



LET'S BUILD PROSPERITY FOR ALL!

# COPE@WORK

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OFFICIAL CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

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Delegates at the workshop held 15-16 June 2024, Bloemfontein.

## Dear Members and Supporters,

We are excited to announce the relaunch of this publication, COPE@Work, of the Congress of the People. This revival serves as a crucial platform to regularly update you on the essence of our party – our plans, activities, and stances. Beyond just a publication, this reinstatement showcases our unwavering dedication to transparency and open dialogue with our esteemed members and supporters. Our aim is to keep you informed and engaged in our progress.

After the disappointing outcome of the May 29, 2024 elections, we promptly initiated a process of introspection and realignment. This swift response highlights our resilience and flexibility, values that are integral to us and that we are committed to upholding for the betterment of our members and supporters. We strongly believe that COPE has a significant part to play in our nation's present and future, and we are confident in our ability to surmount these obstacles.

Since the beginning of June 2024, the Congress Executive Committee (CEC), the administrative branch of the CNC, convened on 8 -7 June 2024 to review the outcomes and deliberate on a political agenda, among other topics. During this meeting, it was decided to convene a virtual CNC session on 12 June 2024. The authoritative body supported a CEC proposal to hold a workshop for former candidates from the 29 May election campaign, successfully conducted on 15 – 16 June 2024 in Bloemfontein.

**COPE's leaders, members, and supporters show dedication post-election.**

**Challenges like poverty and unemployment persist, and future governing arrangements may not adequately resolve them.**

**The party aims to champion community causes despite lacking representation in Legislatures, engaging in petitions, forums, and proposals to serve public interests.**

The workshop carried out a comprehensive, transparent, and detailed evaluation of the campaign, revealing significant organisational and leadership shortcomings that negatively impacted the election campaign. This led to considerable damage to the organisation's reputation, worsened by an inadequately structured and poorly managed campaign. The lack of sufficient funds further complicated our challenges.

The new interim leadership had to deal with the severe financial issues left behind by the previous expelled leadership, resulting in COPE's financial allocations for the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years being withheld by both parliament and the IEC. Despite the tough decision that delayed the release of our funds until just a week before the elections, it was essential to uphold the core values of Reliability, Accountability, and Incorruptibility. The situation has now stabilised, laying a solid foundation for the party's future.

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The CNC convened on 22-23 June 2024 and took some of the resolutions below to guide the party's restructuring and future direction:

- Recognizing opportunities in the electoral landscape, with only 27.79 million out of 42 million eligible voters registered and a turnout of 38.6%, COPE aims to increase involvement. The political space is open.
- Committing to enhancing capabilities for municipal by-election participation to address local community concerns such as service delivery, economic growth, and job creation.
- Initiating preparations for the 2026 local government elections, focusing on candidate selection, campaign planning, and fundraising.
- Soon commencing the recruitment and renewal of memberships, with forthcoming communication on the process and policy guidelines to uphold integrity.
- Strengthening party structures at all levels, nationally, provincially, and municipally, with plans for congresses at lower levels leading to a national Congress on December 16, 2024.

The party has also faced ethical dilemmas, particularly concerning accepting funds from questionable sources. However, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to our core values, refusing to compromise our independence and the integrity of our policy decisions. Instances in the media have shown how political parties have been influenced to prioritise vested interests over the well-being of the people.

We are resolute in building a party that is genuinely of the people, by the people, for the people, and with the people. We remain steadfast in our adherence to our party's name and the values of the pioneers who gathered at the Congress of the People in Kliptown in 1955. These values are the foundation of our party, and they connect us all in our mission for a better future.

We are heartened by the strong enthusiasm and dedication shown by COPE's leaders, members, and supporters. Following the challenging election, more individuals have stepped up to offer their support and help in rebuilding our party, and we value their dedication. The COPE brand remains resilient.

The country continues to face significant challenges that impact the lives of many. It is crucial to remember that poverty, unemployment, and inequality are harsh realities for people every day. The upcoming governing arrangements for the next five years do not inspire confidence that these issues will be adequately addressed.

As a political party, we must champion community causes to serve their interests in local councils, provincial legislatures, and parliament. Despite not having representation in these bodies, we can still gather petitions, engage in public forums, and submit proposals on matters affecting the public.

Warm regards,

**Erick Mohlapamaswi.**  
Acting General Secretary