

CAPE COLOURED CONGRESS

Political Manifesto

Local Government Elections 2021

Index

Pg

1.	Preamble	1
	Race	5
3.	Housing	9
4.	Bo-kaap	12
5.	District Six	13
6.	KZN, Gauteng, EC, NC	14
7.	Health	15
8.	Public Transport	16
9.	Right to work for a living wage	17
10	Scrapping of Affirmative Policies	19
11	. Safety and Security	20





PREAMBLE

History texts indicates that the Dutch East India Company (DEIC) established a refreshment station at what came to be known as the Cape of Good Hope. The indigenous people of the region at first welcomed these visitors to our shores and engaged in bartering and trading. When the purpose of the DEIC shifted to the establishment of settlements and occupying land, the relationship changed from trading and bartering to that of land conquest. The DEIC engaged in a war against the indigenous peoples which resulted in genocide and extermination. Today, only remnants of indigenous culture, language, rituals, and culture remains, the struggle to reconstitute these and reclaim this heritage has begun and is to be supported.



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The historical record also reflects that the Dutch colonial power was then replaced with British colonial power, a power no less brutal and savage. In 1910, the Union of South Africa was declared, bringing an end to the war between the English and the Boers. In 1948 the Boers took political power from the British and established their hegemony over the land. Concerted struggle led to the negotiated settlement and in 1994, the ANC took political power over a state where a wealthy elite continues to hold economic power. The vast majority of the citizens of South Africa continue to experience mass unemployment, a lack of housing, a low wage economy and grinding poverty.

In the Western Cape, the Democratic Alliance holds political power with the overwhelming support of the descendants of the indigenous people. We will no longer accept this state of affairs. The Apartheid government, in the pursuit of its white supremacist ideology, further displaced people through the Group Areas Act, tantamount to forced internal migration. Today, the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape continues to favour mostly middle class and wealthy suburbs and ignores the developmental needs of the Cape Flats and Townships. The systemic and institutional corruption of the national government has led to fellow citizens from outside of the Western Cape to seek opportunities here for work and housing, further resulting in conflict amongst indigenous peoples for available and scarce resources.



PREAMBLE

It is time for the descendants of the indigenous peoples to take up our rightful place as equal citizens of South Africa, with the inalienable right to live a life of dignity.

Noting this historical narrative of land conquest, slavery, colonialism, apartheid, and the post 1994 democratically sanctioned regimes of poverty and inequality, we are faced with the political task of organising the descendants of the indigenous peoples into a political formation aimed at correcting the historical injustices, as well as the contemporary ways in which our bodies continue to be excluded and our voices silenced. Noting the ways in which the transgenerational trauma from land conquest, genocide, rape, murder, slavery, colonialism, and Apartheid continues to negatively impact the lives of the descendants of the indigenous peoples, we demand,

- Just and equitable reparations from Holland and the United Kingdom for its crimes against the indigenous peoples, including, land conquest, slavery, genocide, and the theft of our mineral resources which enriched the former colonial powers.
- Just and equitable reparations from Afrikaner landowners for using our ancestors as slave labour, paying for labour in the form of the DOP system, condemning generations of our bodies to Foetal Alcohol Syndrome



PREAMBLE

and for the continued payment of low wages post 1994 on land originally stolen from our ancestors.

- A new division of land in which the first priority is to ensure food security for ALL citizens.
- Just and equitable reparations from Corporate South Africa that made its profits during Colonialism and Apartheid, and in the post 1994 democratic dispensation, continues to make profits off the back of the super exploitation of ALL BODIES in the extraction of natural resources that belong to all the citizens of the Republic of South Africa.
- The right to free and compulsory education for every child, from preschool to first degree

Convinced that neither the corrupt and venal ANC regime, nor the main opposition party, the DA, represent the interests of the indigenous peoples

We therefore resolve to establish a political formation, open to ALL South Africans that are GATVOL of the political lies propagated by the ANC and DA and to seek to foreground policies and laws that are based on social justice, rather than greed and self-interest, for ALL South Africans and as such the CCC declares itself as a social democratic party with policies aimed at ensuring the implementation of an holistic plan to address the historical legacy of land conquest, slavery and colonialism, as well addressing the consequences of continued political misrule by the ANC nationally and the DA provincially.





The following policies will make up the political manifesto of the Cape Coloured Congress:

Race:

Identity: Classified coloured

It was assumed that a post-apartheid government would scrap the racial classification system that divided the population into various racial groups, which was the basis of Apartheid racial discrimination. However, when the democratically elected government moved into political power in 1994, it retained the racial classification system. Subsequently, affirmative action and black economic empowerment policies were introduced and liberal academics formulated reasons why these policies were necessary.







At that time no one understood the implications of these policies, least of all the people on whom this was meant to impact. Though there was dissatisfaction in coloured communities it was not articulated by any politician or political organisation. To a large extent intellectuals and struggle activists accepted the explanations. Partly because it was also added that these policies include everyone broadly defined as "black" as was understood in popular anti-Apartheid struggle terms.

That was not the case as we came to understand when these policies were implemented. With racial classification still in place, affirmative action and black economic empowerment effectively excluded people classified as coloured. The consequences of this political decision has been devastating. Application forms and registers require one to fill in racial group classification. For people classified as coloured this meant they were automatically excluded from opportunities ranging from jobs, promotions, economic development, and social housing, particularly as the priority is a pre-occupation on Black, which in essence meant only indigenous Africans and not Black as broadly defined in law.

The same was applied in every aspect under the guise of equity and other respects. It is common knowledge amongst coloured youth that applying for opportunities is a waste of time and generally demoralising. The effect of this is coloured youth resort to gangs and drugs as alternatives and escapism from a harsh reality.

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Even though communities classified as coloured are the most integrated and diverse group, as well as the most tolerant of other cultures, it is the most stigmatised. Therefore, the saying, under apartheid we were not white enough, now under democracy we are not black enough. As incorrect as it is, it holds true for the experiences of "Coloured people" in the context of a so called democratic South Africa.

Historical research has proven the coloured community are the descendants of the indigenous Khoi and San nations. Throughout its history, this community was involved in resistance, from the various Khoi wars to the slave rebellions, from the dock worker strikes to the Hooligan riots. Creating many organisations over time producing leaders and intellectuals in opposition to the various oppressive governments.

7

During the anti-apartheid struggle, coloured people identified as BLACK and participated in the liberation movements and many were incarcerated as political prisoners. Many coloured youth were injured and killed on the streets during protest actions and others died in police custody as a result of severe torture.

These uprisings persisted and intensified during the 1970s and culminated in the launch of the United Democratic Front in Rocklands, Mitchells plain, Eldorado Park, Reiger Park, Huidedal, Wentworth, Marian Ridge, Laudium and countless other coloured townships across South Africa. Together with other formations and the militant student movements on the Cape Flats, they rejected the Tricameral parliament that wanted to incorporate the coloureds into the Apartheid government. ∇

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'Coloured' was an identity that was promulgated in Apartheid legislation aimed at ensuring the continued exclusion and marginalisation of indigenous peoples. We have now undertaken the political decision to give new political meaning to this identity. For the purpose of language, culture, and tradition, all of which continuously evolve, we now view being coloured as our identity, both beautiful and complex and even contradictory.

Coloureds are all those who are from a mixed racial or ethnic back, those who are not ashamed of it and those who publicly or privately claim to being coloured.

We make no apology for the use of this term. We do however note that what the National Party did to divide the oppressed along racial lines, the ANC continues in current legislation, thus establishing a hierarchy of oppression.

8

The objective result of the policies of Affirmative Action and BEE has not been its stated aim, i.e., to benefit all previously disadvantaged South Africans; rather, these policies have been used to divide the oppressed along racialised identities which were long rejected in the anti-apartheid struggle. The result is that Coloured people are not seen as Black. For the few available jobs in the continued racially segregated capitalist labour market, these policies dictate that the oppressed fight among themselves for the available jobs at the low end of the labour market. We therefore propose a campaign that will demand of national government to scrap the racial classification register, with immediate effect, with no distinctions or gradations of blackness. All sections of the oppressed must have equal access to jobs, housing, and education and health services.

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HOUSING

Housing:

The State has failed dismally to provide adequate social housing. This is evident in the mushrooming of backyard dwellers as well as the growing housing database and a fictional waiting list.

The right to housing is a universal right and rightfully should be enshrined in our constitution as the bare minimum. The constitution only refers to the right of access to housing based on available resources. This is a provisional right which is dependent on "available resources". For poor and low income families this means being condemned to living in backyards paying exorbitant rents to landlords. Living in this form of inadequate accommodation has become generational leading to all kinds of problems as a result of overcrowding. The added drain on resources by economic migrants, local and foreign, has further complicated this housing crisis resulting in urban sprawl and escalating the cost for housing.



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HOUSING

The housing crisis is characterised by:

- 1. Failure by local government to build new rental stock.
- 2. Failure to implement the People's Housing Process (PHP).
- 3. Failure to provide plots to first time homeowners.
- 4. Stopping of Self Help schemes.
- 5. Construction of bad quality social housing.
- 6. Delays in housing projects and incomplete housing projects
- 7. Unspent housing budgets and corruption by housing officials
- 8. Bypassing people long on the housing database.
- 9. Poor and inadequate town planning, especially spatial planning for human settlements.

The Cape Coloured Congress commits:

- I. Implementation of the People's Housing Process and Self Help.
- II. Emergency housing for backyard dwellers on the housing database.
- III. The building of affordable rental units in all communities.
- IV. Fast tracking of all current and new housing projects
- V. Establishment of housing co-operatives in all communities supported by local and national government.
- VI. Establishment of a state owned Construction Company for the purpose of solving the housing crisis.
- VII. The reconstruction of townships that are still dysfunctional as a result of apartheid spatial planning and forced removals.
- VIII.The shortening of the waiting period to receive social housing.



HOUSING

We need a new housing policy where housing is considered a human right and not an expense item limited by austerity measures. In line with this policy, we demand that:

The establishment of a state owned Construction Company with the purpose of eradicating the housing backlog.

A new housing policy will ensure that decent houses are built, remain the property of the state and is maintained by the state. Hundreds of thousands of jobs must be created to ensure the building of houses, maintenance of houses, the building of extra schools, public hospitals, and thus the redesign of apartheid era spatial planning for the whole of the Country.

A 20 year, mass public works programme and infrastructural plan that will ensure rural communities and townships will be turned into Garden villages and eco-friendly suburbs.



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The CCC notes the continued gentrification of Bo Kaap and Woodstock, areas in which the majority of residents are the descendants of the indigenous peoples. The impact of gentrification is such that residents are forced to sell their properties as they can no longer afford the rates and rent charged by the DA controlled

City of Cape Town, irrevocably changing the demographics of these communities. The CCC commits to halting this gentrification process once we assume political power in the City of Cape Town and to restore the dignity of these communities.

BO-KAAP



DISTRICT SIX



DISTRICT SIX



The DA controlled City of Cape Town continues the delays in the return of this land to the original inhabitants. Many elderly people have passed away while waiting in vain to return to the places where they were forcibly evicted from their homes through the Group Areas Act. Most of the land is now occupied by Cape Peninsula University of Technology and businesses and frequented by the elite.

The CCC controlled City of Cape Town will immediately start the process of officially renaming the area as District 6, take over the CPUT campus and convert the building for housing purposes. Land claimants must have first access to housing, parks must be built and the area turned into an eco-suburb. The CCC commits to building a freedom square and a wall of remembrance listing the names of those evicted through the Group Areas Act.



KWAZULU NATAL / GAUTENG / NORTHERN CAPE / EASTERN CAPE

14

Wentworth / Marianridge / Sydenham /Woodlands, Newlands East / Eshowe / Richards Bay / Newcastle / Empangeni / Mtubathuba / Ladysmith / Kokstad / Harding / Sisonke district/ Eldorado Park/East London/Port Elizabeth

The DA controlled wards across these territories are plagued with gang violence, drug and substance abuse, domestic violence, and general degradation. We as the CCC will fight for the dignity of all South Africans, but in the main the dignity of the people of South Africa most affected by the drastic change of living conditions in the aforementioned areas.







South Africa has a two tier health system, one for the rich and one for the poor. Most public hospitals are in a state of disrepair, underfunded and the abuse of patients is wilfully systemic.

We demand the immediate introduction of the National Health Insurance Scheme in all private and public health centres) under state control, that will guarantee free access to health care at the point of care. All medical professions to be fully funded by the state and the state to pay for such medical services and skills. All public hospitals and clinics in urban areas to be fully funded.

New public hospitals and clinics to be built by the state in rural areas, up to international standards in quality of care and easy access.

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All government officials and their offspring to use public health care facilities. A more aggressive training model for nurses on public healthcare.



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PUBLIC TRANSPORT

All forms of public transportation are in a dismal state, Metrorail is nearly totally dysfunctional, Busses serves only a section of the population and taxis are mostly convenient but unsafe. This is in complete contrast to a MyCiti transportation system that allows easy access for the middle class.

We need an integrated public transport system paid for by the state that is safe to use, easily accessible and either free or affordable. Metrorail, the bus companies, and the taxi industry must be brought under state control to ensure that the workers can get to places of work in the safest, efficient, and affordable way possible.



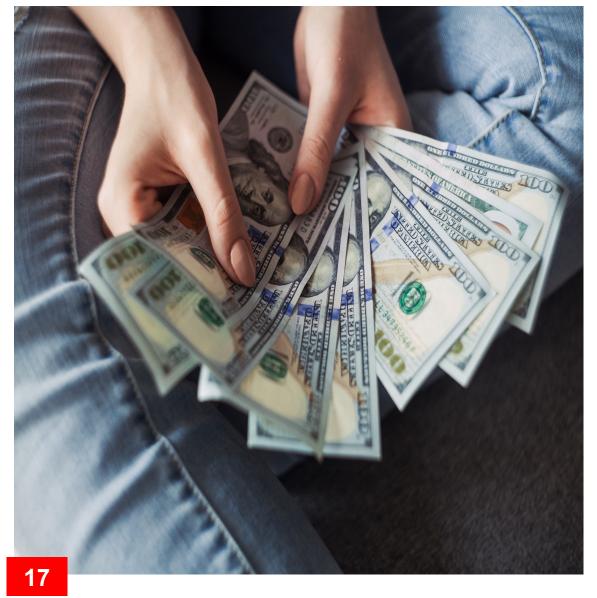


THE RIGHT TO WORK FOR A LIVING WAGE

The shutting down of the textile industry in Cape town by the minister of Public enterprises, Ebrahim Patel, had disastrous consequences for coloured families in general and women in particular. The impact of these disastrous policies are mostly felt in women headed households where women are the sole bread winner.

The Right to Work at a living wage must be enshrined in a constitutional amendment. With decent work at a decent wage, we will have dignity and people will be able to provide for their basic needs such as healthy food, shelter, clothing, education and health.

Coloured communities face extremely high levels of unemployment. This situation is exacerbated by economic migrants from other provinces as well as foreign nationals.



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THE RIGHT TO WORK FOR A LIVING WAGE

The astronomical escalation in the cost of living impacts heavily with many unable to afford basic necessities such as food.

The textile industry was also the mainstay industry in Cape Town for decades and the entry point for many young women into the formal economy. Policies such as affirmative action renders coloured people unemployable, leaving coloured youth demoralised as they have little chance of being employed in the public or private sector. Many resorting to gangs and drugs as alternatives or a form of escapism. Casualisation of labour creates uncertainty and keeps income at low levels leaving many at the mercy of labour brokers.

Extended Public Works Programs (EPWP) provides only temporary relief for a short period at below minimum wage level and seldom translate into permanent employment.



SCRAPPING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICIES

19

The Cape Coloured Congress commits to:

- 1. The scrapping of affirmative action policies and the establishment of employment policies that provides work for ALL.
- 2. The appointment of staff based on local demographics as a minimum in local government and private sector.
- 3. The extending of the EPWP jobs over a longer term and the progressive development of people in terms of skills and competencies to a full qualification and a permanent job at a living wage.
- 4. The launch of mass public works projects to solve the housing crisis and other needs employing local people.

5. Creating local infrastructure to ensure local people are employed in the rendering of services to solve local challenges and needs in communities.

6. Most importantly we demand an end to casualisation of labour.





SAFETY AND SECURITY

The legacy of land conquest, slavery, rape, colonialism, apartheid, and the denial of its traumatic generational impact will no longer be tolerated. Most men are toxic and perpetrators of crimes ranging from rape to murder. Social services meant to deal with crime and violence are inadequate and under-funded. Whereas the middle class and the rich have access to private security companies, barbed wire, cctv, electrified fencing and private insurance, working class communities remains defenceless. Men are both the victims and perpetrators of crime. The gang war in impoverished areas must be brought to end through a comprehensive state led intervention.





SAFETY AND SECURITY

CCC will campaign for the limited reinstatement of the death penalty for premeditated murder and rape related to the War on the Cape Flats as well as economic crimes committed against the Citizens of South Africa

The State must be forced to make SAPS available to secure the lives of the citizens of South Africa at all costs and we will no longer accept the fact that most of these agencies protect the tourist areas and the CBD areas. Likewise, we will, in consultation with affected communities, develop community safety plans and we will hold the National Government to account to ensure the full implementation and monitoring of such community safety plans

CCC Community Safety Plan:

CCC will campaign for the Gangs and Drug Merchants to be declared as terrorists in law The Gangs and Drug Merchants must be disarmed by the law enforcement agencies Gang leaders and Drug Merchants must be jailed in military prisons, under 24 hour lockdown, in solitary confinement with no access to parole

