



ACDP

African Christian
Democratic Party

2024 MANIFESTO
National and Provincial Elections



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It's Time For
**SERVICE
ORDER
SAFETY**

VOTE ACDP

Foreword

30 years have passed since the dawn of South Africa's democratic dispensation with its promise of a free and brighter future for all. However, this is far from our reality today. Ongoing load shedding has seen many businesses collapse as no economy can function properly without access to reliable and affordable energy. Added to this is the increasing dysfunctionality of our Transnet ports and rail network, all of which severely undermine our economic growth prospects.

The protracted Covid-19 lockdown, recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), severely constrained our personal freedoms and resulted in the closure of thousands of businesses. During this time, an estimated 2 million South Africans lost their jobs, joining the ranks of those already struggling and living below the poverty line.

In addition, and despite assurances from government that the Covid-19 vaccines were safe and effective, many continue to suffer from Covid-19 vaccine injuries, with little or no recourse to effective medical treatment or compensation.

The WHO now seeks extended powers through amendments to the International Health Regulations of 2005 and the Pandemic Treaty which could reduce South Africa's sovereign right to determine its own public health policies. These include making what previously were 'recommendations', now 'binding obligations' on Member States which could potentially allow the WHO to declare pandemics and even for it to impose binding restrictions such as lockdowns, surveillance and mandatory treatments on these countries.

This power-grab by an unelected and unaccountable body beholden to certain countries, multinationals and powerful individual donors must be subjected to a full Parliamentary approval process, which includes public participation.

Escalating crime in South Africa has reached alarming levels, leaving many of us feeling unsafe and 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. Organised crime appears to be tightening its grip on our economy, especially given the extent to which violence, extortion and corruption are intertwined. Government has failed dismally in its primary role to protect its citizens, and vandalism and theft of our infrastructure is rife.

As a party with a strong Biblical foundation standing for justice and righteousness, the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) brings renewed hope for a great future. We are determined to address these 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 feel safe, flourish and grow.

Now is the time to elect God-fearing, competent servant leaders of integrity who understand the need for good stewardship of state resources, and are committed to restoring trust through Godly governance.

SOUTH AFRICA, WE HAVE HEARD YOUR S.O.S. AND HAVE THE ANSWER.

IT'S TIME FOR SERVICE, ORDER AND SAFETY.

VOTE ACDP.

**REV. KENNETH MESHOE MP
ACDP PRESIDENT**

INTRODUCTION

We all want a South Africa with a vibrant, healthy economy; where jobs and opportunities are in abundance, and where everyone is able to benefit and feel safe. The African Christian Democratic Party has effective policies and solutions for the many challenges currently facing our nation which are able to boost our economy, and help create a brighter future for us all.

JOB CREATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The ACDP supports an open market economy with a social conscience. Our economic policies seek to address high levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality, by growing the economy at a faster rate.

The ACDP will:

- Create an enabling environment through infrastructure development, a professional public service, good education and vocational training relevant to global trends and technological advances;
- Focus on the country's competitive advantages, including its mining and natural resources through beneficiation, sophisticated financial and business service sectors, its proximity to fast-growing African markets, high-quality universities, productive agricultural sector, growing tourism, and manufacturing and construction sectors;
- Support small businesses by fostering a culture of entrepreneurship through mentoring and start-up funding, skills development and training;
- Link business needs and education, and ensure that young people have the relevant skills by funding degrees and diplomas that are needed;
- Expand the Employment Tax Incentive for businesses to employ more people, particularly youth;
- Ensure ease of starting business by reducing unnecessary red tape, and having dedicated one-stop business registration centres;
- Remove policy uncertainty, such as that relating to land, which deters foreign direct investment;
- End cadre deployment and race-based policies that have caused inflated prices and resulted in a "tenderpreneur" economy;
- Ensure that there is fair and equal access to markets for local owners who compete against increasing numbers of foreign-owned businesses;
- Review all the components of the fuel price (including the General Fuel and Road Accident Fund levies) to provide cheaper fuel;
- Employ more health inspectors to monitor small businesses trading in food to ensure that they operate in accordance with food safety and hygiene regulations as we did during our tenure in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro government; and
- Increase the number of social workers and community development workers to respond to the need for better welfare services in order to alleviate poverty.

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON AND OUR TRAINS AND SHIPS MOVING

Fixing our energy and logistics challenges is the fastest way to achieve higher economic growth. This will not only create more jobs, but will generate higher revenue and stabilise public finances.

ESKOM

The ACDP will:

- Make far greater use of original equipment manufacturers to oversee maintenance duties at power stations;
- Employ more capable, competent persons, and where necessary, reappoint retired engineers and technical experts;
- Exempt the energy sector from preferential procurement provisions and localisation in order to exclude middlemen which has led to corruption and grossly inflated prices;
- Ensure that all power stations are properly maintained and performing optimally, and that all design errors are speedily rectified;
- Prioritise high grade coal and clean coal technology for our coal-fired power stations;
- Support increased renewable energy (including wind and solar power) with independent power producers playing a far greater role in generating much needed additional energy;
- Involve the coal mining sector and other stakeholders in the transition to renewables in order to mitigate job and business losses;
- Procure new transmission capacity using the build, operate and transfer model to connect more renewables and other generation projects to the grid;
- Encourage a culture of payment for electricity, particularly in municipalities that owe Eskom billions of rands; and
- Ensure that criminal syndicates, and corrupt employees and service providers face the full force of the law.

TRANSNET AND PRASA

The ACDP will:

- Resolve the outstanding locomotive procurement issues;
- Rehabilitate the rail network to move freight from roads back to rail;
- Deploy more digital solutions to improve efficiency and responsiveness;
- Increase private sector involvement by granting more third party access to the rail network;
- Increase public-private joint ventures with Transnet Port Terminals to ensure the ports are run more efficiently;
- Expedite the passenger PRASA rebuild and recovery programme, the modernisation programme, and the safety and security programme in order to ensure that trains provide safe, affordable and reliable transport for commuters; and
- Improve security to prevent theft and vandalism of rail infrastructure.

CRIME AND JUSTICE

We all want to live in a country where we feel safe whether it is in our homes or playing in recreational spaces, going to work or school, or surfing the internet. We also want to see the recovery of the billions of rands stolen through state capture and corruption, and the thieves behind bars.

The ACDP will:

- Establish an independent specialised anti-corruption entity, with prosecutor-driven investigations, possibly even a new Chapter 9 anti-corruption institution that is fully resourced and has trained staff with secure tenure of office (similar to the disbanded Scorpions);
- Ensure the Auditor-General, the Public Protector, SAPS, Hawks, SIU, AFU, and the NPA are properly staffed and resourced and are protected from political interference;
- Given the slow recovery of the tens of billions of rands stolen through state capture and corruption, approach civil courts internationally to recover these funds, which have special procedures that are swift, often unopposed, and very effective;
- Review the parole system and deny bail for certain categories of crime such as murder, rape, armed robbery and car hijacking;
- Broaden prison labour programmes whereby prisoners will learn various skills and contribute to the costs of their board and lodging;
- Ensure that public officials who are guilty of corrupt conduct are speedily prosecuted, not suspended indefinitely on full pay, and held personally liable to refund the state;
- Encourage ethical behaviour by strengthening whistle-blower protection;
- Provide more police stations, forensic laboratories, courts (particularly sexual offences courts equipped for gender-based violence cases) and better trained and equipped personnel to improve investigations and prosecutions;
- Protect our communities and borders by increasing police visibility and conducting more roadblocks;
- Support neighbourhood watches, trauma services, and safe havens for victims of gender-based violence;
- 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 dog units, and shutting down drug dens and illegal shebeens; and
- Strengthen the South African National Defence Force to protect our borders, conduct humanitarian and peace missions, and when called upon, to assist the police in maintaining law and order.

PROPERTY RIGHTS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

To realise a South Africa with affordable food and abundant supply where land reform benefits people and addresses past injustices, title deeds are in the

hands of those who live on their land, and just compensation is paid where expropriation is needed, *the ACDP will:*

- Protect all property rights and ensure that just and equitable compensation is paid for any expropriated land;
- Strengthen access to security of tenure as well as the freedom to acquire, utilise, rent and sell property, including land;
- Ensure that state land that is not being fully utilised is allocated for the residential and agricultural needs of communities;
- Ensure that the ownership of tribal or trust land is negotiated between the relevant traditional authority and the community in order to extend land ownership for the benefit of everyone connected to the land;
- Finalise outstanding land restitution claims where land owners who were illegally dispossessed of their land, are compensated or have their land restored to them;
- Provide the rural poor, labour tenants and entrepreneurial farm workers an opportunity to access land through a system facilitated by government's own land assets and that of other willing land owners;
- Prioritise agricultural development and food security by protecting existing commercial farmers while assisting 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 and the building of better infrastructure, roads, housing, schools, and recreational facilities;
- Review the National Rural Safety Strategic Plan involving all stakeholders to ensure that our farmers and their workers, as well as other rural dwellers, are more adequately protected with a possible reintroduction of the Commando (or a similar) system;
- Ensure that illegal land invasions are met with full force of the law; and
- Adopt measures to grow the agricultural sector and expand the number of successful commercial farmers of all races, and not, as the government wants to do, take away large amounts of land – and now also water – from experienced farmers and give it to mainly subsistence producers.

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, and that people can secure title deeds.

The ACDP will:

- Award title deeds to qualifying residents of municipal-owned housing units as we 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;

- 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;
- 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; and
- Ensure transparency in the awarding of housing development tenders which will go through rigorous evaluation and approval stages.

ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

We all need clean and safe drinking water, yet many towns suffer without water for extended periods, with water tankers and tanks providing emergency water supplies. We are also facing severe challenges due to deteriorating water infrastructure and declining quality of drinking water.

The ACDP will:

- Eradicate informal settlements by prioritising permanent solutions over temporary; and replace communal toilets with bulk water and sanitation infrastructure;
- Ensure that all schools have flushing toilets to replace pit-toilets;
- Hold underperforming national, provincial and local authorities, as well as water boards and water service authorities, accountable for poor service delivery;
- Employ private sector engineering and other necessary skills to remedy the crisis; and
- Repeal the National Water Amendment Bill (2023) should it be enacted, as it seeks to transfer many of the water-use rights vital to commercial agriculture to emergent farmers lacking rights to land, working capital, and a host of other vital inputs. This is likely to curtail production, push up food prices and terminate many thousands of farming jobs.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Everyone should have access to quality basic education in safe, well-maintained schools where parents are central to the education of their children, quality tertiary education is accessible to those who qualify, and where skills training is linked to market needs and career opportunities.

The ACDP will:

- Adopt a world-class education system such as the Cambridge system;

- Repeal the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill (BELA) provisions relating to home-schooling, the closing of rural schools, criminalisation of parents, limitation of the powers of School Governing Bodies (SGBs), and ministerial over-reach which infringes on the rights of parents;
- Consider a constitutional amendment to protect parental rights and prevent ministerial infringement of these rights;
- Re-open and equip training colleges, improve education standards and the salaries of educators, and re-introduce school inspectors;
- Restrict union activities at schools that hinder the effective education of our children, and in certain instances, unfairly influence the appointment and promotion of educators and principals;
- Introduce training programmes in schools to improve the standard of reading and writing;
- Provide for special education needs through special and mainstream schools;
- Repeal the 30% pass mark and automatic promotion policies, while addressing the drop-out rate by having smaller classes and enhancing mother tongue education;
- Focus on trade, apprenticeships and skills schools, especially for learners who drop out of the academic system;
- Prioritise learners' health and safety in terms of school infrastructure, nutrition and transport, and ban gangsterism, firearms and drugs in schools;
- Ensure Grade R and Early Childhood Development facilities are available in all areas;
- Review the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) curriculum and provide age appropriate sex education;
- Encourage students to study science, mathematics and computer coding (in addition to the existing Information Technology (IT) subject);
- Provide schools with low-cost single-board computers to teach basic computer science principles;
- Protect freedom of religion in schools; and
- Introduce a National Senior Certificate for Adults.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

To enjoy a South Africa where good health and well-being is the norm, and where access to quality health care is readily available to all in both the public and private spheres, *the ACDP will:*

- Repeal government's proposed expropriation of private health care through the National Health Insurance legislation and launch a national dialogue on access to universal health care;
- Improve public health facilities and services, and the waiting time for diagnosis, procedures and treatments by increasing the numbers of doctors, nurses and administrative staff and ensuring sufficient stock of medicines and other medical supplies;
- Increase the number of 24/7 health care facilities close to vulnerable communities;

- Support initiatives that promote a healthy diet and lifestyle, and physical exercise;
- Ensure referrals to mental health services are concluded and that patients are treated with care and respect;
- Increase the number of community-based primary health care workers to improve the tracing, early screening and treatment of patients suffering from HIV and AIDs, tuberculosis, cancer, diabetes, stroke, heart and other chronic diseases;
- Improve the safety of health care workers and emergency personnel;
- Provide counselling and care for women with unplanned pregnancies;
- Provide counselling and medical support for victims of gender-based violence;
- Relaunch mobile clinics to provide health services to rural communities;
- Oppose mandatory Covid-19 (or similar variants) vaccinations, while providing medical and other interventions for patients suffering from Covid-19 vaccine injuries, and easier access to compensation from the Vaccine Injury Fund;
- Ensure that Ivermectin is made available to doctors wishing to prescribe it for Covid-19 related illnesses; and
- Refuse to be forced into contracts on unfavourable terms with global pharmaceutical manufacturers and suppliers, such as occurred with the Covid-19 vaccine procurement contracts.

ON ISRAEL

The ACDP will re-establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, move the South African Embassy to Jerusalem, and given the recent horrific terrorist attack on Israel and the broader ongoing conflict, work towards finding lasting peace in the Middle East, while ensuring that Israel's security and right to defend itself is not compromised.

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING YOUR FREEDOMS

As we mark the 30th Anniversary of the ACDP's founding in December 1993, we have over the years built a strong track record of protecting and promoting many of the values and freedoms we hold dear.

For example, during the Constitution-making process between 1995 and 1996, the ACDP fought to ensure that South Africa is a constitutional state, and not a secular state (allowing churches, for example, to meet in schools), and by the insertion in section 15(2) that "religious observances may be conducted at state or state-aided institutions" (protecting school prayers) under certain conditions. We were also instrumental in including the words "In Humble Submission to Almighty God ..." in the Preamble to the Western Cape Constitution.

The ACDP promotes the family as the cornerstone of a strong and vibrant society. In 2017, the first ever Private Member's Bill by a member of the opposition was passed. The Bill, which was introduced by former ACDP MP, Cheryllyn Dudley, allows for paternity leave so that fathers have an opportunity to form stronger bonds with their babies.

The ACDP actively opposed many of the reckless Covid-19 regulations issued under the Disaster Management Act and fought for the right of churches to re-open under the lockdown, even up to 100% capacity. Never again should government forcibly close churches, and never again should churches allow government to close their doors. We also approached the Gauteng High Court to ensure that doctors could prescribe Ivermectin for Covid-19 patients, and ensured that dozens of employees and students who refused to be vaccinated were successfully legally represented.

The ACDP ensured that a religious exemption clause was inserted into the controversial Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill. Additionally, we improved the crucial definition of “spiritual abuse” in the Domestic Violence Amendment Act. We also reduced the impact on churches in the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Act 22 of 2022, and raised public awareness around the General Intelligence Laws Amendment Bill (the Spy Bill).

Looking ahead, the ACDP will ensure that the WHO’s amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) and proposed Pandemic Treaty, do not infringe on our sovereign right to determine our own public health policies, and that they are subjected to parliamentary approval, which will include a full public consultation process. We will also oppose any digitally-aided authoritarian governance underpinned by cyber controls, social monitoring, propaganda, and surveillance.

While the ACDP stands for religious freedom, we will ensure that any unlawful attempts by jihadist groups to create an Islamic state governed by Islamic law in South Africa face the full force of the law.

FAMILY VALUES AND MORAL REGENERATION

The ACDP will accelerate moral regeneration by amending liberal and humanistic policies and legislation that have systematically undermined family values. Legislation that grants access to contraceptives and abortion for young girls without parental consent, teaches Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and gender ideology, bans moderate parental chastisement, and legalises prostitution, pornography and abortion-on-demand, will be amended.

CONCLUSION

The ACDP is committed to implementing these policies to ensure that, together, we can all enjoy a safe, healthy and prosperous South Africa.

The ACDP stands for Christian principles, freedom of religion, a free market economy with a social conscience, family values, community empowerment and human rights in a federal system.

