

AFTER YEARS WITHOUT RIGHTS, IT'S FAIR TO ASK WHAT WILL YOUR COUNTRY DO FOR YOU?

To overcome the social and economic devastation caused by generations of apartheid rule, South Africa needs a government that will rise above narrow interests and do something tangible for all South Africans.

Our country needs a government committed to upholding democratic principles and creating a society based on equality, non-racialism and non-sexism. A government with a plan to improve the quality of life of ordinary people, especially impoverished rural communities. Above all, it must have a plan to end violence and bring about a peaceful and secure environment. Not only do we have such a plan, we have the will and determination to make democracy a living reality within our country. We also have the long tradition of consultation to ensure that the government will be a true government of the people.



► **Creating an open society.**

An ANC government will strive to create an open society in which people will be free to express their views without fear, including criticising the government of the day.

► **Unity in diversity.**

All South African languages will have equal status. No one culture will be promoted over any other. Freedom of religion and worship will be a basic right. No discrimination against Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Jews - or any other religions - will be tolerated. Traditional leaders will be accorded the status they deserve in line with democracy.

► **A new style of government.**

Government administration exists to serve the people and must therefore be answerable to them. Policy formulation will happen in consultation. The tradition of People's Forums will continue in all communities. The ANC will encourage private citizens to use the independent Public Protector to investigate corruption and dishonesty, or violations of rules of conduct.

Uplifting the Quality of life.

► **Jobs and better incomes.**

The needs of millions of people without jobs will be at the top of

our agenda. As a legitimate government the ANC will create a climate to boost investor confidence. A new trade and industry policy will focus mainly on job creation, strengthening our manufacturing capacity and industries that export goods. Our economic plan will take into account the need for sustainable development with concern for our natural resources and protection of the environment.

► **Creating jobs through public works.**

We will immediately start a national public works programme to build houses and provide essential services and facilities. This will create jobs and provide training for about 2,5 million people over ten years.

► **Creating jobs through small business development.**

By changing licensing laws and providing training and access to loans, we will make it easier for people to start their own businesses. To stimulate this sector, certain government contracts will be awarded to small business.

► **Workers' rights.**

All workers in both the public and private sector, including domestic and farm workers, will be free to bargain collectively and to be represented by trade unions. All discrimination will be abolished. Maternity and child-

"In 1986, when I suggested to the government that the time had come to resolve South Africa's problems through negotiations, I was confident that my endeavour to bring peace and democracy through dialogue would finally bear fruit.

What sustained me throughout my 27 years in prison, was the ANC's vision of a South Africa in which people live in peace and with equal opportunities. Thanks to the efforts of many committed men and women, this vision is now a concrete plan that will at last do something tangible for the millions of South Africans who have been so cruelly neglected and discriminated against.

Let us put aside all fears and all thoughts of violence. Let us open our minds and our hearts and work for peace and reconciliation.

God bless South Africa."

Nelson Mandela
NELSON MANDELA

rights will be protected. The right to strike will be upheld. Training and adult education programmes will be introduced. Standards of health and safety will be raised and enforced.

► A just tax system.

An ANC tax system will ensure that income earned by ordinary people will not be lost through unfair taxes. We will end VAT on basic foods; reduce taxes on people earning under R4000 per month; end unfair taxation of women and ensure more efficient collection of taxes paid by business.

Ending rural poverty.

The ANC government will introduce a rural development programme with job-creation as its focus. This will be done through both industrial development and active support for small business. The provision of basic services, including water, clinics, schools, sewerage, electricity, telephones and roads, will be treated as a priority.

► Land Reform.

Land Reform will be central to our rural development programme. Our policy will guarantee women equal rights to land; assist farmers to gain access to credit, training and markets and encourage large-scale farming. It will also ensure security of tenure; see to it that development agencies and marketing boards fulfil their purpose of serving both farmers and consumers; guarantee restitution of land to victims of forced removals through a Land Claims Court, and use state land in the implementation of the Land Reform programme.

Opening the doors of learning.

The foundation of our programme will be one education system that provides ten years of free and compulsory education for all children in the language of their choice.

A new curriculum will be introduced that promotes both technical quality and human ideals. Emphasis will be placed on teacher training and on improving the conditions of their service.

We will provide more classrooms; repair and modernise inadequate facilities; double the number of free text books within one year; set up a national bursary and loan system; assist young people who have not been able to complete their education; provide adult literacy programmes; focus on ways of providing pre-school educare and give special assistance to women.

Housing and services for all.

National Party's "influx control" and lack of urban planning deprived

millions of people of a decent family life, resulting in a crisis that is at the very root of many of our social problems.

First and foremost, an ANC government will focus on the housing needs of 7-million "squatters" and other homeless people. Over the next five years we aim to build one million homes; provide running water and flushing toilets to over a million families; electrify 2,5 million rural and urban homes; upgrade hostels to meet the needs of the residents. We will work together with financial institutions to ensure that people have the loans and means to build their own houses.

Health. Caring for all.

The aim of the ANC's health policy is primary and affordable health care that guarantees basic treatment for all South Africans. Poverty-stricken communities will receive special attention with the emphasis on prevention of disease.

Children under five will be entitled to free health care, immunisation and basic nutrition. Medicines will be made affordable. Major resources will be directed at combating TB, AIDS and other diseases. We will also help facilitate the integration of traditional healing.

► Welfare and pensions.

A caring approach to children, senior citizens, the disabled and victims of violence will be central to our welfare policy. Homeless children will receive special attention. Pensions and grants due to people will be assured and allocated through post offices, banks, building societies and other accessible outlets. In consultation with the disabled, we will end discrimination against them.

► Affirmative Action.

It is not enough to talk of equality when the vast majority of South Africans have been left behind by a system that excluded them by law. Opportunities must be opened to all who were discriminated against simply because they were Africans, Coloureds or Indians - or because they were women, disabled or lived in rural areas. Affirmative Action will not be at the expense of others. Nor will it lead to a lowering of standards. Its emphasis must be on training and upgrading of skills. This will be essential to the growth of our economy and will benefit all South Africans.

Making the plan work.

Financing our programme of reconstruction and development will not be easy. But it is an opportunity to set

One of the most urgent challenges facing South Africa is the adoption of a new democratic constitution. We firmly commit ourselves to the Constitutional principles agreed to in multi-party negotiations as a basis for drafting a new democratic constitution. Whatever our majority, we will never abuse this power - but will untiringly strive for national consensus through consultation and debate. The basic democratic principles for which the ANC has always stood, include:

- a constitution and Bill of Rights which guarantee human rights for all, including the right to a minimum standard of life;
- the right for people to elect a government of their choice in regular, free and fair elections in a multi-party democracy;
- democratic government at provincial and local levels;
- an independent judiciary and constitutional court protected from any government or party political interference;
- freedom from all discrimination;
- freedom of association and freedom of religion.

the economy on a path of sustained growth. The private sector will be encouraged to invest in productive ventures. We will establish a reconstruction fund and seek beneficial international aid and loans. Considerable sums of money already go to education and health services. But the results are poor because of corruption, bureaucracy and racial discrimination.

Peace and security for all.

As the organisation that represents the victims of apartheid we understand the difference between a government that intimidates, and one that cares. To achieve peace, what is needed is a government that truly represents all South Africans, and a police force that's accountable to the communities it serves.

We are committed to dealing firmly with all forms of violence and crime. At the same time we will introduce a programme to promote political tolerance and peaceful ways of dealing with political differences. A huge effort will be made to put a stop to gun smuggling.

► Security forces.

It is essential for peace that all security forces reflect society's racial and gender character, and that they uphold the constitution and respect human rights. The new defence force will be a volunteer army that will also be used productively to improve skills of the youth. Those serving in the present forces will be encouraged to continue in line with the new culture. Like all civil servants, they will be guaranteed their pensions on retirement or resignation.

► Equality before the law.

It is essential to have a court system that reflects society's racial and gender character and that provides fairness and equality. Detention without trial will be abolished. It is essential that legal

aid be made more affordable and more accessible to everyone.

Taking our rightful place in the world.

The ANC and its leaders enjoy recognition and respect worldwide as upholders of democracy and human rights. The ANC, more than any other party, will be able to help South Africa make a meaningful contribution to the world community in its efforts to promote democracy and human rights. We will help with the economic development and integration of Southern Africa, and will encourage relations with the world in sports, culture and tourism. South Africa will become full members of the Organisation of African Unity, the United Nations and other bodies and ensure that our continent and its problems are not ignored by the rest of humankind.

A Pledge.

The policies outlined above, lay the foundation for us to work together to change South Africa for the better. We recognise the depth of our country's crisis, but are convinced that political will, an environment of peace and stability and a technically sound programme will help achieve our goal of reconstruction and development.

We pledge to spare no efforts to realise these ideals. Above all, success depends on the active participation of all, a tradition which we will carry into government.

Together as South Africans - men and women of all colours, young and old, urban and rural - we can build a better life for all.



A better life for all. Working together for jobs, peace and freedom.