



COPETM

**CONGRESS
OF THE PEOPLE**



Mosiuoa Lekota, President

**South Africa
Deserves a Better Government
Your Vote can Deliver it**

**Election
Manifesto
2014**



MESSAGE FROM COPE PRESIDENT MOSIUOA LEKOTA



My fellow South Africans,

Our country deserves a better government and your vote can deliver it on 7 May 2014.

We need a government that has capacity to arrest the impoverishment of our people and restore us to the status of self-sufficiency which the Mbeki and Mandela Governments imbued us with.

Such a government will lay the foundation for our nation to unite and strike out into a future that succeeding generations deserve!

PLEASE VOTE COPE!

**MGP Lekota (MP)
President
COPE**

IN OUR 2009 MANIFESTO we said that South Africa needed a government of the people...with leaders who are honest servants of the people...with respect for values and the principles of the South African people...a growing economy...ensuring sustainable development... educating and training our people for development... improving the quality of healthcare...fighting crime and ensuring safety for all citizens...advancing the African Agenda and creating a better world.

TODAY WE REITERATE WHAT WE SAID IN 2009, only this time we say it with a greater sense of urgency and the certainty that the vast majority of the people of our country will agree that **SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A BETTER GOVERNMENT**...with leaders who are honest servants of the people, who have respect for values and the principles of the South African people, meet their promises of service delivery and lead and create conditions for a growing economy and sustainable development, a world class education system, quality and universal healthcare, fight crime and ensure safety and security for all in human settlements that are conducive to building social cohesion, a better South Africa and therefore place us in a better position to contribute to advancing the African Agenda and creating a better world.

IN 2009 WE SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA NEEDED a government of the people and that there was a need to inspire South Africans to build a better South Africa.

Today we say that **SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A BETTER GOVERNMENT.**

We are reminding you that **YOUR VOTE CAN DELIVER IT!**

Today we are asking you to see that **YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU.**

TODAY we are calling on you to **SAVE SOUTH AFRICA.**

**SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A BETTER GOVERNMENT -
A GOVERNMENT THAT KEEPS ITS PROMISES AND
REPORTS BACK.**

IN OUR 2009 MANIFESTO WE PROMISED YOU leaders who are honest and committed to serving the people. We said that "COPE will present South Africa with a leadership who are committed to serving the people, protecting and preserving public resources and assets and ensure that corruption, waste and mismanagement are eradicated".

WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT to South Africans today that we are still bound by that commitment and that we stayed true to that undertaking. Wherever we found that our leaders or members were implicated in any of the above stated wrong-doing we acted with speed and without fear or favour.

IN OUR 2009 MANIFESTO WE PROMISED YOU a government of the people and said amongst other things that "Our country is full of good, hard-working people who deserve a government that is truly accountable and committed to serving them and does not tolerate corruption and personal greed. To achieve this objective, COPE will enable people to directly elect their most senior representatives, namely, the President, Premiers and Mayors.

WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT to South Africans today that we are still committed to those principles and to that effect, the First National Congress of the Party revised our constitution to enable that with effect from the next Congress, the President of the Party be elected directly by all members of the Party, not only delegates attending the Congress - something that is unprecedented in South Africa. This is a process we intend to cascade down to the provincial and regional leadership of the Party in line with our 2009 commitment.

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A BETTER GOVERNMENT

A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, WITH THE PEOPLE. TO ACHIEVE THIS WE REITERATE OUR 2009 COMMITMENT THAT

A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- introduce the direct election of Presidents by all South Africans, Premiers by all voters in a province and Mayors by all voters in the municipality in order to strengthen the power of South Africans to hold their leaders to account
- introduce an amendment to current legislation, which is currently not explicit on the issue, that will require 100% impartiality from presiding officers and a transparent reconciliation of votes to voter material to eliminate any possibility of election fraud and bias from presiding officers

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES **A GOVERNMENT WITH LEADERS WHO ARE HONEST** SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE - **A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:**

- once again present South Africa with leaders who are committed to serving the people, protecting and preserving public resources and assets and ensuring that corruption, waste and mismanagement are eradicated
- downsize government so that resources can be redirected towards investment in the economy

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES **A GOVERNMENT WITH LEADERS WHO HAVE RESPECT** FOR VALUES AND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE - **A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL.**

IN OUR 2009 MANIFESTO we indicated that “Since the formation of the Congress of the People, traditional leaders and the rural masses have thrown their weight

behind COPE,and Communities of faith too have been at the forefront of the formation and promotion of the agenda to promote South African values that are progressive such as integrity, honesty and the rule of law, all of which are found in our faiths and religions in their diversity.

WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT to South Africans today that even more traditional leaders, rural masses as well as communities of faith have realised today what some realised then.....that South Africa deserves a better government and they have come in greater numbers to support the cause we started then, a cause we continue to be committed to:

WE CONTINUE WITH OUR COMMITMENT to build South Africa on the basis of a value system which defines the identity of the South African nation, giving us pride in ourselves as a people, constituting part of what makes all of us – *Proudly South African!*

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A GOVERNMENT WITH LEADERS WHO MEET THEIR PROMISES OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Our Bill of Rights states that citizens have constitutional rights such as access to adequate housing, health care, food, water, education, a healthy environment, and security - **A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:**

- install strong and stable state institutions to provide these services. These include provision for decent schools, housing, health care facilities, water, sewage, adequate roads
- re-commit itself to ensuring that all spheres of government are obliged by law to work consistently to create a climate of tolerance for different points of view, and the active involvement of the people in determining all elements of their future
- attract skilled and professional personnel,

irrespective of their political party affiliation, into these areas and will train additional personnel to ensure that public servants have the required skills and qualifications necessary to serve the people

- introduce a user-friendly system for reporting failure in municipal services, such as water supply, refuse removal, municipal maintenance and other services
- set clear minimum standards for service delivery and ensure that inspectors are appointed to oversee that the required standards of service delivery are met
- ensure that by-laws are enforced and transgressions prosecuted
- provide a benchmark for service delivery to ensure all communities receive the same level of quality of service
- ensure that the National Budget is restructured so that more funding and capacity is directed towards local government so that service delivery is enhanced and 'communities' participation is included in the supply of services
- ensure that public service unions are not affiliated or aligned to any political party as this creates a conflict of interest in their public responsibilities

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A GOVERNMENT THAT IS RELIABLE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCORRUPTIBLE

Accountability requires government ministers and public representatives to subject themselves and their actions (or lack of action) to sharp and continuous scrutiny. Accountability ensures quality outcomes.

Corruption in all spheres must be eradicated because it corrodes the fabric of society. The PFMA and MFMA are

excellent pieces of legislation, but the practice of bypassing the measures in these Acts has seriously harmed our economy and must be fully addressed.

Our country is full of good and hard-working people who deserve a government that is truly accountable and fully committed to serving them in an ethical, honest and intelligent manner. For the people of South Africa, only the best form of governance is acceptable.

To achieve this objective of total accountability -

A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- require all legislatures to demand much higher levels of accountability from themselves as public representatives
- empower all legislatures to demand greater accountability of all members of the executive
- allow for an annual debate in all legislatures on the extent to which governing parties are observing constitutionality, the rule of law and transparency
- create conditions to ensure that the public as well as the private sector comply with requirements for accountability, transparency and good governance
- protect the independence of Chapter 9 Institutions
- will forthwith implement recommendations made in reports compiled by Chapter 9 institutions

**SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A GOVERNMENT THAT
EMPOWERS CITIZENS -
A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:**

- improve public participation in all spheres of government through the increased use of new technologies such as Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)
- ensure that popularly elected representatives can be removed from office by the people, but only through clearly defined and nationally agreed constitutional procedures
- encourage South Africans to develop a culture of working together through voter coalitions to enhance the voice of every voter and give citizens greater constitutional flexibility to govern themselves as they deem fit even if they belong to smaller parties
- facilitate, support, safeguard and reward citizen activism and investigative journalism to increase accountability
- ensure that public representatives service their communities without any political bias that would favour members of their party
- create conditions that facilitate NGO initiatives that aim to empower individuals and hold government accountable - such as anti-corruption and service delivery watchdogs - to be more effective and far-reaching, so as to bring these programmes closer to the people
- require all citizens to pay for basic services unless they have been officially classified as indigent

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN LEAD AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR **A GROWING ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** -

A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- support the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP)
- focus on developing strategies to implement and make the NDP work
- support the growth of the agriculture, manufacturing and mining sectors which are seriously under-performing at the moment, these sectors will be given incentives to increase production and expand employment
- ensure that small, medium and micro enterprises enjoy increased support from government making it easier, not more difficult, to start and run a small business
- encourage financial institutions to provide affordable loans to support start-up enterprises financially in addition to providing mentoring support to small businesses
- implement sound environmental practices, with an emphasis on recycling and environmental sustainability
- encourage organic farming to protect both consumers and the environment
- invest in rural areas to create niche markets and take advantage of the South Africa tourism industry
- create more markets for trade-able goods and expand inter-African trade

- support the green economy, being the economy of the future
- invest resources and provide adequate support to existing and legitimate aspiring farmers, as well as qualifying new entrants to farming
- prioritise the empowerment of rural women and young people through mentoring, support and start-up micro-loans, using as a model the micro-loan system that has lifted millions of women out of poverty
- strengthen youth service programmes and introduce community-based programmes to offer young people, especially marginalised young people, life-skills training, entrepreneurship training, along with opportunities to participate in community development programmes
- invest in innovation necessary to bridge the digital divide and turn our society into an information society
- adopt Information and communication technology which must play a role as a significant drive for socio-economic development
- seek to exploit South Africa's competitive advantage in the global supply chain
- strengthen our productive base of manufacturing.
- ensure that communities benefit from mines and mining on their land and that they are empowered to manage royalties properly for future generations
- conduct a comprehensive audit on land ownership to help inform strategic and practical strategies on land reform, and

- make un-utilized state-owned land available for housing or agricultural purposes
- engage in with all South Africans about land reform, restitution, market-based valuations, partnership schemes and land administration involving all role players ensuring that the best policies for different areas are designed
- make FARMING opportunities available for individuals to buy shares in commercial farming enterprises as part of a programme to broaden and diversify land ownership, enhance food production, as well as to protect and share skills

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN LEAD AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR **A WORLD CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM**

SOUTH AFRICANS DESERVE A GOVERNMENT that ensures an overarching system of world class education that builds our learners to be globally competitive, is responsive to the socio-economic needs of society and prepares all citizens to be equal participants in the Information society and knowledge economy with a culture of life-long learning.

A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- set a benchmark for ICT literacy for educators and learners to empower them for e-learning
- establish programmes to eliminate teenage pregnancies
- provide for artisan programmes to be included in the curriculum
- embark on a national literacy campaign
- increase the minimum pass rate across all grades and support the enforcement of common certification. Currently, the pass rate of 30% is too low and does not adequately equip learners for future success. We need to investigate scientifically what should constitute a minimum pass mark. Common certification will ensure that all learners in all schools will leave school with the same level of qualification
- support the exclusion of unions in the appointment and management of teachers at school level. Politically, we need to limit the role of unions, and free teaching from the demands of union members who are often in conflict with the interests of the teaching profession, the teachers, and the learners

- pay and promote teachers based on academic qualifications, performance and skills. This forms part of establishing a professional civil service
- lower the ratio of learners to teachers. This will improve the quality of education and also create more jobs for teachers
- re-open teacher training colleges and FETs with special emphasis on critical subjects. Urgent intervention is needed in maths and science, where South Africa ranks second-last in global standings. We must have greater emphasis on subjects like mathematics and science, as we have inadequate graduates in these subjects and this constrains economic growth
- introduce a multi-disciplinary skills-based performance competency test for all learners. Work ethic is another area where our education system is failing learners. Skills and competencies can be included in the life orientation / life skills curriculum to provide a learning curriculum
- set up communication platforms to identify and develop marketable skills. This will ensure that the education system is responsive to the needs of the economy
- ensure that early childhood development (ECD) practitioners should be recognised as a part of the education system as a whole and in full employ of the Department of Education
- introduce physical education as a compulsory activity in all schools
- place special emphasis on training and empowering school governing bodies, (SGB) so that they can play a more meaningful and decisive role in the running of the school

- ensure that every Municipality has a FET College and
- support the autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN LEAD AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR **QUALITY AND UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE** -

A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- support the provision and availability of universal healthcare
- pay special attention to the improvement in the quality and affordability of health care taking into account the disparity in the provision of healthcare services between rural and urban areas, the rich and the poor and between the private and public sector
- ensure that automated queuing systems are introduced at all health centres to prevent long lines
- place emphasis on preventative health care to ease the burden on health facilities
- address the remuneration of home-based care givers and ensure that provision exists within the budget of the Department of Health for home-based care givers
- assess the feasibility of ordering medicine directly from suppliers at pre-approved prices to eliminate tender irregularities and abuse, and to cut out the middle-man, which adds to the cost of medicines
- ensure that government clinics are open 24 hours in designated areas to improve accessibility to health care to all communities
- prioritise ambulance services and link ambulances to clinics to improve response times to rural areas and informal settlements
- ensure that professional managers are appointed to run health care facilities

- ensure that traditional health practitioners are properly accredited and monitored with the primary aim of improving health care in rural areas and recognising indigenous knowledge systems
- support the global movement to encourage the general availability and use of natural therapies, treatments or medicines among South Africans and
- ensure that indigenous knowledge systems are given space to develop further within the wider ambits of the health care system

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN LEAD AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR FIGHTING CRIME AND ENSURING SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR ALL -

A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- ensure that the national and other police commissioners are suitably qualified, experienced and skilled as professionals in the relevant field
- depoliticise all the safety, security and intelligence services as part of establishing a professional civil service
- review the Protection of State Information Bill (Secrecy Bill) so that it is not used to subvert media freedom or to hide corruption or violate the rights of citizens
- allocate adequate resources to the police which should be standardised according to minimum criteria that will be established. Population density as well as crime trends should be considered in responding to the needs of the community
- ensure that the payment and promotion of officers will be based on academic qualifications, skills as well as performance
- re-introduce specialised police units
- have a specialised focus on sexual offences, organised crime, drug trafficking, fraud, etc
- require that the Legal Aid Board should have stricter rules and regulations for deciding which cases are funded by the state and
- put in place a priority programme to legislate for maximum sentences for drug trafficking and the killing of endangered wildlife species and ensure that drug trafficking and poaching are two offences

in South Africa for which there is no minimum sentence. Other serious offences already have a mandatory minimum sentence

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN LEAD AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT THAT ARE CONDUCIVE TO BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION -

A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- identify land for settlement, will identify legitimate claimants and will provide serviced sites to empower people
- ensure that community members who so wish are encouraged, empowered and supported, to build their own houses on serviced stands thus restoring pride in ownership, affirming dignity and reducing massive housing corruption and
- ensure that a policy is in place to expand accessibility to housing with special attention being paid to the poorest, the youth, those in rural areas as well as those in urban informal settlements as well as the disabled

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN LEAD AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR ADVANCING THE AFRICAN AGENDA AND CREATING A BETTER WORLD - AS STATED IN 2009

A COPE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- continue to ensure that our country plays its role as a force for progressive change for a stronger South Africa, better Africa and more humane world, based on a human rights culture
- work with the SADC countries to expedite the process of implementing the agreements already reached to progress towards regional integration, including addressing the challenges of poverty, peace, stability, democracy and human rights
- work with all the countries of our Continent to accelerate the process towards the development and unity of Africa, including addressing the challenges of poverty, peace, stability, democracy and human rights and to promote trade between African countries
- work globally with all like-minded countries to address such important global challenges as the reform of the United Nations and other institutions of global governance in the multilateral system, climate change, trans-national organised crime, and international terrorism
- ensure, by our actions, that the renewal of Africa through the implementation of NEPAD, remains the centre-piece of our foreign policy and that our country continues to enjoy the respect of the African masses throughout Africa and the African Diaspora; and
- work with fraternal parties for democracy, freedom of expression, press freedom and freedom of association and constitutionalism

SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN LEAD AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR BUILDING A BETTER SOUTH AFRICA

IN 2009 WE SAID THAT WE WERE “inspired by the vision shared by all our people, black and white, of the sense of history as we get a new opportunity to build a new people-centred, caring and inclusive and common South African nation. Building a South Africa in which we all, equally, have rights and responsibilities. A South Africa to whose development we have individual and collective responsibility, for the sake of our future generations.

WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT to South Africans today that we continue to be equally inspired by ordinary South Africans who do extra-ordinary deeds every day.

IN OUR 2009 MAINFESTO WE SAID THAT “COPE will therefore support the emerging unity of all South Africans, sharing a common patriotism, and committed to combining their efforts to build the South Africa of our dreams, with special focus on the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment and of ensuring greater prosperity”.

WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT that we are implementing this noble ideal through our work with other South Africans within the Collective for Democracy where we have agreed on working together based on twenty points which we believe are a priority for our country, South Africa.

IN 2009 WE SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA NEEDED a government of the people and that there was a need to inspire South Africans to build a better South Africa.

Today we are saying that **SOUTH AFRICA DESERVES A BETTER GOVERNMENT.**

Today we are reminding you that **YOUR VOTE CAN DELIVER IT!**

Today we are asking you to see that **YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU.**

TODAY we are calling on you to **SAVE SOUTH AFRICA.**

IN 2009 WE ASKED YOU, SOUTH AFRICANS, TO VOTE FOR COPE and be a part of history. We thank you for writing that page and we are making that call to you one more time.

We ask you to **VOTE FOR THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE** and turn a new page in the post democracy chapter of South Africa's history noting that this is the most important and historic election in our country since the dawn of our democracy 20 years ago.



VOTE COPETM







COPETM

**CONGRESS
OF THE PEOPLE**

*South Africa
Deserves a Better Government
Your Vote can Deliver it*

Issued by: Johann Abrie on behalf of the Congress of the People, 6th Floor, Metropolitan Building, 108 Fox Street, Marshalltown, Johannesburg.

VOTE COPETM