

Let us develop rural communities

ANC

KwaZulu-Natal

1999



together, fighting for change

a better life for all

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF BUREANVESTVILLE

Accession No. 1903/5

RRN

Class No.

MESSAGE FROM S'BU NDEBELE ANC CANDIDATE FOR KWAZULU- NATAL PREMIER



The past five years of coalition government has been a steep learning curve for myself and my colleagues. Democracy has played an important role in highlighting the enormity of the task ahead of us. Even those of us who most vigorously opposed the apartheid regime and its allies did not at the time truly appreciate the legacy that we would be left with.

In KwaZulu-Natal we have inherited a two fold legacy of neglect. On the one hand it is possible to cite statistics that anyone previously in political authority should be deeply ashamed of;

Socio-economic indicators of massive neglect by previous governments include the following:

- that 75% of our desperately poor live in rural areas without adequate enabling infrastructure or institutional supports
- that living with hunger has become a way of life for more than 2 ° million KwaZulu-Natal citizens
- that 40,6% of children between the ages of 4 and 5 have stunted growth. Stunting retards both the physical and mental development of these children and disadvantages them and their families for life.
- 46% of the economically active rural population is unemployed

On the other hand Kwazulu-Natal has huge agricultural and tourist potential which has not yet been exploited. Previous governments attitude to rural development can be summed up:

- rural whites were supported to farm
- rural blacks were supported to garden

Neither myself nor my colleagues in the ANC can accept a situation where massive social and economic neglect continues along side undeveloped massive agricultural and tourist potential.

After 5 years of coalition government we now know that rural development is like an orphaned child.

As leader of the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal I pledge that I will adopt the orphan - rural development and rigorously pursue people centred development projects and programmes that make a real difference to the lives of rural people.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS - OUR VISION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KWAZULU-NATAL

The goal of the ANC is the building of a united, non racial, non sexist and democratic South Africa. This goal guides our day to day actions.

For KwaZulu-Natal this means that an ANC government is ready and determined to address the needs of the 62% majority of its citizens that currently live in rural areas under huge disadvantage.

The cornerstone of our rural development strategy will be:

- Peace
- An integrated planned approach to community development and local economic development
- Democracy as witnessed through ongoing consultation and a well informed public
- Active support for, and promotion of, civil society
- Active support for, and promotion of, our African Renaissance and the restoration of the family and family values as the cornerstone of society

**THERE CAN BE NO REAL REDUCTION IN
POVERTY WITHIN KWAZULU-NATAL
WITHOUT A RURAL SOLUTION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by the name 'Ndebele' in a cursive script.

S'bu Ndebele

1**THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER WILL ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT ADOPTS A PLANNED APPROACH TO INTEGRATED COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Our rural potential will not be realised if we continue with the current fragmented approach in planning and providing services and investments to rural communities. Rural poverty is multi dimensional and requires a holistic and integrated solution. There is no way that any one department can solve all rural problems.

The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal commits itself to streamlining the provision of public services, health, education, welfare, transport, communication, sports and recreation in a district by district, region by region, planned approach.

The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal commits itself to streamlining the provision of rural infrastructure, roads, electricity and water with public works programmes to ensure a more cost efficient supply of bulk services.

The integrated provision of bulk supply systems will not only enhance productivity, it will impact dramatically on the quality of rural life and, in particular, will free women and children from backbreaking and time consuming chores.

2

INTEGRATED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO FARMERS AS FARMERS IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE OF GENDER

The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal will break once and for all the mentality that blacks garden and whites farm. We will support farmers as farmers to maximise our valuable land potential.

KWAZULU-NATAL HAS THE LAND POTENTIAL TO END RURAL POVERTY AND HUNGER

Despite this black farmers, even in very high agricultural production areas, do not meet their own household food requirements. For example in Ubombo and Ingwavuma districts 90% of farmers are deficit farmers and only 27% of local household food requirements are supplied by local farmers.

The number of small scale sugar farmers within KwaZulu-Natal grew from 4 000 in 1970 to 48 000 today - yet they produce only 13% of the crop, while 2 000 commercial farmers produce 70% of the crop.

UP UNTIL NOW THERE HAS BEEN NO POLITICAL COMMITMENT WITHIN KWAZULU-NATAL THAT WOULD ALLOW BLACK FARMERS TO TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN OUR AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will pledge it's commitment to focus rural investments and rural development programmes in such a way as to turn the land and agricultural potential into economic growth and through economic growth to eradicate rural poverty and hunger.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will pledge institutional supports to farmers that will make agricultural production an economic ladder. We will support collective farmer ownership of agri-industry, co-operatives and marketing.

An ANC government in Kwazulu -Natal will appreciate that farmers cannot succeed without adequate roads, electricity, water and communications infrastructure. We will provide these in an integrated, consultative and well organised way.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will introduce innovative agricultural support programmes that focus on food security crops in the short term but market crops which have a high rand value per cubic metre of irrigated water in the medium to long term.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will fast track technological, technical and support services transfers to emergent farmers through the establishment of State and Private Sector core commercial estates with strong outgrower programmes.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will review existing land tenure systems in consultation with traditional leaders and farmers. It will introduce rural communities and their leaders to innovative solutions to land tenure that have been adopted in other developing countries e.g. in East Africa, government and farmers have established registers to record tree ownership and transactions in trees. This has allowed farmers to conduct their business as farmers without freehold ownership of land. They have been able to accumulate trees and to sell trees to meet crises and other needs. Tree registration introduces a degree of flexibility into systems of tenure that are relatively inflexible.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will introduce systems of 99 year leasehold to encourage investment in core estates.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will transfer State owned land to land poor communities.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will access black farmer associations / co-operatives to startup capital to create bulk input (fertiliser, seed, chemicals, irrigation equipment, fencing, building materials) supply enterprises.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will invest in programmes that improve the management and conservation of water resources for human and agricultural consumption.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will provide incentive programmes that will result in better land management and the cost efficient provision of services. Agricultural development usually requires new land settlement or resettlement. Such programmes will be implemented with strong community consultation.

**IT IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
GOVERNMENT, FARMERS AND MARKETS
THAT WILL IMPROVE REAL
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY
ENABLING THE DEVELOPMENT OF
SUSBISTENCE FARMING INTO
COMMERCIAL FARMING**

3

INTEGRATED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE CRUCIAL ROLE THAT TRADITIONAL LEADERS CAN PLAY IN THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

The ANC government has established national and provincial houses of Traditional Leaders. These new institutions recognise the role of Traditional Leaders and create a platform for them to influence provincial and national policy.

The ANC government has significantly increased the remuneration of Traditional Leaders.

In addition, the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal will:

- constitute a Royal Commission which will research appropriate ways of co-operation between government and Traditional Leaders
- establish development leadership programmes specifically designed to assist Traditional Leaders in contributing to solutions that address rural stagnation and poverty
- establish appropriate training programmes for traditional leaders in conflict resolution between families and factions to assist them in their contribution to the peace process and nation building
- end, once and for all, a system of party political patronage of Traditional Leaders that has resulted in some communities being excluded from government benefits to which they are entitled

4

INTEGRATED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SMALL, MEDIUM, AND MICRO ENTERPRISES

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will critically review the current status of financial and other institutional supports to the emerging business sector.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will critically review government support to para-statals.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will ensure financial training and institutional supports to the SMME sector to guarantee that imbalances in income and wealth distribution within KwaZulu-Natal are systematically addressed.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will vigorously support investment and business programmes that place the KwaZulu-Natal economy on a labour absorption growth path.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will support the development of co-operatives and Employee Share Ownership Programmes (ESOPs).

5

INTEGRATED JOB CREATION PROGRAMMES TO RESULT IN MEANINGFUL PUBLIC ASSETS

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will intensify job creation programmes that create much needed rural infrastructure such as roads, water, electricity and public facilities.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will increase budget support to programmes that have a track record for delivery and community consultation. For example The Road to Wealth and Job Creation, Working for Water, The Lengthman System.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will fund job creation programmes which specifically target youth.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will fund job creation programmes that specifically target women.

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will fund job creation programmes that specifically target disabled people.

6

INTRODUCE COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY TO END THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ISOLATION OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

An ANC government in KwaZulu-Natal will establish communication centres in all developing nodes.

Communication centres would include:

- the introduction of high tech systems to streamline access to information eg Internet
- websites to facilitate the marketing of raw agricultural produce, processed agricultural produce, handcrafts, eco and cultural tourism and local economic development products
- websites to facilitate purchasing to gear up discounts through bulk buying
- access to long distance education, support services (eg UNISA, tertiary education and training)
- Access to networks for professional people (e-mail and websites) who are often isolated in their work in rural communities.
- Access to provincial, national and international information.

COMMUNICATION CENTRES WILL OPEN UP THE CREATIVITY OF RURAL PEOPLE TO A WIDER WORLD

7

PROMOTE CULTURAL TOURISM TO CAPITALISE ON OUR RICH HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Cultural tourism is a major growth area worldwide and KwaZulu-Natal has much to offer the national and international community. Cultural and historical sites, traditional foods and beverages, indigenous knowledge systems, lifestyles and rituals are all highly marketable and potential sources of income.

Tours, rural bed and breakfasts could readily be networked and marketed through communication centres which are linked to national and international markets.

**THE ANC GOVERNMENT IN KWAZULU-NATAL
WILL STREAMLINE ACCESS TO NATIONAL ANC
PROGRAMMES DESIGNED TO UPLIFT THE POOR
AND TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS
HAVE A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

8

SOCIAL SECURITY

The ANC remains committed to ensuring that everyone in our country is able to live above the minimum living standard. Our social security net must target the most vulnerable - the poor, the aged, the landless, the disabled, the young. In the next 5 years we will:

- continue to improve the management of social grants
- put systems in place to eliminate fraud and corruption
- improve access to grants through among others, using the post office infrastructure

As part of a comprehensive social security system we will introduce and new Social Health Insurance programme.

9 HEALTH CARE

Over the next 5 years the ANC will develop a comprehensive, affordable and accessible National Public Health System, financed in part by a Social Health Insurance programme. We will improve health care by:

- improving the availability of doctors and nurses, especially in clinics and the rural areas
- ensuring availability of affordable medicines in line with our national drugs policy
- improving the management of hospitals and clinics - with community participation
- act decisively to attack preventable illnesses through, amongst others, our immunisation programme, and measures to combat TB
- developing campaigns against drug, tobacco and alcohol abuse.

In partnership with all sectors of society, we will continue to give absolute priority to HIV/AIDS programmes. The ANC will:

- increase efforts to mobilise popular awareness of the seriousness of the epidemic
- continue to fund research to find a cure for AIDS
- review existing laws to ensure people who are HIV positive are not discriminated against

Education is not a privilege - it is a right. The ANC is committed to moving as rapidly as possible to free, dynamic and Education is not a privilege - it is a right. The ANC is committed to moving as rapidly as possible to free, dynamic and compulsory education. As we move towards this vision, the ANC will continue to ensure that:

- we foster a culture of learning, teaching and service
- no learner is excluded from a public school because a family cannot afford to pay
- public schools remain viable, and that resources for learning are more equitably spread
- national standards increasingly lower class sizes to more manageable levels
- we press ahead with the National Schools Building Programme, with special focus on improving infrastructure in rural areas and townships.

Our objective is to ensure that all schools have adequate buildings, electricity, water and sewerage.

To improve the quality of education, the ANC will focus on:

- raising the quality of school leadership teams, strengthening administrative capacity and ensuring parental involvement
- integrating Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) with skills development to improve access to educational and employment opportunities, within the National Qualifications Framework
- prioritising the development of a national plan and funding system for higher education and eliminating wastage in this sector

**THE ANC IN KWAZULU-NATAL
IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO
THE RDP VISION
THAT GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
ARE INTERCONNECTED**

The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal is firmly committed to the view that development is strongly associated with peace.

The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal is firmly committed to the view that without job creation we will be unable to successfully mount anti crime programmes.

The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal is firmly committed to broadening the base of our economy and to distributing economic power more widely.

The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal is firmly of the view that rural stagnation and poverty, despite the enormous potential of our land for agricultural production and tourism, is a result of neglect and lack of coherent planning by non-ANC led governments.

The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal is firmly of the view that with enlightened policies and integrated management systems it can stop the rot.



**YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE ANC IN
KWAZULU-NATAL WILL RESULT IN A
BETTER LIFE FOR YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY**



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