

SOUTH AFRICA'S EASY ELECTION GUIDE: WHO TO VOTE FOR IN 2024?



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STIFTUNG**

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Publication © ESI Press 2024

Text © Konrad Adenauer Stiftung 2024

ISBN: 978-0-7961-4409-6(print)

978-0-7961-4410-2(e-book)

Design and typesetting by Stephen Symons

Cover design by Anastasya Eli

Set in Sabon 9.5/14pt

Printed and bound by Business Print

SOUTH AFRICA'S EASY ELECTION GUIDE:

WHO TO VOTE FOR IN 2024?

South Africa's most important election since 1994 may deliver the first coalition government in a democratic South Africa. However, as political parties vie for the votes of South Africans: How do citizens make the choice of where to put their mark? Who can they trust to give voice to their aspirations and help rebuild and grow Africa's most developed economy to benefit more people in the world's most unequal society?

“The views expressed in this publication are those of the author. They do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.”



Introduction	xv
Key Electoral Issues	xvii
ANC	1
<i>History</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Electoral record (12)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Positions</i>	<i>2</i>
Economic growth and job creation	3
Safety and security	3
Foreign affairs	4
Energy security	4
Education	5
Mineral resources	5
Youth development	6
Housing	6
The environment and climate change	6
Tourism	7
Immigration and xenophobia	7
LGBTIQA+ rights	8
South Africa's twelve official languages	8
Artificial intelligence	8
DA	11
<i>History</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Electoral record (15)</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Positions</i>	<i>12</i>
Economic growth and job creation	13
Safety and security	13
Foreign affairs	13

Energy security	14
Education	14
Mineral resources	15
Youth development	15
Housing	15
The environment and climate change	16
Tourism	16
Immigration and xenophobia	16
LGBTIQA+ rights	16
South Africa's twelve official languages	17
Artificial intelligence	17

EFF **18**

<i>History</i>	18
<i>Electoral record (17)</i>	19
<i>Positions</i>	19
Economic growth and job creation	19
Safety and security	20
Foreign affairs	20
Energy security	21
Education	21
Mineral resources	22
Youth development	22
Housing	22
The environment and climate change	23
Tourism	23
Immigration and xenophobia	23
LGBTIQA+ rights	24
South Africa's twelve official languages	24
Artificial intelligence	25

VF+

26

<i>History</i>	26
<i>Electoral record (19)</i>	27
<i>Positions</i>	27
Economic growth and job creation	27
Safety and security	28
Foreign affairs	28
Energy security	29
Education	29
Mineral resources	30
Youth development	30
Housing	30
The environment and climate change	31
Tourism	31
Immigration and xenophobia	31
LGBTIQA+ rights	32
South Africa's twelve official languages	32
Artificial intelligence	32

IFP

34

<i>History</i>	34
<i>Electoral record (21)</i>	35
<i>Positions</i>	35
Economic growth and job creation	35
Safety and security	36
Foreign affairs	36
Energy security	37
Education	37
Mineral resources	38
Youth development	38
Housing	38

The environment and climate change	39
Tourism	39
Immigration and xenophobia	40
LGBTIQA+ rights	40
South Africa's twelve official languages	40
Artificial intelligence	41

ACDP **42**

<i>History</i>	42
<i>Electoral record (23)</i>	42
<i>Positions</i>	43
Economic growth and job creation	43
Safety and security	43
Foreign affairs	44
Energy security	44
Education	44
Mineral resources	45
Youth development	45
Housing	45
The environment and climate change	46
Tourism	46
Immigration and xenophobia	46
LGBTIQA+ rights	47
South Africa's twelve official languages	47
Artificial intelligence	47

UDM **49**

<i>History</i>	49
<i>Electoral record (25)</i>	49
<i>Positions</i>	50
Economic growth and job creation	50

Safety and security	50
Foreign affairs	51
Energy security	51
Education	51
Mineral resources	52
Youth development	52
Housing	52
The environment and climate change	53
Tourism	53
Immigration and xenophobia	54
LGBTIQA+ rights	54
South Africa's twelve official languages	54
Artificial intelligence	54

GOOD

56

<i>History</i>	56
<i>Electoral record (27)</i>	57
<i>Positions</i>	57
Economic growth and job creation	57
Safety and security	57
Foreign affairs	58
Energy security	58
Education	58
Mineral resources	59
Youth development	59
Housing	59
The environment and climate change	60
Tourism	60
Immigration and xenophobia	60
LGBTIQA+ rights	61
South Africa's twelve official languages	61
Artificial intelligence	61

PAC **62**

<i>History</i>	62
<i>Electoral record (29)</i>	62
<i>Positions</i>	63
Economic growth and development	63
Safety and security	63
Foreign affairs	63
Energy security	64
Education	64
Mineral resources	64
Youth development	65
Housing	65
The environment and climate change	65
Tourism	65
Immigration and xenophobia	66
LGBTIQA+ rights	66
South Africa's twelve official languages	66
Artificial intelligence	67

COPE **68**

<i>History</i>	68
<i>Electoral record (31)</i>	68
<i>Positions</i>	69
Economic growth and job creation	69
Safety and security	69
Foreign affairs	70
Energy security	70
Education	70
Mineral resources	71
Youth development	71
Housing	71

The environment and climate change	72
Tourism	72
Immigration and xenophobia	72
LGBTIQA+ rights	73
South Africa's twelve official languages	73
Artificial intelligence	73

Al Jama-ah 75

<i>History</i>	75
<i>Electoral record (34)</i>	75
<i>Positions</i>	75
Economic growth and job creation	76
Safety and security	76
Foreign affairs	77
Energy security	77
Education	77
Mineral resources	78
Youth development	78
Housing	78
The environment and climate change	79
Tourism	79
Immigration and xenophobia	79
LGBTIQA+ rights	80
South Africa's twelve official languages	80
Artificial intelligence	80

ATM 82

<i>History</i>	82
<i>Electoral record (37)</i>	82
<i>Positions</i>	82
Economic growth and job creation	83

Safety and security	83
Foreign affairs	83
Energy Policy	84
Education	84
Mineral resources	84
Youth development	85
Housing	85
The environment and climate change	85
Tourism	85
Immigration and xenophobia	86
LGBTIQA+ rights	86
South Africa's twelve official languages	86
Artificial intelligence	86

Patriotic Alliance 88

<i>History</i>	88
<i>Electoral record (39)</i>	89
<i>Positions</i>	89
Economic growth and job creation	89
Safety and security	89
Foreign affairs	90
Energy security	90
Education	90
Mineral resources	91
Youth development	91
Housing	91
The environment and climate change	91
Tourism	92
Immigration and xenophobia	92
LGBTIQA+ rights	93
South Africa's twelve official languages	93
Artificial intelligence	93

ActionSA 95

<i>History</i>	95
<i>Positions</i>	95
Economic growth and job creation	96
Safety and security	96
Foreign affairs	97
Energy security	97
Education	97
Mineral resources	98
Youth development	98
Housing	98
The environment and climate change	99
Tourism	99
Immigration and xenophobia	99
LGBTIQA+ rights	100
South Africa's twelve official languages	100
Artificial intelligence	100

BOSA 101

<i>History</i>	101
<i>Positions</i>	101
Economic growth and job creation	102
Safety and security	102
Foreign affairs	103
Energy security	103
Education	103
Mineral resources	104
Youth development	104
Housing	104
The environment and climate change	105

Tourism	105
Immigration and xenophobia	105
LGBTIQA+ rights	106
South Africa's twelve official languages	106
Artificial intelligence	106

Rise Mzansi 108

History 108

Positions 108

Economic growth and job creation 108

Safety and security 109

Foreign affairs 109

Energy security 110

Education 110

Mineral resources 111

Youth development 111

Housing 111

The environment and climate change 112

Tourism 112

Immigration and xenophobia 112

LGBTIQA+ rights 113

South Africa's twelve official languages 113

Artificial intelligence 113

Conclusion 114

Bibliography 115

Introduction

A large proportion of South Africans surprisingly claim to have no interest in politics, or to be bored or frustrated by the country's politics that their choice of approach is subtle or plain ignorance. However, conversations in taxis, at the workplace, in cafes, at the salon, in taverns, at places of worship or even around the braai are often dominated by politics anyway with every South African unlikely not to have at the very least an opinion on the prevailing political news of the day.

Politics affects every aspect of our lives in South Africa whether we know it or not and regardless of our feelings towards it.

These informal discussions happening across the country are no different in substance to the debates happening in national parliament, provincial legislatures, or local councils. With the crux being the aspirations, complaints and ultimately the will of the South African people taking centre stage.

Political parties are meant to be the custodians of the South African people's wishes and desires. It would therefore make sense that all South Africans are eligible to choose a political party at election time to carry their personal mandate. Unfortunately, South Africa's democracy is suffering from a growing apathy with fewer eligible voters wanting to express themselves at the ballot box. The regression is clear with a voter turnout of almost 90% at South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994 dropping down to just 65% in 2019 (1).

Although this corresponds with a growing global political apathy in both developed and developing nations, it should never be accepted.

The aim of this book is to provide an easily accessible reference for all South Africa's eligible voters to refer to in finding the political party that best represents their aspirations for the country they call home.

In a simple and accessible way, this book summarises the major political parties' standpoints on key issues in South African society, providing the reader with key insight into where they should leave their

mark come election day. Reading this book will not solve the problems you experience as a citizen; however, it will empower you to make an informed decision if you exercise your democratic right to vote in the upcoming 2024 general election.

Source:

(1) IEC results dashboard - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>

Key Electoral Issues

South Africa is faced with a multitude of challenges that threaten the country's prospects and current stability. Fourteen critical areas were chosen to focus on in each political party's approach to charting a meaningful, effective, and sustainable path to South Africa's future.

Economic growth and job creation

Economic growth and job creation are pivotal to alleviating poverty, reducing inequality, and improving overall living standards. South Africa is one of the most unequal societies, with extreme levels of poverty existing side-by-side with instances of obscene wealth and a disappearing middle class (1). The legacy of Apartheid and non-inclusive economic growth in the democratic era have left a deep divide between the economically affluent, the comfortable and the disadvantaged. Suffering the highest sustained rate of unemployment in the world amid stagnant economic growth and unequal access to education and opportunities contribute to this toxic status quo. A thriving economy would create jobs, generate revenue for public services through taxes, and lead to social stability through individual and national prosperity.

xvii

Safety and security

Safety and security are vital for societal well-being, ensuring individual peace of mind, economic stability, and cohesive community development. In South Africa crime and violence have become far too commonplace. In the first three months of 2023 there were 6 228 murders recorded (2), averaging a staggering 68 murders a day in the country. South Africa's stubbornly high crime rate actively erodes the country's development prospects by breaking down public trust in government and deterring local and international investment. A country that is safe and secure is vital to fostering social cohesion and spurring economic growth.

Foreign affairs

Foreign affairs are crucial for any society as it impacts national security, economic interests, and global cooperation. South Africa's strategic role in geo-politics cannot be underestimated. The country's history of dismantling Apartheid and transitioning to democracy earned it respect internationally and placed South Africa in a unique position of global standing and influence. However, this respect has been eroded in recent years as South Africa finds itself in a geopolitical tug of war between the world's two biggest economies — the United States and China. As such, South Africa is in a delicate balancing act of fostering new links alongside maintaining existing ties to fully unlock the development potential international relations offers.

Energy security

xviii

Without stable access to power, a nation can never achieve economic stability and sustainable growth. Nothing depicts South Africa's contemporary challenges better than the ongoing energy challenges the country faces. South Africa has endured load shedding for close to two decades, and reliable electricity supply remains elusive for homes and businesses alike. Ensuring energy security and transitioning to sustainable sources is critical for long-term economic viability and environmental sustainability.

Education

Education is the first building block to a successful nation and despite consistently spending close to a fifth of the national budget on education, South Africa's outcomes in the sector are continually disappointing. Remedying the country's education challenges are critical to empower individuals to become informed and engaged citizens specifically and drive economic development and overall societal progress generally. The

ongoing challenges include inadequate infrastructure, unequal access to quality education, teacher shortages, and continually low academic performance by primary, secondary, and tertiary learners. As such, the legacy of Bantu education continues to haunt the country.

Mineral resources

A diverse source of mineral resources can fuel economic growth, job creation, and resource development in any nation and contribute to overall prosperity. South Africa is blessed with an abundance of mineral resources including gold, platinum, and diamonds with a contribution of 8 per cent to annual GDP growth and providing direct employment to half a million people (3). It is, however, argued that the sector has never been exploited to its full potential with most minerals mined and exported in their raw form. The mining sector is also an emotive issue due to the country's historical legacy of Apartheid migrant labour in the South African mines.

xix

Youth development

Youth development is crucial for any society, since it can nurture a skilled workforce and prepare the nation's future leaders as well as foster innovation. South Africa's youth is another ticking time bomb that profoundly threatens the country's prospects. More than six out of every ten young South Africans aged between sixteen and 35-years are unemployed (4). Ensuring that young people are not idle and enjoy access to education, skills, and job opportunities is crucial to South Africa's future.

Housing

A nation's ability to provide shelter for the indigent and a stable environment in which its citizens can rent or own their own homes, is the foundation for a country's well-being, and contributes to overall societal development and cohesion. Over 12 per cent of South Africans live in informal settlements nationwide with that number rising to one in five in the metropolises of Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban (5). South Africa's severe shortage of affordable housing presents a significant challenge to addressing inequality and hampers the country's potential for development.

The environment and climate change

Addressing climate change and environmental sustainability is key to a sustainable future in South Africa. Big industries in the country, particularly the mining sector, are among the biggest polluters, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. South Africa's reliance on Eskom's ageing coal power station fleet exacerbates this challenge. However, balancing these environmental concerns with the need for economic growth and job creation is crucial.

xx

Tourism

Contributing more to South Africa's GDP than the agriculture, utilities, and construction sectors, tourism could play a vital role in South Africa's economy and society, were it given more support. It is estimated that one job is created for every ten to twelve tourists who visit the country's diverse travel offering. This could increase even further were the industry to rebound to the over 6 per cent contribution to GDP it recorded pre-covid in 2019 (6) after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Immigration and xenophobia

Immigration is becoming more of a contentious issue as xenophobic attitudes invade all levels of South African society. Beyond the sporadic outbreaks of violence directed towards foreigners, the country's immigration policy has become a hotly contested political issue, with foreign nationals being made scapegoats for plain governance failures amid genuine concerns over the impact of legal and illegal migration into South Africa.

LGBTIQA+ rights

Although South Africa enjoys legally guaranteed LGBTIQA+ rights and constitutional rights for close on two decades, the community continues to face discrimination daily in society. Many members of the LGBTIQA+ community still choose to be secretive about their sexuality in a society where homophobic violence, such as corrective rape remains shockingly prevalent.

xxi

South Africa's twelve official languages

Linguistic diversity has been guaranteed in the South African constitution with protection and power being afforded to the country's eleven official languages since 1996, with sign language being added in 2023. However, this exists largely in law alone with English being the language of social power and economic influence in South Africa. With fluency in a language, most South African citizens do not consider their mother tongue being a critical deciding factor in an individual's success.

Artificial intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies are presenting opportunities for rapid economic development as automation and innovation replace existing modes of living and usurp workers in societies around the globe. This is, however, a unique challenge for South Africa, with its high levels of inequality and unemployment where millions rely on menial jobs to survive.

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ANC



Founded:	1912
Leader:	Cyril Ramaphosa
Political position:	Centre left to left-wing
Ideology:	African nationalist social democracy

History

At 112-years-old, the African National Congress (ANC) is Africa's oldest political party. The ANC was formed 36 years before Apartheid and one year before the infamous Native Land Act that stripped all black people of the right to own land. It has a long and proud history fighting for the emancipation of black people and led the struggle for a free and democratic South Africa. The ANC has governed South Africa by a comfortable majority since 1994.

The party's constitution commits to creating a united, non-racial, non-sexist, and democratic society that uplifts the quality of life of all South Africans, especially the poor (7). As the only political party to have governed South Africa nationally in the democratic era, the ANC has the benefit (and perhaps curse) of a lengthy track record voters can reference.

The ANC-led government built 3,2 million free houses for the poor between 1994 and 2019 (8). South Africa's literacy rate also improved from 71 per cent in 1991 (9) to 95 per cent in 2019 (10).

The ANC's time in government has, however, also seen increasing levels of corruption, mismanagement, and ineptitude in the state. An unfortunate feature throughout the Mandela, Mbeki, Zuma, and now Ramaphosa administrations. Transparency International ranks South Africa 72nd out of 180 countries surveyed globally with a score of 43 (11). Although laws have been passed and many state promises made to decisively deal with corruption and stealing of state resources,

it continues to devastate the ability of the government to deliver services and grow the economy. While often inefficient and sometimes incompetent, senior members of the ANC continue in their positions in the face of corruption allegations and lack of delivery. The State Capture Commission bears testament to this, and Eskom is a practical example of what happens when the need to make money off a state asset overrides the need to provide public services. Africa's oldest liberation movement's governance record is also one of competent planning, however, poor execution with the stalled National Development Plan is a prime example of a lack of delivery on government promises.

As a result, voters may be growing tired of the party that has governed South Africa since the arrival of freedom in 1994, and bring the ANC to below 50 per cent of support in the polls for the first time in 30 years.

Electoral record (12)

2

- 1994: 62.65%
- 1999: 66.35%
- 2004: 69.69%
- 2009: 65.90%
- 2014: 62.15%
- 2019: 57.50%

Positions

(Sources: <https://www.anc1912.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ANC-National-Elections-Manifesto-2019.pdf>; <https://www.anc1912.org.za/anc-55th-conference-resolutions/>)

Economic growth and job creation

The ANC's economic policy focuses inclusively on economic growth to address unemployment, poverty, and inequality. The party wants to do this by tackling monopolies and opening the economy up to participation by more small and medium enterprises. The ANC also wants to pursue localisation by directing governmental departments and state-owned enterprise procurement to support local companies—including township and village enterprises—and encourage private sector procurement to do the same. As part of this localisation policy, the party intends to direct the South African Revenue Service to focus their efforts on combating illegal imports and product dumping.

The party has touted a Sovereign Wealth Fund to invest in strategic sectors of the economy as well as an Infrastructure Fund to finance key economic and social infrastructure projects. The ANC advocates for broad-based ownership of the economy, emphasising a mixed economy with public, private, and social ownership. They propose legislation for employee ownership schemes, aiming to share profits and empower workers. The plan includes public assistance for employees to buy businesses from retiring owners and promotes compliance with ownership diversity through a revised broad-based black economic empowerment programme.

3

Safety and security

The ANC proposes repurposing the national Department of Defence for peace support in Africa, border protection, and police assistance. To enhance law enforcement, the party advocates for thorough training, resource strengthening, joint planning, and increased police visibility. The plan includes empowering Community Policing Forums, running national campaigns for rule of law respect, and enforcing legislation on tavern and liquor retailer locations. The ANC calls for strict measures against undocumented immigrants involved in criminal activities and

emphasises community awareness. They aim to address undocumented immigration's impact on national security by ensuring legal entry and monitoring individuals' activities during their stay.

Foreign affairs

The ANC's global perspective aligns with the principles of the Freedom Charter, emphasising respect for national sovereignty and a commitment to peace. The party advocates for a developed, decolonised Africa, fostering regional integration, supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area, and advancing Agenda 2063. They aim to enhance cross-border infrastructure, tourism, and manufacturing, contributing to peace and stability in the South African Development Community (SADC) and other regions. Dedicated to increase developing countries' voices, South Africa pledges to address climate change and promote global peace during its tenure in the United Nations Security Council.

4

Energy security

The ANC advocates for a balanced energy mix, recognising abundant coal reserves while supporting renewables for cost reduction, emissions cuts, and job creation. Proposals include Eskom's shift to renewable energy, public ownership encouragement, and mandating renewable energy in new developments, especially in informal settlements. The party promotes investment in offshore oil and gas for growth and supports renewable sector demand to aid rural development, localisation, research, small enterprises, and co-operatives. The ANC aims for an inclusive and sustainable energy strategy combining fossil fuels and renewables to meet South Africa's diverse needs.

Education

The ANC proposes a comprehensive education strategy across early childhood development (ECD) as well as basic and tertiary education. The party proposes two years of compulsory ECD placing the responsibility for its roll out with the Department of Basic Education.

At primary and high school level, the ANC wants to ensure quality teaching and learning by enhancing existing educators' skills, ensure the appointment of qualified teachers, and enforce performance accountability through legislative amendments. The party wants to upgrade and maintain all school infrastructure as well as align the curriculum for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, while promoting the study of history.

In post-school education, the ANC strives to provide free higher education for financially needy students and provide for funding for TVET and Community Colleges. The party will pursue industry partnerships for work experience and private sector collaboration for skill development.

5

Mineral resources

The ANC advocates responsible mining, prioritising equitable wealth distribution and environmental preservation. It wants the mining charter—which like BEE, aims for inclusive transformation in the industry—to be better implemented to ensure broader state, community, and employee ownership. The party also supports exploration of offshore oil and gas and plans to implement an export tax for scrap metals to boost local usage and create jobs. It also wants the state mining company strengthened to play a bigger role in the industry.

Youth development

The ANC wants to implement skills development programmes for unemployed and low-skilled youth which will include a mass apprenticeship programme. The party aims to implement a dedicated education and training initiative on renewable energy for young people and scale up skills development in emerging technologies, like data analytics, information technology, blockchain, and machine learning. The ANC wants more youth internships in both the public and private sectors and wants the removal of work experience as a requirement for young people seeking employment opportunities.

Housing

6

The ANC proposes close collaboration with the private sector for major development projects, integrating economic nodes, human settlements, smart technologies, and public transportation, aiming to build a new city. They aim to transform the property market, promoting access to affordable housing, reversing urban fragmentation, and releasing state land for self-owned homes. The plan involves restructuring the property industry, establishing a Property Sector Ombudsman, and aligning housing provision with public investments. Measures include addressing title deed backlogs, developing principles for spatial development, and revising regulations and incentives for housing and land use management to create a more coherent and inclusive approach to land development.

The environment and climate change

The ANC advocates for sustainable water resource use, emphasising smart agriculture to combat climate change. The party has committed to the global climate responsibilities under the Paris Agreement. The party aims for a sustainable agriculture strategy, diversifying production for

food security, and supporting the local recycling industry. Additionally, the ANC proposes an economic framework that pursues social and solidarity goals, focusing on societal and environmental needs over profit. Prioritising co-operatives, community-based enterprises, trade union enterprises, informal enterprises, and non-profit organisations seeking to mitigate against the effects of climate change.

Tourism

The ANC aims to enhance the tourism sector's job creation by adopting a comprehensive government approach, including measures like reducing visa requirements and ensuring tourist security. The party plans to increase support for cultural tourism and identify iconic sites for expansion, catering to both domestic and international tourists.

Immigration and xenophobia

The ANC acknowledges uncontrolled immigration and xenophobia as one of South Africa's biggest challenges. However, it imagines a country that is integrally and enthusiastically part of the great African continent, as comfortable with immigrants from other countries as we are made to feel when we visit their countries to trade, to invest, to learn, to work, and to settle.

The ANC wants to build a united and democratic South Africa free from all forms of xenophobia and hate crimes against foreign nationals by doing the following:

- Work with other countries to ensure that there are incentives created for immigrants to stay in the borders of their own country.
- Ensure that our policies of regional integration and cooperation includes resolution of immigration matters, especially undocumented immigration.

LGBTIQA+ rights

The ANC supports LGBTIQA+ rights, advocating legal protection and awareness campaigns while respecting cultural and religious values. The party aims to finalise legislation currently before parliament, preventing hate crimes based on various factors, including sexual orientation, and prosecute offenders. The party envisions a united South Africa free from sexism, homophobia, and hate crimes against the LGBTIQA+ community, emphasising community engagement for this inclusive goal.

South Africa's twelve official languages

The ANC advocates for linguistic diversity in South Africa and for multilingual resources in the country's public services. The party wants to implement indigenous language programmes in schools including finalisation of language legislation in provinces for inclusion in the school curriculum.

8

Artificial intelligence

The ANC does not have an official policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI); however, the party acknowledges the critical juncture in the Digital Revolution globally and emphasises the need for a national innovation programme to harness the talents of South Africans. The party's goal is for the country to become a hub for digital transformation in Africa, with benefits dispersed across society. The party also advocates for a legal framework supporting innovation, collaboration through a Presidential Digital Industrial Revolution Commission, increased spending on innovation, and youth skill development in emerging technologies. Efforts include reducing data costs, expanding government broadband, promoting localisation, supporting e-commerce for SMMEs, fostering digital entrepreneurship, and advancing government digitalisation.

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DA

Founded:	2000
Leader:	John Steenhuisen
Political position:	Centre right
Ideology:	Federal liberalism



History

South Africa's official opposition is rooted in the Apartheid era liberal order with its original incarnation being the Progressive Party that was founded in 1959. After many mergers and break aways, the party fought the 1994 elections as the Democratic Party with Tony Leon as its leader, but secured less than two percent of the vote. The Democratic Party became the official opposition in 1999 before merging (and eventually splitting) with the remnants of the Apartheid era National Party and Federal Party to become the Democratic Alliance (DA) in 2000.

The party has consistently grown its voter share in each election since 1999 and with Helen Zille as leader, became the government of the Western Cape in 2009. However, a marginal dip in support in the 2019 national elections led to the departure of former leader Mmusi Maimane and current leader John Steenhuisen taking over in 2020.

The DA's constitution states its goal is to build one nation with one future, built on freedom, fairness, opportunity, and diversity for all (13). The party's governance record is impressive with it currently leading majority governments in not only the Western Cape, Cape Town, and George, but is the current and former leader of numerous coalition governments. Its service delivery record speaks for itself with the party consistently delivering services to the communities where they govern and receiving the highest ratio of clean audits in the country (14). Albeit with the constant criticism from their detractors that poor communities

in DA-run municipalities and the Western Cape do not enjoy the same level of service attention as affluent areas.

The party's coalition governance record is also not as impressive as where they govern in majority. The party has largely failed to make a sustained impact in Tshwane where they have led various coalition governments since 2016 and did not show a marked improvement in governance or service delivery in Johannesburg after several years in power across two coalition governments from 2016 to 2019 and 2021 to 2023.

Zille's shadow continues to fall over the DA with Zille currently serving as chairperson of the Federal council—the second most powerful position in the party. Prior and post Maimane's departure, the party has regularly been accused of no longer being an attractive home for black leaders. The party is currently trying to form a multi-party pact ahead of elections in 2024 to unseat the ANC. However, despite a lack of interest from several smaller opposition parties, specifics on policies the pact will pursue, as well as who exactly would lead the government remains unclear.

12

Electoral record (15)

- 1994: 1.73%
- 1999: 9.56%
- 2004: 12.37%
- 2009: 16.66%
- 2014: 22.23%
- 2019: 20.77%

Positions

(Source: Direct conversations with party's head of policy Mat Cuthbert)

Economic growth and job creation

The DA strives to halve unemployment within five years by pursuing labour market reforms that would make it easier for the unemployed to access economic opportunities. The party believes that South Africa's rigid labour laws are among the chief reasons for stubborn unemployment and that obtaining a first work experience is critical. To this end, the DA would like to introduce a job seekers' exemption certificate for the long-term unemployed. Such a certificate will enable prospective employers and employees to enter short-term contracts that include wage flexibility whilst protecting fundamental worker's rights. The party also supports means-based redress which seeks to empower disadvantaged communities through sectoral specific corporate empowerment of communities whereby businesses support job creation and socioeconomic development in the communities they operate.

Safety and security

13

The DA wants the law to be applied without fear or favour and to place the victims of all crime at the centre of the country's safety and security strategy. It will drastically overhaul the South African Police Service beginning with a skills audit and improve its immediate performance through the focused deployment of the country's police officers in crime hotspots. Furthermore, the party also aims to combat the root causes of crime by offering all communities a path towards employment and a livelihood independent from crime. A tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime approach.

Foreign affairs

The DA wishes to pursue foreign policy that grows the economy and creates jobs while being driven by a culture of promoting universal human rights and maintaining the post-World War 2 democratic world

order. While recognising the significance of South Africa's growing trade and diplomatic relationship with China, the party wants to expand ties with historical trading partners, such as the USA and the EU.

Energy security

The DA commits to a transition towards renewable energy; however, the pursuit of energy security must correspond with South Africa's economic development goals. While recognising that fossil fuels, such as coal and oil will form part of the country's energy mix in the short-to medium-term, every effort should be made to ensure that renewable energy sources are the back-bone of the energy mix. State investment in solar panel production and battery storage must be aggressively increased. The party supports the gradual but complete privatisation of Eskom, barring its transmission division which should remain state-owned.

14

Education

The DA aims to focus on the basics of education to ensure all learners can read, write, and count at their appropriate age level. Key to this, the party wants to introduce competency assessments for all teachers and to incentivise them based on performance by linking rewards with the academic results of their learners. It also wishes to address the unequal funding of schools by providing government subsidies to schools based on their learner profile as opposed to the area the school is situated to focus state funding and interventions on learners that need it most. The party will undertake an infrastructure audit in the education sector to ensure each school has adequate classrooms and no pit toilets.

Mineral resources

The DA plans to diversify South Africa's mineral exports to reduce the dominance of precious metals, like gold and platinum, and develop the potential of other deposits, like uranium, manganese, and titanium. The party also wants to develop further mineral beneficiation processes, such as manufacturing and refinement to prevent solely raw materials being the country's primary mineral export—where the local capability exists. The party will scrap the mining charter due to its race-based empowerment that deters international investment and increases unemployment.

Youth development

The party wants to foster entrepreneurship among South African youth by making it easier to start and manage a business. Through their reforms on teacher performance and basic outcomes in the education sector, the party believes young people will also be better suited to tackle the job market and provide the skills the economy needs. To this effect, if a young person is not academically inclined, the DA would like to ensure they have a clear path to an alternative livelihood, such as the artisanal or agricultural sectors.

15

Housing

In the short-term, the DA wants to ensure that all South Africans provided a home by the government, must receive a title deed to leverage the benefits of property ownership. While in the medium- to long-term offering serviced plots of land instead of housing. Ultimately though, the party wants to ensure housing and residential development is pursued in existing areas that are accompanied with employment opportunities and services instead of creating new communities.

The environment and climate change

The DA recognises the urgent need to address global warming and accepts climate change. However, the party does not want South Africa's pursuit of reduced greenhouse gas emissions to jeopardise the urgent need for economic development and job creation. This balance needs to factor in the fossil fuels—such as coal and uranium—readily available to South Africa alongside renewables to provide energy for economic growth.

Tourism

The DA believes tourism is one of the easiest avenues to provide employment to low- and medium-skilled workers in South Africa. Key to this, a safe and secure environment is critical to attract tourists to South Africa to spend their greenbacks or renminbi. Tourist visas should also be completely digitised and provided on arrival to all visitors.

16

Immigration and xenophobia

The DA will implement a skills audit at the Department of Home Affairs to root out corruption in the long-term visa process and enable legal immigration, focusing on finding critical skills among potential or current migrants. It would seek to regularise the tenure of illegal migrants as opposed to criminalising them further. The party believes South Africa has a moral duty to provide asylum to any foreign national suffering in their home country due to South Africa's foreign policy failures.

LGBTIQA+ rights

The DA wants to enshrine the existing rights afforded to the LGBTIQA+ community and further protect the entire community from any form of victimisation. The party has several openly gay senior leaders.

South Africa's twelve official languages

The DA advocates for the continued promotion, institutionalisation, and academic development of all South African languages. This is with the long-term goal of mother tongue language learning and instruction at all levels of the South African education system. The party believes this process should be led through the academic development of language instruction at universities relevant to the linguistic area they are found.

Artificial intelligence

The DA recognises that Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents an opportunity to address some of society's most pressing challenges through enhanced learning and the creation of new industries. However, the party calls for the regulation of AI to prevent its malicious use by governments and corporations. Moreover, the DA is cautious of the introduction of AI in South Africa, as it poses a threat to the employment of low-skilled and semi-skilled workers.

17

Sources:

- (13) Democratic Alliance constitution - <https://cdn.da.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/19132045/DA-Constitution-As-Adopted-on-1-April-2023.pdf>
 - (14) Consolidated general report on local government audit outcomes 2021/2022 - <https://mfma-2022.agsareports.co.za/>
 - (15) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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EFF



Founded:	2013
Leader:	Julius Malema
Political position:	Radical left-wing
Ideology:	African Nationalist Socialist

History

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) is an offshoot of the ANC started by Julius Malema in 2013, one year after his permanent expulsion from the party as ANC Youth League leader. Its constitution commits the EFF to being a radical and militant revolutionary movement, with the aim of bringing together activists, community-based organisations, as well as lobby groups under the umbrella of the political party pursuing the struggle of economic emancipation (16).

18

However, do not dismiss the party as merely the ANC youth league in exile. It is the only party formed by disgruntled former ANC members to have grown from its first contested election to the next. It represents many South Africans with a claimed audited membership of over one million members. It also leads the debate on many controversial issues in South Africa from the singing of struggle songs like “Shoot the Boer” to land reform. Malema is a superb tactician and strategist with his ability to capitalise on political controversies, from the Marikana massacre in 2012 to the impeachment of Busisiwe Mkhwebane in 2023. These tactics ensures the party gains a constant stream of media coverage, although also earning the EFF the label of “Extreme Flip-Floppers” in some quarters for their ability to change their standpoint seemingly based on the potential for political gain.

The EFF has a limited track record in government to speak of after lending support to DA led local governments since 2016 and suddenly joining several municipal governments alongside the ANC in early 2023.

Electoral record (17)

- 2014: 6.35%
- 2019: 10.79%

Positions

(Source: WhatsApp and email correspondence with EFF spokesperson Sinawo Thambo)

Economic growth and job creation

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) advocate for radical economic transformation, focusing on the nationalisation of key sectors, land redistribution, and wealth redistribution to address the historical inequalities of Apartheid and inclusively grow the economy. The party proposes sustainable industrial development and diversification for job creation through state-led initiatives and special economic zones. The EFF will enforce a significant percentage of state procurement from local producers, with specific quotas for women and youth-owned enterprises. The party emphasises the establishment of state-owned trading platforms, legislation for a living wage and the nationalisation of the South African Reserve Bank, along with the creation of state-owned banks in retail, agriculture, housing, and social assistance sectors.

The EFF has plans to reduce capital requirements for new banks, especially those owned by Africans, particularly black and female owners. They propose legislation mandating a minimum of 30 per cent black ownership, 30 per cent female ownership, and 50 per cent female and youth control in management and boards for companies with financial licenses. The EFF advocates for a law preventing the repossession of properties paid off for more than five years. Recognising the impact of Covid-19 on job losses and home insecurity, the party calls

for the establishment of a relief fund to assist those in financial distress unable to service home loans due to unemployment.

Safety and security

The EFF's crime-fighting strategy centres on addressing the socioeconomic roots of crime by economically developing communities and providing quality jobs. The strategy emphasises specialised police training for handling sexual violence cases, ensuring officers consider victims' mental and physical well-being. The party strongly opposes corruption and wants a minimum 20-year sentence for convicted public representatives, advocating for the forfeiture of pensions and lifetime bans from public sector employment. The party proposes legislation barring public officials from business dealings with state institutions, strengthening whistleblower protection, and introducing measures for compulsory imprisonment, community service, and the repayment of corrupt gains.

20

Foreign affairs

The EFF's foreign affairs approach centres on anti-imperialism, advocating for an Africa-focused, anti-colonial stance. The party emphasises solidarity with other African nations, prioritising regional integration and economic cooperation. In this spirit, an EFF government will require each university to offer Swahili studies as a degree. The EFF seeks to break ties with former colonial powers, promote Pan-Africanism, and address global inequality. Their approach aims to reshape international relations to favour the Global South and advance the interests of marginalised nations.

Energy security

The EFF proposes stabilising energy supply through the sustained pursuit of a diverse energy mix including coal, nuclear, and renewable energy. The party would cancel contracts with independent power producers, fix existing coal power stations, and commission nuclear power plants. They envision being able to provide electricity to the entire African continent with this strategy. In the interim, it would also seek electricity generation capacity from other African countries to add to the local grid. An EFF government would cancel all mining rights issued to companies mining coal mines that belongs to Eskom to enable the state-owned mining company to assume operations at these mines to prioritise the supply of quality coal at an affordable price to Eskom and lower the overall price of electricity. Additionally, the EFF demands immediate solutions, including dedicated grants to municipalities for off-grid, hybrid, and microgrid solutions.

Education

The EFF emphasises inclusive education that focuses on a comprehensive approach to societal well-being. The party would implement a unified curriculum across all public and private schools as well as abolish independent examination boards and introduce adult education programmes. The party proposes zero-rating educational apps and implementing compulsory post-secondary education. They also propose the reintegration of students previously excluded due to non-payment of fees, ensuring that those who passed receive their certificates, diplomas, and degrees, regardless of outstanding payments. The EFF will hold parents who do not enrol their children in school criminally liable and implement a shared Early Childhood Development (ECD) curriculum that emphasises nutrition programmes, reading, storytelling, and land-based activities. This approach will enrich children's understanding of their environment, promoting holistic development.

Mineral resources

The EFF would nationalise mineral resources in South Africa and allocate key shares to a sovereign wealth fund. The party proposes enforcing local beneficiation through a 30 per cent cap on the exportation of raw mineral resources and a quota of 70 per cent or more raw mineral resources processed into finished industrial products within South Africa. The EFF would ensure community participation in all mining projects, particularly in the North West and Limpopo Provinces. The party would also ensure mining companies rehabilitate any historically denuded landscapes and revitalise abandoned mining towns, creating sustainable jobs. Additionally, they commit to tracking and ensuring access to pension funds for all ex-mineworkers and their families.

Youth development

22

The EFF pledges to ensure a policy of “one-degree-one-job”; to absorb all unemployed graduates into fields aligned with their qualifications. In cases where placement is not immediate, the EFF proposes a young graduate unemployment grant. Furthermore, they aim to boost job creation by establishing studios in every municipality to empower young artists to record and produce their work locally.

Housing

The EFF proposes rezoning all informal settlements in South Africa and take active steps to replace all shacks with formal structures and improve low-cost housing quality through a state housing construction company. The party is also committed to eradicating inhumane bucket toilets, emphasising technology-based sanitation services to restore dignity. The EFF would make it illegal to use houses as loan surety and limit housing finance to no longer than ten years.

The environment and climate change

The EFF acknowledges climate change as a real threat to global humanity and believes the western world should assume the primary responsibility in delivering a solution. The party advocates for the implementation of stringent regulations governing industrial practices and emissions including enforcing limits on greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and environmental degradation by holding industries accountable for their impact on the environment. Implementing and strictly enforcing these regulations aims to curb the negative effects of industrial activities on the environment. It would implement legislation that guarantees sustainable forestry practices, responsible mining, and conservation efforts to protect biodiversity. They would also publicly name and shame entities found guilty of harming the environment.

Tourism

The EFF's tourism policy prioritises equitable distribution of benefits, emphasising nationalisation of key sectors to address historical imbalances. Their focus on community-based initiatives aims to economically empower local communities, fostering social and economic justice within the tourism industry. The party would fund development in key tourism infrastructure based on its ability to benefit previously disadvantaged groups.

23

Immigration and xenophobia

The EFF have adopted a contradictory stance on immigration and xenophobia. While the party advocates for open borders and the protection of asylum seekers' rights, they have also expressed concerns about foreign nationals potentially taking jobs from South Africans. The EFF seeks to address xenophobia through education and community engagement, promoting solidarity with marginalised groups. Their

approach aims to balance compassion for immigrants with the need to address economic and social challenges in the country, fostering inclusivity, and combating xenophobia.

LGBTIQA+ rights

The EFF aims to combat discrimination against the LGBTIQA+ community by implementing public awareness campaigns and training initiatives. They propose amendments to criminal law, advocating for harsher sentences for crimes motivated by hatred, specifically 'corrective' rape. The EFF also plans to amend legislation related to gender identification, facilitating expedited identification documents (ID) alterations for transgender individuals. Additionally, the party commits to investing in a public healthcare system that provides easy access to gender-affirming treatment.

24

South Africa's twelve official languages

The EFF supports the preservation and promotion of the twelve official languages in South Africa, emphasising equal status and accessibility. The party will ensure that every public institution, such as hospitals, police stations, home affairs offices, labour offices, and social development offices have at least two people who are trained at and understand sign language to cater for people who have a speech disability. The EFF government will introduce vernacular languages as the foundation of the education system in all provinces. The EFF government will require all institutions of higher learning to provide learning materials in the three most spoken languages where the institutions are located by 2024. The EFF government will require all institutions of higher learning to teach 50 per cent of all courses in a South African language other than English and Afrikaans by 2024. The EFF government will require 10 per cent of all academic publications in the country to be written in a South African language other than English and Afrikaans by 2024. The EFF will turn

the Pan South African Language Board into an institution supporting democracy with a budget to develop all indigenous languages.

Artificial intelligence

The EFF wants to incentivise the study of science and technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI). They party aims to support and protect industries by encouraging innovation and technology adoption in AI, establishing a research and development centre focused on integrating AI into the health system, and promoting the use of AI in state-owned enterprises. Additionally, the EFF government intends to establish AI, robotics, and biotechnology state-owned enterprises, while providing subsidies to produce AI-related technologies.

Sources:

- (16) Economic Freedom Fighter constitution - <https://effonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/FINAL-EFF-CONSTITUTION-02.03.2020.pdf>
 - (17) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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Founded:	1994
Leader:	Pieter Groenewald
Political position:	Centre-right to right-wing
Ideology:	Afrikaner conservatism

History

The Freedom Front was established shortly before South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994 by former South African Army General Constand Viljoen and has contested every election in the democratic era. It later merged with the remnants of the Conservative Party, Federal Party and Afrikaner Unity Movement to become the Freedom Front Plus, also known as Die Vryheidsfront Plus (VF+) in 2003.

26 The party primarily represents the interests of Afrikaner and conservative voters and focuses on issues such as minority rights, cultural preservation, and free market principles. It is vehemently against land reform in the form of expropriation without compensation as well as opposed to affirmative action and Black Economic Empowerment (18).

The VF+ advocates for the right to self-determination of all South African communities, with a specific focus on protecting the rights of Afrikaners and more recently, Afrikaans-speaking coloured South Africans. In 2019 the party expressly adopted Cape Independence as an official party position. After many years as a sub one per cent party, the VF+ bagged 2,38 per cent of the vote in 2019 as conservative—mostly white—voters abandoned the Democratic Alliance. Traditionally, the party has drawn most of its support from the Northern Cape, Free State, and Gauteng. However, the VF+ has begun making inroads into the Western Cape where it has begun attracting the support of coloured voters.

The VF+ has never led a government in South Africa, however, the party forms an integral part of numerous coalitions at municipal level throughout the entire country. The party's former leader Pieter Mulder, served as deputy minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries in Jacob Zuma's first cabinet from 2009 to 2014.

Electoral record (19)

- 1994: 2.2%
- 1999: 0.82%
- 2004: 0.89%
- 2009: 0.83%
- 2014: 0.90%
- 2019: 2.38%

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with VF+ spokesperson Wouter Wessels)

27

Economic growth and job creation

The VF+ believes prosperity cannot be created through redistributing of wealth, but rather by creating it. The party is of the view that unemployment can only be overcome and economic growth achieved by amending government policy to create a favourable environment for job creation and investments. Accordingly, the VF+ rejects Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) as it believes the policy focuses on enriching specific individuals, not on truly empowering entire communities. Instead, the party would reduce personal and company tax to stimulate investment in the economy and create more jobs. Moreover, the VF+ proposes to aid economic development by eradicating corruption and state capture; ensuring reliable electricity supply; replacing BEE with skills development and providing regulatory clarity, and policy certainty.

A unique VF+ economic policy would be the introduction of a fiscal commission, which will function independently like the South African Reserve Bank by formulating and controlling an upper limit for state expenditure. When it is reached, the fiscal commission will have the power and capacity to increase Value Added Tax (VAT) and once the risk is mitigated, the VAT rate must be decreased again.

Safety and security

The VF+ believes that the causes of poor policing must be resolved instead of merely allocating more resources to fight crime. A VF+ government would institutionalise effective policing by enforcing consequence management and professionalism in the police service. The party would crack down on illegal firearms, however, remains a steadfast supporter of legal and responsible private firearm ownership for use in self-defence, should any situation warrant such action. The VF+ would also focus on eradicating drug-trafficking in South Africa which it believes fuels gangsterism and causes thousands of murders every year.

28

To ensure convictions of criminals, the party would prioritise and enforce better cooperation between the police and the prosecuting authority to ensure arrests are followed by the successful prosecution of the offenders. The VF+ regards farm murders as a crisis and believes the mortality rate of farmers illustrates that it is more dangerous to be a farmer in South Africa than a police officer. To address this, the party would prioritise the formulation and implementation of a national rural safety plan to be implemented by police, the South Africa National Defence Force, and farmers.

Foreign affairs

The VF+ wants South Africa's foreign relations not to be determined by who supported the liberation struggle during Apartheid, but by what is most beneficial to South Africans. The party wants Africa's

development and security to play a central role in South African foreign policy, however, not to the extent that diplomatic or military influence is used to maintain governments without merit. The VF+ wishes to build foreign relations on mutual respect with preference to countries which promotes self-determination within their own borders and to countries with which South Africa has or may have strong trade relations.

Energy security

The VF+ proposes that the national electricity network be decentralised into smaller units and areas before being ultimately privatised and deregulated to the extent that enables competitiveness of various power utilities. Although the VF+ believes addressing the current electricity shortage should be the priority, the party envisions that South Africa moves away from utilising energy sources that are destructive to the environment, like coal. Moreover, it would halt any functional power station from being decommissioned if there is not a functional replacement ready to compensate for the loss in electricity generation.

The party would also prevent “skills shedding” at Eskom and appoint and retain the best technical skilled persons regardless of their ethnicity.

29

Education

The VF+ proposes to implement an educational culture where hard work, high standards, and honesty is given paramount importance. As such, the party would prohibit all forms of protest actions and marches in the immediate vicinity of schools and universities. A VF+ government would ensure teachers who are willing to work at less affluent schools will receive higher remuneration and introduce performance-based bonuses for all state educators. The party would drastically increase spending on Early Childhood Development (ECD) and transfer the responsibility of this to the department of Education from the department of Social Development. The party regards ECD as critical

and believes ECD training will improve learners' performance in school and universities, addressing the problem of a poor throughput rate. The VF+ also proposes a system of parent- and community-driven mother-tongue education and would enable any community to establish their own schools with the support of the relevant authorities.

Mineral resources

The VF+ government would scrap the mining charter in its current form since the party believes it disincentivises investment through a narrow focus on transferring mine ownership to black shareholders. The party would instead pursue a mining policy that focuses on the sector's ability to earn foreign exchange and grow the economy, while ensuring that existing mining companies rehabilitate the mines in which they operate. Furthermore, a VF+ government would incentivise and reward the processing and beneficiation of raw materials domestically, which will further grow the local economy.

30

Youth development

The VF+ believes that education, skills transfer, and equal opportunities are crucial to youth development. The party aims to address the high level of youth unemployment with a focus on critical reforms in the education system and creating a conducive environment for job creation.

Housing

The VF+ believes the best way to address the shortage of adequate housing in South Africa would be to stamp out the corruption and exploitation prevalent in the current national housing projects. The party would also provide title deeds to all beneficiaries of housing projects while at the same time, aggressively addressing the backlog of indigent

South Africans awaiting housing through strict project management. The VF+ believes that obtaining a balance between protecting land for agricultural purposes to sustain food security and the development of human settlements is crucial.

The environment and climate change

The VF+ regards climate change as a painful reality and the resulting increase in the intensity of droughts and floods is detrimental to South Africa. The party believes the solution is not only to restrict carbon emissions, but to also increase and strengthen the international agreements binding those limitations. This can be done in South Africa through the progressive pursuit of renewable energy. Moreover, the party wants the environment to be protected through the effective policing of pollution and other violations of environmental legislation, including municipal governments which it believes to be the greatest polluter of water in South Africa due to the non-maintenance of sewage plants. They would empower the Green Scorpions to pursue criminal prosecutions against polluters in all sectors of society.

31

Tourism

The VF+ believes tourism is an easy route to earning foreign currency and promoting South Africa beyond its borders. The party would ensure easy passage into South Africa for legal tourists by streamlining visa requirements. The party would seek to ensure all foreign tourists are safe and do not become victims of crime during their visits.

Immigration and xenophobia

While the VF+ regards immigration as a natural process that every country must manage, South Africa must pursue beneficial immigration where immigrants must possess knowledge and skills that are scarce

in South Africa. The VF+ believes illegal immigrants put immense pressure on already scarce resources, put unnecessary pressure on South African taxpayers, and are the root cause of xenophobia. Moreover, the VF+ believes the country's current porous borders lead to the free flow of contraband as well as legal goods without incurring tariffs to the detriment of the South African fiscus. The party would thus enforce effective border control by restoring the integrity of South Africa's borders.

LGBTIQA+ rights

The VF+ stands for equality and against all forms of discrimination. The party believes each person has the right to his or her belief system and any outlook of life should be respected.

South Africa's twelve official languages

32

The VF+ advocates the recognition and development of all South Africa's indigenous languages. It regards the fact that not all official languages are used publicly by the state which constitutes a violation of our Constitution and is detrimental to race relations. The party would prioritise the conservation and development of all twelve official languages in South Africa to ensure their usage in all higher functions of society.

Artificial intelligence

The VF+ would formulate a policy aimed at creating an enabling environment for the potential of technological innovation and advances that Artificial Intelligence (AI) creates. The party acknowledges the role of AI in modern economic activity, however, wants safeguards implemented to protect South Africa from its possible abuses without suppressing any potential gains.

Sources:

- (18) Who is the Freedom Front Plus - <https://www.vfplus.org.za/policy/#who-is-freedomfront-plus>
 - (19) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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IFP



Founded:	1975
Leader:	Velinkosini Hlabisa
Political position:	Centre right to right-wing
Ideology:	Zulu conservatism

History

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) was formed by Zulu royal prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi in 1975 as a Zulu cultural organisation. Although Buthelezi was once an ANC Youth League member, it is difficult to consider the IFP as an ANC offshoot. Buthelezi also served as the Apartheid era homeland leader of KwaZulu and the IFP was only formally launched as a political party in the 1990s amid high levels of bloodshed and violence between the IFP and the ANC in the run up to the first democratic elections of 1994. The Zulu Royal is still synonymous with the party despite him stepping down as leader in 2019 for Velinkosini Hlabisa.

In its constitution, the IFP ascribes to the values of African humanism, cultural pluralism, and political libertarianism in pursuit of federal governance and social and economic justice (20). The party styles itself as a competent political party with an accomplished track-record; having governed KwaZulu-Natal in the 1990s, currently leading several municipalities in the province as well as forming part of several municipal coalition governments nationally.

However, it must be noted that the IFP is still largely regarded as a regional party having only a handful of elected officials at provincial or municipal level outside Gauteng or KwaZulu-Natal.

After seeing its support slide from over 10 per cent in 1994 to just 2.4 per cent in 2014, the IFP rebounded in the 2019 election to 3.38 per cent as Zulu voters returned to the party after offering their support to

a Jacob Zuma led ANC and IFP offshoot the National Freedom Party from 2009 to 2019.

Electoral record (21)

- 1994: 10.54%
- 1999: 8.58%
- 2004: 6.97%
- 2009: 4.55%
- 2014: 2.40%
- 2019: 3.38%

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with party communications director Liezl van der Merwe)

Economic growth and job creation

35

The IFP's economic approach is to offer South Africans a hand-up instead of a hand-out by prioritising self-help, self-reliance, and empowering communities, particularly focusing on women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The party would also prioritise the economic wellbeing of South Africans over foreign nationals by implementing the Employment Services Amendment Bill which it introduced as a private member's bill in parliament in 2022. The legislation would regulate foreign nationals' recruitment in the economy, emphasising preference for South Africans. Local economic development is also a core focus for the IFP, addressing infrastructure, water, electricity, roads, and fibre projects. Priorities include localisation, skills enhancement for youth, Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMME) development, and inclusive economic growth. Overall, the IFP champions an inclusive economy to uplift families, reduce inequality, and fulfil national aspirations. The party's

emphasis is on encouraging foreign direct investment, public-private partnerships, and sector-specific development for job creation and economic empowerment.

Safety and security

The IFP's ideology on safety and security emphasises the dual assurance of both perceived and tangible safety for South Africans. Practically, the party proposes investing in community policing forums, establishing additional law enforcement units, and military deployment in crime-prone areas. A comprehensive overhaul of the justice system includes the creation of municipal courts and municipal police services. The IFP proposes professionalising the SAPS and decentralised policing powers. Judicial reforms involve increased minimum sentences with hard labour, judiciary independence, and a national debate on reinstating the death penalty. Border security measures include deploying the South African National Defence Force and empowering traditional leadership in dispute settlements.

36

Foreign affairs

The IFP maintains a foreign affairs policy that centres on diplomacy, regional cooperation, and a commitment to enhance the country's international standing. The party advocates for robust diplomatic engagement with neighbouring nations and global partners, emphasising peaceful conflict resolution and a collaborative approach to address shared challenges. The IFP supports South Africa's involvement in regional peacekeeping missions and economic partnerships with neighbouring countries, seeking to bolster regional stability and economic prosperity. Their foreign affairs policy aims to foster positive relationships with other nations, contributing to a peaceful and secure international environment while promoting South Africa's interests on the global stage.

Energy security

The IFP energy policy commits to providing electricity to homes and businesses to secure economic activity. The party identifies the energy crisis as a national emergency and an IFP government would bring together the private sector, civil society, academia, and foreign experts to come up with broad-based, innovative solutions to the country's energy challenges. Initial energy policies advocate for swift deregulation and decentralisation, urging private entities and citizens to embrace self-generation and contribute to the grid. Emphasising South Africa's solar potential, the party proposes converting solar resources into power, promoting solar geysers, and supporting local community energy initiatives. An IFP government would also immediately shift South Africa's reliance on fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, biomass, and small-scale hydroelectric plants.

Education

37

The IFP regards education as a tool for empowerment, focusing their policy on registering more Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres, constructing sports fields, providing bursaries for needy learners and students as the cornerstone of their education policies.

In keeping with the IFP's federal approach to governance, the party believes the provision and management of education should be a provincial competence.

The party aims to raise literacy, numeracy, and technical skills while promoting pluralism in education through community initiatives. The IFP advocates provincial competence, with provinces managing schools and colleges, supporting tertiary autonomy. Financing education involves state budgets, private sector contributions, and a redress fund for disadvantaged communities. Teacher quality improvement, discipline promotion, and a shift towards technical and vocational education are key priorities. The IFP supports targeted funding for post-

matric education, multilingual education, and compulsory English as a second language.

Mineral resources

The IFP advocates for responsible mining practices that consider both environmental preservation and equitable wealth distribution. The party would implement revenue-sharing agreements with local communities where mining takes place to ensure that the benefits of industry reach those most affected by its operations. The IFP also wants more beneficiation of mineral resources to take place locally and would enforce the processing and refining of raw materials within the country. The party would also pass stricter environmental regulations to mitigate the adverse impacts of mining on the environment and to safeguard natural resources.

38

Youth development

The IFP advocates for comprehensive youth development through skills training, mentorship, and financial support for youth-led businesses to combat high youth unemployment. The party believes in empowering the youth within their structures and have a policy of appointing members of the IFP youth brigade to all decision-making bodies within the party and where they govern. IFP governed municipalities provide bursaries for learners and students to enhance access to education opportunities.

Housing

IFP housing policies prioritise efficient and equitable allocation of quality human settlements. The party focuses on enhancing citizen proximity to workplaces and amenities through better spatial planning, upgrading transport infrastructure, and sustained road maintenance.

They advocate for housing support centres, dignified housing units, and community reinvestment of project profits. To ensure accountability, the IFP emphasises involving youth and women in construction, maintaining quality standards, punishing subpar contractors, and combating corruption in housing waiting lists. The goal is to build integrated community housing, especially in informal settlements and improve access to low-cost subsidised housing.

The environment and climate change

The IFP's official policy approach on the environment reflects an acknowledgment of climate change as a real and pressing issue while advocating for comprehensive legislative and regulatory controls across various sectors to protect the environment. The party endorses international conventions for sustainable development and emphasises the need for a national environmental protection strategy, integrating development and conservation priorities. The IFP calls for well-resourced provincial environmental departments and active promotion of environmental education at all government levels. They stress shared responsibility for environmental safeguarding, particularly at local and provincial levels, emphasising human resource development within traditional structures, local government, and provincial legislatures to ensure effective environmental management.

39

Tourism

The IFP would invest in tourism infrastructure and direct the South African Police Services (SAPS) to keep tourists safe while visiting South Africa. The party also emphasises the importance of rural tourism and affordable domestic travel in growing the local tourist market. An IFP government would offer tourism enterprises tax incentives and access to finance. The IFP also advocates collaboration with the Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture to lure more major sporting and cultural events to the country.

Immigration and xenophobia

The IFP regards South Africa's immigration challenges as a national crisis and proposes comprehensive reforms, such as bolstering the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) internal enforcement capacity and urgently restoring border infrastructure. The party highlights the need for a robust immigration inspector force, currently at 700, proposing a tenfold increase to efficiently manage the crisis and the introduction of refugee processing centres at all borders. Additionally, the IFP suggests granting an amnesty period for foreign nationals to regularise their stay and revalidate visas while prioritising the documentation of undocumented individuals. While condemning xenophobia and calling for the upholding of human rights, the party also supports regulating foreign ownership in specific industries and reserving entry-level jobs for South Africans.

40

LGBTIQA+ rights

The IFP approaches LGBTIQA+ rights with a vision of promoting inclusivity while respecting cultural and religious values. The party advocates for open dialogue and education campaigns to raise awareness and foster understanding of LGBTIQA+ issues within South Africa. They prioritise the safety of the LGBTIQA+ community through dedicated funding for crime prevention and support for victims of homophobic violence.

South Africa's twelve official languages

The IFP places significant emphasis on the preservation and inclusivity of the country's twelve official languages, recognising that South Africa is a linguistically plural society. An IFP government would increase funding and support for language education programmes that aim to promote linguistic diversity and proficiency among South Africans. The party

would increase funding for multilingualism in government, ensuring that citizens can not only access public services in their preferred languages, but that children should be educated in the language of their first choice.

However, the IFP recognises that South Africa forms part of the global community in which English is widely spoken and would make English a compulsory subject at primary and secondary level. A second language, which is widely spoken in a particular community, region or province would also be made compulsory.

Artificial intelligence

The IFP does not have an official policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI), however, recognises the transformative potential of the digital economy. An IFP government would create free public Wi-Fi hubs to get everyone in the country connected to the Internet.

Sources:

- (20) Constitution of the Inkatha Freedom Party - <https://www.ifp.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Our-Constitution.pdf>
 - (21) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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ACDP



Founded:	1993
Leader:	Reverend Kenneth Meshoe
Political position:	Centre right
Ideology:	Christian conservatism

History

42 The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) constitution speaks of a Christian party founded on biblical principles wanting to deliver a civil government of trust and integrity, based on peace, security, personal freedom, national unity, and reconciliation (22). The party believes that healthy families should be the foundation of a South African society driven by traditional values. Recently, the party has strongly opposed the mandate of Covid-19 vaccinations, attempting to halt it in court and has called for South Africa to withdraw from all World Health Organisation (WHO) protocol. The party draws the bulk of its support from the Western Cape, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal, however, is represented at a municipal level in all provinces.

Although quadrupling its support from the 1994 to 2004 national elections, the ACDP has swung between 0.8 per cent and 0.4 per cent since 2009, regaining some lost ground in 2019. However, the ACDP has formed part of many coalition governments across the country having occupied the Deputy Mayor's post in Cape Town as well as several Member of Mayoral Committee (MMC) positions in Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, Mogale City, and Nelson Mandela Bay.

Electoral record (23)

- 1994: 0.45%
- 1999: 1.43%

- 2004: 1.60%
- 2009: 0.81%
- 2014: 0.57%
- 2019: 0.84%

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with party communications director Joshua Meshoe)

Economic growth and job creation

The ACDP strives to create a conducive environment for economic growth by removing structural obstacles in the economy and better link business, education, and training to produce skills that are needed in South Africa.

The party will also deal swiftly with corruption in all sectors, since the ACDP believes corruption ultimately steals from the poor, the marginalised, and the impoverished. The ACDP government would reduce red tape and relax labour laws without compromising the health and safety and the well-being of workers.

43

Safety and security

To make South Africa safer, the ACDP would implement an anti-crime strategy ensuring criminals are swiftly arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced; review political appointments, promotions, and qualifications in the SAPS, the National Prosecuting Association, the Hawks, and other sectors of the criminal justice system as well as expedite outstanding disciplinary and criminal proceedings against any public servants accused of corruption.

The party would reintroduce specialised police units and strengthen the training of police officers and prosecutors to ensure investigations result in successful prosecutions.

Foreign affairs

The ACDP believes South Africa's foreign affairs policy must seek to uphold the sovereignty of all legitimately established and internationally recognised nation-states. An ACDP government would prioritise diplomacy and dialogue over war, including trade wars. The party would also foster bilateral and multilateral relations to safeguard South Africa's economic interests and ensure all embassies are well-resourced, both administratively and technically, to perform this function and to provide strong support for citizens abroad.

Energy security

The ACDP regards energy security as critical to South Africa's economic and social advancement as well as being key to service delivery. As such, the party will prioritise energy security with the goal of making electricity available, affordable, and accessible to all South Africans to improve service delivery. It believes in a combination of renewable energy and fossil fuels for the country's energy mix. The ACDP would also ensure all critical skill positions at Eskom be filled based on merit.

44

Education

The ACDP's vision is to realise a South Africa in which everyone has access to quality basic education in safe and well-maintained facilities with parents playing a central role in the education of their children. The party would ensure all schools have a pupil to teacher ratio of 1 to 25, while reintroducing school inspectors to maintain norms and standards. The ACDP would also ensure teacher salaries are competitive and fair to attract skills to the sector. The party would refocus tertiary education and vocational training to better cater for skills shortages in the economy.

Mineral resources

An ACDP government would capitalise on South Africa's status as a leading mineral producer in Africa by providing policy certainty and unleashing investment. The ACDP would grow the beneficiation sector by boosting South Africa's industrial capacity through grants and tax breaks. This would be complemented by embarking on a technical skill drive to ensure the requisite trained workers are available to the mining sector. The party would also aggressively tackle infrastructure bottlenecks in the country, particularly railways.

Youth development

In addressing the pressing issue of youth unemployment, the ACDP proposes implementing a comprehensive strategy focusing on education and vocational training. The party emphasises the need for a symbiotic relationship between businesses and educational institutions in this regard—so that tertiary institutions train young people for jobs needed in the economy. Accordingly, an ACDP government would set up strategic funding for degrees and diplomas that align with the demands of the job market. Additionally, the ACDP advocates for the reinstatement of apprenticeship programmes, offering tax incentives to businesses actively engaged in providing training. To further incentivise youth employment, the party proposes the creation of a dedicated fund to support businesses willing to employ young, unskilled workers.

45

Housing

The ACDP proposes a multifaceted approach to address South Africa's severe housing shortage. The party would establish an open, transparent, and fair housing waiting list. An ACDP government would also provide serviced sites for people to construct their own homes, encouraging a collaborative "sweat equity" approach where basic building skills can

be acquired by the unemployed. The ACDP would also pursue joint solutions between first-time buyers and financial service providers to ensure more South Africans qualify for home loans. An ACDP government would also offer incentives to financial institutions to reduce the capital amount required for purchasing a house.

The environment and climate change

The ACDP accepts climate change as a reality and recognises the importance of preserving the environment for current and future generations. However, the party emphasises collective responsibility among all citizens in being custodians of the planet, advocating for individual actions that protect and enhance the environment, waterways, and biodiversity. Accordingly, the ACDP rejects carbon taxes as the sole solution for environmental protection, instead endorsing ongoing engagement and education with communities as priorities in safeguarding the planet.

46

Tourism

To rejuvenate the tourism sector, the ACDP proposes a legislative overhaul on immigration and tourism, aiming to enhance sector benefits. The party advocates for streamlined processing of tourist visas, prioritising efficiency, especially for visitors from the African continent. An ACDP government would also deploy more police within the tourism sector, specifically to ensure the safety of visitors. Additionally, the party aims to promote inclusivity by involving local communities and previously marginalised groups in the tourism industry.

Immigration and xenophobia

The ACDP rejects xenophobia wholeheartedly and believes South Africa has a responsibility to protect all vulnerable groups who have fled their

countries to preserve their lives because of war or political violence.

However, the party believes the protection and provision of sanctuary to refugees cannot operate without effective legislation. The party would pass emergency immigration legislation and enforce the documentation of all immigrants to prevent the competing of scarce resources in South Africa.

An ACDP government would prioritise proper manning of borders and immigration posts to prevent criminals and drug and human traffickers from entering South Africa.

LGBTIQA+ rights

An ACDP government would guarantee that all South Africans will be afforded the protection and rights as envisioned in our constitution. However, the party argues there must be an appreciation of all different world views, cultural, linguistic, and religious within South Africa.

In this spirit, the ACDP rejects the imposition of opposing lifestyles and world views on the religious sector. While the party does not condone LGBTIQA+ lifestyles, it also will not tolerate any acts of violence or discrimination against these groups.

47

South Africa's twelve official languages

The ACDP recognises the rich diversity of cultures, religions, tribes, ethnicities, and languages in South Africa. The party would enact a language policy that ensures equal and meaningful access to education, emphasising instruction in the mother tongue, especially during the formative years of learners.

Artificial intelligence

The ACDP acknowledges the debate raging over the positive or negative use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), recognising the risk to the creative

industries and potential for a spike in unemployment in a low-skill dominated economy, such as South Africa. An ACDP government would enact legislation to promote the beneficial use of AI and penalise its inappropriate use.

Sources:

- (22) ACDP constitution <https://www.acdp.org.za/constitution>
 - (23) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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UDM



Founded:	1997
Leader:	Bantu Holomisa
Political position:	Centre left
Ideology:	Social democracy

History

The United Democratic Movement (UDM) is the first democratic era spinoff of the African National Congress (ANC). It was founded by former Transkei homeland leader Bantu Holomisa after his expulsion from the ANC following his allegations of Apartheid era corruption against senior party members at the Truth and Reconciliation commission in the 1990s. Former National Party leader Roelf Meyer was the party's first elected deputy president in 1998 before leaving the UDM in 2000. The UDM constitution styles the party as a multiracial political home for all South Africans based on the principles of good governance and civil order (24).

After a strong showing of 3,4 per cent in its first election in 1999, the UDM's support at a national level has declined to just 0,45 per cent in 2019. It continues to draw most of its support from the Eastern Cape, although the party has managed to draw some votes from the electorate in the Western Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Limpopo. Although open to coalitions, the UDM has stated, the only chance for South Africa's political survival is multiparty democracy.

Electoral record (25)

- 1999: 3.42%
- 2004: 2.28%
- 2009: 0.85%

- 2014: 1.00%
- 2019: 0.45%

Positions

(Source: Interview with UDM president Bantu Holomisa)

Economic growth and job creation

The UDM believes economic growth is dependent on political stability and steady industrial relations. Accordingly, the party will enforce greater cooperation between government, big businesses, and labour unions by ensuring all three pursue a common vision for prosperity. The party wants government to be the primary leader of the economy in terms of focused investing and state intervention to prevent monopolies and foster competition. The UDM will incentivise big businesses to invest in remote areas of the country by introducing tax incentives for industrial parks in all provinces. Small to medium enterprises will receive their own tax breaks based on the amount of employment entrepreneurs create. Moreover, the UDM will clamp down on crime to ensure a safe and secure environment for investment and trade.

50

Safety and security

A UDM government will immediately institute a skills audit within the police, defence, state security, and justice sectors. Any individual guilty of non-performance will be fired and those facing corruption allegations will be suspended without pay until the conclusion of their investigations. The party believes the South African Police Service should not address crime with more violence, but with internationally recognised policing methods founded on anti-crime initiatives and supported by intelligence.

The UDM, however, believes it is impossible to sustainably address crime without simultaneously addressing the high levels of unemployment and poverty in South Africa.

Foreign affairs

The UDM emphasises a foreign policy based on international cooperation, diplomacy, and regional stability. The party supports active involvement in African and global affairs, advocating for peace, human rights, and economic partnerships, while promoting non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

Energy security

The UDM wants to pursue a balanced energy mix of coal, nuclear, wind, and gas that will holistically meet South Africa's energy needs based on all available resources. The party does not want South Africa to blindly adhere to international demands to reduce greenhouse gases, however, do so gradually to not throttle energy intensive industrial activities.

The UDM believes energy transmission and storage infrastructure is critical to South Africa's energy future that will be inclusive of fossil fuels and renewable energy.

Education

The UDM proposes to urgently convene a CODESA style summit on education to map out the most appropriate and sustainable education curriculum for South Africa. This new fit for purpose education curriculum must include practical skills to ensure that when each learner leaves school, they should be able to start their own business or drive a motor vehicle.

The party also proposes to refocus efforts on artisanal and apprenticeship training to ensure learners not academically inclined,

have a path and livelihood. There is a need to invest more with regards to producing trade persons.

Mineral resources

The UDM would institute an audit of all mineral resources in South Africa to establish what mineral deposits are in development, are dormant and who is benefitting from the current mining regime. The UDM rejects calls for absolute nationalisation or private ownership until this is established.

However, the UDM believes in the strategic ownership of minerals and their production by the state. The party wants all mining operations to benefit the entire economy through skills development and beneficiation instead of the export of raw minerals.

Youth development

52

The UDM wants youth development to be the cornerstone of all government activities. All South African youth should register into a skills development and deployment database created to access internships and employment opportunities. As a result, every eighteen- to 35-year-old citizen in South Africa should be in some form of development and/or training if unemployed. The party also believes youth should be incentivised to create enterprises in industries lacking youth involvement, like agriculture and manufacturing.

Housing

The UDM believes the poorest of the poor should be provided with housing, however, instead of building houses—they should be given land with access to water and electricity. This would be supplemented by subsidies and tax incentives to assist the poor to build their own housing. Moreover, the party believes all potential communities should

have access to socioeconomic opportunities before they are developed. The UDM would also negotiate with banks to ensure lending processes are free, fair, and equitable.

The environment and climate change

The UDM accepts climate change and believes South Africa has a serious role to play in pursuing carbon neutrality as the main industrial power in Africa. However, the reduction of emissions must not be placed on South Africa's shoulders alone, and all decisions must be made in line with the country's economic development needs. The party foresees each municipality being equipped with the necessary resources to deal with climate emergencies. All movable infrastructure and equipment in this regard should be stored at the nearest military base to prevent theft and vandalism.

Tourism

53

The UDM believes tourism is a money-making machine that could easily benefit millions of the unemployed and budding entrepreneurs. The party would demand law enforcement agencies to deliver a crime free experience for all visitors. The party would also introduce norms and standards for accommodation and tourism services for more communities to take advantage of tourism's revenue generating potential.

South African National Parks (SANPARKS) should be strengthened to celebrate the country's flora and fauna and protect it from poachers. Tourism should also be added to the national education curriculum from a primary school level.

Immigration and xenophobia

The UDM calls for the acceptance of immigration as an unavoidable reality of the modern world and for a pragmatic approach to draw in the necessary critical human resources South Africa needs to develop. However, the party rejects illegal immigration and illegal immigrants should be treated like any criminal if they refuse to regularise their stay within the borders of South Africa. A UDM government would introduce a federal immigration system for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to ensure the free flow of people.

LGBTIQA+ rights

The UDM believes in the constitutional right of people to choose their own sexual identity—if it is within the realms of the law. The party supports the personal right enshrined in the constitution to sexual and reproductive freedom and the choice to be with whoever the individual chooses, must be allowed. However, rights should not in any way, shape or form be abused.

54

South Africa's twelve official languages

The UDM calls for all South Africans to celebrate the country's diversity and their personal identity. Accordingly, the party encourages individuals to practice and promote their language and culture to foster understanding and appreciation among all South Africa's people.

Artificial intelligence

The UDM would provide wholesale free access to the Internet, recognising the crucial role it plays in adapting to the Fourth Industrial Revolution and harnessing the benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI). A

UDM government would immediately allocate and release new 4G and 5G spectrum and complete South Africa's digital migration within 90 days.

Sources:

- (24) United Democratic Movement constitution - https://udm.org.za/ud/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/@Constitution_UDM_2001_2010.pdf
 - (25) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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GOOD



Founded:	2018
Leader:	Patricia de Lille
Political position:	Centre left
Ideology:	Liberal social democracy

History

The GOOD party was formed in 2018 by political veteran Patricia de Lille after her resignation as mayor of Cape Town amid in-fighting in the DA and allegations of maladministration. The party's constitution commits GOOD to building a more equitable South Africa based on the values and principles of social democracy to address inequality and exclusion (26). It pursues a policy platform of environmentalism, anti-racism, and Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment. The party's stronghold is the Western Cape and mainly draws support from the coloured community.

56

GOOD is the second political party founded by De Lille after leaving the Pan African Congress (PAC) in 2003 to form the Independent Democrats (ID) which merged with the DA in 2010. As such, GOOD has somewhat of an electoral record, with the ID scoring seven and four seats in the national assembly after the 2004 and 2009 national elections respectively. Currently, the party only holds two seats in parliament after winning just 0.4 per cent of votes in the 2019 election. Nonetheless, De Lille still looms large on the political scene after being appointed to Cyril Ramaphosa's cabinet, first as public works minister and more recently as minister of tourism.

Electoral record (27)

- 2004: 1.7%
- 2009: 0.9%
- 2019: 0.4%

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with party secretary-general Brett Herron)

Economic growth and job creation

GOOD's approach to the South African economy is to pursue inclusive growth to reduce government debt and drive job creation. This would be accomplished primarily through the ramping up of state investment in large scale infrastructure which it regards as the best opportunity for job creating and economic growth. The party, however, is mindful that the country's economic recovery will not be immediate. Accordingly, GOOD wants to combine their infrastructure investment approach with the immediate introduction of a R999 monthly Basic Income Grant.

57

Safety and security

GOOD rejects heavy handed policing and wants to build safer communities by holistically addressing the root causes of crime. The party wants to overhaul the criminal justice system, but also meaningfully tackle poverty, inequality, mental health, and addiction. GOOD will also drive investment in public infrastructure to address the Apartheid era social disparities found in the most dangerous communities.

Foreign affairs

GOOD intends to pursue South Africa's existing policy of non-alignment and multilateralism to create a less western-centric international system that is better designed to ensure fairness of influence and outcomes at the international level. However, this must be done with full respect to international law. The party believes that through this non-alignment, South Africa can continue to support and facilitate the resolution of international conflict—specifically on the African continent.

Energy security

GOOD rejects carbon intensive energy sources, particularly coal, in South Africa's energy mix and believes renewable energy is the only sustainable and long-term solution to secure South Africa's energy supply. To end load shedding, the party believes the country's transmission grid must be rapidly upgraded and maintained before government urgently enters public/private partnerships to rapidly procure renewable energy. GOOD would also immediately remove barriers and incentivise large scale private sector renewable power generation. This would be combined with the rolling out of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programme for property owners to financially assist in converting to solar energy.

58

Education

GOOD believes education is a national emergency and is arguably the greatest failure of the democratic era. The party would ensure that all children enter formal education at least at Grade 1 level and that the standard of teaching and learning infrastructure is the same in wealthy communities as in poorer communities. GOOD also supports free basic and tertiary education for the financially disadvantaged.

Mineral resources

GOOD regards South Africa's mineral resources as the property of the country's people and as such, society must be compensated appropriately for their extraction. However, this does not equate to nationalisation, but rather better exploit the government revenue earned from mining. For example, the party would allocate mining royalties directly to the funding of their proposed R999 Basic Income Grant.

Youth development

GOOD believes South Africa's youth are rapidly becoming disenchanted with the country's politics and democratic system. To remedy this, the party would focus on skills development by providing access to high-quality education and vocational training to all South Africa's youth. GOOD would also refocus the country's political discourse to issues of "generational justice" that are important to this generation, such as climate change, LGBTQIA+ acceptance, and mental health.

59

Housing

One of GOOD's founding principles is the right to housing and spatial justice and the party believes everyone has a right to safe and affordable housing. A GOOD government would provide housing to those unable to access it through their own means. The party believes public land should be used for public good and would enact well-located affordable and public housing programmes to end the Apartheid legacy of housing poorer people on the outskirts of cities where they have great difficulty in accessing economic opportunities. GOOD would also urgently resolve land tenure for informal settlement dwellers.

The environment and climate change

GOOD accepts the science of climate change and that global warming presents an existential threat to humanity that must be met with a radical and urgent response. The party will ensure South Africa plays its part in tackling climate change by pursuing a 100 per cent renewable energy mix and completely reject fossil fuels. The party would also accelerate the infrastructure development needed to run electric vehicles in South Africa. Moreover, GOOD wants wealthier developed countries to directly fund this transition to renewable energy in South Africa and other developing nations.

Tourism

The GOOD party would prioritise investment in destination marketing and ensure ease of access for foreign visitors with streamlined visa processes. A GOOD government would also invest heavily in tourism infrastructure especially in rural areas to ensure tourism's potential to foster small business development and address unemployment across the country.

60

Immigration and xenophobia

GOOD identifies an urgent need to combat anti-immigrant rhetoric, fuelled by right-wing populist parties in South Africa as the party believes it breeds xenophobic violence in the country. Practically, this would involve community outreach programmes to conscientize South Africans. A GOOD-led government would guarantee immigration is policed to prevent illegal and unchecked immigration.

LGBTIQA+ rights

GOOD would enact legislation that further entrenches existing constitutional rights of freedom of sexuality and expression. Hence, seeking to create a society where people of sexual and gender minorities can live happily and freely without any fear of how they choose to love.

South Africa's twelve official languages

The GOOD party recognises the constitutional and cultural rights of all languages in South Africa and would ensure that all languages not only be afforded equal rights in law, but in practice too.

Artificial intelligence

The GOOD party advocates for responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and proposes legislation against its harmful weaponisation, particularly in spreading misinformation, sedition, or promoting biases. To address potential job displacement, the party emphasises enhanced training and skills development in the tech sector. Additionally, GOOD's introduction of a Basic Income Grant would further mitigate against the potential increase in unskilled unemployment that AI could deliver.

61

Sources:

- (26) GOOD party constitution - <https://forgood.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Good-Movement-Constitution-As-Amended-28-Nov-2022.pdf>
 - (27) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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PAC



Founded:	1959
Leader:	Mzwanele Nyhontso
Political position:	Centre left to left-wing
Ideology:	African socialism

History

The Pan African Congress (PAC) is the first ever breakaway from the ANC after Robert Sobukwe left in 1959 protesting the ANC's multi-racial approach to fighting the struggle. The PAC's mission and vision are to unite and rally all African people into one national front under the banner of African nationalism (28). The party's goal is the establishment of the United States of Africa that will be open to all African nations around the world and be governed through Africanist socialist democracy.

62

While playing a significant role in the country's liberation history, the PAC has enjoyed meagre success in the democratic era with its strongest showing at the polls being in 1994 with 1,25 per cent of the vote. The party has since been tainted by in-fighting and succession battles with several spin-off parties splintering from the PAC.

Electoral record (29)

- 1994: 1.25%
- 1999: 0.50%
- 2004: 0.20%
- 2009: 0.27%
- 2014: 0.21%
- 2019: 0.19%

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with PAC spokesperson Simthandile Tyhali)

Economic growth and development

The PAC believes in a state planned economy meaning all investment, production, and economic activity should be in line with a state vision of equitable distribution of wealth. In government, the party would assume primary responsibility for job creation and not the private sector, implementing affirmative action policies to level the playing field for communities historically disadvantaged by Apartheid. The PAC would also introduce a basic income grant and exempt police officers, soldiers, educators, and nurses from paying income tax.

Safety and security

63

The PAC regards social cohesion as being a foundation of safety and security in the country and the party believes that social cohesion is impossible with high levels of inequality. Therefore, they would pursue a stable Africanist developmental state to address the country's economic issues to address its security issues. A PAC government will invest heavily in South Africa's military for the protection and defence of the country's territory and to promote peace and stability on the African continent. Key to this would be the PAC's introduction of a Southern African Development Community (SADC) standby force to be deployed as and when necessary.

Foreign affairs

The PAC favours a radical, anti-imperialist stance in its approach towards foreign affairs. The party emphasises solidarity with other African nations

and advocates for a unified and borderless African continent, opposing western influence. Along with proposing the collapse of borders to guarantee free movement of people and goods across the continent, a PAC government would prioritise diplomatic engagement to resolve conflicts and promote peace among African nations, while also investing in infrastructure projects that enhance continental connectivity.

Energy security

The PAC regards a stable energy supply as critical to their hopes for a state-run economy and rapid industrialisation. A PAC government would pursue an energy mix that includes renewable energy and fossil fuels—leveraging off existing sources, like coal as the nation’s energy base-loads in the short term while nuclear, solar, and wind energy is further developed. However, the PAC believes all energy provision in South Africa should not be detrimental to the environment in the long term.

64

Education

The PAC believes in the principle that education is not just a right, but a social necessity for any country to prosper. Therefore, the party would provide free education from the Early Childhood Development (ECD) to PhD level. The party would also abolish private education to create one schooling system that is universally funded by government and is responsive to the needs of the South African economy.

Mineral resources

The PAC would establish a state-owned mining company to act as the custodian and owner of all mineral resources in South Africa. No mining licenses would be offered to private entities. All profits earned from this sector would be directed to the public purse.

Youth development

A PAC-led government would enact legislation, making it a legal requirement to include young people in decision-making processes at various levels of government and industry. The party would also establish mentorship programmes where experienced individuals guide and support the youth in the public and private sector.

Housing

A PAC government would amend section 25 of the constitution to enable more state control of land and create sustainable communities to destroy the legacy of Apartheid spatial planning. The party would provide homes to the poor in communities that are well serviced and have access to opportunities in order not to reproduce existing townships, while providing affordable housing to the working class and young professionals in inner-cities.

65

The environment and climate change

The PAC recognises climate change and regards it as a product of western imperialism, where developed nations should pay reparations for the damage they have caused to the planet. However, the party would pursue policies to ensure South Africa plays its part in lowering global temperatures. Key to this would be an aggressive reforestation programme. The PAC would also mandate state-owned arms manufacturer Denel to develop environmentally friendly commercial vehicles.

Tourism

A PAC government would focus their efforts on developing sustainable rural tourism. The party proposes a pilot project, using the Wild Coast

corridor, to demonstrate the significant potential of this approach. The party proposes to leverage tourism as a catalyst for broader economic development, particularly in underdeveloped areas, fostering job creation and showcasing the country's unique attractions to grow the sector and its potential. The PAC would also improve visa processes for all tourists from the African continent.

Immigration and xenophobia

The PAC advocates for fighting xenophobia by advancing pan-African integration, economic cooperation, and African unity. The party pledges to strengthen the African Free Trade Agreement, viewing Africa's growth and development as best achieved through unity rather than fragmentation.

LGBTIQA+ rights

66

The PAC advocates for the holistic development of all individuals and groups, recognising and safeguarding their social, political, economic, and spiritual needs. A PAC-led government would further strengthen rights to freedom of expression in the constitutions, asserting that every person is best equipped to determine their needs, with the state serving a protective role.

The party would conduct community programmes to conscientize South Africans that LGBTIQA+ issues are African, acknowledging the importance of accommodating diverse spiritualities within the African context.

South Africa's twelve official languages

The PAC advocates for the comprehensive development of the twelve official South African languages—in particular indigenous African languages. A PAC government would seek to elevate the academic and

scientific standards of indigenous African languages to an international level. This would be achieved by establishing these languages as respected mediums of communication within South Africa's academic and scientific institutions as a precursor of their development on the global stage.

Artificial intelligence

The PAC does not have an official policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI). However, if elected to government, the party would ensure all public libraries have free high-speed Internet access as well as set up free Wi-Fi zones in disadvantaged communities.

Sources:

- (28) PAC constitution - <https://pac.org.za/2000-constitution/>
 - (29) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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COPE

Founded:	2008
Leader:	Mosiuoa Lekota
Political position:	Centre left
Ideology:	Liberal social democracy



History

The Congress of the People (COPE) is another ANC breakaway formed in 2008 by former Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and former Gauteng Premier Mbhazima Shilowa after the rise of Jacob Zuma as party leader and the demise of Thabo Mbeki as State President. The party's constitution describes COPE as centrist and non-racist and committed to the values of freedom, equality, and solidarity (30). It promotes itself as a reliable, accountable, and incorruptible political alternative. In the party's early years, it seemed to be a winning formula as the party enjoyed significant success in the 2009 general election with over 7 per cent of the vote, securing 30 seats in parliament. However, the party has been wracked by infighting and has been in terminal decline ever since. Shilowa was expelled from the party in 2011 and Lekota is currently disputed as leader by a significant membership of the party. In the 2019 ballot, COPE only mustered 0,27 per cent of the vote and two seats in the national assembly.

68

Electoral record (31)

- 2009: 7.42%
- 2014: 0.67%
- 2019: 0.27%

Positions

(Source: Interview with party leader Mosiuoa Lekota)

Economic growth and job creation

COPE advocates for inclusive economic development policies that prioritise job creation, poverty alleviation, and social equality. The party believes borrowing to fund government programmes forces the country into a perpetual debt cycle and prevents South Africa from reaching its full potential. A COPE government would crack down on corruption as the first step in balancing the budget while investing in infrastructure—especially in rural and underdeveloped areas—and offering tax breaks to companies to create jobs and upskill the unemployed. The party also wants to create more entrepreneurs by offering grants to anyone wanting to start a business.

Safety and security

COPE wants to depoliticise the police and intelligence services as part of establishing and maintaining a professional civil service. A COPE government would require that national and other police commissioners possess suitable qualifications, experience, and skills in relevant fields before their appointment. The party would also establish an independent anti-corruption team to investigate corrupt practices and organised crime without fear or favour. COPE would also enact legislation to establish maximum sentences for drug trafficking and the killing of endangered wildlife species.

Foreign affairs

COPE's foreign affairs policy revolves around a human rights-based approach, aiming to restore South Africa's international standing and regain trust and respect. A COPE-led government would use international relations as a force for progressive change, advocating for a stronger South Africa, a progressive Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, a better Africa, and a more humane world. Practically, they would focus on enhancing cooperation with all African countries to accelerate continental development and address challenges, such as poverty and conflict through expanded trade.

Energy security

COPE's energy policy is to introduce competition, diversity, and increase generation in the sector with the first step being the unbundling of Eskom, leaving it only with a distribution function. A COPE government would aggressively invest in rooftop solar for industries and businesses while retrofitting coal-fired power stations to utilise solar energy. The party would also provide free solar panels to informal settlements to enable residents to access free electricity for cooking, lighting, and other basic needs.

Education

COPE's education policies focus on enhancing the quality of educators and improving the overall education system. A COPE government would reintroduce education colleges for new educators and continuous professional development programmes to existing educators to provide practical training alongside theoretical work, ensuring they are well-equipped and confident in teaching their subjects and keep pace with the rapid changes in education. The party would also enforce continuous performance monitoring to ensure sustainable quality in

the South African education system. COPE would scrap the minimum pass rate of 30 per cent and introduce aptitude tests in Grade 9 to guide learners in selecting suitable subjects in Grade 10 for a more successful career path. Additionally, COPE would open state-run Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in townships and rural areas.

Mineral resources

COPE acknowledges the historical role the mining industry played in the development of South Africa and wants the future potential and growth of the industry to be shared more equitably. Accordingly, a COPE-led government would ring-fence tax revenue earned from the mining sector to fund youth development programmes. The party would also enforce the use of solar energy in all existing and new mining operations to reduce the environmental impact of the sector.

Youth development

COPE intends strengthening existing youth service programmes and introducing new initiatives for marginalised young people. A COPE-led government would provide life skills training and entrepreneurship training in secondary school to enable meaningful participation in the economy. The party would also encourage and incentivise companies to employ young first-time workers to gain experience and enhance their employment potential.

Housing

COPE would rapidly expand accessibility to housing, with particular attention to the poor, youth, disabled, and those in rural and informal settlement communities. The party would repurpose unutilised state-owned land for housing development. A COPE-led government would provide a mix of complete housing units and serviced plots. All new developments would be founded close to jobs and economic services.

The environment and climate change

COPE's environmental and climate change policies are characterised by a commitment to stimulate the green economy and active community involvement in addressing climate change. The party advocates for sound environmental practices, emphasising recycling and sustainability. COPE supports organic farming to replenish depleted soils and safeguard consumers and the environment. To address climate change, the party proposes the progressive reduction of carbon emissions through interventions like tax incentives and aligning with international commitments. Furthermore, COPE promotes radical community-wide programmes to raise awareness on climate change and empower individuals to initiate efforts that contribute to mitigating its effects.

Tourism

72

COPE would invest in tourism infrastructure in rural areas to grow the potential of tourism to provide jobs and growth in undeveloped areas. The party would prioritise women and youth in the sector for support through mentoring, micro-loans, and other state assistance.

Immigration and xenophobia

COPE rejects xenophobia as un-African and blames uncontrolled migration for its spread through South Africa. Accordingly, a COPE-led government would protect and control borders and ports of entry to enforce orderly, controlled, lawful, and documented movement of people and goods and protect the economy. The party also advocates for the social integration of refugees and migrants to combat intolerance.

LGBTIQ+ rights

COPE acknowledges and upholds the constitutional rights of the LGBTIQ+ communities. The party advocates for the regular monitoring and protection of vulnerable groups in both rural and urban areas. A COPE-led government would also work with churches and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to establish community centres to provide ongoing education and address issues affecting the LGBTIQ+ community and other vulnerable groups.

South Africa's twelve official languages

COPE rejects the marginalisation of any language for political reasons. The party would introduce state-wide programmes to promote the development of all languages, encouraging their extensive use in education, commerce, law, culture, and society with the primary goal of ensuring learners are taught in their mother tongue during the first three years of primary school.

73

Artificial intelligence

COPE acknowledges that Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents significant opportunities for the advancement of South Africa's people—especially the youth. The party would focus on preparing learners by ensuring that subjects, such as mathematics, science, and robotics are adequately taught in state schools with appropriate equipment and laboratories. A COPE-led government would introduce the local manufacturing of computers to achieve economic transformation in the digital sector. To lead this initiative, the party would recruit 10 000 qualified information technology graduates.

Sources:

- (30) Congress of the People constitution - <https://congressofthepeople.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/cope-constitution.pdf>
 - (31) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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Al Jama-ah



Founded:	2007
Leader:	Ganief Hendricks
Political position:	Centre right to right-wing
Ideology:	Islamic conservatism

History

Al Jama-ah is South Africa's first Muslim political party founded on Islamic values and to uphold Sharia law. The party states it does not want to make South Africa an Islamic State, but build a dignified society with cooperative-spirited communities and morally-minded citizens (32) pursuing Islamic values, true Christian values, and Ubuntu (33).

Although contesting elections since 2009, the party only earned its first seat in parliament in 2019 and currently has elected representatives in the Western Cape legislature and the municipalities of Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and in the City of Cape Town.

Al Jama-ah has also formed a key part of coalition governments at a municipal level, with two of their members having served as the Mayor of Johannesburg since 2023.

Electoral record (34)

- 2009: 0.15%
- 2014: 0.14%
- 2019: 0.18%

Positions

(Source: Collated from the following documents https://www.aljama.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/AL-JAMAH-MANIFESTO-2024_REV-1.pdf and interview with party leader Ganief Hendricks)

Economic growth and job creation

The Al Jama-ah economic policy advocates for socio-economic transformation to combat adverse impacts of corruption on economic growth, social equity, and unemployment. The party would enforce fair allocation of national, provincial, and municipal budgets to address inequality gaps and would also enforce a localised spending approach. Moreover, the party would identify 1 000 local products that would be manufactured strictly in townships and rural villages. All street hawkers and small informal businesses would also have the right to affordable and safe space to conduct their trade. An Al Jama-ah government would create business incubators to develop SME job-creating potential while strengthening local businesses with government procurement support. They would establish employment desks in all municipalities to promote available job opportunities and learnerships.

76

Safety and security

Al Jama-ah proposes a strategic redeployment of police away from historically white suburbs, focusing on addressing crime's root causes. Their plan includes identifying and addressing springboards for criminal activity, shutting down shebeens and drug dens, eliminating organised drug syndicates, and investigating corruption allegations in local police stations. The party advocates for increased visible policing, deploying uniformed ground patrols with undercover officers, and enhancing police accessibility through more patrol vehicles, additional police stations, and the formation of mobile police units where needed. This approach aims to improve community safety and address the underlying issues contributing to crime.

Foreign affairs

Al Jama-ah places African integration at the centre of its foreign policy. The party believes in the United States of Africa and as a government, would want to push for the African Union to offer the same freedom of movement for people and trade that the European Union offers its member states. Al Jama-ah also strongly opposes international Zionism, condemning Israel's occupation of Palestine. As a government, Al Jama-ah would supply defensive weapons to Palestinian Resistance Movements. Al Jama-ah also advocates for international condemnation of oppressive actions and seeks to raise awareness of Zionist tactics, emphasising the importance of protecting free speech and assembly against Zionist lobbying locally and globally. The party would align South Africa's foreign affairs with its anti-Zionist stance and seek to promote human rights globally.

Energy security

77

Al Jama-ah would decisively act against corruption in power stations and focus on dismantling criminal syndicates in the energy supply chain, dismissing technical issues as the sole cause of South Africa's energy crisis. An Al Jama-ah government would also implement emergency measures to secure added power into the grid from any source readily available. The party also advocates for equitable access to electricity, fair pricing based on means, and would only disconnect the elderly, struggling parents, and the unemployed as a last resort.

Education

Al Jama-ah would offer free education and ensure all South African schools and universities are safe and pleasant learning environments. This would be complimented with a developmental all society approach to education by providing more access to public libraries, art galleries,

parks, sports, recreation, and community events. Al Jama-ah would ban explicit Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in primary and secondary schools, proposing a curriculum covering morality, marriage, and sexual dysfunctions. An Al-Jama-ah government would also support struggling private schools with grants.

Mineral resources

Al Jama-ah would nationalise all mining assets and appoint a state-owned mining company to extract and beneficiate all South African minerals for the benefit of the country. They would also provide informal miners access to dormant mines and ban any environmentally harmful mining practices.

Youth development

78

Al Jama-ah advocates for targeted measures to address South Africa's youth unemployment crisis, proposing specialised youth development programmes and business incubators. An Al Jama-ah government would provide free education to needy young people and guarantee employment for those wanting to work. To achieve this, the party would create special job categories where businesses earn tax breaks to absorb youth into the workforce. An Al Jama-ah government would also enforce skill training and development programmes within state-owned enterprises. The party would also close all shebeens and drug dens in underdeveloped areas and replace them with recreational facilities for the youth.

Housing

Al Jama-ah would enact transformative legislation to address the persisting Apartheid legacy of spatial planning and provide dignified housing for all. A practical policy in this regard would be to aggressively

densify formerly white only suburbs. The party would also enforce a nationwide confiscation of state land to provide 100 square meters of land with title deeds to the homeless and all young people.

The environment and climate change

Recognising climate change as a pressing reality, an Al Jama-ah government would take proactive measures to protect South Africans from its effects. They would pass robust climate change legislation to legally protect various aspects of the economy and environment. Practically, the party would reinforce infrastructure and protect industries, like agriculture and fisheries, that bear the brunt of adverse weather conditions due to climate change.

Tourism

Al Jama-ah envisions a robust tourism policy centred on connecting small businesses with major tourism corporates and fostering job creation and growth in the sector. Their initiatives would include collaborative marketing campaigns, integrating smaller businesses into all tourist itineraries and developing guided tours in township areas.

79

Immigration and xenophobia

Al Jama-ah believes intolerance and violence against foreign nationals requires immediate action, although the party rejects the notion that South Africa is inherently xenophobic. An Al Jama-ah government would leave the United Nations convention on refugees and lobby the African Union to enforce quotas on the number of refugees each member state should accept. The party would also enact community integration programmes to foster tolerance and inclusivity, ensuring a safer environment for all residents, regardless of their ethnic backgrounds.

LGBTIQA+ rights

Al Jama-ah rejects what it regards as the proliferation of LGBTIQA+ issues in South African society and advocates for traditional family values. The party also criticises businesses and educational initiatives promoting LGBTIQA+ ideas, expressing concerns about the erosion of cultural and religious identities. An Al Jama-ah government would instead place fatherhood and motherhood as the central focus in the South African society.

South Africa's twelve official languages

An Al Jama-ah-led government would make Khoisan and Coding South Africa's 13th and 14th official languages, respectively. The party would also enact a language policy to guarantee the right of learners to learn their mother tongue as a subject at primary and secondary school with the long-term goal of offering all forms of education in all official languages.

80

Artificial intelligence

Al Jama-ah proposes that South Africa seize the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for economic growth and job creation. An Al Jama-ah government would accordingly invest heavily in AI infrastructure and training to empower the youth in digital skills, while passing legislation to prevent AI's nefarious use. The party would also introduce government initiatives to provide free data to all citizens.

Sources:

- (32) Why Al-Jama-Ah was established - <https://www.aljama.co.za/about-us/>
 - (33) Al Jama-Ah constitution - <https://www.aljama.co.za/al-jama-ahs-constitution-2023/>
 - (34) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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ATM



Founded:	2018
Leader:	Vuyolwethu Zungula
Political position:	Centre right
Ideology:	African Christian socialism

History

The African Transformation Movement (ATM) was formed in 2018 on a founding principle of “African Humanism” recognising there is “only one God and only one race: the human race” (35). The party’s constitution describes the ATM seeking to create and develop a decolonised, modern, democratic, fair, and prosperous society based on the values of Ubuntu, servant leadership, and accountability (36).

82

The ATM was formed with the backing of the South African Council of Messianic Churches in Christ and the party draws most of its support from the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, and Limpopo.

The ATM has only fought the 2019 general elections and the 2021 local government elections, earning two seats in the national assembly and 53 seats in local councils. The party forms part of several municipal government coalitions across the country and holds the mayoral chains in Mogale City.

Electoral record (37)

- 2019: 0.44%

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with party spokesperson Zama Ntshona)

Economic growth and job creation

The ATM would incorporate small to medium enterprises in all procurement plans of the government to grow small businesses and create jobs. The party believes South Africa's economy and employment situation can be easily addressed by providing seed funding and advisory and material support to small business owners to start up and flourish.

Safety and security

The ATM believes South Africa's porous borders and lax enforcement of immigration laws are the root causes of security instability in the country. Accordingly, the party would aggressively crackdown on illegal immigration and enforce strict border controls. The ATM would also intervene in the informal cash economy to prevent the funding of terrorist and criminal groups, from South African soil. An ATM-led government would also amend the constitution to bring back the death penalty.

83

Foreign affairs

The ATM would deepen South Africa's international ties on the African continent and Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS). The party rejects any international relationship it believes does not respect the sovereignty of South Africa, accelerate the South Africa's industrialisation, or materially benefit the country's citizens. The ATM would also urgently implement an Africa Free Trade Agreement to build a stronger Africa for the continent's people.

Energy Policy

The ATM advocates for a multifaceted approach to energy policy. They propose maintaining existing coal mines to ensure energy security and economic stability. Simultaneously, the party emphasizes investing in clean technology to mitigate the environmental impact of coal-based energy production. Additionally, the ATM supports substantial investments in nuclear energy as a reliable and efficient power source. To diversify the energy mix and enhance sustainability, the party calls for the establishment of domestic renewable energy sources. Furthermore, the ATM envisions providing free energy to indigent South Africans believing this approach will not only address poverty but also contribute to curbing illegal connections.

Education

84

The ATM would refocus the education system to prepare learners for careers in the agriculture and mineral resources sectors. The party believes these sectors are untapped resources that could easily address unemployment. The ATM would also ensure the education system is value driven, supports the attraction and retention of quality teachers, and most critically provides digital-based learning.

Mineral resources

The ATM has a non-negotiable approach to beneficiation in that any mineral extracted in South Africa must be processed in the country before it is exported. The party would also ensure that if any mineral rights are granted in a specific area, the local community must benefit through concessions and employment.

Youth development

The ATM's plans for youth development are parallel to their plans for education in that they will ensure the country's youth are upskilled in jobs required in industry sectors they believe offer the greatest potential of economic growth and job creation. The party would launch cooperatives in different communities nationwide as a practical solution to youth unemployment.

Housing

The ATM would accelerate the government's current Reconstruction and Development programme (RDP), since it believes housing is dignity. However, the party would crackdown on corruption in the provision of state housing to ensure more settlements are built faster and within budget.

The environment and climate change

85

The ATM believes in climate change and recognises the need for drastic action to protect the longevity of life on earth. The party, however, demands that any initiative undertaken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must be phased in gradually and done in a manner that will not destabilise any sector of the economy.

Tourism

The ATM believes tourism must primarily benefit black South Africans and be driven by investment in small businesses within the sector. The party would focus urgent infrastructure investment in underdeveloped tourism destinations, like Port St Johns, QwaQwa, and Kimberly to boost economic activities and attract visitors. The ATM would also direct municipal support of tourism by providing licenses and support

to fledgling tourism operations, like craft artisans and small-scale hospitality and accommodation.

Immigration and xenophobia

While the ATM rejects xenophobia, the party does not tolerate illegal migration in South Africa. The party will ensure that any foreign national—tourist or migrant—must be in the country legally. Practically, this would mean accurate border control at all international ports of entry in line with all immigration laws.

LGBTIQA+ rights

The ATM's philosophy on queer rights echoes Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe's creed "there is only one race, the human race". The party would deepen rights to sexual preference enshrined in the constitution and ensure all South Africans are protected from prejudice and persecution.

86

South Africa's twelve official languages

The ATM regards language as a point of identity and culture and as such, would always protect and preserve language rights to ensure that linguistic histories and identities are protected. To ensure no language is superior to any other, the party would prioritise mother tongue education in all twelve of South Africa's languages.

Artificial intelligence

The ATM recognises the challenges Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents in an economy like South Africa, with high levels of unemployment. An ATM-led government would enact legislation to ensure AI's fair use in South Africa and to prevent job shedding.

Sources:

- (35) African Transformation Movement: About Us <http://www.atm-sa.co.za/about-us/>
 - (36) African Transformation Movement constitution - <http://www.atm-sa.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CONSTITUTION-OF-THE-AFRICAN-TRANSFORMATION-STUDENT-MOVEMENT.pdf>
 - (37) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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Patriotic Alliance



Founded:	2013
Leader:	Gayton Mackenzie
Political position:	Centre right to right-wing
Ideology:	Nationalist conservative

History

The Patriotic Alliance (PA) was founded by former convicts Gayton Mackenzie and Kenny Kunene in 2013 after many years in business following their early release from jail for exposing a sex abuse and drug trafficking scandal. The PA's constitution underlines a commitment to the empowerment of the poor—in particular, formerly disadvantaged South Africans—and undoing the economic, social, and spatial inequalities in post-Apartheid South Africa (38). The party is vigorously opposed to immigration into South Africa and believes the bulk of all the country's crime and security challenges are because of illegal migrants, and are the first party ever to call for mass deportations.

The PA is often regarded as a party for coloured South Africans and draws the most of its support from so-called coloured areas. The party enjoys a strong presence and significant membership in the Western Cape, with a sizeable footprint in Gauteng, the Free State, and the North West provinces.

Although the PA failed to secure any seats in parliament in its two previous national election attempts, the party has gained a foothold at municipal level regularly playing kingmaker in numerous local governments from Johannesburg to Nelson Mandela Bay. The party also leads the Central Karoo and Beaufort West municipalities and previously held the mayoral chain in Ditsobotla municipality in the North West.

Electoral record (39)

- 2014: 0.09%
- 2019: 0.04%

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with Patriotic Alliance head of policy Charles Cilliers)

Economic growth and job creation

The PA advocates for entrepreneurship and innovation through free market principles while ensuring the state provides quality basic services. A PA-led government would focus on delivering sustainable infrastructure, providing quality education and healthcare while providing safety and security alongside business incentives. The PA supports state intervention to address market failures, break monopolies, and correct unfair competition. The party also commits to implementing trade protections for local industries when necessary. Targeting 9 per cent annual economic growth, the PA would reform the labour market, targeting the power of trade unions, which it believes makes South Africa unattractive to investment. It believes that in doing so, South Africa would become an industrial powerhouse and naturally lead to a conducive environment for investment and employment.

89

Safety and security

Aligning with the party's commitment to responsibility, retribution, and community safety, the PA advocates for a biblical approach to criminal justice, supporting the death penalty to reinforce the state's authority. To enhance security, the party proposes localising police station leadership, professionalising the South African Police Service,

and targeting crime kingpins. The PA aims to eliminate corruption, implementing a blockchain system for all police dockets to guarantee thorough case investigation. Prison reforms would be enacted to focus on rehabilitation, with prisoners working to repay society and build savings for post-release support.

Foreign affairs

The PA proposes to re-establish South Africa's moral authority globally by speaking the truth on matters of global concern. The party would also leverage South Africa's experience in negotiating the end of Apartheid in playing a neutral role as peacemaker and negotiator between any warring nations. The party would demand reparations from the nations of foreign nationals illegally in South Africa using government services. The PA would also restore the Israeli embassy to full status.

90

Energy security

The PA wants to embrace an energy mix including fossil fuels, nuclear, and renewable energy. In the short term, the party would urgently repair, upgrade, and maintain the country's existing coal-powered fleet and show zero tolerance for any corruption or sabotage at Eskom. The PA would also invest in upgrading and expanding the national energy transmission system to enable the private sector to connect and supply power to the grid. This would be combined with an incentive and rebate system for households to connect to solar power.

Education

The PA would invest in the delivery of high-quality digital learning and online education programmes that will be supplemented by competent and dedicated teachers. A PA-led government would pay state teachers a higher monthly wage, however, the party would insist on competency tests to bring greater professionalism to public teaching.

Mineral resources

The PA would urgently incentivise and promote new investment and exploration in South Africa's mining sector. Moreover, the party will exploit shale gas reserves in the Karoo. The PA also regards local beneficiation of minerals as non-negotiable and would demand that all companies mining in South Africa commit to such.

Youth development

The PA's plans for youth development dovetail with their strategy for education in ensuring young people are prepared to succeed in a globalised, tech-driven world that prioritises innovation. The party believes South Africa's youth must be placed at the centre of any government initiative, prioritising how young people will benefit and play a role. The PA would also introduce military service or civil service posting for young people not in employment, education, or training.

91

Housing

A PA-led government would ban tenders for state housing and develop state capacity to build free housing punctually and within budget for the country's most economically vulnerable. However, the party would expect anyone qualifying for social housing, RDPs, or other forms of affordable housing to maintain their home and pay for services and rates and taxes where possible. The PA also wants to enforce equitable respect for property rights as well as occupancy rights, meaning it would make it easier for a property owner to take on a non-paying or abusive tenant.

The environment and climate change

While the PA accepts climate change as a reality, the party wants South Africa to pursue an energy mix inclusive of fossil fuels and renewable energy. The party believes South Africa's industrialisation and attempts

to keep the lights on must not be curtailed in pursuit of zero emissions. The PA would pinpoint weak points in the country's sewage systems to prevent raw sewage flowing into South Africa's water sources. The party would also combat rhino poaching by flooding the Asian market with rhino horn currently stockpiled by South African National Parks.

Tourism

The PA believes South Africa possesses significant tourism appeal, capitalising on factors such as favourable weather, hospitality, diverse attractions, and a favourable exchange rate. However, global competition often overshadows these positives due to concerns about safety, despite statistically only a few incidents of crime against tourists, the perception persists that South Africa is too dangerous to visit according to the party. To bolster tourism, a PA-led government would implement robust marketing strategies, dispel safety concerns with accurate data about tourists falling victim to crime and engage with the South African diaspora to become positive ambassadors of the country and eventually encourage their return.

92

Immigration and xenophobia

The PA believes the country has become a victim of uncontrolled migration and that South Africa should be primarily for South Africans. While welcoming tourists, investors, and migrants with critical skills, the party would strengthen South Africa's borders and aggressively crackdown on illegal immigration. Foreign nationals who are in South Africa illegally would be deported en masse by a PA-led government. The party also wants unemployed youth to serve in state-led development projects throughout the African continent to improve the conditions of our neighbours and prevent refugees and asylum seekers coming to South Africa.

LGBTIQ+ rights

The PA recognises the value of distinct social groupings, including the highly diverse LGBTIQ+ community as well as youth, veterans, women, and those with disabilities.

Accordingly, the party rejects negative, exclusionary and marginalising rules, practices, traditions, and attitudes; and assumptions regarding homosexuality, heterosexuality, and heteronormativity must be limited. As such, a PA-governed state will not allow the oppression of any group at the hands of another on arbitrary grounds of sexual preference and ensure individual liberties must be respected.

South Africa's twelve official languages

The PA would promote and preserve the use of all twelve official languages while also recognising the Khoisan as an official language. The party accepts English as an everyday lingua franca in South Africa for business and communication between diverse groups. However, the PA would aggressively promote mother tongue language instruction, leveraging artificial intelligence to do so.

93

Artificial intelligence

The party sees Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a tool to free all individuals for more creative pursuits than mundane tasks. The PA, however, also advocates for a balanced partnership between humans and machines, prioritising greater benefits for humans over machines. Acknowledging short-term job loss concerns, the PA also stresses the need to distribute productivity gains from automation equitably. The party rejects the notion that technology will destroy humanity, emphasising historical scepticism towards new technologies that eventually prove beneficial.

However, a PA-led government would focus on implementing a practical policy that would address theoretical fears to ensure the positive potential of AI for human advancement.

Sources:

- (38) Patriotic Alliance constitution - <http://nebula.wsimg.com/sKeyId=3F779A56590DC431C422&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>
 - (39) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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ActionSA



Founded:	2020
Leader:	Herman Mashaba
Political position:	Centre right to right-wing
Ideology:	Free-market liberalism

History

ActionSA was formed in 2020 by “Black Like Me” tycoon and maverick politician Herman Mashaba after his surprise tenure as the DA’s Johannesburg mayor.

The party’s provisional constitution depicts ActionSA as a non-racial movement that promises a customer-centric government founded on an ethical and professional public service. It envisions a free-market economy where the government plays a supporting role to the private sector as the main driver of economic growth (40). ActionSA has been accused of xenophobia for its tough stance on illegal migration, often claiming the bulk of South Africa’s problems are a result of undocumented migrants.

The party’s track record in government is limited, having only fought the 2021 local government elections. The party has, however, formed part of coalition municipal governments in Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, Nelson Mandela Bay, and Tshwane. ActionSA claims its own internal polling illustrates broad-based multiracial support across South Africa. However, this has never been backed up by results in a general election, since 2024 will be ActionSA’s maiden national ballot.

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with ActionSA chairperson Michael Beaumont)

Economic growth and job creation

ActionSA foresees economic growth to be inclusive, sustainable, and provide access to opportunity and prosperity for all South Africans. The party believes that the best way to achieve this is to create a conducive regulatory and political environment for a competitive and responsible market-based economy.

The party would focus on state investment into economic infrastructure and reforming the labour regime in favour of job creation over protectionism. ActionSA would also support the development of economic sectors with high job-creation potential and seek to improve South Africa's economic competitiveness by driving competition within the local economy, and promoting investment and trade locally and internationally.

A unique economic policy by ActionSA would be the establishment of the Opportunity Fund—a sovereign fund that will be partially funded by corporate profits currently being spent on BEE compliance. This fund will invest exclusively in grassroots opportunity generation and be used to create access to entrepreneurial funding and tertiary education.

It will also fund financial literacy, education, and awareness programmes to drive socio-economic development through the deployment of capital socially transformative programmes.

Safety and security

ActionSA believes no country can flourish in a state of lawlessness and the party's short-term focus would be on preventing and prosecuting crime, through measures including legal reforms that impose stricter punishment on criminals, professionalise and adequately resource the police service alongside prioritising community safety and improving the performance of the criminal justice and correctional services systems.

In the long term, ActionSA aims to address the root causes of crime by creating a more inclusive, just, and equitable society where the drivers of crime are adequately addressed.

Foreign affairs

ActionSA believes that South Africa's approach to foreign affairs must be anchored in the advancement of human rights and the interests of all South African people. An ActionSA government will use diplomatic mechanisms to counter discrimination, oppression, and aggression.

ActionSA also believes that they must use foreign relations strategically to advance mutually beneficial international trade.

Energy security

ActionSA proposes the development of a competitive and decentralised energy supply market, which will be subject to responsible regulation to achieve universal access to clean, affordable, and reliable electricity.

The party would also pursue a gradual shift towards a renewable energy mix where South Africa pragmatically balances the social, economic, and environmental considerations related to the continued use of fossil fuels for energy generation.

97

Education

ActionSA regards education as the most powerful tool for creating a prosperous society and wants to build an education system that is anchored in empowering people to achieve their own version of prosperity.

The party will depoliticise and professionalise the country's education institutions and improve the outcomes of basic education with a specific focus on reading for meaning and critical thinking.

ActionSA will further structure South Africa's education—including vocational training—to be aligned with the needs of the South African economy.

Mineral resources

ActionSA wants South Africa and South Africans to derive more value from the country's vast supply of mineral resources. The party strives to achieve this by investing in local beneficiation mechanisms to ensure that South Africa creates higher value exports. This would be achieved by allocating resources to research and development in beneficiation technologies and developing incentives for industries to engage in beneficiation.

Youth development

ActionSA will support youth development by improving the performance of the education system and expanding access to high quality educational opportunities and skills development programmes which includes affordable and quality tertiary education.

The party will also use its proposed Opportunity Fund to address the barriers to opportunities and unemployment faced by young South Africans.

98

Housing

ActionSA would like to speed up the availability and provision of affordable and public housing by amending zoning regulations to increase the construction of high-rise residential buildings in urban centres. The party will also identify and expropriate hi-jacked and abandoned properties, factories, and land as well as land and property owned by the state that is suitable for affordable housing. ActionSA will then release it to the private sector for the development of mixed-use buildings that include affordable housing.

The environment and climate change

ActionSA supports the transition to a low-carbon economy, while maintaining that the transition can and must be just and people-oriented. The party regards climate change as not only imperative to the continued well-being of the country's population and environment, but to provide economic opportunities for South Africans. ActionSA believes there is an inherent connection between the country's people and its natural environment and as such, it would guarantee the protection of the environment and enforce sustainable development practices.

Tourism

ActionSA identifies tourism as one of South Africa's key industries and wants to grow the sector by reforming tourist and business visa requirements and processes to make it easier for foreigners to visit and do business in South Africa. The party would also introduce remote-working visas and establish specialised crime prevention units to ensure the safety of tourists as well as encourage destination marketing in strategic markets.

99

Immigration and xenophobia

ActionSA condemns all forms of xenophobia in the strongest terms. The party will introduce reforms in South Africa's immigration regulations and overhaul Home Affairs to streamline the process of entering South Africa legally and to attract skilled workers. An ActionSA government would also enforce strict security of South Africa's borders to address the high levels of illegal immigration into the country. Furthermore, the party would provide more support to genuine refugees and asylum seekers if it were elected to govern.

LGBTIQA+ rights

ActionSA fully supports the LGBTIQA+ rights and will eradicate all forms of discrimination against members of the community. The party will implement special measures to ensure that indigent and vulnerable members of the community have better opportunity to exercise their rights, as enshrined in the Constitution.

South Africa's twelve official languages

ActionSA supports the development of South Africa's twelve languages and would improve access to mother-tongue education. The party would also ensure that more people have access to services in their mother-tongue and expand access to services in South African Sign Language.

Artificial intelligence

100

ActionSA will speed up the development and adoption of a comprehensive Fourth Industrial Revolution Strategy that provides guidance on a just transition to a modernised economy. The party's strategy would include guidelines for the responsible regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI), with a particular focus on harnessing the potential of such technologies for economic development in the informal sector.

Source:

(40) Action-SA provisional constitution - <https://www.actionsa.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Interim-Constitution-31.03.2023.pdf>

BOSA

Founded:	2022
Leader:	Mmusi Maimane
Political position:	Radical centrism
Ideology:	Democratic pragmatism



History

Build One South Africa (BOSA) was launched by former Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Mmusi Maimane in 2022 as a party for independent political candidates at a local, provincial, and national level. The party portrays itself as a social movement founded on the values of advocacy, activism, and accountability with the central goal of an alternative to the domination of party politics (41).

Maimane initially launched this initiative as the One South Africa Movement in 2020 solely as a civic organisation that would act as an umbrella organisation for independent candidates to agitate for direct election of public representatives. However, this move was ditched after Maimane was disappointed with electoral reforms, which he believed did not go far enough to enable the direct election of candidates by the public. Although primarily associated with Maimane, the party's leadership includes former South African Women's commission convenor Nobuntu Hlazo-Webster and Hlumelo Biko, son of struggle hero Steve Biko.

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with party leader Mmusi Maimane)

Economic growth and job creation

BOSA aims to forge an inclusive and robust economy, prioritising marginalised citizens. The party pledges to boost the Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) sector by enhancing financing and venture capital accessibility and addressing the country's current enterprise funding challenges. The party would also incorporate more SMEs into government procurement chains with the goal of fostering fair competition and merit-based access to government contracts. A BOSA-led government would further aggressively clamp down on corruption and ineptitude in the state by performing an immediate merit-based dismissal of 20 per cent of the worst-performing public sector employees. The party would implement continuous lifestyle audits of all politicians and senior government officials.

Safety and security

102

BOSA outlines a comprehensive approach to enhance the rule of law and public safety. The party proposes increasing the police force both directly and indirectly, implementing visible and contextual policing through regional and municipal forces. These forces, with significant volunteer participation, would collaborate with private security providers using advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology for crime prevention, response, investigation, and by-law enforcement. To ease backlogs, BOSA would pass laws enabling private laboratories to provide forensic support, integrating data into a national electronic forensic database. A BOSA government would also establish a national criminal investigation directorate to target and prosecute the top 100 most violent criminals and criminal organisations in South Africa. This would operate alongside specialised corruption courts empowered with the mandate to investigate and prosecute.

Foreign affairs

BOSA's foreign policy prioritises constitutionalism, multilateralism, human rights, sustainable migration, economic integration, Pan Africanism, Ubuntu, and democracy. A BOSA-led government would seek strategic partnerships globally and diplomatically campaign for accountable governance and democratic principles in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Energy security

BOSA addresses South Africa's energy crisis by proposing a mixed energy strategy, utilising green energy from the private sector. BOSA advocates for the construction of five 5 000 MW nuclear stations, inviting international suppliers through a transparent tender process with zero-capital outlay for taxpayers. The plan includes breaking Eskom up into three state-owned companies, promoting private sector competition, and implementing anti-corruption measures. A BOSA-led government would prioritise the development of gas-powered plants and open-cycle gas turbines to speedily eliminate load shedding. The party would pursue a just transition towards renewable energy through regulatory reforms and innovative financial instruments.

103

Education

BOSA seeks to completely transform primary and secondary education in South Africa, aiming for a ripple effect on higher education and to earn international accreditation. The party would introduce student performance grants for critical subjects to foster interest and excellence in Maths and Science. A BOSA-led government would enforce performance-based contracts for state educators and gradually introduce master's degree requirements to enter the profession. The party would introduce a restructured grading system as well as an independent

education inspectorate. In higher education, BOSA would increase funding for needy students to improve access and throughput while enhancing student support in universities.

Mineral resources

BOSA advocates for a transformative mining policy that prioritises miners' rights and welfare to improve working conditions, deliver fair wages, and guarantee safety measures. A BOSA-led government would invest in skills development, beneficiation, and industrialisation for the sustainable growth of the sector. The party would seek to strike equity of benefit between mine-owners and the communities where mines are located. BOSA would proclaim August 16th a national holiday as Marikana Memorial Day in commemoration of the 34 miners gunned down by police in 2012.

104

Youth development

BOSA will introduce a voluntary national civil service as a one-year programme for post-matriculants and establish a national venture capital fund for tertiary university graduates who are wanting to start businesses in line with South Africa's strategic manufacturing interests. The party would also offer a tax holiday for first-time graduate employees and a back-to-school programme for high-school dropouts.

Housing

BOSA proposes a policy of construction, planning, and design partnership for settlement development, fostering collaboration between large-scale construction companies, city planning experts, and local artisans. This model seeks to create jobs and develop communities while developing skills. BOSA further advocates for a Wholesale Mortgage Support system, allowing qualifying households to access loans from low-fee mortgage originators for home construction. The state would then repay the debt

over 20 years from its annual housing budget, expediting the eradication of housing backlogs.

The environment and climate change

BOSA acknowledges climate change as a reality and the urgent environmental issues linked to practices like factory farming, meat consumption, fast fashion, and fossil fuel burning. BOSA proposes tax breaks for individuals transitioning to electric vehicles and extends tax incentives to companies implementing innovations to reduce carbon footprints.

Tourism

BOSA's tourism policy centres on environmental protection to boost tourism numbers and revenue alongside safety measures to ensure visitors are not victims of crime. A BOSA government would encourage sustainable tourism practices to protect natural attractions and ensure long-term industry viability.

105

Immigration and xenophobia

BOSA would crack down on illegal immigration by allocating more resources to refugee reception offices and implementing a corruption free e-visa system. BOSA rejects mass deportations of undocumented foreign nationals due to cost and impracticality, seeking instead to address migration's root causes through regional diplomacy and promoting democratic principles in the SADC region. The party acknowledges the necessity of skilled immigration to fill critical gaps in professions, such as medical doctors, engineers, nurses, and high-skilled artisans. BOSA proposes additional taxes on such immigrant critical skilled workers, and ring-fencing the funds for higher education training to enhance the local skills pool.

LGBTIQA+ rights

BOSA's commitment to human rights, as reflected in the South African Constitution, extends to the protection of the LGBTIQA+ community. The party upholds the principles of equality, dignity, inclusiveness, integrity, and Ubuntu, emphasising the restoration and respect for human rights for all individuals. In specific policy terms, BOSA advocates for legislation and measures that actively protect and promote the rights of the LGTIQA+ community, ensuring equal treatment, non-discrimination, and full recognition of their rights as enshrined in the constitution. This includes supporting anti-discrimination laws, promoting inclusive education, and fostering a society that values and respects the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities.

South Africa's twelve official languages

106

BOSA's language policy advocates for multilingualism, recognising the richness of South Africa's official languages as a means for national connection. BOSA would introduce a gradual shift toward the provision of mother tongue education, aiming to strengthen cultural identity and facilitate effective communication among all South Africans.

Artificial intelligence

BOSA asserts the necessity of modernising the state through comprehensive digitisation, focusing on the gradual integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for enhanced governance. Recognising the outdated state structure, BOSA advocates for the implementation of digital technologies to streamline services, including record-keeping and cross-departmental coordination. The party envisions an advanced government that utilises data and AI modelling to fortify law enforcement, education, and health services. BOSA anticipates the

benefits of AI in promoting efficiency, innovation, and improved public service delivery across various sectors.

Source:

(41) Build One South Africa, About us - <https://www.bosa.co.za/about/>

Rise Mzansi



Founded:	2023
Leader:	Songezo Zibi
Political position:	Centre to Centre-Right
Ideology:	Social democratic constitutionalism

History

Rise Mzansi is another fledgling political party contesting elections for the first time in 2024. Its constitution describes a non-traditional political movement anchored in communities and based on the values of freedom, justice, equality, and integrity (42). Founded in 2023 with former journalist Songezo Zibi as its leader, the party endeavours to rally the people of South Africa to become active citizens and build stronger and more connected communities. Among its leadership are former DA federal leader and one-time party leadership candidate Makashule Gana as national organiser, entrepreneur, and business leader Vuyiswa Ramokgopa, and former government advisor Mandla Isaacs.

108

Positions

(Source: Obtained through interview with party leader Songezo Zibi)

Economic growth and job creation

Rise Mzansi believes that economic growth and job creation begins and ends with competent and transparent governance. Accordingly, the party would aggressively clampdown on corruption and incompetence in the state to ensure the effective management of South Africa's resources. A Rise Mzansi government would ensure anybody appointed to the public

service or state institution is fit for purpose and able to deliver in their position. This would be combined with the pursuit of a well-regulated market economy with strategic state influence—not ownership—of assets within the economy.

Safety and security

Rise Mzansi would declare corruption as a threat to national security and enact reforms within the criminal justice system to deliver harsh prison sentences for anyone convicted of graft within the state. A Rise Mzansi government would purge the country's security apparatus—the intelligence service—of any party aligned individuals and vet all security personnel to guarantee allegiance to the constitution above anything else. The party would improve the capacity of the criminal justice system to arrest, prosecute, and convict more criminals. As part of its long-term approach to safety and security, Rise Mzansi would seek to address the root causes of crime rather than addressing the symptoms of crime.

109

Foreign affairs

Rise Mzansi's foreign affairs policy is driven by the promotion of human rights on the African continent specifically, and the globe generally, alongside sustainable and meaningful trade relations. A Rise Mzansi government would diversify international relations and forge new trade partnerships so that South Africa does not find itself caught in the middle between the USA, the European Union, and China. Any response to a world crisis would be calibrated based on South Africa's means to play a meaningful role and obtain results.

Energy security

Rise Mzansi would urgently reduce South Africa's dependence on expensive diesel generators to keep the lights on during load shedding, pointing to its negative impact on inflation and harm caused to the environment. Instead, a Rise Mzansi government would drive South Africa's conversation to renewable energy through Small to Medium Enterprises (SME) while maintaining a stable base load for industry. The US\$ 6,5bn South Africa is set to receive for a just energy transition would be used to enact this renewable energy plan for households and SMEs as well as skills development in the sector. The party would promote private investment into transmission and distribution while conducting studies into Eskom's overall mandate to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Education

110

Rise Mzansi regards education and skills training as key to the economic stability and growth of South Africa. Accordingly, the party would reform the education system to include secondary school compulsory vocational and artisanal training alongside academic instruction. Rise Mzansi believes this will not only improve the employability of matriculants unable to progress to university, but also provide practical skills with which to start a business. This would be complemented with programmes to incubate entrepreneurs by providing fledgling enterprises with seed funding and marketing assistance. Furthermore, a Rise Mzansi government would focus on improving the quality of education by reducing the influence of trade unions on the sector focusing on improving throughput rates so that more learners who start school matriculate.

Mineral resources

Rise Mzansi believes the mining industry would be best served with a functional Eskom and Transnet and would overhaul these energy and logistics State Owned Enterprises (SOEs). A Rise Mzansi government would also review all mining regulations and legislations and remove any aspect that is not fit for purpose in growing the sector. The party would also invest heavily in the beneficiation of minerals used in the renewable energy sector.

Youth development

Rise Mzansi would focus on sustainably reducing South Africa's high level of youth unemployment by offering the youth sustainable training in practical skills needed in the economy. Pairing candidates with private companies offered tax breaks for employing first time workers. Moreover, a Rise Mzansi government would invest heavily in community sports and cultural infrastructure to offer the youth an alternative to the lure of shebeens and drug dens.

111

Housing

Rise Mzansi centres their housing policy on the development of sustainable communities through effective spatial planning and land allocation. While providing the indigent with temporary and permanent housing based on a means test, a Rise Mzansi government will strive to equip South Africans with the means to build or buy their own homes. This would involve assisting first-time buyers to obtain loans for their first home and providing properly planned and allocated pieces of land for those that wish to build.

The environment and climate change

Rise Mzansi acknowledges climate change is a clear and present danger to the existence of humankind and regards it more as a safety issue than an environmental one. Accordingly, the party believes all government plans and actions must be integrated within a greater goal of environmental protection and sustainability. A Rise Mzansi government would also invest in biodiversity management to secure food production.

Tourism

Rise Mzansi regards tourism as an undeveloped sector promising massive growth and job creation under the correct management. A Rise Mzansi government would streamline tourist visas to make it as easy as possible for visitors to come to South Africa and spend foreign currency. Key to this would be ensuring the safety of tourists, which Rise Mzansi would direct the South African Police Service to provide greater resources specifically for this function. A Rise Mzansi government would expand access to the tourism market by aggressively investing in basic services and infrastructure in rural areas and townships. This would be complemented by demarcated tourism expansion areas which would enjoy tax incentives for private investment.

112

Immigration and xenophobia

Rise Mzansi acknowledges uncontrolled immigration and resulting xenophobia as a threat to local and regional stability. To address this challenge, a Rise Mzansi government would urgently document all migrants in South Africa with a view to normalising their stay in South Africa. This exercise will be used to identify individuals with critical skills and accordingly deploy them in the economy. Foreign nationals that fail to normalise their stay or meet the criteria to become residents will be deported.

LGBTIQA+ rights

Rise Mzansi recognises the constitutional rights of all minority and vulnerable communities in South Africa, including the LGBTIQA+ community. A Rise Mzansi government would seek to reinforce existing statutory rights in the constitution and embark on community outreach programmes to challenge and reform homophobic attitudes. The party believes such an initiative should be approached with the same vigour as campaigns to end gender-based violence (GBV).

South Africa's twelve official languages

Rise Mzansi supports the constitutional protection of South Africa's twelve official languages and would seek to recover and make disappearing indigenous languages such as Khoisan, official.

Artificial intelligence

113

Rise Mzansi welcomes the rapid global development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the potential benefits it will bring to mankind, however, also acknowledges the potential risks. A Rise Mzansi government would enact legislation to regulate its use to prevent fraud, copyright infringement, and the weakening of democracy through misinformation.

Source:

- (42) Rise Mzansi constitution - https://assets.website-files.com/6512abc58b1468c2e0784360/651e9f4c767b9c73703a5691_Our%20Constitution.pdf
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Conclusion

I have never properly understood why more South Africans do not exercise their right to vote. However, I am hoping that this book provides readers with an easily accessible resource to help choose where to leave their mark on election day should they choose to do so. South Africa's democracy is still firmly in its developmental phase and consistent and high voter turnout would indicate an engaged citizenry that seeks to have a say in their country's future. Rights—civil or otherwise—do not disappear in an instant. Like muscles in the human body, if left unused, they are slowly weakened over time, until they are incapable of performing the function they were intended to without serious therapy. I do not choose this analogy lightly or for comical effect. Many failed states first embarked on the slippery slope to oblivion and hardship for their people with the erosion of democracy and a complete lack of interest in voting among the electorate, with electoral cycles becoming nothing more than a rubber stamp for the governing class. Citizens have the power to change that by voting and encouraging those around them to do the same.

114

South Africa finds itself at a critical juncture in the democratic era where its political and socioeconomic development has seemingly stalled and the country is growing restless. Voting, however, will not magically solve the country's challenges. Being an active citizen does not begin and end with merely casting your vote in an election. For anything to truly change in any country it takes the sustained and combined efforts of most of the citizens to first take an interest and then act to build the society they want. However, your mark on a ballot alongside millions of others is the easiest way to signal your aspirations for the future to the people that lead you politically.

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South Africa's most important election since 1994 may deliver the first national coalition government in a democratic South Africa. However, as political parties vie for the votes of South Africans: How do citizens make the choice of where to put their mark? Who can they trust to give voice to their aspirations for the future in the national assembly and help rebuild and grow Africa's most developed economy to benefit more people in the world's most unequal society.



Award winning journalist Nickolaus Bauer takes a deep dive into South Africa's political parties and their policies on key issues. From job creation and energy security to tourism and artificial intelligence.