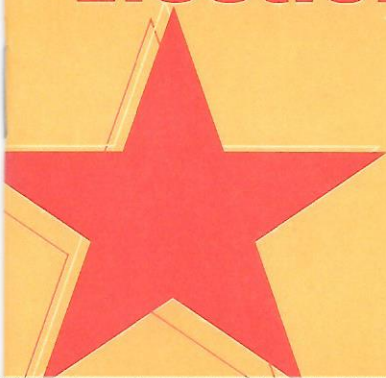




**AZAPO**  
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

# **ELECTION MANIFESTO**

**Local Government  
Elections 2011**



**"Take Back Your Power"**



**AZAPO**  
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

# ELECTION MANIFESTO

## Local Government Elections 2011

### A PLEDGE TO

**Serve The People**

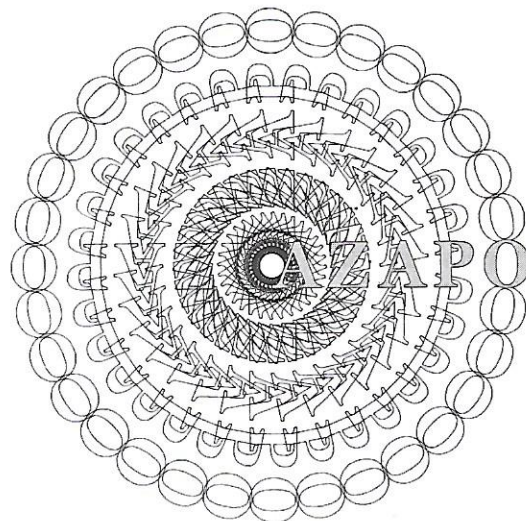
**Fight Corruption**

**Restore The Centrality  
of Local Government**

**Build The Power of  
Communities**

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**"Take Back Your Power"**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the past five years this country has seen communities take to the streets to protest against poor service delivery, corruption, jobs for friends and the shoddy manner in which they have been treated. These protests spoke to the disempowerment of communities arising from the governance system that gives political parties power to appoint and recall councillors instead of communities. The protests are also an indication of our communities' unwillingness to continue experiencing the indignities of dealing with unreceptive and unresponsive councillors whose only intent is to corruptly reap the spoils of their position.

The forthcoming coming local government election present communities with an opportunity to take back their power! On the day of the elections AZAPO calls on all South Africans to stage the biggest service delivery protest by voting for change instead of more of the same and for people serving agents for change instead of unresponsive self-serving politicians. In casting their votes, let the people of this country reclaim their power and vote AZAPO.

**Through your vote AZAPO will be able to implement its electoral platform which is based on the following pillars:**

- ★ **Empowering Communities** by working to introduce direct election of mayors and recall of politicians by communities
- ★ **Fighting Corruption and nepotism** by introducing a restorative merit system in all municipal appointments

as opposed to the system of patronage currently practised by the current ruling party. AZAPO will also protect the integrity of the tender awarding process and open it up for public scrutiny

- ★ **Delivering Services to the people.** Getting the basics right. Involving communities in identifying their needs. Developing and supporting the local SMME sector aimed at providing goods and services that satisfy local needs. Embarking on a needs-based infrastructure development where local companies will be prioritised for provision of required services. Encouraging development of relevant local human capital instead of importing skills from outside the specific municipality. Involving communities in combating crime and providing municipal a police service that is, amongst other things, focused on crime prevention.
- ★ **Re-inventing Government** by putting Local Government at the centre of Service Delivery and Governance. Continue to agitate for the abolishment of Provincial governments and redirecting their resources, skills and powers to Local Government where it matters most

I invite you to read this manifesto, which is our pledge to serve the people, fight corruption, restore the centrality of local government and build the power of communities. Speak to our candidates about the proposals contained herein. More importantly, I invite you to **Reclaim Your Power, Vote For Change, Vote AZAPO.**

**KOTI JACOB DIKOBO**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

**AZAPO** participates in these Local Government Elections primarily to bring about clean administration; to have people dealt with in a fair and dignified way; to expose and rout corruption; and to encourage community members to get involved in discussions and decision making in matters of local government; and in this way, introduce and strengthen democratic conduct in the administration of public affairs.

In the past seventeen years South Africans have seen the passing of a number of laws. If this alone were to be a measure of success, then as a country South Africa would have done very well. However, laws need to be implemented and this is where successive local and national governments of the ruling party have failed the people of South Africa. Poor service delivery, failure to combat high levels of crime, mismanagement and corruption continue to characterise governance, particularly local governance.

### **The consequences for South Africans are that:**

- ★ people continue to live in squalor
- ★ crime is rife in our communities
- ★ municipal childcare facilities are almost non-existent
- ★ municipality health services are scanty and
- ★ municipal public transport remains a wish for most of our people.

*The saddest thing is that our people have had to contend with unresponsive councillors and a self-serving ruling party that continues to deploy people on the basis of their loyalty to the party instead of their skills and commitment to serving the people.*

AZAPO intends to change the dire situation described above. We aim to restore the importance and centrality of local government. This will be achieved through ensuring that local government elections remain separate from national elections. This separation will ensure that local issues receive the time and attention they deserve. AZAPO will field candidates that will pledge to put their communities first; candidates that have the necessary skills and commitment to guarantee service delivery. AZAPO will empower communities by working to introduce recall in South Africa's system of governance. AZAPO will also work to ensure that mayors are directly elected so as to ensure that their loyalty is always with the people not the party.

To achieve what we set out to do AZAPO needs your support. We need you to vote for AZAPO candidates and to speak to your neighbours and friends about AZAPO's intentions. Through this manifesto AZAPO invites you to join us in finding solutions to problems facing our communities and for you to RECLAIM YOUR POWER.



## **2. MAKING LOCAL GOVERNMENT THE PILLAR OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY**

AZAPO continues to recognise local government as the pillar of service delivery and participatory democracy.

To this end AZAPO continues to campaign for the abolition of Provincial Governments, which should be replaced by administrators answerable to national government. Once the wasteful and unnecessary duplication caused by Provincial Governments is done away with, part of their huge budgets and skilled personnel will be redirected to Local Governments where they are needed most.

AZAPO has always championed participatory and meaningful democracy where citizens are afforded opportunities to make meaningful contributions to decision-making. For AZAPO local government should present an opportunity for communities to come together and discuss issues affecting them. AZAPO strongly advocates for an electoral system that will preserve the sanctity of local government elections by keeping them separate from any other elections. Such a separation will afford communities the time and space to discuss local issues thoroughly and make informed decisions.

*To further empower communities AZAPO will campaign for the introduction of recall in South Africa's system of governance and the direct election of mayors. This approach to governance will allow communities to reclaim their power and stop the reign of corrupt and unresponsive councillors. It will also ensure that mayors remain accountable to communities that elected them. This will effectively put a limit on the political party's power to willy-nilly change mayors as it has been the case.*

## **3. ELECT COUNCILLORS THAT SERVE THE PEOPLE NOT THEIR STOMACHS AND THOSE OF THEIR COMRADES AND FRIENDS**

*Nepotism, corruption, unresponsive councillors and a self-serving ruling party are what have come to characterise governance in South Africa. The State and its institutions have been used and manipulated to serve individual and party political interests. This manipulation occurred at the expense of strengthening and protecting the legitimacy of such institutions; the result being the inability of these institutions to bring about meaningful development and delivery of services.*

**To change this situation AZAPO will strive to do the following:**

### **3.1 APPOINT COUNCILLORS WHO WILL PLEDGE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE AND NOT ABUSE THEIR POSITION FOR PERSONAL GAIN.**

Within the limits of the current governance system, AZAPO will recall any councillor or councillors the community wants removed due to poor performance.

### **3.2 ROOT OUT CORRUPTION**

Corruption means the diversion of much needed resources for service delivery and development to the unjust enrichment of individuals or organisations. Therefore corruption is far from being a victimless crime, its victims are the thousands of people who need the state to deliver much needed services.

To root out corruption, AZAPO will ensure that municipalities have strong internal and external supervision, and control. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against those guilty of corruption.

### **3.3 PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE TENDER AWARDING PROCESS**

The present system through which tenders are processed and awarded is open to abuse. AZAPO proposes that Tender Committees should be freed from party political influence and be set up to consider all tenders purely on merit. These tender committees will also be open for public scrutiny. Councillors and employees of municipalities and their companies will not be allowed to tender for delivery of goods and services in the municipalities where they are employed.

### **3.4 FIGHT NEPOTISM**

Favouritism and preferential treatment, particularly in employment, has robbed the civil service of much needed skilled personnel. Jobs for pals and comrades are a key contributor in the failure of government to deliver.

In order to eliminate nepotism, job interviewing panels will comprise persons who are not councillors. All employees shall be appointed on restorative merit basis which looks at both the skills and the restorative effect of the appointment. AZAPO will remove the veil that currently covers appointment of senior officials, AZAPO led councils will put in place measures to enable unsuccessful shortlisted candidates to seek reasons for their non-appointment. Such information will be empowering as the unsuccessful candidates will know their areas of weakness. Needless to mention those who practise nepotism will be punished.

## **4. BUILDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT SERVES THE PEOPLE**

Local government is at the centre of service delivery. It is the one tier of government that is closest to the people and has the most immediate impact on people's lives. For the past five years, communities experienced nothing, but failure of local government to improve their lives. Therefore the spontaneous and countrywide service delivery protests should come as no surprise.

### **4.1 WATER**

In many communities access to water is an unfulfilled dream. Communal taps with inconsistent water supply are the norm in most rural areas. In addition the water quality (particularly its state of cleanliness) has been another problem facing communities. All these issues are indicative of the failures of municipalities.

AZAPO-led municipal councils will work to ensure that all communities have consistent access to clean water. Needy households will receive free basic water supply. Pre-paid cards for water will not be imposed on the people. Privatisation of water will be abolished. AZAPO-led municipal councils will constantly embark on aggressive campaigns highlighting the proper use and preservation of water.

## **4.2 SANITATION AND REFUSE REMOVAL**

Provision of sanitation services is one of the key functions of municipalities. Currently the failure of municipalities to provide such services is a sad reality. In townships refuse collection is sporadic if it does exist. Raw sewage runs openly because of lack of proper maintenance of the sewage system. A large number of communities still rely on pit toilets and the bucket system. This situation exists not because municipalities lack financial resource but because of poor management.

AZAPO will ensure that municipalities are managed efficiently with proper allocation of resources so as to ensure adequate provision of sanitary facilities. Maintenance of existing infrastructure will be improved and new infrastructure developed. Quality service will be provided for all citizens irrespective of where they stay. Therefore both townships and leafy suburbs will receive the same high quality service. AZAPO will make sure that all communities get to live in hygienic conditions.

### **4.3 MUNICIPAL CHILD CARE FACILITIES**

Municipalities have generally failed to provide municipal childcare facilities in townships. The lack of municipal childcare facilities has negatively affected poor and working families. Mothers are unable to be gainfully employed because they have to look after children. Those parents who are gainfully employed have to rely on privately owned childcare facilities, which charge high fees.



AZAPO will ensure that municipal childcare facilities are provided and managed properly, particularly in poor communities. These facilities will be subsidised to ensure that they are affordable to poor working families. The staff at these facilities will be trained in early childhood development. These facilities will help prepare children for commencement of their formal education.

#### **4.4 MUNICIPAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Municipalities are supposed to provide a functional and reliable municipal public transport system. Again it is unfortunate that, many municipalities have abdicated this responsibility to private providers. The result is that poor people have had to rely on unsafe and costly transport providers. In municipalities where municipal public transport exists, it is not comprehensive and does not extend to townships.

AZAPO-led municipalities will strive for the extension of municipal public transport to all communities within that municipality. The municipal transport system will be adequate, reliable, affordable and properly managed in line with the needs of residents in a specific municipality. AZAPO-led municipalities will subsidise public transport for school children, the elderly, the infirm and disabled.

#### **4.5 HOUSING**

The inability to provide affordable and decent housing remains a major failure of previous and current Governments – local and national. The failure of these spheres of government is evidenced by mikhukhu and the sub-standard brick versions built by the current government.

AZAPO believes that local government has an important role to play in ensuring that descent houses are built for our people. Under the current system AZAPO-led municipal councils will work with the Provincial and National Departments to build affordable and decent housing. This will be done on reasonable land space to allow those that want to extend to do so. There will also be sufficient provision of land for the construction of public amenities.

AZAPO is of the view that a state housing company should be formed to provide medium and low cost housing in the country for both purchase and renting. This will ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the building of houses. Shacks and other forms of sub-standard housing would be a thing of the past.

AZAPO will encourage the formation of housing co-operatives which will, in conjunction with a State Housing Company, build decent houses for rent by people living in the townships, towns and cities. People will be able to change from renting to buying once they can afford it or acquire automatic ownership after renting for a stipulated period.



## 4.6 MUNICIPAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

A large number of South Africans still suffer from preventable diseases. The provision of proper Municipal Health Care Services could lessen the effect of such diseases. A well-managed and professionally run municipal health care system that is able to assist with investigations of outbreaks of disease, monitoring of the environment and health promotion could have a major impact on the overall health of most South Africans. Despite provision of municipal health care being a constitutional dictate, local governments have failed to provide these services adequately.

AZAPO recognizes the provision of Municipal Health Care Services as a first line of defence against diseases and illness. Therefore, AZAPO-led councils will make sure that Municipal Health Services are improved through the appointment of qualified environmental health workers and municipal clinics will be staffed by qualified nursing staff. Funding of Municipal Health Care Service will receive priority in AZAPO-led councils.

## 4.7 PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY

Provision of electric supply to households is a key function of municipalities and it is one of the areas in which municipalities have failed. Many households still rely on unsafe cooking and lighting methods. In rural areas individuals still have to dedicate hours of their day to collecting firewood as opposed to using that time for self development.

AZAPO-led councils will ensure that they put in place the necessary infrastructure to give all households access to electricity supply. Assessment of the level of free basic electricity will be done every year to ensure that needy households receive adequate supply. Based on a means analysis, poor households will receive free electricity up to a maximum of 120 kWh. AZAPO believes that poor households need more than four lights and a two plate stove, currently provided for, in order to live lives set towards extricating themselves from poverty. Power supply lines will be serviced on a regular basis, and a pool of engineers contracted to carry this out.

## 4.8 FIGHTING CRIME

AZAPO believes that the exercise of democracy and freedom in any country is necessarily associated with the safety of person and property. The high level of crime in South Africa inhibits the free exercise of our freedoms. Driving one's car without fear of it being hijacked, leaving your house without being afraid that it will be broken into and walking down the road without concern of your personal safety these are normal expectations that have long been forgotten by most South Africans. Crime and fear thereof has become a major influence and shaper of how we live our lives and which personal and public spaces we occupy. Yet despite this, very little has been done to empower municipalities so that they can contribute in the fight against crime.

AZAPO-led municipalities that can afford to, will apply to set up municipality police services. Communities will be engaged in the fight against crime, community formations and initiative

fighting crime will be given support and training. AZAPO will campaign to have the requirements for setting up municipality police services reduced for small municipalities, particularly proof of financial sustainability should be for only 15 years and gradual phasing in of a 24 hour municipal police service should be accepted. AZAPO will also encourage the declaration of certain segments of municipality employees as peace officers. AZAPO will also agitate for an increase in the number and distribution of Community Courts. This will ensure a speedy conclusion of court cases and will help with the backlog and free other courts to deal with more serious offences. AZAPO-led municipalities will encourage greater cooperation between South African Police Service, Municipal Police Services and Communities with aim to prevent crime.

#### **4.9 RURAL MUNICIPALITIES**

Delivery of services to rural communities is one of the major failures of the outgoing local governments. Rural communities are still to experience the fruits of the post 1994 South Africa. Most schools in rural areas are a sorry sight in comparison with township school, which are themselves in a shocking state. Learners in rural areas still have to walk long distances to school. There are neither recreational facilities for farm workers nor health care facilities. Ironically rural communities are expected to pay property rate taxes. Finally, there is also no public transportation system in rural areas.

To improve the situation AZAPO will pay special attention to rural municipalities. AZAPO will ensure that its councillors in rural communities work to make sure that there are municipal health facilities. Schools – (although not a direct competency of local government under the current system) will be built through greater cooperation between the various tiers of government. AZAPO-led municipalities will ensure that there are recreational facilities for rural communities. Transportation costs are a huge drain on already meagre salaries earned by farmworkers, AZAPO councils will work to introduce municipal public transport in rural areas. Communal Property Association will in AZAPO-led municipalities, be included in the integrated development plan of municipalities.

Rural economic development will be the touchstone of all the work that will be done by AZAPO councillors in rural municipalities. Part of the work done in developing rural economies will be provision of support to small scale farmers in the form of tractors to plough their fields, seeds, veterinary services and low cost transportation of their goods to markets. Municipal roads linking with regional and national roads will be built and maintained to ensure efficient connection of rural areas to economic hubs in the country.

AZAPO respects and values the contribution made by traditional authorities. Therefore, AZAPO municipalities will work closely with traditional authorities in ensuring effective delivery of services. AZAPO will ensure there is a marked improvement in the quality of lives of rural communities.



## 4.10 BUILDING LOCAL ECONOMIES THAT WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

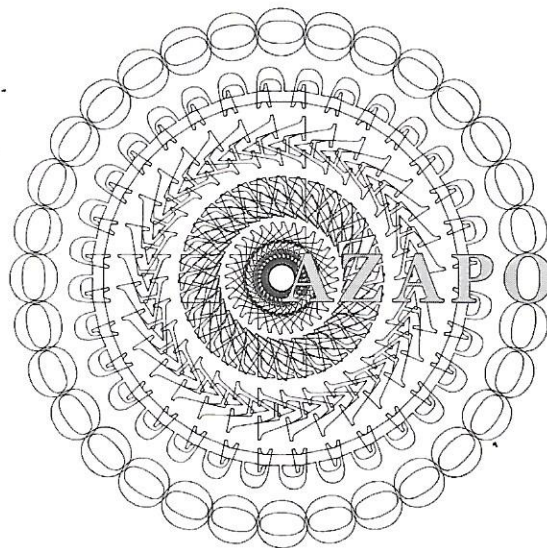
South Africa remains one of the countries with the highest levels of inequality and poverty in the world. The major cause of poverty in this country is the unacceptably high level of unemployment. AZAPO believes that municipalities have an important role to play in improving the economic conditions of their communities. However, corruption and poor management have made current local governments ineffective in improving the economic situation of the communities.

AZAPO-led municipalities will place particular emphasis on local economic development. All their efforts will be aimed at building sustainable local economies that are geared to, primarily, service local needs. This approach will inform the work that will be done to develop and support local SMMEs and in developing local human capacity. AZAPO-led municipalities will use their procurement spend to stimulate local economies through using local SMMEs and local human resource. Joint ventures will be encouraged where the requisite skill is not available in the municipality. AZAPO recognises that each municipality is different from the other and therefore adopting an approach based on servicing local needs to economic development will ensure that our local economic development strategies are cognisant of the local context and therefore far more likely to succeed.

## 5. CONCLUSION

These local government elections present an opportunity for communities to reclaim their power, and ensure that the councillors they elect will prioritise their needs. AZAPO views Local Government as a layer of government closest to the people. It is for this reason that AZAPO is putting forward competent and knowledgeable candidates who know what it means to struggle alongside the masses.

**Through this Manifesto, AZAPO urges you to  
Take Back Your Power, To Vote AZAPO!**



## NOTES



# AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

