

NATIONAL ELECTION MANIFESTO 2014



16 FEBRUARY 2014

My fellow South Africans

We stand at a cross-road in the history of our beautiful country once again, and once more there is a cry arising from our people for change. Twenty years into our democracy we look back and see the changes which have brought us to where we are, and it is not a pleasant picture.

The core of our strategy to secure your future, is to listen to the people who are crying out for change. Whereas we might only have a very recent history, it is a history that speaks volumes for our commitment to service delivery and the upliftment of our communities. We firmly believe that the answer to improved service delivery lies in decentralizing the planning and implementation of community development to local municipal level, for it is there where people suffer the consequences of inadequate governance.

The importance of quality free education for our children can never be emphasized enough, for it is a fundamental cornerstone for the well-being of any society. Whereas it is easy to identify what has gone wrong with our education system, we have thoroughly canvassed and consulted widely to develop guidelines for a turnaround strategy to improve the education of our children. We believe that the children are our future, and if we fail to provide a solid foundation for our children on which to build their education, we will be failing future generations who will pay the price for our inaction

Other aspects which gives rise to concern for the NFP, and which we will address swiftly, is the current impasse in land reform which is causing considerable dissatisfaction amongst our people, our imploding health care system, lack of meaningful economic development and the bleak prospect of unemployment affecting our youth.

Safety and Security is on the mind of each and every South African with our crime rate being as unacceptably high as it is, and our public transport system sadly reflects the social make-up of our society, where good quality service is available for those who can afford it and inferior or no service at all for the majority of our people.

Amidst all these social, economic and political obstacles hindering us in attaining the goals we have set ourselves as a nation in 1994, the single greatest threat facing our emerging democracy is the sad state of governance in South Africa. Corruption, cadre deployment, nepotism and blatant abuse of state resources has systematically eroded the moral gains we made in 1994, and the effect of this lack of accountable and transparent governance has brought us to this cross-road in the history of our beloved country where we find ourselves once again as a nation.

South Africa is ready for change and the NFP is ready and willing to be part of that change. Let us strive to grow together, and with your vote, help us secure your future.

Yours in the Service of the Nation

Zanele kaMagwaza-Msibi

FOREWORD

The election manifesto of the National Freedom Party is to be interpreted and understood within the context of Social Democracy. We firmly believe that the transition to full political, economic and social emancipation of all South Africans would best be achieved through a gradual and controlled evolutionary process rather than violent revolutionary means.

South Africa's young democracy has been in place for twenty years, and during this period of time some improvement to the lives of the general population did take place, but not enough. The National Freedom Party believes that, with correct management and strategic planning, and without corruption, the current resources available to address the ills and inequity of our collective past can be put to far better use than is currently the case.

A central tenet of the National Freedom Party approach to national governance is an emphasis on strengthening the capacity of local and district municipalities. We believe such strengthened capacity will facilitate the process of speedily devolving the implementation of several national government initiatives to grass-roots level.

1. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Problem Statement:

Education is a key cornerstone for the well-being of any country and society. Our education system in South Africa does, however, not prepare our learners adequately for entry level employment, nor for further education.

In the past twenty years of democracy, we have seen school feeding schemes collapse, infrastructure crumble, the safety and security of learners and educators deteriorate, and the systematic downgrading of the minimum requirements for obtaining a formal basic education. We have witnessed the hasty implementation of an education model that is unsuitable to our education needs, the chaos developing around educator employment and allocation, and a steady influx of learners to urban schools from rural areas.

Many children in rural areas still attend schools which have little or no basic amenities such as electricity and water, no skills development capacity in the field of information technology, and very often lacking in basic resources such as having textbooks available on time at the start of the school year, libraries and science laboratory equipment. A Lack of sport and recreational facilities at many of our schools also present us with a major challenge in the field of education, for we believe that the healthy development of the mind of a child should take place side-by-side with a healthy development of the body.

We commit ourselves to:

Basic Education

- Free, compulsory and high quality Basic Education for all children up to the age of 18 years;
- Phase in an increase in the minimum requirement for a pass to fifty per cent to bring the standard in Basic Education in line with institutions of Further and Higher Education;
- Improve the basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy, especially in the elementary levels,
- Develop and introduce a foundation phase to precede Grade R which will be regulated by the department of Basic Education, and staffed with suitably qualified and employed full-time educators;
- Integrate basic life skills, such as computer literacy as well as road safety and motor vehicle driving into the basic education curriculum to the extent that learners will have a skills qualification when they exit basic education, such as a Computer Literacy Certificate and Driver' Licence.
- Strengthen discipline at schools and encourage a culture of teaching and learning by ensuring that all educators and learners are at school during school hours.
- School nutrition schemes for all learners at all government schools to be managed by Principals and School Governing Bodies, and to encourage the involvement of local co-operatives and other women's community groups;
- The basic education curriculum to be biased towards maths and science to ensure that learners are better suited to enrol for higher education after completing grade 12, and generally to prepare them for entry into the labour market;
- Improve physical security at schools, and ensuring that School Governing Bodies and the local communities are involved in the selection and employment of security officers whose salaries are to be paid for by government;
- Continued and accelerated infrastructure development, and in particular sanitation, electricity and running water at rural schools in need, to stem the exodus of learners from rural schools urban schools;

- Re-open teacher education colleges and regionally integrate them with a University in the area to ensure key standards and accreditation by such University;
- Review the formula of allocation of educators, taking into account both the curricula needs and enrolment demands for each school;
- Increase the remuneration of educators to reflect their qualification and experience, and make sure that only qualified educators are employed on a permanent basis;
- Actively recruit fully qualified educators to rural schools and make incentives available to them over and above their remuneration;
- Ensure that Principals and School Governing Bodies have the final say in recommending the employment of educators at schools to the Department who will be bound by such recommendations;
- Provide each school with funds to employ an administration clerk;
- Facilitate the development of adequate and safe playgrounds and encourage schools to adopt a progressive increase in sport facilities to cater for popular sport codes such as football, netball, cricket, hockey, rugby and swimming.

Higher Education

- Free high quality Further and Higher Education for students who meet entry requirements;
- Introduce satellite campuses of major Universities in adjacent districts where possible;
- Restructure the current NSFAS system to require students to repay only a portion of the loan upon successful completion of studies;
- Ensure that all University, and where appropriate also other institutions of higher or further education, provide affordable and suitable government owned and managed accommodation for students who qualify;
- Improve on, and develop further, a Central Application Process for university and FET enrolment, and devolve such a process to all local municipalities for more effective access to the process of applying for university or FET enrolment;
- Increase the number of FET's, expand them, and launch an intensive information program to draw attention of school-leavers to the training and

qualification options available, and to reduce the skills shortage in the country by encouraging students who qualify to enrol.

2. SERVICE DELIVERY

Problem Statement:

Over the past few years it has become the norm that dissatisfaction with lack of service delivery leads to violent protests which is often met with reactionary law enforcement, resulting in injury and death. Twenty years into democracy, we are still burdened with the inequitable distribution of service delivery in South Africa, and despite the provisions of our Constitution, we have people die whilst demanding such a basic right as access to drinking water.

The delivery of basic services remains the moral duty of government which is done so at local municipal level. The strengthening of service delivery is thus ultimately entwined with the capacities of municipalities, and to improve service delivery, the capacity of local municipalities needs to be increased substantially.

The primary areas of service delivery at grass roots level is based on the provision of basic infrastructure components such as water, sanitation, electricity and roads, as well as housing. As the National Freedom Party, we believe that an integrated approach encompassing these components needs to be applied at local municipal level to form the basis of effective service delivery at grass roots level.

We commit ourselves to:

Housing

- Consult with the people, listen to their suggestions and be accountable to the people for the planning and implementation of housing;
- Expand and accelerate the State's obligation to provide decent housing with, at minimum, running water, electricity and an inside toilet;
- Phase out informal settlements and replacing them with serviced sites which will be made available for ownership where people can build homes themselves;
- Root out corruption in the allocation of housing and ensure that a national standardised method of allocating houses is adopted, based on a means test only;

- Upgrade hostels and where appropriate, convert those suitable to custom designed and affordable habitable family units which will cater for healthy family life with access to basic social amenities.

Infrastructure development and maintenance

- Strengthen the capacity of local and district municipal to provide water, electricity and sanitation, with the emphasis of accelerating infrastructure development in rural areas, and infrastructure maintenance in urban areas;
- Phase out communal water taps and ensure that each household has access to running water in their houses and on their property;
- Encourage the development of quality low-cost housing where appropriate close to areas of economic development and to provide preferential State funding for such housing development;
- Urgently embark on a national program of road maintenance to stem and reverse the fast deteriorating state of our roads network.

3. LAND AND AGRICULTURE

Problem Statement:

As the National Freedom Party, we believe that it is a travesty of justice that, twenty years after democracy, the majority of South Africans still do not own land. We believe that current pace of land reform is inadequate and is contributing to growing dissatisfaction amongst many South Africans who have expectations of equitable access to land in the country of their birth.

We believe that the obstacles to fair and meaningful land reform are the 'willing-buyer-willing-seller' principle which has failed, unnecessary bureaucracy, corruption surrounding the process of land restitution, and a general lack in following procedures in the execution of land claims and land reform programmes of the State. In addressing land reform, we believe that it is important to take into consideration the historical injustice inherent in our current pattern of land ownership and usage, but that it is also important to consider the modern requirements and demands of land ownership and usage.

We commit ourselves to:

- A detailed audit of all land ownership in the country which must be done as a matter of priority to ensure that the existing distribution of land can be accurately assessed, and such land audit to include the ownership and allocation of all state land, and to determine the macro land use patterns in the country;
- Deploy land use researchers to determine the macro land use patterns in the country and to advise on future land use;
- To allocate available unused state land to people in need, and in particular, to co-operatives for the production of food;
- Develop mechanisms to ensure that all land held in trust on behalf of communities are optimally utilised for the benefit of those communities in accordance with the provisions of those trusts;
- Fast track the processing of existing land claims by setting a time-limit for executing such claims and ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to allow dedicated research teams to investigate such claims within the time limits;
- Approach future land reforms in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of South Africa which may include expropriation at fair market value after a fair, transparent and accountable assessment has been made and due process followed to determine the purpose of the intended land use in question;
- Provide mentorship support and a transfer of skills in the form of a Commercial Farming Training Programme to new farmers, more so in the case of restitution or redistribution of land;
- Invest in agri-processing to provide local employment creation and economic growth in agricultural communities, and promote projects that will promote sustainable agricultural development and increase the food security of our country;
- Strengthen the security of tenure for farmer workers through legislation and other means available to the state to foster harmonious working relations and conditions between farm owners and farm workers, and ensure equitable compensation for labour provided;
- Reintroduce agricultural extension officers to provide agriculture advice and support at districts and at local municipal level;

- Decentralise and simplify the process to register agriculture-based co-operatives to local municipal level, and restructure the funding strategy for such co-operatives.

4. HEALTH

Problem Statement:

South African health care is on the brink of descending to levels of inadequacy which no democracy can accept or tolerate. Efficient and effective health care provides a solid foundation for a healthy society, and as with education and the delivery of social services, forms a cornerstone of a society where all citizens have equitable access to an improved quality of life as envisaged in our countries Constitution. Yet, twenty years into our democracy we still have an unacceptably high infant mortality rate, we still have the devastation of HIV/AIDS and the scourge of TB evident in our society, and we have a health-care infrastructure which is crumbling and neglected through the incompetence of people appointed without the necessary skills and expertise to administer our health care system.

We commit ourselves to:

- The best possible quality health care service for all citizens to benefit all equally where the principle of Bathopele will be applied consistently;
- Reopen and expand nursing education colleges and regionally integrate them with a University in the area to ensure key standards and accreditation by the same institution;
- Create more medical training facilities in all disciplines of national physical and mental health care to reduce the ratio of health care practitioners to citizens;
- Ensure that the national health training curriculum increase experiential and practical learning in all health disciplines and institutions in all districts, and oblige all statutory bodies to oversee, monitor and enforce the implementation of increased practical training;
- Overhaul the current health management system by re-evaluating the conditions of work of health care practitioners, and ensuring that suitable accommodation and social amenities and facilities are available for rural health care practitioners and their families;

- Implement an additional allowance incentive for medical practitioners doing rural work, which will increase with every year that such rural service is rendered;
- Ensure that all community health care workers are paid a living wage by government and not a mere stipend;
- Increase health education programmes targeting communicable and life-style diseases which will be vigorously rolled these out to communities, including advanced HIV/AIDS and TB education campaigns and programs with the emphasis on preventative healthcare;
- Introduce transparent and progressive employment of Hospital CEO's and senior staff;
- Expand and facilitate increased home-based care for those who cannot access hospitals and clinics due to ill- health, and facilitate the home-delivery of chronic medication for elderly citizens;
- Implement a program that will ensure a mobile clinic for every ward in the country;
- Initiate 24 hour services at clinics to deal with emergencies and to contribute to creating additional employment opportunities in the health care sector;
- Introduce a grant to all citizens who are receiving TB treatment to ensure adequate nutrition which will aid their medical treatment;
- Promote the indigenisation and incorporation of alternative traditional medication for inclusion as part of medical solutions, and assist suitable communities with the establishment of medicinal plant gardens as a cash crop.

5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Problem Statement:

The past twenty years of democracy has seen sub-standard economic growth in South Africa, a steady increase in job losses on a year-by-year basis, as well as increased unemployment and a seeping increase in poverty of the general population despite the spectacular economic enrichment of a select connected few.

The National Freedom Party, in its quest for the attainment of an equitable and just social democratic society for all, acknowledges the responsibility of the state to provide for the well-being of its citizens, and to create economic growth and wealth

for the benefit of society. The current obstacles to economic development and lack of coherent planning needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency, and will require a firm commitment to economic growth by government, the private sector and labour.

We commit ourselves to:

- Review the mandate of funding institutions to focus less on narrow commercial viability and more on economic development which has as its core objective not only the creation of business opportunity and profit, but also development that will generate social benefit in conjunction with increased employment;
- Tighten the regulation of exchange control, expand international trade and introduce subsidies and incentives for vulnerable key sectors such as agriculture and textile, and industries that are under threat of imports that are subsidised in their countries of origin;
- Restructure the existing tender system which has been abused by corruption, implement a new approach that will enforce compliance with legislation to ensure a transparent and accountable process, and prohibit any politician and government employee from being awarded a tender from government;
- Encourage the limitation of work to be outsourced at municipal level so as to ensure that local municipalities are able to create more permanent and sustainable employment opportunities to benefit the local communities;
- Scrap labour brokering in its entirety to promote job security;
- Enact legislation that will ensure prioritising South African interest in the awarding of all new mining licences, and make it mandatory for South African share-holding where such license is granted to a foreign owned company or enterprise;
- Introduce volunteerism at local municipal level with a stipend incentive component to serve as means of entry into the mainstream economy by developing marketable skills amongst volunteers;
- Support ssme's as a primary source of employment creation by creating an environment that reduces bureaucratic requirements for the creation and establishment of ssme's;
- Tighten and increase enforcement of legislation, taxation, ordnances and by-laws that regulate the establishment and operation of small scale business with particular reference to foreign nationals who conduct such business;

- Encourage companies to assist in the development of adjacent local communities as an integral part of their social and labour planning and to increase their level of corporate social investment.

6. YOUTH

Problem Statement:

Our youth is the greatest asset our country has, yet twenty years into democracy our youth are more marginalised than ever before, and we as a country face the real threat of leaving behind a lost generation on our collective conscious if we fail to turn that marginalisation around.

To alleviate the burden of an uncertain future for our youth, a national strategy must be developed that will draw on the input and participation of young people in its design and in its implementation. Such strategy needs to take into account the challenges faced by the youth in an emerging social democracy and to create an environment where the youth can take their rightful place as architects and builders of their future.

We commit ourselves to:

- Empower young people through increased and accelerated skills development programs, and creating employment opportunities specifically for newly skilled young people as a matter of highest national priority;
- Systematically increase the proportion of young people in the public sector to achieve an end goal of at least 50% youth employment, and to review progress made towards achieving this goal every five years;
- Actively support and expand the youth wage subsidy as a way of combatting high unemployment amongst young people;
- Establish an integrated sport and creative arts infrastructure for the youth at local and district municipal level to ensure that the youth have a meaningful outlet for their artistic and sport abilities;
- Ensure that at least one ministerial position in the Presidency is allocated to a young person to make sure that the voice of young people are heard at cabinet level.

7. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Problem Statement:

At the dawn of our newly born democracy in 1994, we all yearned for the opportunity to live our lives in dignity in a safe and secure motherland, yet, twenty years into our democracy we are faced with unprecedented levels of crime and violence. The savage and brutal nature of the crime is a clear indication that the basic safety and security of our people has been severely compromised, and that the state is failing in its primary duty of assuring the safety and security of its citizens.

The collapse of effective crime control has been systematic, characterised and largely driven by the appointment of incompetent police officials, and rampant corruption within the very same structures and organs of state which are entrusted with assuring the safety of the people.

Manifestation of this collapse is evident in the extraordinary high levels of domestic and sexual violence, the appalling national murder rate and in particular, the gruesome brutality of rape and murder of women and children, continuous taxi and gang-related violence, and slack and inefficient border control which has resulted in many people entering South Africa without necessary security and criminal background checks, contributing to an environment for crime to flourish.

We cannot wish away crime, nor can we wish away state induced violence as we have seen at Marikana and during service delivery protests where the state takes lives rather than protect it as provided for in our Constitution. The National Freedom Party proposes that the entire national safety and security situation needs to be reassessed to find a way forward, and a multi-departmental approach including key agencies and role such be followed to develop a turnaround strategy and reclaim the safety and security of person and property we are constitutionally entitled to.

We commit ourselves to:

- The appointment of relevant key members of the security cluster should be transparent and done in a way that will result in the best qualified person with a proven track record for the position being selected rather than cadre deployment,
- A national review of the conditions of service and remuneration of the employees and officers of the court, policing services and correctional services, believing that through creating a conducive working environment, such employees and officers will take pride in delivering the best service possible and reducing the temptation of corruption;
- Encourage the increased formation and expansion Community Policing Forums (CPF's) in urban areas, and make funding available to assist CPF's in the execution of their tasks;

- Draw on the broader community for reservists, and volunteers to assist in offices, with a view of enhancing police visibility in urban areas, and to ensure that reservists who qualify are absorbed into the formal structures of the SAPS after twenty four months of proven service;
- Liaise closely with traditional authorities and the SAPS in rural areas to find ways in which community safety can be increased;
- Increase the number and resources of permanent satellite police offices, especially in rural areas, and moveable mobile offices in dense informal settlement areas;
- Re-align and invigorate police training to serve the needs of communities, ensuring that police officers who do foot patrols undergo regular physical fitness training to ensure that they can physically execute their duty as is required of a police officer;
- Ensure that police officers who are deployed to serve in public order policing units are sufficiently trained in modern forms and tactics of public order policing, and undertake not to use the SAPS for any purpose other than community service and the maintenance of law and order;
- Tighten border control and implement a program of border fence maintenance and SANDF border patrols to stem the tide of illegal immigration currently experienced in South Africa.

8. TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Problem Statement:

South Africa has a unique system of governance where traditional leadership is recognised side-by side with elected leadership, and our Constitution envisages that traditional leaders have a crucial role to play in the day-to-day governance of the country. Yet, after twenty years of democracy, and despite the devolution of selected powers and functions, traditional leaders have not yet taken their rightful place in the governance of their respective areas of traditional authority.

We as the National Freedom Party believe that traditional leaders have a far more important role to play in assisting our society to develop than what is currently the position. The close historical ties which bind traditional leaders to the people is a rich resource which can be drawn upon to develop rural areas and to provide a rallying point for our shared cultural heritage. With the full participation of Amakhosi, we can find a unique balance in our governance which will ultimately be of benefit to the people.

We commit ourselves to:

- Ensure that traditional leaders are given full participating and voting rights in local municipalities which fall within their area of traditional leadership;
- Encourage a close working relationship between local councillors and traditional leaders at municipal level so that meaningful and optimum development planning can take place;
- Make it mandatory to include traditional leaders in the planning of all development projects which fall within their area of traditional leadership, and employ the ward induna where such a project is rolled out to ensure close liaison with the community;
- Provide traditional leaders with adequate funding and resources to enable them to fulfil their duties to their communities, irrespective of their political affiliation;
- Encourage industries to liaise closely with traditional leadership when planning their future operations, and ensure that central government makes available incentives for industries who partner with traditional leaders and local communities, and who are willing to decentralise most of their functional business to operate, and be based in, identified rural areas.
- Liaise closely with traditional authorities to facilitate the building of dams in rural areas to secure permanent and sustainable sources of water supply for rural communities.

9. GOVERNANCE

Problem Statement:

Governance of the people is the sole duty and prerogative of the state, and the people are at the mercy of those who exercise the powers that are given to them through their vote. There is an agreement between the state and the people, a social contract, where the people undertake to obey the state and pay taxes, and the state undertakes to govern in a just, transparent and equitable manner for the benefit of its entire people.

Our transition from a new-born democracy into a modern social democratic state over the past twenty years has exposed serious flaws in the way our country is being governed. Such irregularities, coupled with generally ineffective civil service and a

sad neglect of national infrastructure results in the people of South Africa being deprived of effective, transparent and just governance and service delivery.

At the heart of the insufficient governance of our country lies the scourge of corruption which must be rooted out with uncompromising ruthlessness.

We commit ourselves to:

- Fight and eradicate all forms and instances of corruption from all levels of government without fear or favour;
- Establish a dedicated Corruption Task team with independent prosecutorial powers and status similar to Chapter 9 institutions to exclusively investigate and act upon both government and private sector related corruption;
- Prioritise the development of a comprehensive code of conduct and performance management framework that will ensure collective performance and accountability of all public servants and representatives;
- Decisively and speedily discipline and dismiss any public or civil servant found guilty of corruption or contravention of the respective codes of conduct; and stipulate that no person who has ever been convicted on any charge of corruption, theft or fraud ever be entitled to hold public office;
- Promote high standards of ethical conduct, through the development of a monitoring and evaluation system along the model applied in private business, for all public servants and representatives;
- Introduce periodic life-style audits for all public servants and office bearers, drawing on the data held by SARS;
- Ensure an accreditation or licencing system for all professional codes to ensure quality management standards for all critical trades and professions, in order to improve the skills base from which the state and civil society can draw;
- Strengthen the independence of the Chapter 9 institutions, such as the office of the Public Protector, and to review the funding model of these institutions to ensure increased viability, robust action and optimum access to its services by all South Africans;
- Establish an ad hoc multi-sectoral commission to oversee the appointment of the National Director of Public Prosecution and other senior appointments in Chapter 9 institutions;
- Protect and maintain the independence of the electronic and print media and resist any attempt to exclude the 'public interest' clause from any proposed

legislation that seeks to regulate the flow of information and hinder effective whistle-blowing on corruption and other irregularities which reduces the quality of governance in our country.

10. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL RELATIONS

Problem Statement:

South Africa has, since it entered the era of democracy, occupied a prominent position in regional, continental and international institutions and platforms, and expanded its diplomatic presence to the most visible level it has ever been internationally. Whereas this expansion in international relations has brought benefit in the form of a host of treaties, agreements and ratification of international conventions, the management thereof leaves much room for improvement.

A key aspect of South African international relations also centres on the use of our military forces outside the borders of our country. Whereas the National Freedom Party acknowledges the key contribution to peacekeeping that our armed forces can make regionally and internationally, we say that never again should the blood of our soldiers flow on foreign soil where they were not part of a sanctioned regional or international force as recently happened in the Central African Republic.

We commit ourselves to:

- Ensure that human rights remain the mainstay of our foreign and regional relations, and for South Africa to be more outspoken on issues of human rights violations internationally, and in Africa in particular;
- Place a restriction on external military agreements and actions in which our armed forces participate, so that such military participation only be possible when it forms part of a broader formally recognised regional or international intervention;
- A thorough review all existing regional, continental and international trade, military and other agreements to ensure that South Africa complies fully and benefits optimally from such agreements;
- Ensure that all foreign aid given by South Africa is done in a transparent and accountable way, being mindful of the pressing poverty and need which exists in our country;
- Ease foreign exchange controls to make it easier to raise funds internationally for development.

11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Problem Statement:

Ever since the deregulation of the public transport sector prior to the birth of our democracy, taxi violence has been endemic in South Africa. After twenty years of democracy, the government has failed dismally to maximise the potential of the taxi industry as a unique indigenous response to the public need for transport. Equally, the government has failed to rise to the occasion to maintain and develop the infrastructure inherited from the previous dispensation, and current public transport is generally of poor quality and expensive.

We commit ourselves to :

- Subsidise the Taxi industry and to formalise the employment condition of taxi drivers and their assistants to bring it in line with prevailing labour related legislation;
- Ensure that all District municipalities have an office dedicated to deal with all taxi related issues, such as applications for operations permits and localised conflict dispute resolution mechanism;
- Explore ways to expand the public transport infrastructure with the least costs to the state and the most benefit for the majority of people, rather than the state pouring vast resources into the upkeep of parastatal institutions which are competing economically with the private sector.

12. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Problem Statement:

The ultimate responsibility for the well-being of the most vulnerable citizens and people in society rests with the state. The South African response to the social needs of vulnerable people has largely centred on the extension of social grants in various forms. Whereas the National Freedom Party supports the extension of grants in deserving instances, we are also mindful of the fact that grants address the symptoms of social vulnerability but do not reduce the causes of such vulnerability.

We commit ourselves to:

- Increase child-support grants to Five Hundred Rand per month per child to keep pace with the continuous rising costs of feeding and caring for children;
- Introduce a widow support grant consisting of food vouchers for a limited period upon the death of a breadwinner, and encourage widows to participate in local co-operative economic activities;
- Increase pension for the elderly as well disability grants in order for such persons to be able to live a life of dignity;
- Reduce the pension age for women to the age of fifty-five;
- Launch a program of building old-age homes in rural areas;
- Develop a program to introduce skills for people with disabilities at local municipal level so as to afford them a dignified degree of autonomy within society to which they are entitled.

13 WOMEN, CHILDREN & THE ELDERLY

Problem Statement:

Women had historically borne the brunt of victimisation in South Africa, and have been marginalised politically, economically and socially on many levels. Twenty years of democracy has done very little for the full emancipation of women in society, and current levels of violence against women and children are higher than ever before, and more brutal in nature than ever before.

The violence against our children and the horror of child rape is a collective shame which we as South Africans have to bear.

We commit ourselves to:

- Call for a referendum on the death penalty for instances of rape and murder of women and children
- Create community based safe houses for abused women and children; for elderly women who are in need of physical security and care, and for newly orphaned children