

# PAC

---



<b>Founded:</b>	1959
<b>Leader:</b>	Mzwanele Nyhontso
<b>Political position:</b>	Centre left to left-wing
<b>Ideology:</b>	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>
-