

INTRODUCTION

AZAPO goes into these Elections to bring about clean administration; to have the people dealt with in a fair and dignified way; to expose and root corruption; and to have the people 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.

The debates on cross-border municipalities and the manner in which the issues have been dealt with, show the dangers of ignoring the views of the people on issues that affect them directly.

AZAPO Councilors will not dump the people and escape to the suburbs. They will, during their tenure of office, remain with the people in the areas where they got the votes, so that they could attend to the issues and provide leadership.

AZAPO continues to campaign for the abolition of Provincial Governments, which should be replaced by simple administrations. Once the wasteful and unnecessary duplication caused by Provincial Governments is done away with, part of their huge budgets and skilled personnel must be redirected to Local Governments where they are needed most.

1. Housing

We shall abolish *mikhukhu* both in tin and brick form) and build for our people affordable, decent housing with the necessary infrastructure. This will be done on reasonable land space to allow those that want to extend to do so.

There shall also be sufficient provision of land for the construction of public amenities.

2. Water

Water is life! Needy households will be given free basic water. Pre-paid cards for water will not be imposed on the people. Privatisation of water shall be abolished. Aggressive campaigns on the use and preservation of water will be undertaken constantly.

3. Electricity

Free basic electricity will be provided for all needy households. The supply red tape between Eskom, Municipalities and consumers will be attended to so as to keep electricity as affordable as possible. Power supply lines will be serviced on a regular basis, and a pool of engineers will be maintained to carry this out.

4. Sanitation

Adequate sanitary facilities will be provided for to improve the health of communities and uphold their dignity. Pit toilets in 2005 are a disgrace; the bucket system is an insult to the populace and these will be urgently done away with.

5. Property Rates.

Property rates in traditional communities and rural areas will be abolished. In poor areas the rates will be reduced to be substantially lower than in the affluent ones. Rates will not be such that property owners end up losing their hard-earned assets. Houses will not be attached to settle outstanding property rates accounts.

6. Corruption

Corruption by councilors and officials will be rooted out. To ensure this, municipalities will have strong internal and external supervision and control. Heavy disciplinary action will be taken against those guilty of corruption.

7. Nepotism

In order to eliminate nepotism, job interviewing panels will be made up of persons who are not councilors or senior municipality officials. All employees shall be appointed on merit alone. Those who practice nepotism will be punished.

8. Tenders

The present system by which the mayoral committees and municipal managers award tenders is open to abuse. It will be replaced by a Tender Committee of persons free of the influence of the municipality to consider all tenders from the public. Councilors 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.

9. Roads

All towns, villages and settlements will be made accessible through properly maintained roads. As many as possible of the local roads will be tarred. This will improve the economies of communities.

10. Clinics and Hospitals

All communities will be provided with well equipped and properly stocked clinics and hospitals within a walking distance. Privatisation of hospitals will be reversed. Medical and nursing personnel employed in rural municipalities will be paid incentivised salaries to compensate them for giving up urban facilities.

11. Public Transport

Public transport in the form of buses, trains, taxis and other operators will be adequate, reliable, affordable and properly coordinated in line with the needs of specific municipal residents. School children, the infirm and disabled will be subsidized by municipalities.

12. Recreation

Adequate recreational, sports and cultural facilities will be accessible to all residents in a municipality at affordable and sustainable cost. Indigenous games will be promoted in appropriate areas and communities.

13. Provincial Administrations

The national government will be requested to give money for development and the provision of basic services directly to those municipalities that have capacity to administer funds, instead of using provincial administrations as implementing agencies. This will cut the costs of goods and services.

14. Jobs

Jobs will be created by ensuring that income or grants of municipalities are used more in favour of capital than operational expenses. Councils will receive expert advice on how to limit unnecessary expenditure. Labour-intensive projects will be preferred to capital-intensive projects in order to reduce unemployment.

15. Dysfunctional Municipalities

Expertise and skills will be sought from all qualified individuals, and these will be deployed to dysfunctional municipalities irrespective of their party political affiliations. The politics of senior personnel with the necessary skills, expertise and experience will not affect their chances of being employed in municipalities controlled by Azapo.

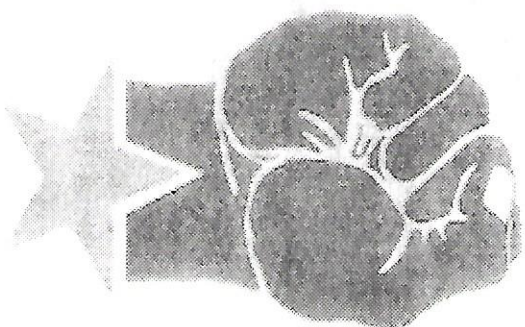
CONCLUSION

AZAPO takes Local Government very seriously. This is a layer of government that is closest to the people. For this reason, AZAPO is providing candidates that are highly competent, and know from experience what it means to struggle alongside the masses.

AZAPO

2006

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
MANIFESTO



Manifesto on Local Government
Elections: 2006