

## UDM



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<b>Founded:</b>	1997
<b>Leader:</b>	Bantu Holomisa
<b>Political position:</b>	Centre left
<b>Ideology:</b>	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.

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### **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

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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

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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.

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## 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](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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