

ACDP election manifesto 2004

THE ACDP COMMITMENT

The ACDP acknowledges God as the Sovereign Creator of the universe, who has entrusted to humanity the right and responsibility to rule over the affairs of the world.

The ACDP believes in a constitutional state that promotes Christian moral values and as such rejects the concept of South Africa as a secular state.

We are committed to raising a new generation of God-fearing leaders of integrity, dedicated to serving the nation.

FOUNDING STATEMENT

The ACDP believes that South Africa must be a nation in submission to Almighty God.

The party represents:

- A fresh start for a new South Africa; a multiracial leadership emanating from diverse political backgrounds, united behind common principles to bring hope to the nation;
- A genuine federal framework of government with constitutional powers to the lowest possible level;
- Development through the empowerment of grassroot communities and the individual;
- Christian values and norms; the proper foundation for personal freedom, national unity, reconciliation, justice, peace and security;
- A determination to address the critical issues such as poverty, crime, the economy, housing, education, health care, and land ownership, based on proven successful policies; and
- A vibrant free market economy, creating opportunities for all to prosper.

The party stands for Christian principles, freedom of religion, a free market economy, family values, community empowerment and human rights in a federal system.

FAMILY VALUES

The ACDP commits itself to promote and protect family values. Our policies will strengthen the role and respect for marriage and parenthood to build stable families as the cornerstone of society.

Family values have disintegrated because of the erosion of Christian principles, which in turn has contributed to the rise of dysfunctional families in our society.

The ACDP will ensure that children enjoy the benefits of growing up in a safe and secure family environment. Our policy is to empower families and encourage civil society to contribute to this process.

Moral Degeneration

The unprecedented moral degeneration in the country over the past ten years of democracy has resulted in dysfunctional families, widespread crime and corruption and the spread of the HIV/Aids pandemic. Sexual permissiveness and disregard for the traditional family spell disaster for our nation. The ACDP believes that moral degeneration is a direct result of certain government laws and policies, such as:

- The legalisation of abortion-on-demand, resulting in the legal murder of more than three hundred thousand unborn babies since 1997;
- Sexual orientation and domestic partnership proposals that legally acknowledge same-sex relationships;
- The legalisation of pornography and gambling;
- Explicit sex education in schools; and
- Access to contraceptives and abortion for children, without parental consent.

Abortion and Active Euthanasia

The ACDP will pursue all legal means to protect the right to life for the elderly, the infirm, the unborn and the disabled.

We are opposed to taxpayers' money being spent on abortions in public hospitals or to subsidise organisations that promote abortion.

We will promote compassionate and humane alternatives to abortion, such as pregnancy crisis centres and adoption services, to provide loving homes for pregnant women and children who need them.

We oppose any legislation that forces health care workers to perform or take part in any medical procedure against their belief or conscience.

Homosexuality and Sexual Exploitation

The sexual orientation clause in the National Constitution has resulted in the promotion of unacceptable alternative lifestyles such as homosexuality.

This, together with domestic partnership proposals, is paving the way for legal same-sex unions and a redefinition of marriage.

We abhor sexual exploitation in any form, such as prostitution and trafficking in women and children for sexual purposes.

We are also opposed to the lowering of the age of consent for homosexual sexual activities from 19 to 16 years, as well as the concept of sexual experimentation for children between the ages of 12 and 16 years.

Freedom and Expression

The ACDP believes in freedom of expression, within limits, so as not to permit adult and child pornography. We oppose any form of expression that incites religious or ethnic hatred, violence or terrorism that has the effect of destabilising our democracy.

Gambling

We believe in the work ethic as one of the primary values that supports a person's dignity and general well-being.

Gambling, on the other hand, can destroy the integrity and future of the individual, as well as entire families, businesses and communities. We will consequently promote a culture of hard and productive work among all South Africans.

CRIME, CORRUPTION AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The primary function of government is to protect the life, liberty and property of its citizens and provide an effective criminal justice system.

An integrated approach, with full pre-trial services, as well as more courts, police stations, experienced police, prosecutors and court personnel, will address the serious problems facing the criminal justice system.

The ACDP believes that all responsible citizens have a role to play in the battle against crime and corruption. We will lead the way with our tough policies on crime and emphasis on individual responsibility and accountability.

To this end, the ACDP has and will continue to support the right of law-abiding citizens to own and bear arms in self-defence and in defence of their families, and will continue to oppose legislation that invades this right.

Capital Punishment

The ACDP believes that the most effective deterrent to crime is the sure knowledge that criminals will be swiftly apprehended, tried, convicted and sentenced appropriately.

In the case of certain offences, such as pre-meditated murder, the courts will be given the discretion to impose capital punishment.

Restorative Justice

In the case of property crimes, the ACDP's innovative policy of restorative justice will play a crucial role in maintaining the balance between punishment and individual responsibility on the one hand, and restoration of both the victim and offender on the other.

In view of the ACDP's concern for victim's rights, criminals will be held accountable for their actions by the payment of restitution or the rendering of community service.

This victim-centred approach provides for restitution not to the State, but to the victim of crime.

In addition to the above, the ACDP will implement the following in its zero-tolerance, anti-crime strategy:

- Stiffer sentences will be imposed with the minimum sentencing legislation being strictly applied for certain crimes;
- The present system of parole will be scrapped;
- Bail for certain categories of crime will be strictly limited. This includes crimes such as murder, rape, armed robbery and hijacking; and
- Prisoners will bear the costs of their board and lodging through productive prison labour.

Corruption will be addressed by introducing stricter financial control measures. We will also enhance the powers and capacity of the Auditor-General, the Public Protector, the Scorpions and the Special Investigation Unit, as well as fully implementing anti-corruption legislation, including whistle-blower's protection.

EDUCATION

The ACDP is committed to providing quality education and establishing the central role of parents in the education of their children.

The development of the child's intellectual, physical, emotional well-being is a primary focus for the ACDP. Our value-based education policy focuses on nurturing integrity, charity and responsibility in the individual. It is designed around established education norms to enable students to acquire skills and knowledge, including numeracy and literacy, while building character.

The ACDP is committed to protecting freedom of religion within schools and believes that parents and school governing bodies should have the right to decide on the religious ethos of a school.

School choice without government intervention should be available to parents in the form of vouchers to be cashed at the school that best reflects the values of the parents.

We are opposed to life skills programmes in schools, which promote abortion, licentious sex and deviant lifestyles. We offer a value-based alternative that teaches children solid moral principles, equipping them with critical skills and knowledge in order to promote good citizenship.

Educational discipline and commitment from teachers, discipline and scholarly commitment from students will be a priority.

At the same time illegal weapons, drugs, alcohol and gangsterism in schools will not be tolerated.

LAND AND HOUSING

The ACDP respects property ownership and is committed to facilitating the extension of this privilege for as many citizens as possible.

We recognize that successful land reform must address the needs of the landless and landowners. Existing standards of utilisation must be retained and improved, promoting sustainable productivity to ensure food security.

As a major employer, the agricultural sector makes a valuable contribution to the economy and as such, should not be undermined. At the same time security of tenure for all South Africans, will be a top priority.

The ACDP believes that land acquisition must be based on the principle of “willing buyer, willing seller”, with sales concluded at market value, determined objectively and with the right of appeal and arbitration to resolve disputes.

While state-owned land available for redistribution is minimal, sufficient privately-owned land is available for sale. The challenge is therefore finances and keeping land in productive use. It is necessary to separate the need people have for homes from the need emergent farmers have for farms.

The ACDP recognises that emergent farmers need technical and marketing assistance, irrigation schemes and agricultural skills along with security of tenure and land ownership; while the majority of people need homes with water, sanitation and other services important to support and develop strong healthy families.

Housing the nation must be seen as an integral social contract involving all social spheres including the family, business, community and government.

Housing delivery involves the moral and social responsibility including paying for services and having access to finances.

The ACDP believes that the delivery of housing is inextricably linked to the creation of employment and the alleviation of poverty.

TAX

The ACDP will seek to test the introduction of single broadly based low flat-rate transaction tax to replace all existing taxes. We believe this will result in an increased number of taxpayers and a substantial reduction in tax for all citizens producing a simpler, fairer and more efficient system.

ECONOMY

The ACDP's economic policy is guided by our values and our Biblical worldview to enhance prosperity for all. We are committed to:

- Reducing government debt and spending;
- A lean government, focussing primarily on the administration of justice and the extension of private property rights;
- A small and efficient complement of public servants;
- Job creation and economic growth through a free market policy with as little bureaucratic interference as possible;
- Helping South Africa become more competitive in the global economy;
- Lowering inflation;
- Streamlining labour legislation to remove obstructions to growth within the framework of fair labour practices; and
- Providing incentives to encourage expatriates to return to build the nation.

POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

The ACDP is very concerned that limited economic growth since 1994 has not translated into employment opportunities and as a result, millions of our citizens are unable to find jobs. We believe that a government's industrial strategy must support small businesses and labour-intensive industries in order to improve employment and uplift the poor. Investment in the maintenance and building of infrastructure is also crucial to ensure competitiveness and shared growth.

While the current focus on exports creates expanding markets for South African products, it has not translated into benefits for all South Africans. The ACDP will introduce incentives for companies to invest locally, while also applying principles of reciprocity to ensure that local manufacturers are able to compete fairly against importers that are heavily subsidised.

In addition, the ACDP will:

- Implement and encourage entrepreneurship programmes, education and skills development;
- Support small business development by facilitating access to financial assistance and mentorship programmes;
- Encourage privatisation, labour-intensive initiatives and support small business development;
- Concentrate on investment in infrastructure;

- Encourage the development of a culture of savings, investment, patient building of capital and hard work;
- Ensure that black economic empowerment results in socio-economic empowerment instead of the current culture of entitlement, redistribution of existing wealth, and the enrichment of an elite group; and
- Restore consumer and investor confidence in the economy.

HEALTH

HIV/Aids

According to estimates, approximately five million people in South Africa are currently infected with HIV and more than six hundred deaths every day are Aids-related.

This disease affects all South Africans either physically, emotionally or financially, as economic growth declines and the cost of living soars.

Current government-funded HIV education programmes provide inappropriate advice and mixed messages about sex that are counter-productive.

The ACDP will introduce morality-based life skills programmes and sensible, factual public awareness campaigns to promote the message of abstinence and fidelity that has worked so successfully in reducing the HIV infection rate in countries such as Uganda.

In addition to prevention, medical treatment, including anti-retroviral treatment, sound nutritional guidelines and social programmes are needed to prolong and improve the quality of life for those living with HIV/Aids. Because this killer disease is a health issue before it is a human rights issue, it must be treated as any other contagious disease.

In addition to the above, the ACDP will implement:

- Effective control that will necessitate extreme measures including making HIV/Aids a notifiable disease, with comprehensive testing and counselling programmes;
- Home-care projects;
- Nutritional programmes to boost immune systems that will help to prevent opportunistic infections (in conjunction with anti-retroviral treatment);
- Comprehensive treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/Aids; and

- Anti-retroviral treatment programmes in the public health sector; and post-exposure prophylactic treatment for rape survivors at police stations, hospitals and district surgeons.

Health Care Services

The ACDP will prioritise the provision of well-equipped and well-staffed clinics and hospitals and is committed to their efficient and effective management.

We will encourage health care workers to stay in the country by providing improved service conditions, including better salaries and incentives, especially in rural areas. The ACDP guarantees the medical profession the right to run private practices without unnecessary government interference.