

## Manifesto 2014

# 1. Message of the President, Mr Bantu Holomisa, MP

## Constitution

2014 is an auspicious year in which South Africans mark twenty years of freedom. The Bill of Rights ensures that all the citizens of our beautiful country have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. Our dignity has been restored and we enjoy freedom and security of our person. We can live where we want to. No South African is denied access to establishments based on their colour. We all have the right to a basic education; to speak our own languages. We can believe as we want to and celebrate our diverse cultures.

Notwithstanding the liberties enshrined in the country's Constitution, these very freedoms are being destroyed by corruption. The other prerequisite to protect the gains of our freedom depends on the socio-economic conditions of our people.

## Holistic approach

The United Democratic Movement's (UDM) seek to address the very issues that are fundamental to empower our people and transform South Africa into a Winning Nation. However, in focusing on this objective it becomes clear that positions on different issues must be considered holistically.

The UDM's policies are integrative, which means we recognise that there is a clear relationship between such critical problems as the economy (land, mining, unemployment and poverty), education, safety and security, primary health care and infrastructure development.

### **The economy: Government must do more**

Fundamentally the UDM believes that the economy, job creation and poverty are inter-linked issues.

We believe that creating jobs are the ultimate weapon to combat poverty, but that the economy must be managed to achievement of this goal. Government has a responsibility to intervene and protect the South African economy and South African jobs when necessary.

We need strong government intervention to ensure that we have functioning roads, electricity, water irrigation and reticulation, and an efficient rail network, which are required to ensure economic growth

### **The economy: chopping and changing OF POLICY**

There is no consensus on a macro-economic policy that can transform the economy in a manner that could create and spread wealth wider and improve the lot of the disadvantaged majority.

Our economy suffers from jobless growth due to the confusion created by an ambivalent Tripartite Alliance (ANC, Cosatu & SACP). This ruling clique preaches

There seems to be general consensus among the people of South Africa that we are on a Slippery Slope that will only lead to our country imploding.

One thing is certain; Government can have the most brilliant policies, but if it does not show the political will to implement them, to be consistent and have the necessary discipline, South Africa is already on the same path as our sister nations on the continent who have failed their citizens.

Disrespect of Rule of Law, as exhibited by our executive, as well institutionalized corruption has had a direct impact on South Africa's downgrading on international ratings that in turn negatively impacted on investor confidence. The symbiotic relationship between a political party and its so-called "investment arms" (such as the ANC and Chancellor House) erodes private sector confidence.

It is an unfortunate fact that South Africa is being systematically swallowed in the quagmire of corruption. It is equally disconcerting that these acts of corruption increase in magnitude and happens more frequently, for instance, during the infrastructure development in preparation for the 2010 Soccer World Cup, service providers inflated their prices to make a greater profit at the expense of the taxpayer.

We were all shocked to find out that Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), which had a good international reputation, could be embroiled in corruption and maladministration.

In the final analyses, no one can dispute that: "Corruption destroys the gains of our freedom"

Are things so bad that we might as well throw in the towel?

The UDM says an emphatic NO!

As much as the situation we find ourselves in might be discouraging and bleak, the UDM feels strongly that it is not too late for us to turn the situation around so that we can be a prosperous nation.

In this manifesto the UDM makes a number of constructive suggestions to address the burning issues we face as a nation. As you read through this manifesto, remind yourself that you, as a voter, has the power to make this dream of a prosperous South Africa a reality.

We need a government that puts South Africans first. We deserve a government that will really take South Africa forward. Vote UDM!

## 2. Good governance

Rule of law is the proper system on which government should be based, as it prevents the abuse of power and allows innovation and the economy to flourish. The Institute for Accountability has stated that (since 1994) the reason for poverty in South Africa is directly attributable to, “the theft” of R700-billion (see <http://www.timeslive.co.za/thetimes/2014/01/27/corruption-is-killing-the-poor>). The Institute, in the same article, said that our Government has in fact had the necessary resources to uplift 11 million citizens from abject poverty.

The cancer of corruption has implicated many top leaders and officials, including the highest office in this country. This pattern of corruption has, with increasing frequency, left the ruling party reeling from one scandal to the next and has rendered their promises to combat corruption a joke. Not only is government guilty of corrupt practices, but the cancer has spread to the private sector.

Corruption is one of the main contributors to unemployment, poverty, inequality and poor service delivery. Our people are so frustrated by their living conditions that their anger boils over and instead of government listening to their complaints they dispatch the police.

South Africa cannot hope to remove systemic poverty without addressing institutionalised corruption. There are many examples abound such as E-tolling, Travelgate, Oilgate/PetroSA (Iraq), Independent Electoral Commission and SAPS lease agreement scandals, Nkandlagate and Guptagate.

A classic example of the disregard of rule of law is when the president of this country was ordered by the court to hand over the so-called “spy tapes”, a government property, and yet he refuses to do so. In another instance Cabinet chastised the Public Protector for merely doing the work she was mandated to do.

How convenient was it that the Information Bill suddenly made its appearance after the media had exposed a number of corruption scandals. Although the jury is still out, there seemed to be general consensus that the Bill was introduced to hide evidence of corrupt practices.

This tendency to appoint people with the right political connection, but not the right qualifications or abilities breeds a culture of mediocrity. We see many examples of this practice when one looks at the corrupt and ineffective state-owned enterprises that serves as gravy trains for the elite. This situation has become more complicated with the leaders in the tri-partite alliance fighting like cats and dogs and in the meantime confidence of investors are waning and our people suffer without basic services.

### 2.1. A UDM Government commits itself:

- Promote a culture of good governance.

- To introduce courts dedicated to handle cases of corruption and to swiftly eradicate corruption as demonstrated by our track record over the years of consistently and fearlessly exposing corruption wherever and whenever we find it.
- Restore a correct relationship between politicians and officials. The current culture of political interference in the daily administration of our government causes bureaucratic chaos and fuels corruption and tender fraud.
- Restore the powers of the accounting officers and ensure that there is no political interference in the execution of their duties. The role of political heads should be confined to that of oversight.
- Root out the culture where corruption is celebrated and condoned.
- appoint government employees, as well as the Chapter Nine instructions and State Owned Enterprises based on merit, knowledge and qualifications.
- respect the separation of powers between government, legislature and judiciary.
- Conduct a skills audit to ascertain whether the right people are employed in the right levels and/ or positions.
- review the current tender system where bribery and corruption flourish.
- develop a system where a person nominated for the executive should be subjected to a vetting process to establish his/her integrity and suitability for to serve in a specific portfolio.

## 1. The economy (introduction)

The ruling party has since 1994 adopted policies that have failed to grow the South African economy at rates required to create jobs and reduce inequality. As a result, the South African economy has over the past few years grown at a dismal rate of just over 2% per annum. Give that the official unemployment rate is 24.7% this certainly paints a bleak picture. This unemployment rate excludes those people who have given up looking for a job. When this category of people is included in the overall measurement, the unemployment rate deteriorates to more than 30%. (GRAPH)

In other words, nearly 7 million South Africans are **unemployed** due to the misguided policies of the ruling party and the majority of them are youth.

This dismal economic performance occurs against the backdrop of the **ever increasing gap between the rich and the poor**. The ruling party makes use of controversial legislation, such as Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) to loot state resources.

Once **international businesses** are attracted to South Africa to invest in our economy, they find themselves in a situation where they are “told” who their South African **partners** would be for example the deal between Hitachi/Eskom/Chancellor House – the latter being the ruling party’s investment arm. This is a classical example of **institutionalized corruption** that makes investors weary of investing in South Africa.

Government has failed to create an environment that is conducive to foreign direct investment. Instead they insist on keeping the interest rates artificially high to attract portfolio investments

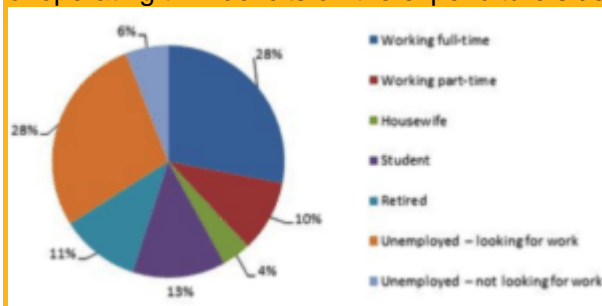
which are fickle in nature. This situation makes raises the cost of credit for ordinary South Africans. .

## 1.1. A UDM Government commits itself:

- the basic philosophy of the UDM is that **Government Must Do More**. By this we mean that a responsible government:
- cannot depend on market forces alone and
- cannot fail to intervene in the economy while the quality of the life of its citizens deteriorates and millions of our people live in abject poverty and underdevelopment.
- has to intervene decisively in the economy to create jobs, eradicate poverty and
- has to ensure that our political freedom translates into economic emancipation for the people.

## 1.2. Poor management of fiscus

The ruling party often prides itself about its ability to maintain fiscal discipline. However, in the past five years South Africa's fiscal position has deteriorated significantly due to the ruling party's poor **management of the economy** and its failure to improve the country's competitiveness. In 2008, South Africa's debt-to-GDP ratio was 23%, but it is projected to reach 39.3% in 2013/14 and 43.9% in 2016/17. In 2007/2008 South Africa had a budget surplus of 1.7%. This surplus declined to a budget deficit of 4.2% in 2013/14, which puts our country in an unenviable position of operating twin deficits on the expenditure side of the budget and the current account.



It is clear that the ruling party has failed to manage the economy and to close the gap between revenue and consumption and is therefore unfit to govern.

At the moment South Africa's Cabinet is too unwieldy for it to function effectively. Millions of taxpayers' money is spent to maintain their lifestyles, perks and luxury accommodation.

These days the government departments (at all three tiers) hire service providers to start a project and no-one makes the effort to see if the minimum requirements were adhered to. Such service providers are paid in full without any monitoring or inspection conducted by government.

## 1.3. A UDM Government commits itself:

- A UDM government will put in place the necessary checks and balances to ensure that government money is not wasted.
- As a part of cutting costs, the UDM will streamline the Cabinet by appointing fewer ministers.
- The UDM will review the public sector wage bill
- The UDM will ensure that its government will stop the overutilization of consultants by appointing competent staff.
- The UDM will stop the current tendencies where people who did not make it as public representatives are appointed as so-called “advisors”.
- Any government employee found guilty of corruption should face the full might of the law, instead of being awarded with ambassadors posts.
- The UDM will standardise the value of perks (such as vehicles) across ministers, deputy-ministers, directors general, mayors and traditional leaders.
- UDM believes in the use of a manageable budget deficit and government debt to create jobs and stimulate the economy.

## 1.4. Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development is critical for the proper functioning of the economy. It is the cornerstone of socio-economic and sustainable development. The ruling party's infrastructure development programme is not planned properly and fails to address past imbalances and backlogs. For instance, while government has budgeted and approved more than R800 billion over the next few years for infrastructure development, very little of this goes to rural areas and previously disadvantaged communities. As a result, the infrastructure in these areas is in a state of disrepair. This causes people to migrate to large cities in search of better job prospects and better living conditions.

Even when some communities benefitted from infrastructure development, those bridges, roads, school and hospitals fall apart within months. In other instances where such work was properly done, government does not inspect the handiwork, regularly monitor the state of the infrastructure and dispatch maintenance teams to repair any damage.

Service delivery, in many parts of this country, requires that citizen be a card-carrying member of a particular political party before they are given access to the most basic of services.

## 1.5. A UDM Government commits itself:

- invest in the economy through a properly planned infrastructure development programme and other large-scale, government-funded community-driven programmes applying good environmental practices.
- Draft a “map of infrastructure development”, with emphasis on transparency and closer cooperation between government, state-cooperation and the people.
- Where there is a lack of capacity at a certain tier of government, that responsibility will be escalated to the next level.

- In terms of sustainable development, the UDM will ensure proper consultation between government and the affected communities before projects are foisted on them.
- intervene in the economy to ensure that South Africa has functioning roads, electricity, water irrigation and reticulation and an efficient rail network.
- invest a significant amount of resources in strategic investment projects, such as the building of ports, airports, etc, which contribute to the economic development of the country.
- allocate a significant amount of resources to the infrastructure development of rural areas and previously disadvantaged communities.
- spend these resources on building access roads, dipping tanks, fencing for grazing lands and mealie fields and adequate sanitation.
- eradicate the culture of rolling out infrastructure development and basic service delivery to people who belong to a certain political party.
- empower communities, by investing in transfer of knowledge and skills to create jobs.

## 1.6. Small Business Development

**Small businesses have been accepted worldwide as the backbone of global economic growth and development.**

Small businesses in developed countries contribute more than 50% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while in Asia they contribute around 40%. In South Africa, too little has been done to reduce the costs and administrative burden for small businesses.

As a result, South African small businesses contribute around 30% to GDP. The UDM believes that a growth rate of 6-8% is required to reduce unemployment. To do this, we need to unleash the creative spirit inherent in all South Africans to create jobs.

South Africans who want to start small businesses often find themselves competing with entrepreneurs from other countries, who do not adhere to the legal requirements of doing businesses in South Africa. These unfair circumstances give rise to tensions within communities.

**A UDM Government commits itself to:**

- Develop a policy that will ensure a fair system where entrepreneurs and small business owners from inside and outside of South Africa can do business harmoniously.
- do more to promote small business development in order to ensure that the citizens become wealth creators rather than employment seekers.
- introduce capacity building and training programmes for aspirant and existing entrepreneurs as a way to encourage people to start new businesses and to improve the competitiveness of existing ones.
- identify and remove obstacles to small business development,
- create access to capital for example development banks that help sector specific entrepreneurs.
- create opportunities for markets for their products.

- provide tax incentives for businesses that create jobs and those that are labour intensive.
- empower and create opportunities for unemployed graduates in beneficiation programmes.
  - Review labour policies to reflect our desire to stimulate SMME growth. We need to give the right to employment to the unemployed, for example by giving labour law exemptions to SMMEs and the unemployed.
  - There is no equitable partnership between men and women. There needs to be a social paradigm shift about gender-equality that should usher in a new generation of women and men working together to create a humane world order.
  - ensure participation of women in the development processes, sustained investment in human capacity through education, health and nutrition programmes.
  - eliminate all obstacles that still limit the access of women to decision-making, education, health care services and productive employment.

## 1.7. Women Empowerment

## 1.8. A UDM Government commit itself to:

## 1.9. Youth Empowerment

According to the latest World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risk report (2014), South Africa has the third highest youth unemployment rate in the world. It estimates that more than 50% of young people in South Africa do not have jobs – this includes semi-skilled and skilled young people.

### **A UDM Government commit itself to:**

- Through education, skills development and vocational, training focus on initiatives to get the youth working.
- Initiate job creation and opportunities for young South Africans; e.g. radically reduce the red-tape that stifles entrepreneurship, and introduce targeted incentives and support programmes for small businesses started by young people.
- Through bilateral agreements with other countries arrange opportunities where they are mentored.
- specifically employ semi-skilled youth as “green battalions” in projects to remove alien species, combat soil erosion, afforestation and sustainable subsistence farming.
- Empower young South Africans to develop micro-businesses, where they for instance pick up litter, recycle and maintain schoolyards, parks, cemeteries, sporting facilities, etc.
- Despite the fact there is a whole Department dedicated to improving the lives of women, youth and people with disabilities, there is no doubt that people with disabilities are treated as the step-child of this department.
- There are very few people with disabilities who are employed not only in the public service, but also in the private sector.



- Develop policies based on the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as described in <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>.
- To conduct regular audits to ascertain whether the public service and the private sector are fair in giving people with disabilities the same opportunities as able persons.

## 1.10. Empowerment of people with disabilities

## 1.11. A UDM Government commit itself to:

## 1.12. Industrial Policy

In 1995, the South African government embarked on a massive trade liberalization programme that dramatically reduced trade tariffs in a wide range of labour intensive sectors, such as textile, agriculture, and mining, among others. This decision resulted in massive job losses because our country's core industries and labour intensive sectors were not protected from foreign competition. South African businesses have to compete with their counterparts where such labour intensive industries are heavily subsidised by their governments.

The governments of the most powerful economies in the world, such as the United States of America, China and India as well as various countries in Europe recognise the responsibility they have towards their citizens. These governments do not hesitate to intervene in their economies by protecting local jobs and businesses. A government that proposes anything less does not care, and is not willing to accept responsibility for the welfare and prosperity of their people.

If you drive around Ekurhuleni, that used to be a hub of the steel industry, it now bears the scars of neglect and disuse, because it could not compete with subsidised industries in other parts of the world.

The ruling party is obsessed with the concept of **beneficiation** – this is however **mere lip service**. How ironic that, South Africa exports raw materials to the rest of the world, only to import the final products back. **The ruling party is thus creating jobs for people in other countries.**

There are far too many instances where major developments, such as big mining projects, start in areas without the necessary consultation with the communities that will be affected. What makes matters worse is, these companies, after pillaging the resources and damaging the environment, disappear into thin air.

The *Sector Education and Training Authorities* (SETAs) have failed spectacularly – after twenty years they have produced nothing more than employment opportunities for the ruling party cadres who could not find jobs elsewhere.

### 1.13. A UDM Government commits itself to:

- Do more, by this we mean that a responsible government cannot depend on market forces alone and fail to intervene in the economy while the quality of the life of its citizens deteriorates and millions of our people live in abject poverty and underdevelopment.
- review South Africa's international trade tariffs and duties to protect developing local industries, encourage exports, increase international trade and support inbound tourism.
- Create an environment that is conducive for the manufacturing sector and industry to flourish.
- the creation of an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) or an Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) on a trial basis in one of our coastal provinces or in an identified industrial area should be seriously investigated. This will then be properly researched and evaluated, to determine the long-term costs and benefits. The objectives of an EPZ or IDZ are to earn foreign exchange and to create jobs. The introduction of an EPZ or IDZ will be done in consultation with the relevant provincial or local government.
- Reduce the red tape that stifles the ability of domestic companies to export their products to the rest of the world.
- Develop support programmes for the labour intensive sectors and give special attention to those that create job opportunities for all South Africans.
- Restructuring the SETAs by appointing the right people in the right positions.

### 1.14. Mining

- The full policy of the UDM regarding Minerals and Energy is available on our website [www.udm.org.za/newsroom/documents](http://www.udm.org.za/newsroom/documents).
- There has recently been quite some interest in the subject of the nationalisation of mines that raised tensions to boiling point. This situation resulted in much instability, not only amongst miners and their employers, but also negatively impacted on South Africa as an investment destination
- Make the topic on mining in South Africa one of the major points of discussion at the Economic Indaba which the UDM proposes (see paragraph 3.16 of this manifesto) – some of the matters to be discussed are:
  - The question of ownership of land and mines,
  - The allocation of mining rights to the ruling elite and its implications
  - Socio-economic conditions of the workers and the communities that settle close to where there jobs are.
  - The controversial issue mineworkers' access, or lack thereof, to a provident fund worth billions.
  - The unions' investment arms and the pay-out of dividends to those workers who have contributed to the fund.
  - appointment of an independent commission to investigate how these workers' monies were invested, especially in cases where the workers were retrenched or had retired or passed away.

## 1.15. A UDM Government commits itself to:

## 1.16. Economic Indaba'

The primary focus of the CODESA negotiations was the attainment of political freedom. This has left the formulation of South Africa's economic policy in the hands of individuals, who tend to develop policies along narrow partisan and factional lines. All the ruling party's economic policies, such as RDP, GEAR, ASGISA and now the New Growth Path, were all formulated along these lines and have all come and gone without delivering the promised jobs.

Over the last twenty years we have witnessed growing levels of tension and mistrust amongst the three main role players: government, labour and business.

On the one hand, this mistrust has discouraged big business from investing billions of available cash in our economy. On the other hand, it has often resulted in illegal and violent strikes, which negatively affects the economy, depress the currency and investor sentiment.

It is clear that after nearly twenty years of economic experimentation that the ruling party has run out of ideas. It is merely tinkering with policy in the blind hope that it will somehow stumble upon a solution.

## 1.17. A UDM Government will commit itself to:

- call a National Economic Indaba along the lines of the CODESA negotiations to discuss an economic policy that will help to eradicate poverty, reduce unemployment and lessen inequality in South Africa.
- use the Indaba to propose the development of a social pact between business and labour in order to improve industrial relations.

## 2. Quality education

Our education system has become a political football and the solution lies in firm leadership. We need to restore authority to government and not teacher unions.

Government spends approximately 6% of GDP on education. Despite the significant amount of resources ploughed into our education system and, when one benchmarks this against international standards, one can only reach one conclusion: South Africa's quality of education is extremely poor.

This means that our children do not get the basic education they deserve thus leaving them ill-equipped to find employment. The 2013 matric pass rate of 78.2% is meaningless when one considers that the majority of matriculants can barely read and/or write. This scenario worsens when one considers that 60% of learners drop out before they reach Grade 10.

Another factor that puts our learners and teachers at a disadvantage is the chopping and changing of education policy with the appointment of each new minister of education. Just when the teachers master a new curriculum, they have to start from scratch and in turn the learners suffer.

Our tertiary institutions do not provide fair access to deserving students. They suffer from high drop-out rates and do not produce enough graduates to fill the skills shortages in the economy.

## 2.1. A UDM Government will commit itself to:

- translate the large education budget into quality education by developing and maintaining an education system that produces school-leavers and graduates that are equipped with job-related and life-skills.
- Free public education until Grade 12;
- Career-orientated advice and education will be enhanced to ensure that children can determine their future careers timeously and can attain the various goals on the way towards their employment.
- Curriculum development will also be an inclusive process involving all the relevant stakeholders. It will be designed in such a way that it adapts to changing needs of society. It is important that the vital pillars of our education policy do not depend on the whims of one party Minister, but are agreed to by all.
- We will improve the quality of the educational infrastructure, such as the physical infrastructure, teaching material and human resources. We will increase spending on the development, maintenance and provision of school buildings, water, sanitation and electricity.
- It is vital that schools are places of discipline, order, neatness and productivity. The lack of commitment reflected in the neglect of the dress code by teachers and pupils, vandalism and truancy will be addressed.
- We will ensure that crime, especially sexual harassment and abuse, at schools receives zero-tolerance. Offenders will be removed from the institution and will face the full might of the law.
- Getting back to the basics i.e. teachers must teach; learners must learn.
- Foster a culture of learning and discipline with the reintroduction of regular school inspections.
- Depoliticise the management and administration of schools by unions.
- Review the entrance requirement as well as the curriculum for teacher training.
- Include self-employment as a viable alternative within career guidance structures. Implement specific entrepreneurship education and training in the curricula of both basic and higher education institutions. Cross reference.
- Review structures and curricula of FET colleges to ensure that they become more practical in addressing the needs of learners to become future employers.

## 3. Feeding South Africa – food security and rural development

The degradation of household food security in the country is of great concern. Though household food security is not the sole responsibility of the agricultural sector, it is vital that the production of food is stimulated to fulfil the needs of a fast growing population.

### 3.1. Rural revitalisation and economic stagnation

- Many rural areas are experiencing a crisis with regard to resources and service delivery and rural economies have imploded.
- The majority of people live in abject poverty
- A major flaw of economic policy in the past 20 years has been the failure of the ruling party to bring infrastructure in rural areas and townships on par with that in the cities.
- People migrate to the large cities fuelling the chronic housing shortage; millions are forced to live in shacks because the infrastructure in the cities cannot keep pace with the demands of rapid urbanisation.
- In the past South Africa used to be net exporters of food, and today we are net importers.
- It is nearly impossible for our commercial farmers to compete against the counter parts in other countries, because those countries make great effort to support farmers.
- Poor border control, and stock theft, having a negative impact on our farming communities.
- In addition the safety and security of those who live in rural areas, where too many people lose their lives because they are vulnerable in far-flung areas of our country.
- Rural poverty has been compounded by the Government that has neglected development, alienated farmers, communities and Traditional Leaders alike.
- The Departments of Rural Development and Expropriation should be streamlined to speed up the processes and restore land to their rightful owners, because the delays causes uncertainty and tension.
- In some instances the land lies fallow or commercially viable farms become unproductive because the new owner/s of the land do not have the necessary knowledge or capacity to run those farms.

### 3.2. Commercial farmers and their concern

### 3.3. A UDM Government will commits itself to:

- Use agriculture as a tool to expand our economy, create jobs and generate wealth especially in rural areas.
- Prioritise the needs of South African farmers – by developing policies to subsidise farmers to enable them to fairly compete against their international counter parts. We will also protect the South African market from the dumping of these subsidised products.
- Reverse this situation through a concerted effort to stimulate Agriculture and related businesses, and using these as a platform for development in rural areas. We are convinced that the creation of the necessary infrastructure will create jobs and encourage the growth of more employment-creating agricultural-related enterprises, to ensure that the migration to urban areas is slowed down.

- Accelerate the distribution of land, in line with our Land Policy (see [www.udm.org.za](http://www.udm.org.za)) to encourage people to return to, or remain in, rural areas and start productive enterprises there.
- Create the necessary infrastructure to create jobs and encourage the growth of more employment-creating agricultural-related enterprise thus ensuring that the migration to urban areas is slowed down.
- Build infrastructure that support agricultural activity, such as irrigation schemes which have been proven to be successful in the past.
- establish One-Stop Agricultural Service Centres in rural areas where emerging farmers can ask for advice, veterinary services, access the necessary tools and knowledge to run their farms as businesses and also have a market for their produce.
- Introduce Special Units specifically involved in Rural Safety through the deployment of reserve forces and other government security agencies to provide safety in rural areas and to enhance border control to curb stock-theft and smuggling.
- Traditional leaders have been side-lined for the past twenty years and they could have, and should, play an important role in rural revitalisation.
- In rural municipalities tensions between traditional leaders and councillor have been reached boiling point, because traditional leaders have been stripped of the power and deference they are entitled to. Many of them feel that they are only given recognition during elections.
- There is no standardisation in terms of the packages of the traditional leaders of the various tribes.
- The houses that were established for traditional leaders are reduced to talk-shops and any decisions made by such bodies are not taken seriously by the ruling party.

### 3.4. The role of traditional leaders in development

### 3.5. A UDM Government will commit itself to:

- The UDM will pay particular attention to rural revitalisation and will assist emerging as well as subsistence farmers by giving access to resources including capital, land, infrastructure and training, which will assist the rural poor to become self-reliant.
- Creating an environment conducive to entrepreneurial and agricultural development and start mentorship programmes with commercial farmers and linking farmers to markets must be a necessary condition.
- The UDM will encourage the poor to empower and organise themselves, individually or collectively, in mutual aid or self-help initiatives such as cooperatives and develop their capacity to participate effectively in social, economic and political processes.
- Fast track the implementation of the Land Reform process and bring the restitution process to a close.
- Review trade and tariff policies that would assist specific food industries that face unfair competition from dumped products. Also use trade policy more aggressively to stimulate export to new markets and reduce the cost of doing business in South Africa.

- Adequate support should be given to rural municipalities that have a limited revenue, raising capacity and those that suffer from skills shortage. These would help deal with past imbalances and backlogs and create the much needed employment opportunities in rural areas.
- Respect the role and institution of traditional leaders. The decisions made by the traditional houses should be referred to the relevant bodies (e.g. to the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces) for action.
- Traditional leaders should be capacitated to take a leading role in rural revitalisation and the colleges for the children of traditional leaders will be reopened.

## 4. Justice Cluster – safety and security

- At the moment there is no synergy between the various stakeholders, i.e. police, courts and corrections. The only time where we see any synergy between these arms of justice is when they are acting in defence of the ruling elite.
- For many years now the ruling party has refused to acknowledge the scale of the crime crisis facing us, aside from the occasional outburst from a minister or two that never makes any difference.
- A world-class nation can exist only in a productive and safe environment which encourages enterprises to flourish whilst attracting local and foreign investments.
- It is extreme folly to parachute a National Police Commissioner with no policing experience to command the police which seriously affects discipline and morale.
- The UDM will enhance coordination between the ministries of justice, police services, correctional services, defence and national intelligence.
- the restoration of civil order as an immediate priority.
- zero-tolerance towards crime and the consequent protection of our rights must occur along with a national moral regeneration, towards a clear distinction between right and wrong.
- the improvement of border and rural security. The reserve force of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) will be re-empowered, reorganised and retrained.
- Transform certain units of the South African Army into a smaller, disciplined, professional and well-trained force able to rapidly expand and mobilise when required.
- implementation of a Crime Eradication Strategy recognising the following two realities:
  - The immediate unacceptable situation must be addressed.
  - To ensure a long term solution to crime and violence.
  - Actively encourage communities to participate in the eradication of crime, through the establishment of neighbourhood watches, etc.
  - Establishing a baseline information system (database) for strategic planning around crime and policing issues.
  - Develop a doctrine that ensures that our police service function according to a set of rules that are in line with the values enshrined in our Constitution.
  - Ensure that the police encourage the best and the brightest to rise through the ranks; thereby ensuring that the people who command the police force understand policing.



- promote regional cooperation between South Africa and its neighbouring countries, such cooperation will amongst other include improved extradition treaties to ensure that criminals do not strike across our borders without impunity.
- Improving the relationship between the public and police in order to enhance intelligence gathering.
- At the moment, anger, resentment, racism and ethnicity simmer underneath the supposed Rainbow Nation. South Africans feel that their government does not listen to them and their only recourse is protest and eight out of ten service delivery protests ends in violence.

## 4.1. A UDM Government will commit itself to:

## 5. Quality healthcare

Currently the poor are still disadvantaged with regard to their access to, and the quality of, primary health care they receive. It remains a sad fact of daily life for many South Africans that have to travel long distances to the nearest clinic or hospital.

Hygiene at many clinics is at unacceptable levels, and must be addressed immediately.

The provision and stocking of medicine at many clinics and hospitals fall far short of the basic requirements. The current spread of infrastructure and services prevent medicine from reaching hospitals and clinics.

The inefficient referral mechanisms in our current system deprives patients, especially those in a critical state or emergencies, from being quickly referred to institutions capable to deal with their needs. At the moment patients are forced to wait countless hours and sit in long queues before they are assisted by staff that have a dismissive attitude towards their fellow humans in need.

Although we have seen some improvement, there must be better control over the health budget.

Allocated money must be spent on the services it was intended for. No “savings” on budgets, or rollovers will be tolerated. The principle that will be applied to accounting officers will be that under-spending is worse than over-spending.

## 5.1. A UDM Government will commit itself to:

- Bring health care infrastructure and services closer to the poor.
- Improve public health facilities and services, including the maintenance of hospitals and clinics. The UDM proposes in its Public Works policy that job creation can be achieved through infrastructure maintenance and development. This will be achieved with Planned Sustainable Development programmes.
- Ensure that all hospitals and clinics are properly stocked with medicines and other medical supplies



- Ensure that allocated money is spent on the services for which it was intended. No “savings” on budgets or rollovers will be tolerated.
- Ensure that all doctors and nurses at primary healthcare facilities are properly trained, qualified and compensated.
- Streamline referral procedures to ensure that all patients requiring emergency or specialised care receive speedy and appropriate treatment at the relevant medical facility.
- Ensure that the primary health care system is tailored to respond effectively to the major diseases threatening the South African population, such as tuberculosis (especially drug-resistant TB), cholera and malaria – all are preventable and can be treated.
- Ensure that nutritional issues and family planning forms a basic part of Primary Health care, recognising that appropriate education and training in these areas will have a major impact on the well-being of communities.
- Ensure that the Department of Health is part of an integrated response to alcohol and drug abuse, recognising that substance abuse contributes to high levels of violence, death and the social breakdown of South African society.

## 6. Protect the environment: for all South Africans!

The threats our environment and the people who inhabit it should be a key priority of our government.

The practice of proper use of land and resources is understood, but high levels of poverty in many parts of the country have led to the destruction of the environment; soil erosion, water pollution, and deforestation are widespread. As a result desertification is threatening our country. It is critical that we uplift the poor and rescue our environment from permanent destruction. At the same time storms and adverse weather are becoming commonplace due to global climate change. This further exacerbates the threat to our environment.

The socio-economic implications of the destruction or degradation of our environment imposes a serious obligation on everybody to play his or her part to protect our environment. Environmental concerns require a holistic and non-political approach because it affects all players, irrespective of social standing. Any activities by anybody that harm the environment impact on the lives of all people of South Africa.

The task of saving our environment calls for the elevation of the problem as a priority that warrants a “Marshall Plan” to save our natural heritage by identifying, building and rewarding individuals, institutions as well as community-based organisations to rescue and conserve our natural heritage. A specific opportunity exists here to make use of the many community radio stations. They are doing sterling work on reflecting community issues, and are well-placed to raise awareness about environmental, health and related issues. Government advertisements towards this would also help to make these stations economically viable and break the artificial advertising monopoly of the SABC.

This entails broadening the knowledge, and awareness of environmental issues and commitment to its protection and development to encompass the poor who may have previously viewed issues of environment as a preoccupation of the wealthy. It must be made known to all our people that the promotion of environmental concerns and strategies is geared towards the improvement of the quality of lives of all our people without exception.

We must defuse the potential conflict between the imperatives of conservation and those of resource-poor communities. We need to link conservation with socio-economic development, by allowing communities to have sustainable access to the life-supporting and income-earning potential of nature reserves and other protected areas.

Population and resources, and land distribution will remain areas of challenge and opportunity. The environmental and socio-political needs are to deal with the material and perceived legacy of apartheid. In environmental management terms, this might mean a shift in focus to living and working environments, and to land reform.

The UDM supports sustainable environmental development, meaning that the prosperity we create today must not leave future generations without useful resources. The UDM believes that, through the implementation of bio-diversity programmes, thousands of jobs can be created. The UDM believes that it is possible to generate job and business opportunities whilst being environmentally responsible.

A UDM Government will pursue the following objectives:

Tax incentives must be provided to the private sector and other institutions that invest in the development of technologies for conservation and sustainable use of bio-diversity programmes.

Similarly more active enforcement of the environmental law is required. Individuals or organisations that contravene these laws must be penalised.

The massive number of environmental laws and regulations must immediately be consolidated into one concise and effective law.

In South Africa in particular, and in the world in general, we are facing three major environmental crises: climate change, water scarcity as well as the energy crisis. These three challenges pose massive threats and require concerted National and international responses. A UDM Government would be a champion of these causes locally, on the continent and in international forums.

## 7. Electoral reform

Political accountability is at the heart of fully-functioning democracy. The current Proportional Representation (PR) system means that elected leaders are accountable solely to their party bosses and not the people who voted them into office needs to be discarded sooner rather than later.

The current practice where political parties impose their choice of President on the Nation – is profoundly undemocratic.

## 7.1. A UDM Government will commit itself to:

Moving towards a mixed electoral system that draws from the strengths of both the proportional and constituency based electoral systems. The first major step we will take is the introduction of constituencies into the PR system to ensure that politicians have a specific geographically-defined community they represent.

We will also change the electoral laws to allow for a separately elected President, as is the case in many democracies across the globe; in that way we will put the power back in the hands of the voters.