*Saturday 14 March (contact Cllr. Jenifer Koen, 082 884 0763)*

**KLERKSDORP • 08:30 • LEADERS BREAKFAST** • Radloff 9

**ALABAMA • 11:30 • COMMUNITY VISIT** • President to visit various homes in the community

**KLERKSDORP • 14:00 • WARD 16 BY-ELECTION** • Community meeting

## ACDP CAMPAIGN TRAIL

### Next Presidential Visit - Northern Cape **17-20 March**

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For more information, contact:

**FRANCOIS VAN WYK, ACDP Northern Cape Leader**

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**RENE VAN NIEKERK, ACDP Elections Manager**

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## Who's Who?

### PROVINCIAL MPS

Lydia Meshoe (Gauteng)

Jo-Ann Downs (KwaZulu-Natal)

Moses Shipalana (Limpopo)

Casper Nordier (Free State)

Pauline Cupido (W/Cape)

Andrew Arnolds (W/Cape)

Francois van Wyk (N/Cape)