APC MANIFESTO

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

2011

APC

SETTING THE PACE FOR VIVABLE AND ACCOUNTABLE MUNICIPALITIES.

90 President Street. 4th Floor, Dr Neil Aggett House.
Mobile: 079 049 5596
www.theapc.org.za
## Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section A – Preamble.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section B – About the APC.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section C – Abridged Policy.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section D – Core Issues.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section E – Conclusion.</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Section A – Preamble:

On the 5th September 2007 we announced the formation of the APC as a progressive alternative. We stated then, as we still do now, that the advent of the APC heralded a new era in South African politics; that the APC was going to play an ever increasing role in our country’s politics. Lo and behold; the APC successfully contested the 2009 General Elections. Unlike many first time parties we survived those elections and are represented in the National Assembly. The APC is now playing one of the most critical roles in parliamentary oversight as chair of the Public Accounts Committee (SCOPA).

We are therefore approaching the local government elections with much hope, confidence and momentum. We are building on the success of the 2009 elections and the mass work we have been doing since those elections. We are confident that the APC will score brilliant successes. If our preparations are anything to go by we are assured that the Africanist flag will fly even higher!

As comrades will recall, we had a National Elections Summit in September 2010 (Durban) which laid down the broad thrust of our strategy. The Extended Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting in December 2010 (Bloemfontein) dealt with the application of the Durban Summit guidelines. So there has been clarity in the party about preparing for these elections.

We are making a call on all our members and supporters to ensure that we achieve the goals we have set for ourselves. It is good that we have kept and consolidated our national character as a party in that we will be contesting in all the nine provinces.

Having said that, it is important to articulate clearly our progressive perspective on these elections. The arrival of the APC must be seen as presenting an opportunity to break with the monotomy of voting with no material meaning to the people’s lives. We have diagnosed that local government is challenged by a lack of capacity, indifference to the wishes of the masses and corruption. The presence of the APC in the municipal councils should give communities a voice and the possibility to follow what is happening in councils and input thereto.

The APC is participating in these elections to make a difference. We want to contribute to building viable and accountable local governments. The APC commits itself to ensuring that its councillors have tri-monthly meetings with communities for them to set the agenda of their developmental priorities in line with our revolutionary commitment to popular/participatory democracy.
This will be a radical break with the past that is characterised by a huge social distance between the masses and elected representatives. The APC will seek to ensure that the right people for the appropriate job are hired.

Local governments are teeming with inappropriately skilled people in critical positions of responsibility which hinders service delivery. The APC would also tackle head-on the chaotic billing system which is a problem almost everywhere. This is another product of incompetency.

We would like to see timeous and quality services delivered to the people. The APC would also ensure that all capital budgets are fully spent since the people are living in terrible surroundings yet municipalities fail to use the money at their disposal. Our reputation as militants for good governance is beyond question. Corruption is a cancer that must be fought valiantly; it undermines democracy; hard work, and is antithetical to revolutionary morality. The APC will campaign for forensic audits to be done so that systemic problems can be identified and wrong doers prosecuted.

For us politics will always be the science of serving the masses. The happiness and welfare of the people is our number one priority. Thus the APC will do all that is necessary to improve the lives of the people.

We are making a clarion call: the decks are cleared, the battle must be joined. The people must be mobilised in their numbers to vote for the dawn of a new era in South Africa. The APC intends to make a difference in the lives of the people.

Let your vote work for you, Vote APC!! Let us set the pace for viable and accountable local governments!

The future is bright; the road is tortuous!

Long live APC.

Comrade Themba Godi
APC President
2. Section B – About the African People’s Convection:

The APC was founded on the 5th September 2007, precisely to fill the political void that existed since the advent of democracy in 1994 in that there was no viable, credible and progressive alternative to the status quo.

It was formed to be the alternative voice, the voice of the voiceless.

It was formed to be a home for all patriotic and progressive forces who believe that freedom and democracy must benefit all the citizens of our country and must change their lives for the better.

The party is steeped firmly on the values and traditions of the liberation movement of people centredness and popular democracy; and is guided by the revolutionary massline.

2.1 Vision:

To be a viable, credible and progressive alternative governing party.

2.2 Mission:

Meeting the political, economic, social and cultural needs of our people through mass mobilisation.

2.3 Motto:

Discipline, Respect and Hard work.

2.4 Aims and Objectives

2.4.1 Rally to defend and advance the right to national self-determination.

2.4.2 Strive for Africanist Socialist Democracy.

2.4.3 Promote the ideal of unifying Africa and the African Diaspora.

2.4.4 Promote international solidarity among progressive forces.

2.4.5 Promote educational, cultural and economic advancement.
of our people.

2.4.6 Promote the projection of the African personality.

2.5 Election Theme:

SETTING THE PACE FOR VIVABLE AND ACCOUNTABLE MUNICIPALITIES.

3. Section C – Abridged Policy Statement:

APC Local Government Policy.
The APC commits itself to a local government system that sustainably aspires towards optimal effectiveness, efficiency in service delivery and management of resources. We believe that this can be achieved by, among other things:

• Recruiting, selecting and training workers that are endowed with a sense of calling towards and for public service.
• Recognizing and rewarding industrious and service orientated public officials.
• Empowering all spheres of government through establishing effective enabling mechanisms for cooperative governance
• Outsourcing services to competing suppliers only when such outsourcing would enhance efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.
• Providing opportunities for career pathing, and improving technical and managerial training
• Providing holistic health opportunities for all public servants, including effective preventive programmes.
• Dealing decisively with corruption and other ethical pathologies without fear or favour.
• Avoiding bureaucratic methods and procedures where these militate against efficient and effective service delivery.
• Speed up service delivery as demanded by sustained gauging of the public needs and interest.
• Forging the requisite partnerships with citizen groups, extra-governmental bodies, private sector organizations, and other organs of civil society if such partnerships will enhance service delivery, efficiencies and economies of scale.
Harness and utilize information and communication technologies (ICT’s) for greater efficiencies in citizen communication efforts and improved service delivery.

The APC is persuaded that where municipal government espouses the above principles and values, effectiveness and efficiency will be promoted, and service delivery and the quality of life for ordinary South Africans will be enhanced.

4. **Section D – Core Issues:**

4.1 **Service Delivery:**

The cornerstone of APC local government policy is **quality and efficient service delivery** to all the citizens of our country. Local government is the most appropriately suited level of government to give freedom and democracy real meaning to our people and change their lives for the better.

Local government must be populated by patriotic public servants who are selfless and have a sense of duty and responsibility. Monitoring and accountability are key and central features if quality and efficient service is to be rendered to our people.

- Capacitate local people to participate in service delivery as individuals, families, households and communities and through their own organisations.
- Local people to participate in determining priority needs, in the subsequent planning processes, in the budgetary processes and in the implementation of development programmes.
- Local people to be front and first-line monitoring and evaluation actors on performance of local development programmes and utilisation of financial and non-financial resources. This must be institutionalised and practised.
- Local people through their organisations and enterprises to be key agents, working with government, in the delivery of public goods and services.
4.2 Government of all the Talents:

The development and advancement of every Country requires the collective efforts of all its citizens. The APC believe in a government of all the talents where all citizens are entitled to be appointed in key and strategic positions as per their qualification and competency to take the Country forward as opposed to the exclusivist policy of cadreship deployment where only members of the ruling party get rich preferential appointments at the expense of the qualified and competent non-members. This has undermined and compromised quality and efficiency in the Public Sector.

4.3 Good Governance:

The APC stands for a viable, responsive and accountable Local Government characterised by consultation, popular participation of the local communities in all matters that affect their lives.

The APC will fight, expose and stop all forms of corruption, nepotism, self-enrichment and abuse of state and public resources. Corruption diverts public resources from service delivery to greedy self-serving individuals and those who are connected to them – family and friends.

We have enough laws in South Africa to deal with corruption, the challenge however has always been the capacity of the state and the political will to properly and effectively implement and enforce them.

Corruption and undemocratic priorities to be eliminated via:

- Building viable voice of communities; provision of information on available resources, and their utilisation
- Institutionalisation of the participation of local communities in Budgetary processes and in expenditure transactions, including representative tender systems and provision of information of all who have tendered and those that have won and their subsequent performance.
- Institutionalisation of participatory and deliberate democracy.
• Empowerment of all critical local actors on issues of governance and provision of public goods and services.
• Co-ordination between the executive and management arms and between these and the organisations of local people.
• Provide conditions for local people to learn and practice democracy.
• Institutionalise feedback where at local government officials provide feedback to local communities on progress achieved in service delivery and achievements on local development programmes.

4.4 Local Economic Development and Skills Development:

The APC view local economic development as the most important tool to help address the hardship associated with abject poverty, skills shortage and high rate of unemployment. LED must aim at developing skills, creating job opportunities and growing the local economy. Emphasis should be on developing local skills by providing training, putting in place permanent support structures and availing mentoring to enhance sustainability.

Local economic and skills development should be part of the broader integrated development plan of every municipality.

The APC provides the following as guidelines for a sound LED programme:

• It must prioritise job creation and poverty alleviation.
• It must target the previously disadvantaged people and marginalised communities.
• It must be localised to address the local challenges in line with the local dynamics.
• It must promote local ownership, community involvement, local leadership and joint decision making.
• It must use local resources and skills and maximises opportunities for development.
• And most importantly it must involve the integration of diverse economic initiatives.
• The Economic and Social competitiveness of local areas to be
enhanced and exploited through focus on local potentialities.

• The uniqueness of local economies and social features to be a point of departure rather than standardised national programmes.

• APC will ensure that local areas, especially rural areas, are attractive to the location of new businesses and promotion of new enterprises by local people. Enhance the quality of environment in order to make rural areas places for high quality of life.

• Promote functional relations between urban and rural areas and to ensure mutual benefits from these transactions. Urban areas provide markets for produce from rural areas, decent jobs, and services required by rural social and economic activities.

• On farm and off-farm economic activities to be emphasised in rural areas and to integrate these activities. Promote and support utilisation of land to produce products for family consumption and for the market.

• Promote support cross-municipalities collaboration on development programmes.

4.4.1 On Local Capacity:

Besides the lack of capacity of the government institutions, there is also lack of capacity of local individuals, families, households and communities to engage in the following areas:

• Initiate and carry out local development programmes under their control.

• Establish and maintain their own organisations.

• Hold government and private sector officials accountable to local communities and individuals.

Emphasis is that Development is the continuous learning of the people who must be the subjects and not the objects of development.
4.4.2 Participatory Budget Process:

Capacitated local communities constituted as civil society to participate in the local level Budgetary Processes, including the identification of development priorities, allocation of resources to these and the monitoring of expenditure processes which must be transparent and be public information.

4.5 Education and Early Childhood Development:

The APC holds a belief that education is a nation building imperative and therefore the country’s education system must be designed in a way that it seeks to produce educated, skilled, patriotic, progressive and selfless citizens with a sense of national service.

And this should start at the earliest stage of human development and education. The APC supports an education system that contextually and urgently addresses and eradicates the deep patterns of inequality which are the legacy of apartheid colonialism. In pursuit of this objective, the APC puts forward the ideal that education and training must characterised by relevant and comprehensive integration.

The important linkage between education and training must be acknowledged, developed and sustained. Some of the important pursuits of the education system espoused by the APC include:

- Achieving racial, class and gender equality in the shortest possible time.
- Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.
- Promoting access to education, training and skills development by ensuring that education is free from primary level to the attainment of a university junior degree.
4.6 Land, Agriculture and Rural Development:

Land and agriculture reform must take place in line with short, medium and long term rural and urban development of the country. The APC believe that the following principles should guide our land and agricultural reform.

- The APC remain committed to land reform that includes land restitution, land redistribution and access to land.
- Expropriation of land must be done in line with the constitutional principle of basic human rights and other related precepts such as social justice, equity and redress.
- Land and property ownership by non-South Africans must be regulated.
- Management and control of state owned land must be treated with much circumspection in order to avoid unethical conduct related to it.
- Agrarian reform should strengthen food security by ensuring that the majority of our people have access to land and material support.
- End the landlessness of the majority of the people of this country.
- The right of use of land to be made available to all.
- Land to be upheld as a critical asset to be used by the poor to exit poverty.
- Security of land tenure to be guaranteed by both traditional and received laws.

For almost two decades now since the dawn of democracy in our country the rural areas did not see any fundamental transformation from the poverty-stricken dumping grounds of the apartheid era.

These have led to migration from rural to urban areas with disastrous consequences socially and economically.

The APC seeks to change this sad situation by prioritising the development of rural areas to be economically viable. The APC will invest heavily in infrastructural development, job creation and self-sufficient programmes especially in agriculture and agricultural-related activities.
4.7 Housing and Infrastructure Development:

For housing/human settlement, industrial, commercial and local economic development the APC believes in an integrated plan that involves all levels of government.

From the days of minority rule to the seventeenth year of new democratic dispensation the housing problem in South Africa has moved from bad to worse.

Our people have to contend with rampant fraud and corruption, small and poor quality RDP houses, unfinished housing projects, daily evictions and inhuman squalor conditions that are below human habitation.

It is in the light of the above that the APC policy on housing emphasises the following goals:

- Adequate housing that is habitable and that respects and promotes the basic human rights of its inhabitants.
- Housing that spatially and geographically provides easy access to schools, workplace, medical, health facilities etc.
- Relevant government assistance to those in need of housing, including financial subsidies, proper allocation and management of such subsidies.
- Involving the beneficiaries in the planning process. Such community involvement must include not only planning for current housing needs but also for future extension and development within the context of local and town planning for clinics, hospitals and other public amenities.
- Subsidy packages must take into account the socio-economic state of communities, self-building options, rental options etc should be considered.
- APC is painfully aware that currently there are no regulations on private housing rentals. This has given rise to the exploitation of our people. APC will put in place a policy will regulate and control how rentals can be charged. People who live in these rented estates should also access free water and electricity due to them as citizens of the country according to the law.
- Illegal evictions without proper and prior notice, consultation
with the affected community and permanent alternative will be outlawed as it is inhuman and dislocated families, people and their job places and children from their schools without consideration.

4.8 Emergency Service and Disaster Management:

APC Disaster Management Plan for the local authorities is aimed at reducing the occurrence of disasters and to reduce the impact of those that cannot be prevented.

The plan entails setting up the structure and mechanisms for dealing with disasters of any form and the ability to anticipate future disasters and remain prepared. The APC will create an integrated structure involving Fire Services, Ambulance Services, Emergency Medical Services, Engineers and Traffic Police Services.

Some of the most important aspects of the plan are:

- The level of preparedness for any eventuality.
- Resourcefulness and the type of equipment to cope with any eventuality.
- The capacity to coordinate all stakeholders for an effective four R chain reaction of Response, Rescue, Relief and Recover.
- Train and capacitate the local community to respond adequately on their own to any form of disaster while still waiting for professional help.

Here are some common potential disasters that need preparedness at all times:

- Fire.
- Floods.
- Violent Storms.
- Accidents of all kinds.
- Oil Spills both at Sea or on Land.
- Hazardous Material Spills etc.
The APC Disaster Management Plan seeks to put community involvement at the centre of all aspects of mitigation and management.

4.9 Community Safety:

The APC stands for a holistic national crime stop and crime prevention strategy to protect and secure our people and property. Violent crime, white collar crime and petty crime in our country have reached unacceptable levels and the situation need to be arrested before the country slide further into anarchy and lawlessness.

Among others the APC want to put an urgent stop on violent crime, crime against women and children, child and drug trafficking, fraud and corruption.

All sections and sectors of the society need to join hands in taking the war against crime back to the criminals and not allow them to hold the country at ransom and continue to undermine and compromise our hard fought freedom, democracy, human rights and rule of law.

APC works hard in supporting all efforts to deal with socio-economic conditions that create a fertile breeding ground for crime and criminals. Our Community Safety Plan seeks to mobilise all stakeholders, be them the business community, faith based organisations, individual members of community and civil society formations to take an active and direct role in crime stop and crime prevention initiatives like neighbourhood watch, community patrols, community policing forums and create partnerships with state security agencies.

4.10 Municipal Billing System:

For a long time now our communities have been subjected to a metering and billing system that is forever in disarray with no tangible efforts or successes in correcting it.

In most Municipalities; if not all of them, the metering systems are faulty, malfunctioning or not functional at all. Their readings are
not reliable and cannot be used as the basis to bill the people.

In line with the APC’s policy of good governance the current metering and billing system needs to be reviewed and a flat rate be charged while the faulty system is being faced out and the new system is installed.

Service providers who continue to rake out millions of rands from ratepayers money for providing no service will be investigated, the wrong doers’ contracts be terminated and public funds be recovered where corruption, non-performance and fraud is uncovered.

4.11 Gender Mainstreaming:

Bringing gender issues to the mainstream of our political, economic, cultural, educational and religious platforms tops APC’s agenda of nation building, transformation and reconstruction of our country.

APC works hard in both its internal and external programmes and systems to address and redress the imbalances of the past while empowering and developing the women folk, we will also like to educate and alleviate the fears that men folk hold about gender equity and equality.

Create enabling environment along religious, traditional and cultural lines for our women folk to freely participate in the reconstruction of our country without any form of discrimination.

Address patriarchy and dispel all dangerous myths around gender issues. (E.g. A woman’s place is in the kitchen, some jobs and professions are for men only etc).

The APC will deliberately seek to ensure that women are highly represented in its lists of councillors. The APC will also ensure that local economic development projects in large measure benefit women.
5. Section E – Conclusion:

A profile of APC President.

The struggle for freedom in South Africa was characterised by cruelty, suffering and rooted in class and racial discrimination. As notorious as it was, it brought about a number of leaders whom we have entrusted with the task of setting pace for change for all South Africans. One such leader is Comrade Themba Godi, President of our Party; the African People’s Convention (APC).

The President’s political consciousness came very early in his life. He could not stand the political oppression of our people under apartheid. He was always moved very emotionally by the suffering and poverty of the people around him. He wanted to be part of the struggle to change our situation for the better rather than to be a spectator.

The President started his political activism as a secondary school student; matured at university and never relented even when he became a teacher. He has from the start been an ardent Africanist, inspired by revolutionaries like Mangaliso Sobukwe, Thomas Sankara, and Kwame Nkrumah etc.

He has served in various leadership positions since the dark days of apartheid. He formed the African People’s Convention (APC) to advance the ideals of Pan Africanism and bring about meaningful change in the South African Political landscape.

In February 2004, the President became a Member of Parliament where he served in a number of Parliamentary Committees: Education, Labour, Social Development and Trade and Industry. In November 2005 the President was appointed the first African Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa). He was reappointed Chairperson of the Committee after the 2009 General Elections. This is the Committee that looks at the reports of the Auditor-General on the administration and management of public finances by government departments and public entities/parastatals. In the years that he has been Chairperson of Scopa, the President has run it with spectacular success and has raised its public profile. There is universal acclaim of his balanced, firm and focused leadership of that very important Committee.
There is confidence that under his watch corruption, fraud and waste of public funds can never be tolerated. This has enhanced parliament’s oversight work.

He is a man of high integrity and unquestionable moral astuteness; he sought to reason with fairness in a highly contested political terrain in Parliament. Rooted in the ideals of Pan Africanism, issues related to the importance of culture and tradition are closest to his heart hence the APC`s position to the issues pertaining traditional leadership; the projection of the African personality and the United States of Africa.

He believes that the ideals of democracy will only be realised through a corrupt free, accountable, ethical government that owes its accountability to the electorate. His leadership of the APC is based on strong foundations of accountability, courtesy and responsiveness to the needs of the people.

When the APC was formed in September 2007 it was an obvious choice that he would have the honour of being its founding President. It is under his leadership that the APC has been transformed from being an idea into a dynamic and growing party that it is today.

As we go into the 2011 Elections; we do so with confidence in the knowledge that the APC is led by someone who has political integrity and whose leadership is recognized by the general public.

The future is bright, the Road is tortuous!

Long live APC!!!