

APC 2024 ELECTIONS MANIFESTO



PREFACE TO THE APC 2024 ELECTIONS MANIFESTO.

In the name of our revolutionary forebearers, Marcus Garvey, Kwame Nkrumah and Robert Sobukwe, it is our honor to present the APC 2024 Elections Manifesto.

The message of the APC is consistent and revolutionary. The APC elections Manifesto reflects both the political and ideological bend of the organisation. The APC has always put the material and spiritual welfare of the people at the centre of its work.

We approach the 2024 elections confident that all the strategic goals of the APC shall be achieved. To the APC parliament is not an end in itself but a means to an end, a site of struggle. We intend to use the platform of parliament to advance the cause of the people.

At the core of the APC message is the fight against the four evils: Hunger, Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality.

These four evils are a result of the (continued) subjugation of the African majority (colonialism and Neo-colonialism).

The reactionary petty bourgeoisie in power since 1994 have become a fetter to the forward movement in the struggle of the people for full sovereignty and dignity.

The APC holds high the banner of revolution, not to reform the system but to replace it with an Africanist Socialist democracy.

We have declared 2024 as the Year of the Cadre. We are making a call to our cadres to rise to the challenge of elections, to be bold and daring, displaying acts of heroism, self-sacrifice and creativity for the cause of the African people to triumph. Let's approach the elections with hope and courage, with calm iron determination.

We will win !!.

Forward to the 2024 elections.

Forward to the victory of the Africanists.

Yours for the cause of Afrika!!

THE BASIC LINE

A significant part of our recorded social milieu begins with the arrival of European settlers on Africa's southern tip as a direct result of the rise of European commercial capital from the turn of the 15th century. The Berlin Conference (1884-1885) formalized the colonization of Africa.

By the sword, Africans were robbed of their land and self-rule and in 1910 the current borders of South Africa were created in a union between the descendants of the Dutch settlers and the British colonialists.

Subsequently a political struggle was pursued to unite the indigenous Africans to fight against foreign rule and for African independence and self-rule.

It was only in the 1940s that Anton Lembede and Ashby Mda espoused, for the first time, a clear ideological platform of Pan-Africanism and Socialism as guide to the struggle.

This Pan-Africanist and Socialist ideological platform was to be taken forward, deepened and articulated by the likes of Robert Sobukwe and Peter Raboroko in the 1950s.

The APC is formed representing a historical continuity of that Pan-Africanist and Socialist ideological platform. As a Pan-Africanist and Socialist vanguard, the APC has a historic responsibility to the African nation and the working class to provide visionary and energetic leadership, doing everything in the interest of the people and nothing against them, to pursue the ideals of Pan-Africanism and Socialism single-mindedly, without faltering or equivocation. This is a historic responsibility the APC will never shirk.

The APC is of the firm belief and commitment to Pan-Africanism and Socialism as the only solution to the political, economic, social and cultural challenges and problems facing the African nation and the working class.

Pan-Africanism serves as the basis for the political integration of all Africans, in the Continent and the Diaspora. Pan-Africanism serves as the liberatory creed from the cultural alienation and depersonalization of the African as a consequence of the social degradation under colonialism.

Pan-Africanism is the self-affirmation of the African in a world that has historically through slavery, colonialism and neo-colonialism sought to cast the African as inferior, not deserving an equal share in the brotherhood and sisterhood of mankind.

The African is inferior to none, and Africans reject racism. Pan-Africanists believe in the scientific truism that there is only one race, the HUMAN RACE to which we all belong.

As Pan-Africanists, the APC therefore declares:

Africa for the Africans, Africans for Humanity, and Humanity for God.

The African nation and the working class yearn for unity on the basis of African nationalism to fight for the establishment of an Africanist Socialist democratic social order, recognizing the vital material, intellectual and spiritual needs of the individual.

The APC believes that socialism is the solution for the attainment of the happiness and well-being of the African nation and the working class.

The APC understands socialism as the correct system that can usher proper and full development of society and the realization of the full human potential on the basis and principles of equality. Only socialism can usher true democracy, economic and social equity.

APC holds firmly to the ideals of socialism as the only system that can address the age-old problem of how man can live in harmony with his/her fellow man.

Man moves and has his/her being in a social environment. In the absence of social life, the economic question falls away. The social question, whose structural foundations are to be found in economic determinism, arises within the framework of social relations.

To live in harmony with his/her fellow men, man must recognize THE primacy of the material and spiritual interests of his/ her fellow men and not uphold his/her own interests at the expense of those of his/her fellow men and women. It is within that set-up that the human personality can be fostered.

It is socialism that can ensure that socially produced wealth is shared equitably. Socialism will ensure that the poverty, inequality and unemployment, which are socially engineered products of colonialism

and capitalism are fully addressed through the public ownership of the commanding heights of the economy.

Socialism will ensure that the working class, the majority in society, has a decisive say in the development trajectory of the country.

Thus armed with the superior ideas of Pan-Africanism and Socialism, the APC must organize itself to play its historic role which amongst others is:

- to create an organizational machinery for the galvanization of the exploited and degraded African masses into an irresistible social force bent upon the destruction of all factors and forces that have reduced the stature of man, and also bent upon the creation of conditions for the development and projection of the African personality;
- to establish for the Party a training ground for the production of a determined, dedicated and disciplined collective leadership that will serve as a symbol of national unity on a Pan-African basis and also as a repository, guardian and custodian of the ideas, principles, methods, policies and programs of the APC.
- to provide an administrative machinery for the direction, guidance and control of the Party in its grand march towards the inevitable goal of victory.
- to create a social order that is Africanistic in orientation, Socialistic in content, Democratic in form, Non-racial in character and Creative in purpose.

In South Africa the quest for Pan-Africanism and Socialism has found its concrete expression and highest organizational form and structure in the APC.

The existence of the APC has ensured that the values and traditions of the liberation struggle, of people-centredness and popular democracy, will persist and be advanced, it will ensure that the African nation and the working class cannot continue to be misled about the historical goals of our freedom struggle or about the colonial and alien class ideas that dominate and inform current political, economic, social and cultural developments in South Africa.

We declared the formation of the African People's Convention as the vanguard of the African nation and the working class on the 5th September 2007.

The APC thus constitutes itself as a revolutionary vanguard of the African nation and the working class on the basis of this Constitution.

SECTION C

ABOUT THE AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONVENTION

1. The APC was formed on the 5th September 2007 as a home for all patriotic and progressive forces who believe that freedom and democracy must benefit all the citizens of our country; and change their lives for the better. The party is steeped firmly in the values and traditions of the Liberation Movement of people centredness and popular democracy; and is guided by the revolutionary Mass-line.

2. The APC has established itself as a national organisation, continuously raising its profile and voice on issues facing our country.

The APC has thus far participated in the 2009, 2011, 2014, 2016 and 2021 General and Municipal Elections. We are looking forward to a successful campaign in 2024.

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.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To rally the people to defend and advance the right to national self-determination.
- 3.2 To strive for an Africanist socialist democracy.
- 3.3 To strive for the advancement of the interests of the people, educationally, culturally and economically.
- 3.4 To promote projection of the African personality.
- 3.5 To strive and promote the ideal of the union of African states, including the African Diaspora.
- 3.6 To promote international solidarity among progressive forces.
- 3.7 To strive to win acceptance as a vanguard by democratic means and in ideological contest with other political parties.
- 3.8 At all times commit itself to a social order that will respect completely the cultural, language and religious rights of all sections of our society and the democratic rights to independence of all social organisations and political parties that function within the ambit of the South African constitution. This implies commitment to multiparty political framework in which there will be regular, open and free elections.

4. AGILE – GOVERNMENT

The APC believes in an agile government. An Agile government is able to move quickly, with alertness, skill and control.

An Agile government is mentally prepared to specific needs, attacks and stimuli, and has the ability to prepare, and be prepared for any threats and opportunities that might come from its ambient environment.

An agile government would function in a synchronous fashion with its environment, feeding and be fed by the latter in a harmonious and reciprocal symbiosis.

Agility in government can be utilised as a perfect metaphor for government and government Structures that:

- a. Are in touch with its ambient environment, constantly scanning and researching its environment for opportunities and threats. It is aware of its weaknesses, and thrives on putting its strengths against the environment.
- b. Are able to harness all its resources (human, natural, time and information) in order to respond appropriately to needs and other stimuli.
- c. Are able to identify opportunities for growth and enables all its constituent parts to exercise, learn and strengthen all its ligaments, muscles and limbs.

This will be in sharp contrast to a government that is unresponsive and distant; which is a source of frustration to so many of our people. The current state of affairs is anti-thetical to the ideal of a people's government.

SECTION D

APC COMMITMENTS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (2024-2029)

Economic development is the central task to which every policy, program and endeavour is subordinate and should serve. This is because to the APC, the welfare and well-being of the people remains, now and forever, our primary goal. We therefore commit ourselves to this programme, whose full and thorough implementation can realise for the majority of our country – the promise of the freedom:

1. Transform The Economy To Serve The People (Socialism), Through State Intervention and Socialisation.

The South African capitalist economy, with its colonial foundation; has always served the interests of the minority at the expense of the majority. The CODESA negotiations had left it unchanged; post-1994 legislative instruments have not changed the character of the socio-economic relations. Thus the economy continues to reproduce the inequalities of the

colonial era, except for a few nouveau riche from amongst the native majority.

The APC is committed to transforming the economy to serve the people.

The APC is committed to the distribution of the wealth of this country as equitably as possible through the central role of the state in the economy and socialisation.

State intervention in the economy will be through regulations, total ownership, majority shareholding or minority shareholding in enterprises. The state will be heavily involved in the commanding heights and strategic areas of the economy like mining, agriculture, banks, manufacturing, communication etc. The distinguishing feature of the system will be the role and position of workers in these enterprises in terms of shares, management and production. The APC is a party committed to socialism whose theoretical foundation and principles are to be found in Marxism-Leninism.

Socialism will guarantee a high living standard for everyone, better education and health care, proper conditions for the development of the full human potential for everyone (cultural and spiritual) etc.

As a Socialist Party, the APC believes that a job is a right of every citizen. Socialism gives the best guarantee for job creation and better living standards. The APC will create jobs by ensuring that the State plays an active role in the economy and through socialization.

The state's central interest in the economy is economic development and not just mere profit maximisation. Big business in this country have been on an investment strike. They currently have more than R1 trillion of their profits stashed away in the banks without reinvesting in the productive economy despite previous agreements with government on percentages to be reinvested from their profits. There is a rationale to this: capitalism always keep an army of the unemployed to blackmail those who are employed on issues of working conditions and salaries, and in the South African context, the holders of capital are part of the politically defeated white minority in 1994 and thus view the democratic government with scepticism.

Therefore, waiting for private capital to create jobs, despite the experience of the last 20 years, will be foolhardy. The APC led State will also create space and give active assistance for co-operatives and individuals to engage in entrepreneurial activities as long as they don't undermine the socialist character of the economy.

The APC believes a revolutionary State, focused and strong will be able to cut down on corruption, maladministration, and duplication thus releasing resources and unleashing the enthusiasm of the masses to get up and develop themselves, as well as their country.

The people are full of energy and creativity they are only held back by bureaucracy and big business.

The APC will be looking at Agriculture and related industries as an area of competitive advantage, Mining and its down streams, Parastatals, Manufacturing; Information and Communication Technology etc. as engines for economic development.

The APC will stop at nothing, and will be prepared to take any measures necessary, to ensure that the people have jobs.

The scourge of unemployment will be banished together with its capitalist creator.

2. A CAPABLE STATE

The APC understands that to achieve socialism will not only require the support of the masses but of equal importance will be the need to have a capable state. A state able to administer; provide services, protect lives and properties, accountable, responsive and transparent.

As stated in the previous sections of this manifesto are our firm views on the Agile Government and Public Administration. Revolutionary morality, political integrity and professional competence must be the bedrock of state administration.

There is no way that a weak state can play its rightful role in the economy and lead the nation in its development.

Incapable civil servants and those who harm the interests of the people will be chopped off without

ceremony, no matter their positions. It is such firmness and decisiveness (leadership) that will see our country and people achieve brilliant victories in the construction and development of socialism.

The APC as a party of revolution committed to the welfare and well-being of the people will firmly combat any practices in public administration that harm the interest of the people like corruption, waste, theft, maladministration, nepotism etc. Corruption is a cancer that eats away at the soul of a people. Alien class ideological tendencies of individualism and crass materialism are a perfect fountain for such anti-people acts like the pilfering of public resources.

A sense of public duty, engendered by socialist consciousness, integrity, and honesty will help minimise such anti-people activities. There are many countries in history who have seen tremendous economic progress by merely clamping down on corruption.

The colonial state pre-1994 was founded on corruption; post-1994 it seems that corrupt practices are on the rise. The endless service delivery protests are a finger of accusation by the masses that whilst the rich get richer they continue to wallow in poverty.

There appears to be a lack of courage and stamina to decisively deal with this scourge.

The APC is genuinely committed to fighting against any act harmful to the interests of the people in public administration.

3. IMPROVE THE PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE

As a peoples government the APC will be at the service of the people, whose welfare and well-being will be its priority. An APC government will seek to improve the lives of the people, restore their dignity by ensuring that the provision of basic services is improved timeous and qualitative.

The provision of services will not only depend on a capable state, with patriotic civil servants but most importantly on the active participation of the people.

The APC would not want the people to be mere passive recipients of government services we would want them to play a popular role.

APC will create organs of people's power to support and monitor the work of the state.

The people will have more say in what services they get and how they get them.

APC will ensure that there are permanent and compulsory social audits of services rendered.

The power of the state will rest with the people, not the bureaucrats.

The APC will overhaul the colonial relations between the state and the masses; cut the distance between the two. The coercive power of the state will be used to coerce in the interest of the people and not against the people. Thus providing public services like education, health, roads infrastructure, electricity, etc. will be the interest of the people that will come first.

3.1. EDUCATION

The APC views education as one aspect of socialisation with social and technical objectives.

The APC envisions a socialist system of education which is designed to serve Society as a whole, not a few individuals and capitalists; inculcate in young people a sense of total commitment to society, and help them accept the values appropriate to our kind of future; emphasising collective endeavour, not individual advancement. The APC's socialist education will emphasise technical education; agriculture; technology, history; maths and science, economics, geography and all skills necessary to build and sustain the socialist economy.

The APC will ensure that education managers are the best there can be to ensure that the country's revolutionary goals are achieved.

The APC will ensure that education infrastructure and facilities are the most appropriate.

3.2. HEALTH

The health of the Nation will be a priority for the APC. A healthy nation ensures productivity in the economy and social stability. The APC will ensure that health facilities are available to the people within the shortest possible distance. The key issue, however, will be the quality and appropriateness of the management and services rendered in those health facilities.

Currently the country suffers from very poor management of health facilities thus leading to corrupt practices and poor services to communities.

There are plenty of successful practices from socialist countries that will serve as referral points for the APC. Profiteering on health will be highly proscribed. The Socialist system will seek to provide high quality of health care.

3.3. ROADS

The APC is committed to improving and maintaining a good road network that enables the movement of goods and people. APC has committed to ensuring that all roads that lead into and through homesteads are tarred whether in urban and rural areas.

3.4. WATER

South Africa is a water stressed country, thus water resources must be handled with the utmost sense of national responsibility.

The APC will nationalize water, make it a national competence to ensure a fair and equitable sharing of this resource.

The provision of water to the people will be a national competence to ensure uniformity of provision.

3.5. ELECTRICITY

Electricity is fundamental to progress of mankind, and the APC will seek total electrification of all households in our country. Our energy policy will be to have a combination of renewables, fossil and nuclear energy. The APC will always seek to use the most reliable and cheapest form of energy that can sustain, at all times, the needs of the country, both households and industries.

The APC will keep Eskom as the lead role-player, as a state entity, in the provision of electricity.

Independent power producers will be encouraged to produce, store and distribute their own electricity without being attached or contracted to Eskom or the State.

Related to this on the energy front, the APC will ensure that any oil or gas production in the country is done by the state in partnership with other companies.

No foreign company/companies will explore and produce oil or gas without a minimum 30 per cent stake for the state, through Petro SA.

The state under an APC government will be at the service of the people who will run it not only through normal bureaucracies but with popular organs of the people's power and social audits to ensure transparency, accountability and people's democracy.

4. PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT

An APC government will lead in ending the exploitation and vulnerability of workers by ensuring that outsourced and contract workers in government, constitutional bodies and state owned entities are permanently employed, with full rights and benefits.

Currently, there are many workers who are hired through labour brokers with no rights, security, and

earning slave wages. The only reason there is this outsourcing is the privatizing philosophy that seeks to enrich a few people at the expense of the many.

This has led to the permanent casualization of many employees in both the public and private sectors. The APC will ban labour broking, and the state would have to lead the way.

The misery and hardships brought to bear on the working poor borders on criminality.

The APC would also ensure that all the primary health practitioners as well as early childhood development educators (ECD) are fully and permanently employed by government, with all the rights and benefits accrued to civil servants.

The corporatist philosophy, which lacks social empathy, is inimical to the kind of humane society we seek to build. State institutions will only outsource services that are very short term and highly specialised.

5. PRIORITIZE AGRICULTURE AND MINING

The APC will actively support and promote agriculture and its related industries in rural and peri-urban areas to create employment and eradicate poverty.

The APC sees agriculture as a competitive advantage that South Africa and the continent at large have vis-à-vis the capitalist West and other middle income countries.

There will be a standardization of farm sizes for subsistence farming, small and large scale commercial farming. No individual will have more than one farm; however, cooperatives can be allocated more than one farm on account of their production excellence

The APC will promote agriculture and support farmers, especially small scale farmers with tractors, seeds, fertilizers and access to markets.

The APC will ensure that strategic minerals are in the hands of the State through total ownership or in partnership with private companies.

The APC will limit the export of raw minerals; minerals will be beneficiated in our country and exported as semi-finished or as finished products.

The APC will seek a continent-wide common position through the African Union, on how Africa should protect and prosper on its natural resources. Africa has been feeding the West for over 400 years to our detriment, yet our resources remain inexhaustible.

For once Africa must stand together, for itself.

The APC will ensure that wherever mining takes place, the local communities benefit, through jobs, skills development and a fair share in the profits from their lands.

Mining companies that do not fulfil their legal obligations to the people will be heavily penalized or have their licences suspended, Community trusts that are not transparent and accountable will be disbanded and their members prosecuted.

The APC will support and promote artisanal mining as a way of giving access to wealth and job creation to the working class. The APC will cause the creation of community based mining committees of artisanal miners, simplify registration of artisanal miners, create Artisanal Mining Zones, initiate capacity building, promote health, safety and sound environmental practices, enterprise development/mineral value addition and access to markets, both national and international

6. FIGHTING CRIMINALITY AND BUILDINGS SOCIAL COHESION

Violent criminality is on the rise in both urban and rural areas. This must be reversed. Poverty, materialism, drugs, alcohol abuse and crumbling societal bonds have unleashed anti-social behaviours that threaten our country.

The APC will seek to strengthen the criminal justice system, simplify processes, quicken sentencing and build a solid partnership between the state and communities.

Criminal elements within the police and prosecutors must be weeded out firmly.

Fighting crime is a societal responsibility. Communities through the community policing forums must play a central role in cleansing communities of crime.

Fighting societal deviant conduct also requires a society that is cohesive, premised on stable families where children are brought up in loving, caring surroundings, taught respect, patriotism and responsibility. The stability of families is not just a social function, it has its foundation in economic imperatives. Families without proper housing, jobs, living in squalor are not likely to be stable. Thus economic development is important.

The APC will ensure there is a two years' compulsory national service for our youth to be trained in the army militarily and in useful skills to instill patriotism, a sense of purpose and responsibility in life and to protect communities.

7. NATIONALIZED LAND

The APC believes that the land is the natural heritage of the people and should not be exchanged as a commodity. The APC believes that land must be under the custodianship of the State for the use and benefit of the people. Land as a symbol of national sovereignty must be returned to its original owners, the African people. This will resolve the National grievance or National Question i.e. the right to national self-determination of the African people in the land of their forbearers.

Once land is nationalized (state custodianship) it will be socialized (in the control of the people) to ensure that there is equitable access to land by all citizens for family dwellings, recreation, industry, farming, etc.

The redistribution of land like everything else is a class question.

The APC will ensure that women in general, and the working class in particular, are primary beneficiaries. Absentee landlordism will be abolished i.e. you require land, you occupy and use it or you will lose it.

8. PROJECTION OF THE AFRICAN PERSONALITY

The APC appreciates that the mere creation of the democratic space does not deal with the totality of the challenges, for the African people, created by years of slavery and colonial subjugation. Colonial rule was not only about political oppression and economic exploitation, these were buttressed by the mutilation and demonization of the history; way of life and beliefs of the African majority. Everything European was modern, superior, godly; holy, always right and all things African were devilish; backwards, inferior and always wrong.

Through the instrument of the political and economic system, a social milieu was created whereby Africans, who constitute about 80 per cent of the population, are a cultural minority.

To the APC freedom should lead to the projection of the African personality, i.e.

Africans freeing their minds from mental slavery so that as free and conscious beings they can also make their contribution to the civilization of mankind.

Africans must be free to be who they are; proud and assertive. Those who live in Africa, with Africans must become Africans not by merely fulfilling the legal requirements for citizenship but also by appreciating, respecting and transforming to the socio-cultural imperatives of being African.

African values must be the anchor of our national life as a country and continent.

The Africanists believe that, as applied to mankind, the word race has no plural.

We believe in one race, the human race to which we all belong. The demon of racism is a phenomenon that came with colonialists. Racism is still very much a part of our lived experience in South Africa

years after freedom.

The APC will mobilise the masses to resist racist behaviour from the white minority.

We are non-racial as opposed to multi-racialism.

9. THE CONSTITUTION

The APC will seek a new constitution, effectively, a second republic. The current republic, premised on the current constitution, is a product of the CODESA agreements of 1993 which saw substantive compromises to keep white power intact. The APC will seek to have a people-centred and driven constitution that seeks to protect and promote the interests of the people and enable socio-economic development. A constitution must always be an expression of the will and aspirations of the people; it must guarantee the freedoms of the people and their sovereignty.

Our country currently has a liberal constitution that guarantees the perpetual domination by the rich at the expense of the majority. The Reserve Bank must be nationalized and its mandate be expanded and made progressive. Like all public entities it will have its independence to pursue its mandate. National Treasury will equally have to be liberated from the grip of neo-liberal economists.

The constitution must reflect our Africanism and jettison euro-centrism.

The APC will seek in the new constitution the establishment of a two-tier system of government i.e. national and local government. The APC will campaign for the abolishment of provinces and district municipalities. They are an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy that hinder development, consume billions of Rands that could be used to provide services to the people, and are havens of corruption and wastage.

A new Constitution, a new Republic. Forward to the 2nd Republic.