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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

LGBTIQA+ rights

The PA recognises the value of distinct social groupings, including the highly diverse LGBTIQA+ 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.

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