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AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONVENTION 2014 MANIFESTO

SECTION A

PREAMBLE to the APC 2014 Election Manifesto

A FUTURE for everyone, that is what we are about. That is our promise to South Africans.

Our past has been premised on the exclusion of the majority - politically, economically and culturally. Post-1994 has not only failed to effectively deal with these exclusions, but new forms of exclusions have emerged. The poverty, inequalities and unemployment amongst the majority has persisted. As it is, political democracy has been achieved but there has been no justice for the poor in a way that gives them a sense of shared hope and indeed a realistic chance at a bright future.

Our vision is of an egalitarian society - a society characterised by social solidarity and economic justice. We want a society that is democratic in form, non-racial in character and socialistic in content.

We believe that economic development is the central task of a people's government; i.e. growing the economy; creating employment, ending poverty and inequality. Thus, as will be shown in the Manifesto our emphasis and focus is on how the lives of our people can be made better. We correctly argue that the energy and creativity of the people led by a capable government can achieve the country's economic and social goals. Creating jobs, ending poverty and inequality is our single central focus!

The APC goes into these elections satisfied that it has given a full and positive account of itself for the last five years. We believe that with increased electoral support, the APC will be able to serve our people better. To us the primary responsibility of elected representatives is to address the people's grievances. We are certain that we have done enough to win the confidence of the people and present the APC as a viable, credible and progressive political force.

A FUTURE for everyone that is what we stand for. We are looking forward to the elections with confidence and momentum. APC will hold high the banner of revolution; never to betray the Africanist cause or betray the historic mission set by the fighters for the cause of Africa.

The APC is blazing a historic trail; it emerges as an independent and revolutionary African voice; totally committed to the welfare and well-being of the people. We remain the humble servants of our people.

The road is tortuous, the future is bright. A future for everyone.

Yours for a United and Socialist Africa.

Cde Themba Godi

APC President

SECTION B

ABOUT THE AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONVENTION

1. The APC was formed on the 5th September 2007 as a home for all patriotic and progressive forces who believe that freedom and democracy must benefit all the

citizens of our country; and change their lives for the better. The party is steeped firmly in the values and traditions of the Liberation Movement of people centredness and popular democracy; and is guided by the revolutionary Mass-line.

The APC has established itself as a national organisation, continuously raising its profile and voice on issues facing our country.

The APC has thus far participated in the 2009 and 2011 General and Municipal Elections. We are looking forward to a successful campaign in 2014.

2.1 Vision: To be a viable, credible and progressive alternative governing party.

2.2 Mission: Meeting the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural needs of our people through mass mobilisation.

2.3 Motto : Discipline, Respect and Hard work.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 To rally the people to defend and advance the right to national self determination.

3.2 To strive for an Africanist socialist democracy.

3.3 To strive for the advancement of the interests of the people, educationally, culturally and economically.

3.4 To promote projection of the African personality.

3.5 To strive and promote the ideal of the union of African states, including the African Diaspora.

3.6 To promote international solidarity among progressive forces.

3.7 To strive to win acceptance as a vanguard by democratic means and in ideological contest with other political parties.

3.8 At all times commit itself to a social order that will respect completely the cultural, language and religious rights of all sections of our society and the democratic rights to independence of all social organisations and political parties that function within the ambit of the South African constitution. This implies commitment to multiparty political framework in which there will be regular, open and free elections.

4. AGILE - GOVERNMENT

The APC believes in an Agile government. An Agile government is able to move quickly, with alertness, skill and control.

An Agile government is mentally prepared to specific needs, attacks and stimuli, and has the ability to prepare, and be prepared for any threats and opportunities that might come from its ambient environment.

An agile government would function in a synchronous fashion with its environment, feeding and be fed by the latter in a harmonious and reciprocal symbiosis.

Agility in government can be utilised as a perfect metaphor for government and government structures that:

- a. Are in touch with its ambient environment, constantly scanning and researching its environment for opportunities and threats. It is aware of its weaknesses, and thrives on putting its strengths against the environment.
- b. Are able to harness all its resources (human, natural, time and information) in order to respond appropriately to needs and other stimuli.
- c. Are able to identify opportunities for growth and enables all its constituent parts to exercise, learn and strengthen all its ligaments, muscles and limbs.

This will be in sharp contrast to a government that is unresponsive and distant; which is a source of frustration to so many of our people. The current state of affairs is anti-thetical to the ideal of a people's government.

SECTION C

OUR WORK IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS (2009-2014)

One of the APC slogans in the 2009 elections was : Let your vote work for you! And indeed the APC used the votes we got in the 2009 elections to serve the people. The APC prides itself that in the last five years it was surpassed by none in its organisational work to serve the people. Even as the campaigns for the 2014 elections get underway; the APC continues to get calls from communities seeking its assistance in addressing their issues of concern. So, unlike all other parties the APC will be doing the traditional campaign processes parallel to our addressing community issues right up to election day.

The work we did is divided into the Parliamentary and extra-parliamentary:

1. Parliamentary

The saying that one person with courage is a majority aptly applies to the APC in the National Assembly. Despite having a single seat the APC, throughout this five years maintained a level of public visibility in articulating and debating issues of national concern. We articulated our revolutionary positions without fear, favour or prejudice in the House of Parliament, Radio, Television and Print Media. The APC in Parliament fiercely maintained its revolutionary stance and independence, flatly rejected to be part of a gang-up of so-called opposition parties which had no progressive agenda other than to be negative and obstructionist.

We supported all the Budget Votes and progressive legislations, but rejected Bills like the Employment Equity Amendment Bill that did not effectively ban Labour Brokers despite strong calls from the Labour Movements.

We used the rostrum of Parliament to raise issues from our Constituency work, like the remuneration of Junior Traditional Leaders; the horrific abuse of farm dwellers in the Piet Retief area; our solidarity with the then striking mineworkers in the Rustenburg mining belt, etc.

The APC was honoured in that immediately after the elections it was elected to the powerful position of Chairing the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA). The responsibility of SCOPA is to review expenditure as reported to Parliament by National Departments and Parastatals. The APC is the only party chairing a parliamentary committee outside the majority party. It is credit to the APC and it attests to its maturity, fortitude and revolutionary character as it carried out its national duties with energy, focus, vision and character to the appreciation of both friend and foe. Our chairpersonship of SCOPA has heightened its public profile, consolidated the unity of its diverse members, taken oversight work to higher levels. We have been called to many conferences to make presentations on good governance and financial management. The APC therefore is better positioned than most to talk to these issues including the state of the finance of the nation, corruption, waste, maladministration, non-

compliance with the Public Finance Management Act, National Treasury Regulations and other laws governing financial management. It was an opportunity we got, an opportunity we used for the good of the nation, which we sincerely appreciate.

We hope that beyond the 2014 elections SCOPA will continue to serve as the guardian of the national purse building on the solid work left by the APC's leadership of that Committee.

2. WORK AMONGST THE PEOPLE (OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT)

The APC maintains that the fundamental responsibility of elected representatives is to address the people's grievances. The APC has used its position in parliament to pursue programmes to address numerous issues that affected individuals and communities.

The APC rolled out its Campaign of Positive Action by which it engaged Communities on their issues, and working with them to find solutions.

Here under is a brief summary of the massive work that the APC has been doing:

- i) **Traditional leaders:** The APC took up the issue of traditional leaders, especially the underclass of that institution - junior traditional leaders. We engaged different state institutions, led marches in Polokwane, Nelspruit and to the Union Buildings. We have set-up a structure for them - the African Traditional Leadership of South Africa (ATLESA). Their issues are not fully resolved, it is still Alutta Continua.
- ii) **Police Reservists:** We have led the fight for a fair deal for the police reservists in the SAPS. We have led marches in Nelspruit and to the Union Buildings. The issues are not fully resolved, it is still Alutta Continua.
- iii) **Land Claimants:** As a pan-Africanist party we have a strong interest in the resolution of the land question. We have helped and worked with many communities with land restitution problems in Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North West.
- iv) **Communities with Mines:** Communities with mines operating -around them especially in Limpopo, North West and Mpumalanga have been fighting Mining Companies, Chiefs and government officials for transparency and accountability for mining royalties and the full implementation of the social and labour plans relentlessly. APC has been leading those struggles.
- v) **Mineworkers:** During the turbulent mineworkers strike in 2012 in Rustenburg and beyond the APC did a lot to support and assist the workers - with ideas and resources.
- vi) **Indigenous African Churches:** APC sought to enhance the role of the Church in Society. We engaged, especially indigenous African Churches since they are the bastions of African culture and a home for the poorest of the poor. We have an Alliance agreement with their umbrella body - Kopanong Council of Churches (KCC).
- vii) **Farm-dwellers:** As a revolutionary party we have been mobilising farm dwellers in the Free-State, Kwazulu-Natal, North West, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. We have assisted them on issues like burial rights; resources to bury their deceased, land rights etc.
- viii) **Lay Counsellors and Home Based Care Givers:** these workers had problems of not being paid regularly by their NGO's. APC is helping them in their fight to be permanent government employees; these have been mostly from Limpopo and Free State.

ix) Community Works Programme Employees: There is a lot of corruption in these public works programmes and the workers in Gauteng and Limpopo came to the APC for help. It is still a continuing struggle.

x) Surplus Funds: The APC has also been helping former employees from the government, factories, mines etc. with their outstanding pension payouts.

xi) General Issues: The APC has been constantly called to intervene in many other issues by individuals and communities ranging from problems of water, electricity, chieftaincy disputes, housing (RDP, inner city), traditional office workers; traditional councillors, driving schools, fishermen, post office workers, taxi industry and general service delivery issues in the urban slums and rural areas.

We have given voice our people, and led countless peaceful marches by communities seeking the authorities to attend to their needs.

The APC therefore goes into the 2014 elections with the confidence that we have made the votes of our people work for them. We have served without failure. There is therefore no contradiction in us going back to the people to ask for their votes. With more votes, the APC will certainly do more for the People.

We are not only looking backwards, but we also are very clear about what we would do in the next five years if we are given the mandate.

The struggle continues!

Section D

APC COMMITMENTS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (2014-2019)

Economic development is the central task to which every policy, program and endeavour is subordinate and should serve. This is because to the APC, the welfare and well-being of the people remains, now and forever, our primary goal. We therefore commit ourselves to this programme, whose full and thorough implementation can realise for the majority of our country - the promise of the freedom:

TRANSFORM THE ECONOMY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE (SOCIALISM), THROUGH STATE INTERVENTION AND SOCIALISATION.

The South African capitalist economy, with its colonial foundation; has always served the interests of the minority at the expense of the majority. The CODESA negotiations had left it unchanged; post-1994 legislative instruments have not changed the character of the socio-economic relations. Thus the economy continues to reproduce the inequalities of the colonial era, except for a few nouveau riche from amongst the native majority. The APC is committed to transforming the economy to serve the people. The APC is committed to the distribution of the wealth of this country as equitably as possible through the central role of the state in the economy and socialisation.

State intervention in the economy will be through regulations, total ownership, majority shareholding or minority shareholding in enterprises. The state will be heavily involved in the commanding heights and strategic areas of the economy like mining, agriculture, banks, manufacturing, communication etc. The distinguishing feature of the system will be the role and position of workers in these enterprises - in terms of shares, management and production. The APC is a party committed to socialism whose theoretical foundation and principles are to be found in Marxism-Leninism.

Socialism will guarantee a high living standard for everyone; better education and health care; proper conditions for the development of the full human potential for everyone (cultural and spiritual) etc.

PROJECTION OF THE AFRICAN PERSONALITY:

The APC appreciates that the mere creation of the democratic space does not deal with the totality of the challenges, for the African people, created by years of slavery and colonial subjugation. Colonial rule was not only about political oppression and economic exploitation; these were buttressed by the mutilation and demonization of the history; way of life and beliefs of the African majority. Everything European was modern, superior, godly; holy, always right and all things African were devilish; backwards, inferior and always wrong. Through the instrument of the political and economic system, a social milieu was created whereby Africans, who constitute about 80% of the population, are a cultural minority.

To the APC freedom should lead to the projection of the African personality, i.e. Africans freeing their minds from mental slavery so that as free and conscious beings they can also make their contribution to the civilization of mankind.

Africans must be free to be who they are; proud and assertive. Those who live in Africa, with Africans must become Africans not by merely fulfilling the legal requirements for citizenship but also by appreciating, respecting and transforming to the socio-cultural imperatives of being African.

African values must be the anchor of our national life as a country and continent.

The Africanists believe that, as applied to mankind, the word race has no plural. We believe in one race, the human race to which we all belong. The demon of racism is a phenomenon that came with colonialists. Racism is still very much a part of our lived experience in South Africa years after freedom. The APC will mobilise the masses to resist racist behaviour from the white minority. We are non-racial as opposed to multi-racialism.

CREATE JOBS TO END UNEMPLOYMENT

As a Socialist Party, the APC believes that a job is a right of every citizen. Socialism gives the best guarantee for job creation and better living standards. The APC will create jobs by ensuring that the State plays an active role in the economy and through socialization.

The state's central interest in the economy is economic development and not just mere profit maximisation. Big business in this country have been on an investment strike. They currently have more than R500 Billion of their profits stashed away in the banks without reinvesting in the productive economy despite previous agreements with government on percentages to be reinvested from their profits. There is a rationale to this : capitalism always keep an army of the unemployed to blackmail those who are employed on issues of working conditions and salaries, and in the South African context, the holders of capital are part of the politically defeated white minority in 1994 and thus view the democratic government with scepticism. Therefore, waiting for private capital to create jobs, despite the experience of the last 20 years, will be foolhardy (in the third quarter of 2013 only 1000 jobs were created in the formal sector!!) The APC led State will also create space and give active assistance for co-operatives and individuals to engage in entrepreneurial activities as long as they don't undermine the socialist character of the economy.

The APC believes a revolutionary State, focused and strong will be able to cut down on corruption, maladministration, and duplication thus releasing resources and unleashing the enthusiasm of the masses to get up and develop themselves, as well as their country. The people are full of energy and creativity they are only held back by bureaucracy and big business.

The APC will be looking at Agriculture and related industries as an area of competitive advantage, Mining and its down streams, Parastatals, Manufacturing; Information and Communication Technology etc. as engines for economic development. The APC will stop at nothing, and will be prepared to take any measures necessary, to ensure that the people have jobs.

The scourge of unemployment will be banished together with its capitalist creator.

FIGHT INEQUALITY TO END POVERTY

The modern South African colonial State was founded on inequality, the exclusion of the African majority - politically, economically and socially. This was the condition and basis of the so-called peace treaty of Vereeniging (1902) which ended the Anglo-Boer War. These inequalities were inherited in 1994, and have not been transformed. New forms of exclusions have been developed (through sectarian/cliquist tendencies).

To the APC the fight against inequality is a fight for Socialism - for fairness; justice; social solidarity and sustainable stability.

South Africa today is one of the most unequal societies in the world. The capitalist system reproduces and re-enforces these inequalities.

The working class is trapped in a colonial income structure meant for super-exploitation.

Whilst the foundation and essence of these inequalities is economic, they nonetheless also manifest themselves in terms of geography (rural versus urban; slums versus suburbs) or gender (poverty has the face of the African woman mainly).

The rural poor flock to the urban centres in search of a better life, but indications are that the terrible life they ran away from in the rural areas persists in their urban slums.

The APC will smash these inequalities, creating instead a society characterised by social solidarity and economic justice, i.e. a socialist society.

A CAPABLE STATE

The APC understands that to achieve socialism will not only require the support of the masses but of equal importance will be the need to have a capable state. A state able to administer; provide services; protect lives and properties, accountable, responsive and transparent. As stated in the previous sections of this Manifesto are our firm views on the Agile Government and Public Administration. Revolutionary morality, political integrity and professional competence must be the bedrock of state administration. There is no way that a weak state can play its rightful role in the economy and lead the nation in its development.

Incapable civil servants and those who harm the interests of the people will be chopped off without ceremony, no matter their positions. It is such firmness and decisiveness (leadership) that will see our country and people achieve brilliant victories in the construction and development of socialism.

ZERO TOLERANCE TO CORRUPTION AND MALADMINISTRATION

The APC as a party of revolution committed to the welfare and well-being of the people will firmly combat any practices in public administration that harm the interest of the people - like corruption, waste, theft, maladministration, nepotism etc. Corruption is a cancer that eats away at the soul of a people.

Alien class ideological tendencies of individualism and crass materialism are a perfect fountain for such anti-people acts like the pilfering of public resources. A sense of public duty, engendered by socialist consciousness, integrity, honesty will help minimise such anti-people activities. There are many countries in history who have seen tremendous economic progress by merely clamping down on corruption. The colonial state pre-1994 was founded on corruption; post-1994 it seems that corrupt practices are on the rise. The endless service delivery protests are a finger of accusation by the masses that whilst the rich get richer they continue to wallow in poverty. There appears to be a lack of courage and stamina to decisively deal with this scourge.

The APC is genuinely committed to fighting against any act harmful to the interests of the people in public administration.

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE

The APC views education as one aspect of socialisation - with social and technical objectives. The APC envisions a socialist system of education which is designed to serve Society as a whole, not a few individuals and capitalists; inculcate in young people a sense of total commitment to society, and help them accept the values appropriate to our kind of future; emphasising collective endeavour, not individual advancement. The APC's socialist education will emphasise technical education; agriculture; technology, history; maths and science, economics, geography and all skills necessary to build and sustain the socialist economy.

The APC will ensure that education managers are the best there can be to ensure that the country's revolutionary goals are achieved. The APC will ensure that education infrastructure and facilities are the most appropriate.

The health of the Nation will be a priority for the APC. A healthy nation ensures productivity in the economy and social stability. The APC will ensure that health facilities are available to the people within the shortest possible distance. The key issue, however, will be the quality and appropriateness of the management and services rendered in those health facilities. Currently the country suffers from very poor management of health facilities thus leading to corrupt practices and poor services to communities.

There are plenty of successful practices from socialist countries that will serve as referral points for the APC. Profiteering on health will be highly proscribed. The Socialist system will seek to provide high quality of health care.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRARIAN REFORMS

The APC believes that there is need for far reaching agrarian reforms; firstly to address the historical grievance of land dispossession for the indigenous African majority. Land ownership patterns can not be out of step with population sizes, this will open space for more people to access land and for more people to be involved in production.

This is tied to our commitment to develop the rural areas. The APC has noted that our political trajectory is highly urban biased. Rural areas have remained under-developed with poor infrastructure, be it roads, electricity, water, public amenities (schools, clinics, transport), the highest unemployment levels and poverty.

The APC will ensure that all rural communities have access to electricity, availability of water is guaranteed for human consumption and agriculture by building more dams and making water provision a national competence. Making water a national competence will ensure uniformity of standards and quality throughout the country.

The APC will actively support and promote agriculture and its related industries in the rural areas to create employment and eradicate poverty. The APC sees agriculture as a competitive advantage that South Africa and the continent at large, have vis-a-vis the capitalist West and other middle income countries.

The APC will ensure that mining companies fully implement and fulfil their legal obligations through the Social and Labour Plans (SLPs) to create jobs and develop communities around their areas of operations.

Finally, the APC recommit itself to the Campaign of Positive Action by which it has been increasing the fighting capacity of the people by responding to their developmental needs. With increased representation in the Legislatures, the APC will do more for the people. We pledge to be responsive to the calls for service from the masses. We pledge ourselves to be the eyes, ears and vehicle for the masses.

To the APC, the fundamental responsibility of elected representatives is to address the people's grievances - and that is what we pledge ourselves to do as a revolutionary party.

Section E:

A profile on the President of African People's Convention: Comrade President Themba Godi

Comrade Godi was born on the 10th August 1966 in Matsavane Village in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga. He is the fourth born in a family of five siblings. He grew up like all village youths at that time, attending his primary, and secondary schools in Bushbuckridge. He subsequently went to the University of the North, where he completed his teacher's degree (B.A. Paed); majoring in Education, Xitsonga and History. He later completed his B.A. Honours (History) with the University of South Africa (UNISA).

He taught at Bondzeni and Ian MacKenzie High Schools; teaching Mathematics, Physical Science, History and English for a combined total of about twelve years before resigning to work fulltime as a political activist.

Comrade Godi started his political activism as a Secondary School Student (forming the Front for the Liberation of Azania, Froliaza, in 1983); matured at University (joined the Pan Africanist Congress, 1984) and never relented even after becoming a teacher.

He rose through the ranks of the PAC to become Secretary for Youth Affairs, National Organiser and Deputy President. He has from the start been an ardent Pan-Africanist, inspired by revolutionaries like Mangaliso Sobukwe, Captain Thomas Sankara, Kwame Nkrumah, etc.

Comrade Godi became a member of parliament in February 2004 serving in a number of parliamentary committees: Education, Labour, Social Development and Trade & Industry. In November 2005 Comrade Godi became the first African to chair parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA). His leadership of this important committee has been outstanding; acknowledged by both friend and foe.

When the APC was formed on the 5th September 2007 he was tasked with the responsibility leading it. Under his leadership the APC has evolved from just being an idea into the dynamic and growing party that it is today. At the first National People's Congress held in December 2011 in Mangaung, Free State he was unanimously elected President for a five year term.

Subsequent to this historic Congress, and under his wise and energetic leadership, the APC has pursued the revolutionary Mass-line with vigor; dialectically clarified and strengthened its ideological standpoint.

The APC goes into the elections confident in the knowledge that we are led by someone who has political integrity, and whose leadership is recognized by the general public.