

# **Independent Democrats Election Manifesto**

## **OUR VISION**

The miracle of achieving a non-racial democracy brought the promise of a South Africa in which all our people would enjoy the right to dignity and a decent standard of living. South Africa is a beacon of hope to Africa and the global community. Though a great deal has been achieved over the last ten years, we are still afflicted with a number of divides that we need to bridge to realise our dream of a united and prosperous South Africa. It is the ID's vision to build the bridge upon which committed South Africans can carry their hopes, aspirations and actions to create a prosperous country. BRIDGING THE DIVIDES Uniting South Africa behind a Common Vision

## **ID'S PLEDGE TO BRIDGE THE TEN DIVIDES OF OUR NATION**

- Government and People - ID will bring politics back to the people of South Africa and ensure that the voices of communities are not silenced by government.
- The Cultural Divide - ID is a forward-looking party that will build bridges between the different social groupings.
- Rural / Urban Divide - ID will ensure that our rural areas are provided with the infrastructure and development they need to become integrated into the mainstream economy.
- The Economy - ID will bring the informal and formal sectors of our economy together so that the benefits of future economic growth will translate into substantial job creation.
- Inequality - ID will ensure that more destitute South Africans gain access to grants. We will strive to close the poverty gap.
- Human Security - ID will tackle crime that is dividing our nation and communities through fear.

- HIV/AIDS - ID will make HIV/AIDS every South African's responsibility and break down the persistent and destructive divide of the stigmatisation of HIV positive people.
- Education - ID will ensure that no South African child will be denied their constitutional right to basic education.
- The Digital Divide - ID will effect changes in the telecommunications sector to ensure that every South African can gain affordable access to the digital world and the internet.
- Global Divide - ID will ensure that South Africa plays a leading role in fighting for global justice on issues such as trade and human rights violations.

### **PATRICIA DE LILLE'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

"We believe the Constitution of South Africa is the highest authority in the country. It must be upheld not only in its entirety, but also in its spirit. The establishment of our first democratic Parliament held out the promise of a new South Africa, the promise of a just and humane society that would be tolerant of differences, and would restore dignity to the people and uphold the value of life. In order to achieve our vision we must deepen our democracy. We urgently need to explore alternative policies and to hold the government accountable for their promises. We must keep government transparent. South Africa needs a clean new political party with principles and vision. South Africans from all walks of life are finding a home in the ID. With the ID, South Africans at last have a chance to vote for a party with a future, not a history of failure."

### **THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE ID**

The Constitution and its Bill of Rights are the guiding principles upon which we base our policies. We stand for an open and free society. We believe in entrepreneurship and the market, but also that government must protect those who are vulnerable and destitute.

## **PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY**

Challenges: Government has sought to undermine the separation of powers between the Executive and Parliament with the arms deal, its years of delay in dealing with the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its actions around Zimbabwe. Too much power is concentrated in the Presidency. Parliament is failing in its role of oversight. MPs continually vote on party lines to please the leadership and not according to their conscience. We need independent-minded parliamentarians. The ID Solutions: South Africa must move from a purely proportional system of representation to one that is constituency-based. MPs must be accessible to their constituents. We will work to limit the crossing-of-the-floor legislation.

## **JOB CREATION**

### **Challenges:**

Job creation must be our number one priority. Government has failed dismally over the last 10 years to create jobs. Unemployment is at 40% and continues to rise. 70% of those who are unemployed have never enjoyed the dignity of work. The youth in South Africa are struggling to find opportunities to work with almost 72% of the unemployed being under the age of 35. This makes a mockery of attempts to alleviate poverty or restore human dignity to our people.

Government must create the right economic environment to help the private sector as the prime creator of new jobs. South Africa's economy is structured along a great divide between a globally integrated formal economy and an efficient, but neglected informal economy. The ID believes that a bridge needs to be built between these two sectors of our economy so that economic growth will translate into job creation. This bridge must be built through prioritising the needs of the informal economy.

Creating the right economic conditions for growth and job creation in South Africa requires the government to strengthen and support both the demand and supply side of the economy. Greater support should be given to the small-scale sector of South Africa's economy. It is a global reality that the greatest job creation potential rests with small and medium size enterprises.

The ANC government is preoccupied with racial transformation of the big public listed companies in the formal sector, instead of concentrating on providing the necessary support for our entrepreneurs and small businesses to enter the mainstream economy.

**ID's Solutions for Job Creation:**

- Reform the lending criteria of agencies so that they incorporate small and micro-enterprises in their plans.
- Root out corruption and nepotism in government lending programmes.
- Greater access to and affordable credit for small scale and informal businesses.
- Streamline bureaucracy for establishing new businesses.
- To better serve micro-enterprise, government must double the existing number of local service centres and satellites. These satellites would enable rural women involved in small, micro- and medium-sized enterprises.
- Put in place the essential infrastructure to enable entrepreneurs to gain access to markets, especially telecommunications and roads.
- Ensure that SMME are given most of the contracts to implement the R100 million infra-structural development plans of government.
- Local government should review zoning and licensing regulations to end discrimination against micro and small enterprises.
- Establish a special programme to ensure government support for women entrepreneurs.
- Bridge the Digital Divide: one of the greatest causes of South Africa's structural unemployment is our mismatch of skills. It is imperative that South Africa's youth is skilled in the areas in which the global economy is moving.

- Cut the exorbitant costs of telecommunications and have free call to Internet Service Providers. ID strongly argues for the market to be opened to more companies and technologies.
- Government's current National Small Business Strategy concentrates on supply-side issues while ignoring demand-side factors, so potential entrepreneurs are assisted to grow businesses in local economies that do not have the resources to buy their goods and services. ID would increase the demand side of these economies by transferring income to resource-deprived areas through grants and targeted public works programmes.

### **Job Creation Through Public Works**

The ID supports the concept of an expanded public works programme to provide temporary employment to large numbers of the unemployed while at the same time upgrading the infrastructure of the country.

Unfortunately, the government's record on public works schemes has been poor and they have failed to implement previous promises. ID would argue for public works programmes to be directed at:

- Infrastructure Development: including roads, bridges, water and sanitation and telecommunications.
- Environmental services: currently the most effective public works scheme is the Working for Water Programme that employs over 60 000 people. This model could be expanded to other environmental areas such as organic farming and coastal care.

### **Job Creation Through Rural Development**

The ANC's current agricultural policy provides most of its support to large- and medium-scale black farmers at the expense of small-scale producers. ID believes that this is a short-sighted approach ignores the huge productive potential of small-scale farmers in our stagnating rural areas.

**ID's Solutions:**

- Expanding the asset base of the rural poor through an appropriately funded land reform programme. A well-funded land reform programme with real post-transfer agricultural support would lead to the rural poor gaining access to a sustainable livelihood.
- Establish Organic Farming Centres of Excellence. ID would allocate some of the public works programme budget to building organic farming centres of excellence in the rural areas. The unemployed in surrounding areas could be trained as agricultural extension workers and paid a salary to equip small-scale farmers with organic farming skills. This would allow farmers to tap into the huge and growing international market for organic produce.

**Job Creation Through Trade Policy**

Although the ID supports South Africa's entry into the global market after years of isolation, we would question the speed and the human cost at which it has taken place. We have gone far beyond the requirements of the World Trade Organisation in reducing our tariff barriers. In agriculture and textiles we have lost over half a million jobs over the last ten years. The ID argues that we need to evaluate our current trade policy and revise it to avoid the further loss of jobs. The ID also supports the formation of an influential block of developing countries to lobby for the reciprocal removal of industrialised countries' agricultural subsidies.

**POVERTY ERADICATION****Challenges:**

The great divide in our society which apartheid created has not closed, but widened significantly over the last ten years. There can be no united South Africa until poverty is addressed. Over 9 million people in our country live below the poverty line. A quarter of our children are seriously malnourished. HIV/AIDS is pushing communities further into poverty.

Instead of fighting the war against poverty, the government directed billions of rand to armaments spending.

Not money alone, but action must be prioritised. 1,5 million children do not receive the grants to which they are entitled. People are ill informed. Transport costs are too high. There are unnecessary time delays in processing applications for grants.

The government praises itself for bringing water, telephones and electricity to millions, but fails to address the disconnections and cut-offs of those who are unable to pay.

#### **ID SOLUTIONS:**

Government must develop a comprehensive social security net for the 60% of the poor who are currently not eligible for any form of social grant. As a temporary measure this might include the provision of a grant such as the proposed Universal Basic Income Grant.

Child Support Grant: immediately implement the extension of the Child Support Grant to children up to the age of 14.

Basic Package of Services for all Children:

- Free health care for all children.
- National Food Security Programme to combat severe child malnourishment in South Africa.

#### **SUPPORT FOR THE AGED**

Pensions should be increased annually in line with the cost of living, not inflation.

#### **PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES**

Every South African has the right to essential services such as water, sanitation and electricity. These rights should not be jeopardised by a person's inability to pay for the service.

## **HIV/AIDS**

### **Challenges:**

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is one of the greatest threats to the health and stability of our country as a result of the complete failure of leadership by the President and his Minister of Health. The deaths of a million South Africans could have been prevented if government had acted on the recommendations and advice of the medical community.

Government continues to delay the Anti-Retro Viral Drug rollout. We are moving from an HIV into an AIDS pandemic. Our response needs to be multi-sectoral and given the highest political priority.

### **The ID' s Solutions:**

- Effective Roll-out of the ARV programme: the ID is fully committed to The Operational Plan for complete HIV and AIDS Care, Management and Treatment. The ID will ensure that the government complies.
- Proper Allocation and Monitoring of HIV/AIDS expenditure: mishandling and under-spending of budgets will not be tolerated by the ID.
- More Emphasis and Support for Community Health Care Workers: community health care workers play a vital role in educating communities around primary health care issues and are perfectly placed to facilitate the effective roll-out of the ARV programme. The ID will therefore argue for more finances and support for this sector.
- Sustained Leadership on HIV/AIDS: countries where the political leaders have driven the national HIV/AIDS strategy have met with the most success in reducing HIV infection rates. In South Africa this political leadership has been



severely lacking. The ID will change this by continually speaking out on HIV/AIDS and informing people of the need to protect themselves.

- HIV Positive People taking the lead in the HIV/AIDS Battle: the ID maintains that the battle against HIV/AIDS in South Africa must be led by those who are HIV positive. It is for this reason that the ID will ensure that its leadership structures contain people who are HIV positive and are in a position to drive forward our HIV/AIDS agenda.
- Reciprocal Doctor Agreements with Other Countries: the ID will motivate for reciprocal agreements with doctors from industrialised countries to work in South Africa on HIV/AIDS.
- A Countrywide Know Your Status Campaign: Patricia de Lille has already led the way by inviting her fellow parliamentarians to get tested with her and know their status. The ID will push for a nationwide campaign that will call upon all leaders and every South African to have themselves confidentially tested.
- Treatment awareness and education: we need a major information campaign on treatment and the use of ARVs. Messages must be consistently positive and well researched.
- Development of an AIDS Vaccine: the ID believes that South Africa should play a leading role in developing an AIDS vaccine.

## **HUMAN SECURITY**

### **Challenges:**

Failings in the justice system have resulted in the failure of government to provide human security for the majority of South Africans. Crime is at such a high level that it impacts on every South African and divides our communities through fear.

There are numerous areas of grave concern: organized crime and drug syndicates, illegal firearms, violent crime and rape, victimization of women and children, murder and gang warfare.

ID argues that central to this problem is the failure of the organs of justice to function together. There is an urgent need for a full and comprehensive reform.

Corruption of officials in any part of the system must be constantly guarded against.

It is almost impossible for anyone to receive timely dispensation of justice. There is also unequal access to the courts and the poor are often intimidated by the process and the cost of legal representation.

The police force needs major training, especially in the requirements of the prosecution. There needs to be a stepped up police presence.

**The ID Solutions:**

- Public awareness campaigns geared at educating the public on the justice system are necessary.
- Independence of the judiciary must be respected and political interference cannot be tolerated.
- Measures must be taken to cut down on the number of inmates currently straining facilities in jails.
- Rehabilitation and re-integration programs need to be re-evaluated to cut down on repeat offenders.
- Greater cooperation between the SAPS and other law enforcement agencies is required.
- Communities must be mobilized to take responsibility for their own security.

- Stepped up police presence on commuter trains is essential.
- Government must implement far stronger fire-arms control.

### **Specific Solutions on Crime Against Children:**

We need a national government strategy on child abuse and neglect prevention. Better co-operation between government and NGOs working in the areas of trafficking of children and child labour.

### **The ID Solutions:**

#### **Rape and Women Abuse**

- A Common Rape Protocol (CRP) must be drawn up and entered into law. This protocol would include a minimum ethical and moral standard of practice into which the rape survivor is immediately entered from the time the incident occurs and followed through each stage of recovery and care. The protocol needs to be implemented through all the various sectors such as:
  - Education: teachers, informed and trained in their area of practice.
  - Legal: professional individuals, both state and private, made CRP officers to render free legal assistance to survivors, collecting costs from the CRP trust fund.
  - Health care professionals: nurses and hospital staff trained in the care and treatment of survivors.
  - Police: police officers need to be trained as the only ones to deal with this crime.
  - Post Trauma Care facility: a place of refuge and restoration for rape survivors to come to terms with their trauma before they are reintegrated into their community.
  - Communities: communities must be encouraged to take responsibility for their women and children. They need to break the silence and intervene where and

when necessary. Places of refuge set up and run by community members must be supported by the State.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Challenges:**

- The ID believes that government must provide quality education to the level of matric for all our children. South Africa is still characterised by massive inequalities in our education system, with many township and rural schools unable to deliver even basic education.
- Three out of five learners drop out of school before matric. The declining level of matriculants has a negative spillover effect on South Africa's higher education institutions, with less student enrollments affecting many institutions' financial viability.
- Outcomes Based Education (OBE) Curriculum was introduced based on rhetoric from other countries, many of which have far more educational resources than South Africa and have still failed to properly implement its objectives.
- Teachers are demoralised and leaving the profession. Dedicated teacher training colleges have been closed and teaching has lost its appeal as a profession.
- The number of Higher Education Institutes is disproportionate to Further Education and Training Institutes (FETs). FETs are vital in providing technical skills for the economy. In the past ten years the State has gradually devolved itself of its responsibility for training employees through the imposition of the Skills Development Levy and its corresponding Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETA) system. This system has failed elsewhere in the world and in South Africa it has led to the growth of questionable training providers and an uncoordinated, unplanned system. Many SETAs do not adequately representing the industry needs of their sector.

**ID's Solutions:**

- **Funding of Schools:** ID believes that in principle no school should have to impose school fees in order to meet their basic costs. The provision of a Child Education Grant should be made available to poor households for the costs of stationery, books and school transport.
- **Curriculum Reform:** ID believes that the Outcomes Based Education curriculum needs to be urgently revised.
- **Teacher Supply:** The ID would urgently prioritise resolving South Africa's current teacher supply crisis by making it an attractive profession. ID would consider offering teachers economic benefits and incentives, including sabbatical years for long-serving teachers.
- **Tertiary Education:** The ID believe that in the current context of higher education mergers and closures of technical colleges, fewer opportunities now exist for school leavers to pursue tertiary level education. ID supports the establishment of more Further Education and Training Institutes to equip young South Africans with the technical skills needed for our economy. Government needs to take final responsibility for skills training in South Africa and must revise the current SETA system.

**ANTI-CORRUPTION****Challenges:**

In 1999 Patricia de Lille blew the whistle on corruption in the multi-billion rand arms deal. Although she was vilified by the government at the time, almost all of those she exposed have since been brought to justice.

South Africa is blessed with a constitution that guarantees transparent and accountable government. Over the last decade, this guarantee has been shamelessly and repeatedly flouted.

The environment is often seen as a soft target for corruption. This was evident in the Roodefontein Golf Estate scandal in which senior members of the Western

Cape government took bribes to approve development plans. ID will closely monitor future environmental approval plans.

We need to ensure that the issue of corruption is addressed from the top-down. Government must lead the way by recognizing that their actions, first and foremost, will come under intense scrutiny. This must then be extended to the private sector, civil society, political parties and each and every individual.

### **ID's Solutions**

The ID is in favour of establishing a section in every government department to deal with corruption. Legislation needs to be enacted that addresses specific issues. Specific offences must be defined; specific powers of investigations, arrest, search and seizure need to be conferred on the relevant authorities, and effective deterrent punishments created for those convicted.

ID believes that offences should address cases involving control of disproportionate assets or maintaining an unexplainably high standard of living. In the past, these kinds of crime have been perpetrated with relative impunity, a situation that cannot be allowed to continue. ID would enhance the participation of civil society in the fight against corruption:

- Public forums/hearings of draft laws
- Media NGO involvement
- Public awareness campaigns

The ID believes in the importance of public sector management in the fight against corruption.

- Adequate pay for civil servants
- Civil servants to declare their wealth
- Decentralization and accountability
- Budget management

### **LAND**

A well-funded land reform program with real post-transfer agricultural support would lead to the rural poor gaining access to a sustainable livelihood. The ID supports the constitutional position on land reform.

## **ENHANCING OUR SOCIETY**

We believe that South Africa can lead the world in many areas over the next ten years.

We are concerned not only about the major issues facing our country, but we believe a broader and more holistic approach and understanding of what makes up our world is required.

### **The Environment**

ID will ensure that environmental standards are not compromised by corruption nor the desire to fast track industrial and elite developments. ID will also make sure that South Africa takes on its global responsibilities by investing resources and skills in sustainable energy so that our country can be a world leader in tackling the problem of global warming. ID would also be in favour of more land being allocated to conservation. The ID would incentivise recycling and invest more resources into promoting eco-sensitive agriculture.

### **Animal Rights**

There needs to be a balance between animal and human rights. We need to protect and care for our animals.

### **The Arts**

We are proud of our artists who are making their mark internationally. They are the torch-bearers who keep the utopian spirit alive in humankind. In the interests of fostering a truly democratic culture in South Africa, the ID is committed to maintaining the independence, financial self-sufficiency and visionary vigour of the Arts.

### **Foreign Policy**

On a regional level we foresee South Africa playing an influential role in bringing peace and stability to the African continent.

South Africa must stand up against human rights abuses wherever they may occur.

**THE ID - A BRIDGE TO OUR FUTURE:**

We believe that South Africa has proven itself to be a winning nation through its peaceful transition to democracy. It is time now to place our vision firmly on our expectations for the next ten years.

ID believes that by building on our diverse strengths as a nation we can unite our country in a prosperous future.

**VOTE FOR CREDIBLE LEADERSHIP. VOTE FOR THE ID  
MORE VOICE FOR YOUR VOTE**