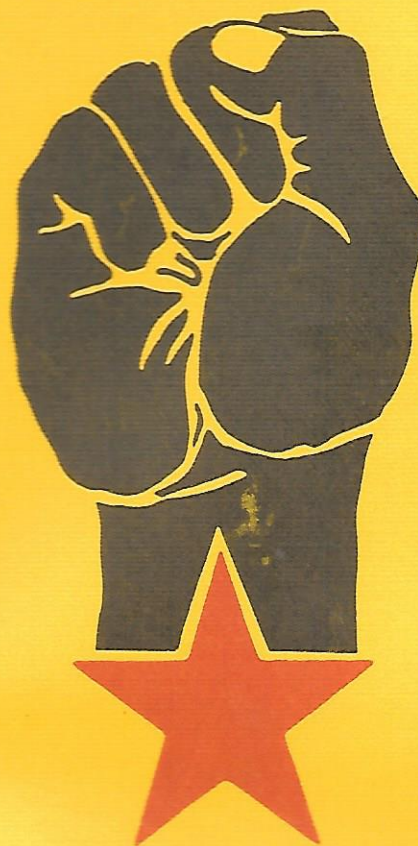


# AZAPO

the azanian people's organisation



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**ELECTION MANIFESTO**

## PREFACE

After centuries of national oppression and struggle, we did as a people, attain political freedom in 1994. For the first time we were able to elect a government of our choice and engage freely in political activity without fear of reprisals. That was indeed a great achievement.

However, many other aspects of our lives have not improved in the last five years of democracy. In fact, the condition of the majority of Blacks has deteriorated during democratic rule.

Unemployment has increased; health care has deteriorated; the number of people living in shacks has increased; crime is out of control and corruption is rampant. The quality of life is worse than it was five years ago. The social degradation and malaise of the majority of the people are threatening the political gains that we have made. AZAPO holds the view that democracy and good social order cannot be maintained in a situation where a minority racial group controls all the wealth whilst the indigenous live in squalor.

Our biggest challenge now is to wage a relentless and concerted struggle against poverty and the social ills that plague our country.

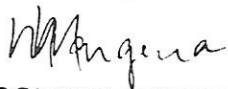
Through this Manifesto, AZAPO invites all patriots of our beautiful country to tackle our problems together. Your support of this struggle will manifest itself in the number of votes you can cast for AZAPO so that it can, through your mandate, implement the proposals contained in this Manifesto.



AZAPO President – Cde Mosibudi Mangena



Your vote is your weapon to change the lives  
of our people for the better. Use it wisely!



MOSIBUDI MANGENA  
President

## ELECTION MANIFESTO

### PREAMBLE

The Azanian People's Organisation is cognisant of the fact that there is nothing new about the "New South Africa". We know that many Black people are homeless, unemployed, live in mekhukhu and that many families helplessly watch their children go hungry. All these happen in the so-called democratic, "new South Africa".

But we in AZAPO and the Black people in general, know much more than this. We know that for as long as the present government is in office, black economic empowerment, black advancement and the transfer of economic power to the majority will not occur. We know that those who enjoyed the fruits of Apartheid still cling tenaciously to economic power and privileges and that in order to continue this state of affairs, they rent black individuals and black controlled companies to sustain their hold on this power.

AZAPO knows that as long as these trends continue, the standard of living of the poor will not improve. To us, political power must translate into economic power, which will in turn give the poor a better chance to life. Those who benefited from Apartheid do not need delivery; it is the poor who need it in order to live a decent life.

Consequently, AZAPO believes that democracy will not work in our country as long as land and wealth are concentrated in the hands of a few. To us, democracy must also manifest itself in the ownership and control of the economy by the majority of the citizens. In order to realise the aspirations of the majority,

AZAPO uncompromisingly rejects all value systems that seek to make Black people foreigners in the land of their birth. This rejection is accompanied by a conscious effort to define and fight for a better future for the poor. When AZAPO refers to our country as AZANIA, it spells out its rejection of the name South Africa and its colonial connotations. For AZAPO, a new society should in name and deed be devoid of the legacy of Apartheid.

Inspired by our commitment to Black Consciousness and the total liberation of our people, an AZAPO Government will vigorously pursue the following:

### **FORM OF STATE**

AZAPO believes that AZANIA (South Africa) is a UNITARY State. Hence, AZAPO rejects the balkanisation of AZANIA into separate semi-autonomous units. An AZAPO Government will seek to abolish provincial governments as presently constituted and consolidate the country into fewer provinces with administrative functions of government carrying out central government policies and directives. Central government, in our view, should be directly responsible and answerable to the electorate.

An AZAPO government will work tirelessly to eradicate all forms of oppression, racism and ethnic chauvinism.

### **ON EDUCATION**

AZAPO regards education as an instrument for empowerment and socialisation of human beings from formative years to the realisation of their fullest potential. An AZAPO government will provide free and compulsory

education from pre-school to grade twelve (12) or age eighteen (18), whichever comes first, and will develop indigenous languages to bring them to the level where they can address matters of science and technology. For further and higher education, parents will pay fees according to what they earn and other expenses they have to meet.

Both tutors and pupils will be expected to abide by a learning and teaching code of conduct and failure to comply with the code will be met with strong disciplinary action. Schools and the learning environment will be improved to reasonable standards conducive to the learning process. Standards will be set to assess the performance of tutors in order to monitor those who are not committed to the process of teaching.

An AZAPO Government will also promote Adult Basic Education.

### **ON HEALTH**

AZAPO believes that it is the responsibility of the State to provide free primary health care services to all. Many people in our country suffer from malnutrition, tuberculosis and other diseases because they are poor and lack access to health facilities. AZAPO is opposed to and will reverse the privatisation of health services. Traditional medicines and herbs will be studied further and used as part of the national health system.

An AZAPO Government will ensure that necessary steps are taken to prevent and stop the spread of Aids and promote scientific research towards finding a cure.

Available medicine will be supplied to pregnant



HIV+ mothers to minimise the transmission of HIV/AIDS to unborn children. AZAPO believes that it is less expensive to prevent disease transmission than to treat infected children and adults.

## **ON THE ECONOMY**

AZAPO believes that rampant market forces have failed to ensure the equitable redistribution of wealth and have therefore disqualified themselves as the salvation of the poor. An AZAPO Government will therefore pursue and uphold an economic policy where the objective will be to attain control of the means of production, exchange and distribution, and where the ownership of the land will vest in the state.

AZAPO is convinced that the phenomenon of globalisation has left Africa and the developing countries at the mercy of the world economic forces such as the World Bank and the I.M.F. To AZAPO, the unity and economic co-operation of African governments is paramount to the survival of African economies

## **ON LABOUR UNIONS AND THE WORKING CLASS**

AZAPO believes in the centrality of the working class in the struggle for economic emancipation and encourages the establishment of a democratic, independent working class movement.

## **ON BLACK ECONOMIC CONTROL AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

An AZAPO government will provide favourable and sustainable conditions of increasing employment and business opportunities to the

masses of the people in both the rural and urban areas. Instead of affirmative action, AZAPO has chosen the path of reparations, which will take into consideration the conditions of the poor and strive to do away with all inequalities. To this end, AZAPO will institute, unapologetically, schemes that will be geared at uplifting the economic status of the poor.

## **INDUSTRIAL POLICY**

The uneven and skewed economic development patterns between communities and across geographic areas will be given priority by an AZAPO government. We will do so by adopting policies and implementing programmes that promote industrial development and entrepreneurship in the rural communities and other economically depressed areas in our society.

The indigenisation of our economy will become a key objective of AZAPO's economic planning and management programmes. Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises will be promoted and supported, especially in the critical areas of training and access to finance.

Our economic plan will also be aimed at developing and supporting a thriving manufacturing sector, especially those enterprises which are indigenous, benefit local raw material and minerals.

## **FISCAL POLICY AND TAXATION**

While striving to change parts of the Constitution which protect white privileges as well as monopoly on most of the land, AZAPO will place heavy taxes on those who own large farms which they are not able to use profitably and those who keep many plots and houses in

the towns and cities to make money. The flight of capital from AZANIA to other countries will be controlled so that local companies are encouraged to invest in the country.

An AZAPO Government will create favourable conditions for foreign investment. However, such investment will operate under conditions that will be set out by the government to advance the interests of the country.

Our fiscal and taxation policies will be geared towards reducing inequality, alleviating poverty, combating unemployment and stimulating economic growth. To achieve these goals, more government spending will be directed towards investment and infrastructural development. Less money will be spent on consumption items like salaries, interest and debt as is the case at present.

An AZAPO Government will reduce the overall tax burden on individuals, especially low and middle income earners. In pursuance of our wealth redistribution and reform programmes, we will consider other forms of taxation such as taxation on luxury goods, capital gains tax, property/land tax and others.

## ON CRIME

AZAPO believes that crime in the form of rape, murder, armed robbery, drug-trafficking, child molestation, corruption and reckless driving is unacceptable. To AZAPO, those who commit such and similar crimes should have their Constitutional right to bail limited. We further believe that convicted criminals should earn their up-keep in prison for the duration of their sentences. In order to rid society of criminal acts, poverty and deprivation should be redressed. Furthermore, people should be

educated on respect for human life, legislation should be introduced to disarm civil society and measures should be introduced to purge the judiciary, police services and military of all apartheid loyalists and enthusiasts, as well as corrupt officials.

Severe sentences for serious crimes will be imposed. The production, display and sale of toy guns will be prohibited as a means to change the mindset of society.

## ON WELFARE

AZAPO pledges to eliminate all inconveniences and hardships associated with pay-out of old age pension and disability grants. AZAPO commits itself to increase and improve facilities for the aged and disabled as well as to provide for all social grants, based on a minimum living wage on a consistent basis. Single parenting and issues of maintenance will be adequately addressed and a social wage for the unemployed will be considered.

## ON DISABILITY

To AZAPO, impairment means a physical reduction in the functioning of parts of a person's body and disability occurs as a result of the way in which society is structured. Therefore, AZAPO is committed to removing all those barriers which condemn persons with impairment to the margins of the life of the community of which they are a part.

An AZAPO Government will not only endorse United Nations-sponsored protocols which relate to persons with impairments but will also create conditions of equity so that the situation of disadvantage suffered by persons with



impairments over the years is reversed. AZAPO's goal is to ensure that persons with impairments do not just join the mainstream of society but are active participants in the shaping of such a society.

## **ON CULTURE AND TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

AZAPO believes that the culture of the majority group in any given society must ultimately determine the broad direction and character of the national culture emerging from it. This need not negate the styles and practices of those who feel different, but on the whole a country in Africa must inevitably exhibit African values and be truly African in style.

AZAPO is cognisant of the fact that traditional institutions have been relegated to an inferior status when local government structures are put into place throughout the country. Therefore, AZAPO advocates the need for negotiations on local government to put the question of traditional institutions on the agenda. AZAPO believes that AZANIA cannot escape the fact that African culture should play its role in shaping the future culture of our country.

## **DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

We believe that housing is a basic need that should be provided by the State. AZAPO will set up a housing corporation and encourage housing co-operatives which will build decent houses to be rented to the homeless by councils in the towns, cities and villages. People will be able to change from renting to buying once they can afford it or acquire automatic ownership thereof after renting for a stipulated period. Those who can afford to

build for themselves will be assisted through simple rules for approving plans and registering title deeds.

An AZAPO government will reverse the present housing policies and plans which promote inferior housing for Blacks thereby subjecting them to toilet-type housing which dehumanises them.

## **CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE JOBS**

AZAPO believes that the creation of jobs and reduction of unemployment is not an event but a process. For AZAPO, a long term programme aimed at sustainable jobs is necessary. Jobs should not be created and be lost at the stroke of a pen. An AZAPO government will reverse the privatisation of state assets in order to create and maintain jobs for the citizens.

An AZAPO government will encourage direct domestic involvement in job creation programmes. AZAPO believes the promise for jobs cannot be sustained without the majority of our people being in control of economic activities, which means economic power.

## **ON SPORT**

Sport plays an important role in the life of a people. Amongst other things, it enhances the health of those who participate in it.

An AZAPO government will ensure, first, that the prevailing trend where sport is the preserve of only the youth is discouraged, so that every citizen can participate in the sport of their choice and secondly, that sport is liberated from the clutches of the rich who organise it exclusively for purposes of material gain.

While an AZAPO government will encourage competitive sport, it will not allow it to be the only sport type in place. Also, government will encourage indigenous control of sport.

## ON LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

AZAPO believes that the conquered-conqueror relations between blacks and whites determined and continues to determine the ownership of land in the country. Further, AZAPO takes cognisance of the fact that the alienation of blacks from their land was without compensation or compassion, but that it was by force and legislation as well as political chicanery.

Consequently, an AZAPO government will vest the ownership of the land, including everything below its surface, the air above it and the sea around it, in the hands of the State. Land will be apportioned for farming, commercial, industrial, sporting, recreational, housing, educational, scientific research, conservation of fauna and flora and other purposes aimed at the economic, social and cultural advancement and upliftment of Azanian people as a whole.

## ON THE ENVIRONMENT

AZAPO believes that every citizen has a right to a healthy environment, which is presently threatened by hyper-expansionist tendencies that show no respect for the conservation of resources.

An AZAPO government will strive to protect and conserve existing natural elements and resources such as the land, water, minerals, air, animals, plants, wildlife and marine life.

The government under AZAPO leadership will,

*inter alia:-*

- monitor the disposal of industrial waste and encourage continuous research into how best this can be done;
- ensure that industries and industrial plants provide resources which will be allocated for such research;
- encourage the use of recyclable materials to develop an environmentally friendly path to industrialisation and human development.

## ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

AZAPO notes the growing deterioration and threatening collapse of the public transport system. This situation is also worsened by relentless calls for the privatisation of the entire transport system. AZAPO notes also the lack of sufficient regulation of the privately-owned system of transport.

AZAPO recognises that the majority of the citizens depend wholly or partially on public transport and that these are mostly poor and without an effective voice in the shaping of policy regarding transport. Secondly, there is hardly any properly organised and efficient system serving the rural areas except on routes feeding the urban areas. In certain areas and provinces, a sizeable bus service controlled largely by private companies exists.

AZAPO has also observed that the South African rail services for passenger transport has slowly deteriorated. The taxi industry has also over the past years deteriorated and become violence prone.

An AZAPO government will resist efforts



towards the privatisation of the entire transport system and even reverse privatisation in those areas of the transport system which it considers to be in the public interest. An AZAPO government will ensure the provision of an efficient and co-ordinated public transport system, which takes into consideration the need for the conservation of energy and preservation of nature/eco-system.

An integrated land, sea, air and rail transport system will be the hallmark of the shipment of freight and cargo.

An AZAPO government, while promoting the development of privately-owned transport services, will create enabling legislative instruments to facilitate the monitoring and regulation for all transport systems serving the public.

## ON YOUTH

AZAPO recognises that the youth are an important component of any society and that it is the youth who should be nurtured into future upholders of the values and norms of a given society. It is the youth that are the future leaders of society. In Azania, due to having lived in an oppressive society, the majority of our youth have either turned to criminal activity, drugs or other forms of intoxicating substances that are detrimental to their health and that of society as a whole.

It will be the responsibility of an AZAPO government to channel the energies of the youth into positive and productive activities. All youth will be required to undergo compulsory community service training as a means to inculcate discipline, responsibility and a culture of respect for human life. Special training facilities will be developed and put in place to

train the youth to become useful citizens of Azania and to prepare them for the future and to orientate them to the cultural heritage of the indigenous people of AZANIA.

## ON GENDER AND SOCIETY

AZAPO recognises that the struggle for liberation cannot be complete without the liberation of the women and men from many years of patriarchal attitudes, prejudices and practices, which resulted in women's psychological and physical exploitation and oppression, largely at the instance of men due to their false sense of superiority.

An AZAPO government will actively champion and support programmes that are geared at the eradication of patriarchal attitudes, prejudices and practices. Of immediate attention will be to eradicate all inequalities between men and women. In short, AZAPO will work towards the establishment of an anti-sexist society.

## PRIORITIES FOR AN AZAPO GOVERNMENT

AZAPO has identified the following issues, which should be addressed as a matter of urgency: employment, housing, education, land, health, welfare, crime, corruption and infrastructure.

## ONE AZANIA, ONE NATION