

# ACDP MANIFESTO

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2011

### LET'S FIX THIS

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE FIND LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS

#### Introduction

The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) is a political party based on biblical principles. We bring a vision for a strong, healthy and prosperous nation.

The ACDP will focus on addressing the critical challenges of *Service Delivery, Poverty and Unemployment, Education, Housing, Health, Transport and Infrastructure, Rural development and Crime.*

## Service Delivery

### FOCUS ON DELIVERY BACKLOGS, MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES

The core function of local government is to provide roads, water, electricity, sanitation and housing.

Delivery backlogs and proactive maintenance to prevent permanent and extensive damage to existing infrastructure will be the ACDP's first priority. At the same time our natural resources are becoming scarcer and prohibitively expensive and sustainable alternatives must be encouraged.

The ACDP will:

- Give priority in the budget to basic service delivery and infrastructure maintenance to increase revenue;
- Implement and monitor maintenance plans and upgrades of current water, sewerage, road and electricity infrastructure;
- Insist on skilled and experienced employees;
- Include specialist community-based organisations in the implementation of service delivery solutions;
- Plan for strategic storm water drain installations where potholes are recurring;
- Promote the development of innovative programs to allow people to generate or collect their own energy, providing opportunities for income generation;
- Invest in energy-saving by supplementing Eskom rebates with hire financing of energy-saving devices such as solar water heaters which could be included in electricity bills and repaid over a period of time;
- Promote a subsidised recycling initiative and embark on extensive education programs on recycling;
- Hold business accountable for pollution such as acid drainage from mines which negatively impact communities;
- Set up committees that will work on reducing wastage of water; and
- Implement rainwater-harvesting projects in rural areas and give incentives to residents to implement rainwater-harvesting.

## Poverty and Unemployment

### STIMULATE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The ACDP believes that sound economic policies are the only way to generate jobs that will reduce poverty and unemployment. The robustness of local economies is vital to the economic wellbeing of the country as a whole.

The ACDP will:

- Implement more developmental programmes with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, skills and job creation in order to reduce long term dependence on social grants;
- Encourage training and development within industry through grants and tax incentives for apprenticeships, skills, and labour-intensive practices;
- Ensure that small businesses get greater opportunity through access to financial assistance, simpler registration procedures and mentorship programmes; and
- Increase investment in infrastructure to address issues such as electricity supply, ports, roads, public transportation, water and sanitation.

## Education

### EDUCATION IN PARTNERSHIP

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

Your ACDP Councillor will:

- Support and initiate efforts to bring parents into closer involvement in the education of their children;
- Promote greater partnership between parents, schools and the wider community, encouraging communities with the means to provide extra resources in schools where there are needs;

- Work with the private sector and government to find workable strategies in the provision of adult education and facilitate local access; and
- Support and assist schools in their struggle against gangsterism and substance (drug/alcohol) abuse; and
- Through Municipal Sport and Recreation portfolios, support budgets for additional sporting activities, tournaments and professional coaching during both school holidays and school terms in under-privileged schools.

## Housing

### ACCESS TO HOUSING

The ACDP is committed to extending property ownership to as many citizens as possible, and to ensuring people and communities have more decision making power in the acquisition and development of their homes. 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;
- Use cost-effective technology to provide better quality housing;
- Urgently review the data-base of persons on waiting lists for housing and publish the lists;
- Ensure inspection of buildings by the Council and the owner takes place before the contractor receives final payment;
- Hold contractors and inspectors accountable for construction standards;
- Ensure that parks, libraries, playgrounds and other facilities are accessible and maintained;
- See that infrastructure such as sewerage treatment plants, keep pace with housing developments to ensure rivers and beaches are not polluted; and
- Insist on proper roads infrastructure before building takes place.

## Health

### RESTORING HUMAN DIGNITY AND VALUE

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 facilities and resources.

Your ACDP Councillor will:

- Prioritise care and assistance for the elderly;
- Facilitate provision of accessible transport for those who need regular treatment;
- Address inequality undermining local health services;
- Support community initiatives to help prevent teen pregnancy and provide assistance for young mothers-to-be;
- Strengthen and implement regulations to ensure pregnant women are fully informed regarding the life they are carrying, the risks of abortion and the options available to them;
- Monitor local clinic services, calling for relevant interventions;
- Raise awareness in communities around the benefits of hygiene and healthy living; and
- Stimulate and improve home-base care programmes with a particular emphasis on the elderly and those affected by HIV AIDS and TB.

## Transport and Infrastructure

### RETHINKING THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM

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

The ACDP will:

- Work to end the monopolisation of public transport by broadening opportunities for multiple service providers;
- Ensure accountability and performance standards that will result in reliable services;
- Support initiatives which reduce the cost of transport for the public;
- Improve safety and customer service skills;
- Oppose toll roads that substantially increase costs to workers and increase the cost of living for everyone;
- 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; and
- Prioritise delivery of safe, reliable and affordable bus and rail network services in rural areas.

## Rural Development

### STIMULATING RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CREATIVE INITIATIVES AND INCENTIVES

The rural areas are the cultural heart-land of our nation, yet these are the most under-funded and mismanaged areas of the country.

The ACDP will:

- Focus on rural development through incentives for industries to relocate to rural areas;
- Promote agricultural development to ensure food security and facilitate the provision of assistance for small and subsistence farmers to become commercially viable;
- Encourage the sharing of qualified employees and administration systems to assist remote and under resourced municipalities; and
- Encourage alternative energy and rainwater harvesting initiatives in rural communities to fast-track basic services to these areas.

## Crime

### INCREASE POLICE PRESENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The main role of government is to protect its citizens and the ACDP believes that the most effective deterrent to crime is when criminals know they will not get away with it. Justice for all is our guiding principle and we are committed to ensuring that communities are freed from the terrible consequences of undeterred criminal activity.

The ACDP will:

- Encourage increased police visibility in local communities and hold them accountable through regular report backs to local communities;
- Encourage and support community structures such as police forums and trauma services;
- Support the establishment of trauma centres and safe havens in municipalities;
- Prioritise efforts to increase the safety and well-being of women and children;
- Prioritise initiatives to prevent and deal with the consequences of drug abuse;
- Review regulations regarding gambling, sex shops, underage drinking, and unlicensed liquor outlets; and
- Support the introduction of a municipal law enforcement agency to enforce by-laws.