

# Independent Democrats

Election Manifesto 2009



Independent Democrats

**Be a Part of the Solution.**

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## Letter from the President

Dear fellow South African,

This manifesto is about you. It is about fighting for your rights and finding solutions to your problems. The Independent Democrats wants a South Africa that allows you to live your life fully and freely, where you can realise your dreams. A South Africa free from poverty, crime and unemployment, where you are given excellent healthcare, the dignity that comes with having a home and the opportunities that come with education.

The ID has built a consistent track record in speaking truth to power on the most important challenges facing our country. What is important to us is fighting for the right thing irrespective of who we have to take on.

While we believe that standing up for your rights is important, it is not enough. We also need to offer solutions. The ID's approach is and always has been a positive one, of finding solutions. All the way through this manifesto we outline practical solutions that will make your life easier, better and safer.

We believe in people-centred development, where leaders listen to you and give you the opportunity to be involved in decisions about the development of your community, town and city. Wherever we govern, that is our approach.

So, we invite you to be a part of the solution. By voting for the ID you vote for the vision and solutions in this manifesto. It's a vote that will fight for you and offer solutions to your problems.

Be a part of the Solution. Vote ID.

Thank you.

Patricia de Lille

President, Independent Democrats

## **The ID's Guiding Vision: Fighting for your Rights, Offering Solutions.**

The Independent Democrats has consistently fought for your rights and offered solutions to some of the most important challenges facing our country. Instead of complaining and feeling powerless, the ID believes that all of us can be a part of the solution by becoming actively involved in building and further developing our country. In achieving this vision the ID believes that we need to bridge the many divides that still exist in our country, allowing every South African to realize their full potential and contribute to a great and prosperous South Africa.

We recognize that South Africa has emerged from a tragic past where our nation was brutally divided and the majority of our people were oppressed and denied their basic human rights. This legacy is reflected in the gross inequalities that continue to cut across all aspects of our new nation, with only a few deriving the socio-economic benefits of our new democracy. The ID is determined to build an inclusive nation, where every South African is given the skills, resources and prospects to meaningfully contribute to the shared prosperity of our nation. In achieving this vision the ID is informed by the three principles of Equality, Security and Prosperity.

**Equality** - The ID believes that the gross inequalities in our country are undermining our new democracy and our attempts at building social cohesion. We must put more effort into bridging these divides which cut across race, gender and class. These divides must be bridged both through redress measures and by giving the present generation the skills, resources and prospects to succeed on an equal footing. Government efforts have not been sufficient in this regard and inequality has by some measures in fact become worse. While some have been able to enrich themselves, the majority of our people have still not been able to free themselves from the grip of poverty.

**Security** – The ID believes that true security can only be obtained in the country when our people are liberated from fear. This fear is felt both by people not being able to provide for their families as well as by people fearing that their lives and possessions will be taken from them.

**Prosperity** – The ID envisions a country in which everyone can live a prosperous life free from poverty and social decay. This prosperity must also be based on the sustainable usage of the country's natural resources so as to ensure the continued prosperity of future generations.

## **The ID's Top Ten Solutions for making South Africa work for you**

Our manifesto is filled with solutions that will improve your life and build a great South Africa. Below is a summary of our Top Ten Solutions from our manifesto:

**1) Provide a Minimum Income Grant funded through taxation on luxury goods and sin taxes.** This grant would be provided to all poor South Africans so that nobody falls through the social security net. It would lift millions out of poverty and stimulate local economies and businesses by channelling money into resource deprived communities. This would give all South Africans a stake in our economy and help end the cycle of social decay, despair and violence that so many communities experience.

**2) Create jobs by massively boosting small business development and tackling youth unemployment** (which is currently at 70 percent) **by providing wage subsidies** to work seekers between the ages of 18 to 25. This would have the effect of giving businesses a real incentive to hire first-time work seekers. The ID would decrease the costs of doing business by cutting red tape and providing quality infrastructure such as affordable telecommunications and public transport.

**3) Position South Africa as a world leader in renewable energy and create thousands of jobs.** The ID would build a sustainable energy future, which achieves the twin objectives of energy security while reducing our contribution to global climate change. We would achieve this by democratizing energy through ending Eskom's monopoly by opening up the grid and giving feed-in tariffs for renewable energy. The ID would position South Africa as the world leader in solar energy, by giving production incentives, scaling up investment in Research and Development and crafting an industrial policy that can support industries across the value chain and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

**4) Fight Crime by boosting the Police Service to 200 000 and employing 5000 more social workers** to address the socio-economic problems in our communities, which are creating the conditions for drug-abuse, teenage pregnancy and crime to flourish.

**5) Extend the rollout of ARV's, introduce National Health Insurance and fill the 55 000 vacancies in the Health Sector** to ensure that everyone has access to quality and affordable health care.

**6) Provide all schools with infrastructure within 2 to 5 years, improve teaching and introduce a Child Education Grant.** Within two years we would ensure that every school has access to electricity, water and sanitation and within five years every school has a library, functioning science laboratory and free internet connectivity. Teachers would be given training, performance bonuses and those that are unwilling or unable to teach our children would be taken out of the system. The ID would introduce a Child Education Grant for poor learners at both primary and secondary school which would cover school fees, transport and uniforms.

**7) Institute a comprehensive rural development strategy that rolls out basic services, supports farmers and builds local rural markets.** The ID would no longer allow you to be treated as a second class citizen if you live in the rural areas. Currently 60 percent of South Africans who are living in poverty reside in rural areas and are disadvantaged by not having access to basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity and access to emergency medical care.

**8) Cut wasteful government expenditure on the Arms and Nuclear industry and save the taxpayer billions.** The Government has already spent R8 billion on the PBMR nuclear experiment with nothing to show for it, and has subsidised the arms manufacturer Denel to the tune of R5 billion. The government has plans to squander a further R12 billion on the PBMR along with R700 billion on conventional nuclear power over the next 20 years. The ID says taxpayer's money must be used more effectively to create jobs and invest in sustainable energy sources.

**9) Fill all vacancies in the public service and fire incompetent officials and Ministers that fail to deliver.** The ID would fire Ministers if their departments roll-over budgets or if they receive qualified audits for two years in a row.

**10) Continue to fight for the realisation of constitutional rights, especially those of the poor, people with disabilities, women and children.** The ID will continue its strong fight against corruption and for politically independent institutions, and would reinstitute the Scorpions and set up a Commission of Inquiry into the Arms Deal.



## **Making our Constitution work for you**

The Constitution must be upheld and defended as the founding document of our new democracy. As we set about building a new society it is imperative that we never lose sight of the values that inspired the struggle against apartheid. The ID believes that the Constitution entrenches these values and it is a document that we are all bound and protected by. The ID has an excellent record of fighting for your rights and will continue to make South Africa's Constitution work for you.

There are simply too many South Africans that have not seen their constitutional rights fulfilled, such as those relating to health, water, housing, electricity and social security. Government has been found guilty of violating the Constitution on a number of occasions and has often not implemented the rulings of the Constitutional Court. The ID will ensure that government lives up to the social contract embodied in our Constitution.

Recently, there have been worrying signs in the way in the ruling party has challenged the constitutional provision around the separation of powers and the important principle of an independent judiciary. The ID will fight all attempts by the ruling party to amend the Constitution to serve its own narrow political interests. We will continue to hold the ruling party to account and we will not be afraid to take the government to the Constitutional Court when we believe that the constitutional rights of any South African are being violated. Patricia de Lille has taken the government to court on a number of occasions proving that the ID will stop at nothing to fight for your rights!

## **Making our Institutions work for you**

Arising out of our constitutional order was the establishment of the Chapter 9 institutions. These are institutions that act as independent watchdogs of our constitution. They include the Human Rights Commission, the Public Protector,

Commission on Gender Equality, Independent Electoral Commission, Auditor-General, ICASA and the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities. Unfortunately, as the Review on these Chapter 9 Institutions revealed, many of them have not performed these oversight duties optimally due to either institutional constraints or a lack of significant independence from the ruling party. The Public Protector for instance has always taken a soft line on ruling party corruption, such as when it exonerated the ruling party from any wrongdoing in the infamous Oilgate scandal where R14 million of public money was funnelled to the ANC's 2004 election campaign.

The ID believes that for our State institutions to operate optimally they should be completely independent of party politics. The ID would put an end to destructive political deployments into key State institutions, particularly those that are entrusted with the important task of keeping the government accountable. No longer can the State be regarded as the personal fiefdom of the ruling party, where appointments are made on the basis of political affiliation rather than on the ability and commitment of the person to perform their job.

### **Making Democracy work for you**

We need to constantly evaluate our multiparty democracy and ensure that the systems and institutions underpinning it are performing for the benefit for all South Africans. In this regard, the ID has been at the forefront of advocating for both changes to our electoral system and for proper regulations concerning political party funding.

### **Electoral Reform**

The ID supports the recommendations of the Van Zyl Slabbert Commission on Electoral Reform where it is stated that South Africa should adopt a mixed system of both proportional representation and constituency. This system would ensure that our public representatives are far more accountable to you

rather than simply the dictates of their party while at the same time ensuring that the current diversity of political party voices is protected. The ID has asked a number of parliamentary questions on this issue and has made strong arguments to the ruling party to change the electoral system.

### **Political Party funding**

The ID believes that the current free-for-all system with regards to political party funding is a huge threat to our democracy and good governance. As there are currently no regulations concerning political party funding, a number of scandals have occurred in this area such as the infamous Arms Deal and the Oilgate scandal. These are just the scandals that are known, and the current secrecy around party political donations means that many more underhand dealings could be taking place. In addition, the absence of funding regulations has led to the privatization of our democracy where the influence of money becomes more important than the needs of voters.

The ID wants political party funding to be regulated as a matter of urgency, where donations over a certain amount are publicly disclosed. In addition, a multiparty democracy institute needs to be set up which can act as a conduit for donations to political parties. In this way, companies and individuals can be prevented from buying political influence and favour from political parties. The ID also wants a cap on the amount of money that a political party can spend in an election campaign. It is simply immoral for political parties to be spending hundreds of millions of Rands on an election campaign when half of our population still lives in unbearable poverty. This would also be the most effective way of levelling the political playing field and ensuring that our democracy genuinely serves the interests of the voters. The ID has asked a question to the President concerning this issue and on the basis of his response tabled a motion in parliament calling for the establishment of an ad-hoc multiparty committee to formulate party funding regulation.

## **Making government accountable to you**

Government has become less responsive and accountable to all of us. Every year many government departments and municipalities receive qualified audits and are unable to spend their budgets while the needs of our people grow. Government Ministers that do not perform are allowed to keep their high paying jobs while all of us suffer the results of their incompetence. A prime example of this was the electricity crisis, which cost our economy R50 billion and yet not one Government Minister was fired! The ID would fire incompetent Ministers who fail to do their jobs.

The thousands of service delivery protests that have occurred around the country over the past few years is a sign of the growing dissatisfaction that our people have with the slow pace of delivery. It is also clear that the divide between our people and political representatives is growing wider. Corrupt Members of Parliament who stole millions from South Africans in the Travelgate scheme are shamelessly allowed to keep representing the voters. We should be putting criminals in jail - not in parliament. Unpopular legislation like the disbanding of the Scorpions is rammed through parliament with the voices of the people simply being ignored in the process.

The ID believes that on particularly contentious pieces of legislation, which are not constitutionally proscribed, greater use of referendums should be used to gauge the public's view on the issue. The ID argued that a referendum should have been held on the legislation disbanding the Scorpions, something which the ruling party refused to do as they wanted to dissolve it regardless of what the public thought.

## **ID'ology – A Social Democracy that makes everyone part of the solution**

The ID's ideology can be broadly defined as Social Democratic and is in line with the spirit of Ubuntu. Essentially Social Democrats support the power of the market but also maintain that its excesses need to be regulated so as to achieve certain societal outcomes. In particular, Social Democrats believe that unbridled capitalism will simply lead to increasing inequalities and that certain

progressive measures need to be instituted by the State to prevent this scenario. This could include a developmental state with an extensive social security system, progressive taxation, and large government investments in education, health care and the social well-being of its citizens.

Social Democracy is to the left of Liberalism and to the right of Socialism. Whereas Liberalism believes in less government, we believe in better government. Whereas Socialism believes in the State replacing the market, Social Democrats believe in the State guiding the market for the benefit of everyone. Social Democrats believe in a social market as opposed to a completely free market – we allow the market to flourish but make it clear that the market also has a social responsibility.

As opposed to liberalism, which believes the individual is the sole basis of society and should be afforded complete freedom, social democrats believe in a social contract existing between government and its citizens. In this social contract, government has a responsibility to ensure that every citizen has the basic necessities such as food, water, electricity, health care and the opportunities to succeed through the provision of education. On the other side of the contract, citizens need to contribute to government through taxes and becoming active participants in their community's development needs. The ID believes that social democracy is in keeping with the philosophy of Ubuntu, where 'a person is a person through other persons'.

The humane and caring values of this philosophy, however, are being eroded as a culture of personal enrichment and a thirst for power is becoming entrenched in the values of our society. The ID maintains that progressive leadership is urgently required to promote the values of a more humane society – where we encourage, help and support each other to become the best that we can be.

## **Economic solutions that work for you**

### **The ID's Economic Vision**

The ID has a progressive economic vision for South Africa: one in which the economy works for all of us and not just a privileged few.

It is an economy in which all of us are given the means to work and our prosperity as a nation is derived from our collective contribution. It is also an economy that provides sufficient support and care for the most vulnerable in our society. The dynamic power of the market is encouraged under this vision, but the State also plays a pivotal role in ensuring that economic growth is directed towards achieving certain shared societal objectives.

The ID's vision is an inclusive one, where primary emphasis is placed on human development and all South Africans are given the opportunity to participate and prosper through a well functioning education system and proper skills transfer. Communities are central to our vision, and the ID wants to create the conditions and mechanisms in which social enterprises can both provide employment and cater for the pressing social needs of all our people. Most importantly, in the ID's vision, people are not simply passive recipients of development but are active agents of their own economic upliftment. The ID therefore stands for genuine people-centred development, where your enormous capacity, and that of everyone else, is unlocked and mobilised to build a great and prosperous South Africa.

### **Economic Challenges**

In order to achieve this vision we need to find solutions to the structural economic divides we face. These structural divides are:

1) The Unemployment Divide – According to the broad definition of unemployment, 41 percent of our South Africans are not working, with the majority of the unemployed being young. This is a huge waste of our country's potential and it is therefore vital that we find solutions to unemployment.

2) The Inequality Divide – Apartheid created a deeply divided society and it is a sad fact that income inequality has in fact not improved over the last fourteen years of democracy and by some measures has even become worse. This inequality continues to divide our country and makes it very difficult to build social cohesion and a shared set of values.

3) The Poverty Divide – Half of our population lives in extreme poverty, many of whom do not receive any social assistance from the government. In addition, over two thirds or roughly twelve million South African children live in poverty stricken households.

4) The Capital/labour divide – Over the last three decades there has been a worrying 40 percent decline in the labour intensity of our economy. It is clearly not just economic growth that South Africa needs, but growth in labour intensive industries to solve the unemployment problem.

5) Big Business/Small Business Divide – The isolationist nature of Apartheid South Africa led to big business conglomerates buying up companies throughout our economy. This has in many instances given big business interests too much control of the value chain, making it extremely difficult for small businesses to enter the market. The ID therefore advocates a more proactive competition policy that can create a more inclusive market.

6) Declining investment – Private investment has fallen from a level of 25 percent in the early 1980s to around 16 percent in 2004. Government investment has also fallen over the last 12 years from 4 percent of GDP to less than 2 percent. Investment is sorely needed if we are going to build the businesses that will create jobs.

7) Infrastructural divide – Our Infrastructural divides must be bridged if all communities are to be given the opportunity to fully participate in the country's economy. Infrastructure investment is not only required to ensure the delivery of basic services to excluded communities but also to provide much needed maintenance of existing infrastructure.

8) Skills Divide - There is a huge skills mismatch in the economy, with critical vacancies existing at the high skills level and very few jobs being created at a

low skills level. The education and training sector therefore has to urgently upskill people to address this if we are to move forward as an economy.

9) Divide between Government and the People - While the ANC believes in State-centred development and the DA believes in market led development, the ID believes in people centred development. It is clear to the Independent Democrats that while both the State and the market are essential actors in development they are inadequate in achieving our developmental objectives unless the enormous capacity of our people is unlocked and built upon.

10) The Social Divide - For South Africa to succeed it is imperative that we build social cohesion, shared values and trust between all of our people.

#### **The ID's Economic Solutions**

As a party with a social democratic ideology, the ID believes that the market mechanism must be allowed to flourish within the economy, but that the government in partnership with the people and the private sector must also play an active part in ensuring that the economy delivers on certain shared societal objectives.

#### **On the Macro-Economic Framework**

Given such huge infrastructural, social and human development backlogs the ID wants government to invest much more in these areas. Budgetary spending can be increased while still keeping the deficit within manageable levels. This spending should be directed at the poor, which will in turn increase consumer demand in the country, spurring on both investment and growth.

The ID will change the mandate of the South African Reserve Bank to develop a monetary policy that is not only conducive to inflation targeting but is also growth enhancing. Interest rates in South Africa have been far too high for a developing country and have in some instances choked off real investment in the economy.

#### **Solutions for Creating Jobs**

The ID would institute a wage subsidy and tax break scheme that would provide incentives for businesses increasing their labour intensity.



The ID would introduce an Employment Impact Assessment for any new businesses on the basis of which they would qualify for tax breaks and credit subsidies.

The ID would position South Africa as the world leader in solar energy, by giving production incentives, scaling up investment in Research and Development and crafting an industrial policy that can support industries across the value chain and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

The ID would stop subsidising wasteful government expenditure on projects that do not create jobs such as the Arms and Nuclear Industry.

#### **Solutions for Small Business**

The ID would reprioritise the work of institutions like the IDC and the development bank so as to ensure that they are also focused on providing finance and support to small and micro enterprises.

The ID would drastically cut the bureaucratic red tape involved in registering new businesses.

The ID would establish one-stop shops within communities that are able to assist young entrepreneurs in establishing new enterprises.

The ID would increase the revenue threshold which businesses need to register as a VAT vendor. We would also investigate exempting service enterprises from being VAT registered in an effort at encouraging labour intensive businesses.

#### **Solutions for Rural Development**

The ID would institute a Comprehensive Rural Development Programme that would ensure that rural people gain access to all basic services such as roads, electricity, health, quality education, water and sanitation.

The ID would improve the pace and quality of land reform. We would institute proper post settlement support to enable new farmers to acquire the skills to turn their piece of land into a viable economic entity.

The ID would also put emphasis on supporting a subsistence plus model of agriculture which provides support and inputs to small scale farmers across South Africa.

The ID would put an end to the corruption and maladministration at the Land Bank and ensure that it provides proper developmental assistance to farmers. The ID would institute measures to support our farmers who are being squeezed by collusion by both the input and the processing industries.

#### **Solutions for improving Delivery**

The ID firmly believes that communities have to be put at the centre of development and must not be treated as passive recipients of delivery.

The ID believes that development needs to be decentralised to community level and that government must play a facilitating role by providing the necessary financial resources and advisory services.

The ID would streamline the channels for funds to be transferred to civil society organisations so that they are able to perform the functions that government is unable to.

The ID would promote partnerships with the private sector so as to utilise all our country's available capacity in rolling out infrastructure.

The ID would immediately set about building the pride of the civil service, ensure more effective management and root out corruption.

The ID would also look to encourage the twin imperatives of transformation and excellence within the public service and ensure that all vacancies are filled with competent people.

#### **Solutions to Encourage Competition**

The ID would ensure that our competition policy is more pro-active in ensuring free economic activity.

The ID would come down hard on any company or individual who is found guilty of defrauding the poor through price-fixing.

The ID would open up key sectors to competition, such as telecommunications and energy generation. The ID believes that it is not privatisation that is needed but competition in order to secure efficiency and lower prices.

## **Solutions for an Education System that empowers you**

### **The ID's Vision for Education**

The ID's vision for education is one where well resourced schools are at the centre of all communities, and are responsive to the broad educational needs of both children and adults. The educational divides of the past are bridged with no one being forced to receive a sub-standard education. Education is placed firmly at the centre of South Africa's long term transformation agenda.

### **The Challenges**

Our educational outcomes are still extremely poor, falling behind world and even standards of many poorer countries.

There is a great divide in educational outcomes which correspond with poverty and race. Government's "no fee schools" policy has been rolled out in a haphazard way.

There is a massive teacher supply and skills shortage. As a result of the apartheid legacy, over 60 000 teachers in South Africa do not even have matric qualifications.

Many schools have massively overcrowded classrooms and teachers have to teach in classrooms with eighty or more learners.

The OBE system is massively resource intensive and requires teachers who are well equipped to implement it. The introduction of OBE has widened the divide in our education system, as less resourced schools have struggled to teach even the basics under the new system.

Rural schools are often the most marginalised and suffer from a lack of infrastructure, teachers and a curriculum that is often inappropriate for their context. Farm schools and learners being denied an education is still an ongoing problem.

There are hundreds of thousands of children with disabilities in South Africa who are currently being denied an education. All children with disabilities need to immediately be given an education and stimulation that corresponds to their needs.

Many of South Africa's schools have become a site of extreme social problems including drugs, violence and teenage pregnancies.

Many higher education institutions, in particular those that were historically disadvantaged, have struggled to maintain their financial viability. In addition, the State has not made available sufficient funds to assist students from poor communities to fund their studies.

### **The ID's Solutions for Education**

#### **Prioritise School Infrastructure Development**

*There are still over 4000 schools without electricity and more than 2500 schools without water and sanitation in our country. 4 in 5 schools in South Africa do not have any form of a library let alone science laboratories.*

The ID maintains that these figures represent a sad indictment on the government and are the most tragic symbol of government's failure to live up to its promises. The ID would immediately prioritise the delivery of school infrastructure and do everything in its power to ensure that every school is provided with the basics to deliver a quality education. The ID would grant concessions whereby the private sector and civil society would be invited to tender on partnerships to deliver school infrastructure and be held accountable for their delivery. Within two years the ID would ensure that every school in South Africa has access to energy. Within the same time period we would also ensure that every school has access to water and sanitation services. The ID would set a timetable for the provision of adequately resourced science and computer laboratories to every school within five years and would ensure that a wireless internet service was provided free of charge.

#### **Confronting the barriers to Education**

*There are still far too many learners in South Africa who are being excluded or discriminated against as a result of their families being unable to pay school fees. Costs such as transport, textbooks, uniforms and nutrition are also proving to be a financial barrier for many poor children.*

The ID would introduce a Child Education Grant which would be administered through the schools and district education officers. The ID believes that a learner from a poor community deserves to be funded no matter which school

they choose to attend. The grant would then be used to cover costs such as school fees, transport, uniforms and textbooks.

### **Expand the School Nutrition Programme**

*Currently the School Nutrition Programme is being rolled out in a haphazard way. In some cases contractors are pocketing money intended to feed hungry children and some schools in the poorest parts of the country are only receiving food on alternate days of the week. The school nutrition scheme is also mainly restricted to primary schools with many hungry children in secondary schools not receiving nutrition.*

The ID would expand the school nutrition programme to cover all primary and secondary schools in poor communities. We would also ensure that the programme is run over every day of the week. In addition, the ID would look at ways in which communities can be involved in providing the food for the schemes so as to both provide nourishment for the children and jobs for the communities.

### **Placing Value in our Teachers**

*Over the past fourteen years there has been an exodus of quality teachers from the profession and the government has not done enough to make it an attractive career option for young students. Many teachers and principals feel overworked and undervalued for the vital service that they are providing our country. In addition there are many teachers in the system that does not possess the necessary skills to provide a quality education to our children.*

In an effort at overcoming our current teacher shortage, the ID would massively expand the recently reintroduced bursary scheme for students wanting to become teachers. It was a big mistake on the part of government to do away with this scheme and we have to rectify this situation. The ID would reintroduce teacher training colleges across the country, to provide more opportunities for people to enter the profession. The ID would perform a skills audit on all our teachers with the intention of upgrading the skills of those teachers who require it. The ID would ensure that teachers are appropriately rewarded for good performance taking into account the specific conditions of their teaching environment.

### **Schools as the Developmental Heart of Our Communities**

*It is widely recognised that for our schools to be successful they need the support of the parents and the surrounding community. Unfortunately many schools are subjected to the same social problems as many of our communities, with a number of schools being vandalised and becoming sites of violence. Many parents are unable to partake in their children's education because they have not acquired the skills of reading and writing. School teachers often feel powerless to deal with the many social problems such as poverty and abuse that affect our children and their ability to learn.*

The ID believes that schools must be a centre of learning for children and nodes of support and care for communities. It is widely recognised that educational outcomes are not only determined by learning conducted in schools but also by the broader environment in which children are raised. Recently our schools have also become sites of violence, in which the pervasive violence in some of our communities have spilled over into the school environment. It is vital for schools to play a positive role in identifying social problems in communities and through the Department of Social Development institute interventions that can address some of these issues. Social workers must therefore be placed at all schools, particularly in communities where there are huge social needs. This would enable schools to assist families in accessing social assistance as well as confronting problems such as child abuse.

The ID would run a massive adult education drive throughout the country, with every school being used at night and over the weekends to provide education to adult learners. Besides providing important skills to adults, this would help their children by providing a more conducive environment for learning in the home.

### **School Management**

*There are some schools in South Africa, even in impoverished areas that do not receive adequate learning resources, where the learners are able to achieve outstanding results. These success stories are in most cases due to an inspiring principal who is able to motivate the teachers and the learners to perform to the best of their abilities. Principals are in many cases the*

*determining factor between a school's success or failure. It is a sad reality though, that this fact is often not recognised by the government, with very little support and training given to principals.*

The ID would institute a comprehensive principal training programme that would impart the necessary skills needed to perform as a principal. The ID would ensure that our principals are remunerated properly and that they obtain performance bonuses. The ID would improve the management of schools on a district level. We would ensure that proper checks of schools are conducted regularly and that district officers respond efficiently to any needs of the school.

### **Inclusive Education**

*It is a sad reality that there are still hundreds of thousands of children with special needs who are not realising their constitutional right to an education. There are not enough special schools in South Africa and children with disabilities are often unable to gain access to a mainstream school due to logistical, institutional or attitudinal barriers.*

The ID believes that government has a responsibility to provide every child with a disability an education or stimulation appropriate to their needs. The ID would build more special schools in the country. We would provide mainstream education to as many children with disabilities as possible. The ID believes that there are some exemplary schools in South Africa who have worked hard at ensuring that they can accommodate children with special needs and we will ensure that all schools make such a transition.

### **Access to Higher Education**

*There are still too many South Africans who are unable to pursue their aspirations of obtaining higher education qualifications. It is critical that more South Africans acquire these skills if we are to achieve our long term goal of building a knowledge economy. It is also critical that our institutions of higher learning maintain high educational standards so as to remain internationally competitive.*

The ID would look into ways in which access to higher education can be extended. Such measures could include the establishment of universities, universities of technology and future education and training colleges in

underserved rural areas. The ID would bolster the amount of money being directed towards the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, thereby allowing more South Africans to fund their education. It is a sad reality that the poor performance of many students at higher education institutions is caused by the breakdown in the schooling system. Ultimately the failings in our schooling system will be addressed as a matter of priority by the ID but in the interim we would encourage higher education institutions to run extensive bridging courses to address any knowledge deficits from our schools.

## **Solutions for building a society that cares for you**

### **The ID's Vision of a Caring Society**

The ID's vision of a caring society is one in which all South Africans recognize and seek to address the enormous socio-economic problems confronting our communities. The ID's vision is a proactive one, in which fear and hopelessness is transformed into hope and empowerment through unlocking and channelling the enormous capacity that rests within individuals and communities. In the ID's vision, everyone who is in desperate need of government assistance receives it, but even more importantly, communities are given the ability to confront their own socioeconomic problems. It is time for us to build a more caring society, where no one, especially our children, have to be gripped by the fear of hunger and deprivation.

### **Challenges**

Half of South Africans continue to live in absolute poverty. Households have moved deeper into poverty while the gulf between the rich and poor has widened.

South Africa has one of the highest levels of income inequality in the world and many of our communities are confronted with the problems of social decay, including violence, substance abuse and a pervading sense of despair.

There are millions of vulnerable South Africans who do not qualify for any social assistance from the State.

Many South Africans who do qualify for social assistance do not receive it due to problems with obtaining documents from Home Affairs.



The cost of living has spiralled upwards, with many of the essentials such as food and fuel increasing exponentially.

There are not nearly enough social workers in South Africa, with the result that they are overworked and unable to respond to the many social problems afflicting our communities.

Substance abuse is reaching epidemic proportions and there is not enough rehabilitation centres to help people break their addictions.

### **The ID's Solutions for building a Caring Society**

#### **Implement a Comprehensive Social Security Net that is accessible to all**

*Currently about 60 percent of South Africans living in poverty between the ages of 14 and 60 do not receive any form of social assistance. Even amongst those who do qualify, they are unable to receive assistance due to the inability of Home Affairs to process their documents.*

The ID would advocate for a Minimum Income Grant, which would ensure that every South African has a minimum income to rely upon. This grant would be set at around R110 a month and would be funded through the VAT system. This means that it would be able to be distributed to everyone but that individuals who consume over a certain amount would in effect not receive its benefit and would rather contribute to its financing. In addition the ID would make it an absolute priority to rectify the problems at Home Affairs and ensure that mobile units are sent to every part of the country.

#### **Training and employing more Social Workers**

*Social workers are at the coalface of dealing with the complex social problems arising out of the extreme poverty that many of our communities are forced to live in. There is currently a shortfall of at least 5000 social workers in South Africa, with the result that social workers are overworked and unable to attend to all the issues.*

The ID would institute a massive drive for social workers, including such measures as a bursary scheme, better remuneration and an education campaign that highlights the importance of the profession to South Africa. In addition the ID would train more child and youth care workers from

impoverished communities and ensure that they are professionally graded. In this way we will unlock the capacity within our communities and allow unemployed South Africans with the necessary passion to contribute to society.

### **Greater Emphasis on Addressing Children's Poverty**

*It is a sad fact that almost half of South Africa's children live in dire poverty. It is estimated that by 2015, one third of South Africa's children that are under the age of 18 will have lost one or both parents due to HIV/Aids. The extended families' capacity to care for such children has been negatively affected by the high levels of HIV/AIDS-related deaths, and the deep poverty that currently characterises much of South African society. Children that are not given a stake in our society are at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour, ultimately leading to a life of crime.*

The ID recognizes that South Africa has to invest in its children if we wish to build a prosperous country that is not beset by the same social problems that we currently face. The ID would immediately extend the child support grant to all children under the age of 18. This would provide greater relief to children and families and go some way in reducing the high school drop-out rate that occurs between 14 to 18.

The ID would institute a Basic Package of Services for poor children. This package would include exemption from payment of school fees, feeding schemes for children and free primary, secondary and tertiary health care.

### **Tackling Substance Abuse**

*Substance abuse is a major problem in South Africa, with some communities struggling to deal with the social evils of drugs like tik. In addition, alcohol abuse is widespread in South Africa and is responsible for the highest number of unnatural deaths. Despite these problems, South Africa has a massive shortage of rehabilitation centres, with many poor South Africans not able to obtain access to facilities, which can help break their addictions.*

The ID would establish many more rehabilitation centres, and make them affordable for poor South Africans. In addition we would ban all alcohol

advertising, which is contributing to destructive alcohol abuse. The ID would levy higher sin taxes on alcohol and use the money to set up rehabilitation centres throughout the country. Alcohol companies have been profiting off the misery of our people for too long and the ID believes that it is now time for them to pay for dealing with their destructive effects.

#### **Greater Assistance for People living with disabilities**

*There are roughly 3 million people living with disabilities in South Africa and they receive very little assistance from the State. Many disabled people who live in rural areas often spend their entire disability grant on transport costs to get to a health care facility. Despite disability being listed in the employment equity act, the unemployment rate amongst people living with disability is extremely high.*

It is important to the ID that people living with disabilities be granted far more assistance by the State and society at large. Firstly, more assistive devices need to be made available such as wheelchairs, hearing aids etc. More care attendants should be trained up to deal with the specific needs of people living with disabilities. Government needs to make more accessible housing and public transport. All public buildings must be made accessible to people living with disabilities. There should also be greater attention paid towards the implementation of the employment equity act as it applies to people living with disabilities.

#### **Partnering with Communities and Civil Society Organisations**

*Due to the incomplete reach of the State, many poverty alleviation initiatives are conducted by community or civil society organisations. In many instances these organisations provide statutory services with very little financial or human resource support from the State.*

The ID believes that money needs to be channelled to those entities that are able to use it best at achieving our societal outcomes. The ID would provide greater funding to CBO's and NGO's who would then be able to extend their social services to more communities. Government must create more beneficial partnerships in ensuring that our communities receive the level of care that they require.

## **Solutions for a Healthier you**

### **The ID's vision for Quality Health Care**

The ID is wants a quality health care system that is accessible, affordable and efficient at meeting the numerous health challenges we face as a nation. The ID envisions a healthy nation where everyone is able to obtain proper nutrition, clean water and an environment that is not harmful to their health. Healthy lifestyles are at the core of this vision with communities taking primary responsibility for preventative care and health professionals addressing emergency medical needs.

### **Challenges in the Health Sector**

South Africa's public health sector is under enormous strain. Many of our public hospitals are not functioning properly with the most basic equipment often not being available or in working order.

Our health care professionals are overworked and demoralized which has led to many of them leaving the public sector and contributing to the 55 000 vacancies in the sector.

It is also clear that South Africa faces a number of complex health challenges such as HIV/AIDS, TB and childhood diseases.

Health Policy has not been effectively implemented and financial and human resources are sorely needed to achieve our policy ideals.

Real per capita investment in health has declined by 14.1% between 1995 and 2002. The public health sector does not currently have the resources to provide satisfactory health care to the majority of South Africans who cannot afford medical aid.

There is currently no effective cooperation between the public and private sector aimed at improving the quantity and quality of healthcare received by the majority of South Africans.

There are huge inequities in the health system with only 34% of total health expenditure being public while 66% is private. The private sector has not been able to provide public health care on behalf of the state due to a closed ordering system that is not suitable for interaction with the private sector. The

public sector therefore has to cope with the enormous strain caused by more and more people making use of its inadequate services.

There are only 35% of doctors catering for 35 million people in public health facilities; while 65% of doctors cater for the 7 million people who are covered by medical aid.

### **The ID's Solutions for a healthier country and a healthier you**

#### **Expanding Access to Health Care**

*Too many South Africans are unable to access quality health care. It is terrible to witness the pain of South Africans who have to wait for many hours and even days in public health care facilities before their conditions are seen to. South Africans who live in rural areas often do not have access to emergency medical vehicles with the result that many people die from conditions that could have been treated.*

The Independent Democrats believes not only in health care for all, but in quality health care for all. It is clear that more money needs to be directed at improving the desperate state of many of our countries hospitals and clinics. This could be achieved through the introduction of a National Health Insurance Scheme with the money being directed at improving the public health care sector. The ID would also ensure that off-road ambulances are made available to rural areas so as to allow people there to gain access to emergency health care. In addition, the ID would build more clinics in under-serviced areas and find innovative ways of attracting health care professionals to serve there.

#### **Confronting the HIV/Aids Pandemic**

*South Africa currently has the highest number of people infected with HIV and the prevalence is increasing. Many rape survivors are still not receiving free antiretroviral treatment due to government inaction. The political will to truly confront this pandemic has been lacking and our efforts at addressing it have been marred by destructive political fights.*

The ID would intensify the roll-out of the ARV Programme by progressively investing in the provision of ARV's and appointing and training the needed staff to treat HIV/AIDS patients. The ID would provide more emphasis and support for Community Health Care Workers. The ID would build the necessary political will to truly tackle this pandemic by spearheading a national campaign whereby all senior government officials, public representatives etc. partake in public HIV tests, where the results remain confidential. The ID would ensure that every government department has an AIDS directorate working with the Health Department in co-ordinating a national strategy. The ID would institute a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of current HIV/Aids education programmes and overhaul those that are not effective.

### **Tackling TB**

*The number of TB cases showed a massive increase in South Africa from 109 328 in 1996 to 255 773 in 2003. Cure and successful treatment rates are disappointing at 53.9% and 67.8% and there is a lack of transparency in the financial expenditure on TB. We have failed to address the conditions (i.e. poverty, lack of adequate sanitation, poor nutrition, etc) that serve as a breeding ground for the disease.*

The ID would unify laboratories under a national collaborative TB detection and treatment plan. The ID would ensure that there is strict financial control and that this is made transparent. Overall, however, tackling TB will require government becoming more effective at addressing the social conditions under which TB is able to thrive. The ID would ensure that issues such as poverty, lack of adequate sanitation and poor nutrition are also dealt with as a matter of priority.

### **Prioritising Child Health**

*According to a Medical Research Council (MRC) study in 2000, South Africa's Infant mortality rates are 60/1000, and under five mortality rates are 95/1000. This means that every hour at least 10 children under the age of five die from a preventable condition. Poor children suffer disproportionately with the poorest 20% of children being four times more likely to die before their fifth birthday compared to the richest 20% of South Africa's children.*

The ID would ensure that all aspects of neo-natal care are evaluated to reduce South Africa's under-5 infant mortality rate. The ID would not be in denial about child deaths nor the conditions that are causing it but rather work tirelessly at addressing them. Primary health care along with the delivery of basic services such as water, sanitation and clean energy would be provided as a matter of urgency. The ID would establish child and youth desks in all government departments to deal with the health and well-being of children and youth in a holistic way. The ID also supports the active engagement of civil society on policy reform concerning the state of child deaths. This policy reform must be carried out by Parliament on an annual basis. The ID would ensure that programmes are put in place to encourage all pregnant women to seek counselling and testing for HIV with appropriate information and access to PMTCT being made available. Adequate support and treatment must also be provided after the birth of the baby.

## **Solutions for a safer and corruption-free society**

### **The ID's Vision of a safe and secure South Africa**

The ID wants a South Africa where you, your family, your friends and everyone else can live peacefully without having to worry about crime. The ID believes that we need to get to the root cause of crime and that in doing so we have to address poverty and inequality, and build a society that truly cares about its people. These factors would reduce the conditions for crime to flourish and along with an effective criminal justice system would ensure that no South African would have to continue living under the fear of crime.

### **Present Challenges**

Crime is affecting all aspects of our society, with huge costs to our economy and the wellbeing of our people. Our high levels of crime, and specifically the high levels of violent crime, is spreading fear amongst our people and compromising the vision that we possess for South Africa.

The different elements of South Africa's Criminal Justice System are not functioning together.

There has been an increase in certain serious crimes over the last 2 years, including rape, cash-in-transit robberies, truck hijacking and robbery at business premises.

South Africa is ranked by the UNODC as having a “high” level of crime in terms of international comparisons and our murder rate is roughly eight times the world average of 5.5.

### **The ID’s Solution for a safe and secure South Africa**

#### **Convene a National Crime Summit**

*The ID believes government’s plans to fight crime often fail because it draws them up alone and presents them to South Africans without obtaining the necessary buy-in from the affected communities. Seeking the advice of business leaders only is a slap in the face of particularly our poor, who, by losing loved ones, are losing far more than profits. Our poor cannot afford private security, electric fences, barbed wire and alarms, which renders them the most vulnerable in society.*

The ID believes that a National Crime Summit must be convened as a matter of urgency. The participants of this Summit should include the public sector, private sector, political parties, religious bodies, NGOs, schools, neighbourhood watches, ward committees, street committees, farmers and farm workers. It is only then that the law-abiding majority can all take responsibility for finding solutions to the problems created by a criminal minority. We urgently need a plan that is owned by all South Africans and not just government and business.

#### **Ensure all Government Departments are held Accountable for Crime Prevention**

*Tackling crime should not be the responsibility of the criminal justice system alone. The ID maintains that we must not only be tough on crime, but equally committed to resolving the social causes of crime. Interventions need to be made at the level of communities so as to prevent children at risk from crossing over into a life of crime.*

Government departments such as social development, sport and recreation, housing amongst others should be given measurable indicators of crime



prevention strategies and must be held accountable for implementing them. These indicators would include measures like the provision of sport facilities, building sustainable neighbourhoods and the provision of alcohol and drug rehabilitation centres. The ID believes that it is important to recognise the multidimensional aspect of crime and that reducing our high levels of crime will require interventions from both the criminal justice system as well as broader social interventions.

### **Greater Transparency and Accountability from the South African Police Service**

*The Government failed to take quick and effective action against the National Police Commissioner who was allegedly involved in corruption and collusion with the criminal underworld. Government is consistently failing to provide accurate crime statistics on a regular basis. There are still many cases of human rights abuses on the part of police officers, many of which are not properly dealt with due to the understaffing and inadequacy of the Internal Complaints Directorate.*

The ID would ensure that only people of the highest integrity are put in to positions of authority in the South African Police Service. The ID would not hesitate to take action against any individual that is involved in corruption so as to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the police service. In order for government to create partnerships with community policing forums the ID believes that it is vital that they take them into their confidence and reveal precisely the trends of crime in their community. This would then help them plan appropriate interventions and monitor the success of their campaigns. Human rights training should be conducted with the police service and those that behave in an unethical manner must be removed.

### **Building Morale in the Police Force**

*Police officers are constantly subjected to severe levels of stress, which has led to an abnormally high rate of suicide. On many occasions police officers are not even able to access the appropriate equipment such as bullet-proof vests, vehicles etc. The level of remuneration of police officers is not adequate given the high level of danger they are constantly exposed to in their line of work.*

The ID would seek to build the morale of the police by firstly increasing their salaries and offering them benefits such as housing subsidies. The ID would also ensure that all police officers undergo mandatory counselling on a regular basis so as to identify and treat any psychological stress they encounter as a result of their work. The ID would ensure that every police station is equipped with the needed resources for police men and women to perform their jobs safely and effectively.

#### **More Effective and Visible Policing**

*Currently there are large gaps within South Africa's police service. There is not enough visible policing along with a dearth of detectives who are urgently required in order to ensure that cases are brought to court. Our forensic laboratories are severely under resourced which contributes to our low conviction rate.*

The ID would immediately set about training and recruiting detectives as well as forensic scientists. We would expand the South African police service to over 200 000 police men and women so as to ensure that all South Africans can obtain the necessary protection they are entitled to.

#### **Adequate Funding for Community Policing Forums**

*Many Community Policing Forums are on the verge of collapse as a result of government not providing the necessary financial and technical resources for communities to truly play a pivotal role in turning back the tide on crime.*

In its latest crime fighting strategy government announced that it wishes to form partnerships with Community Policing Forums. While the ID supports this new approach we also believe that government needs to firstly provide the resources for these forums to function properly. A partnership involves work from both sides and the government cannot expect citizens to play their part if it doesn't live up to its responsibilities.

#### **Provide more Policing for Rural Areas**

*South Africa's rural areas are particularly vulnerable to crime due to their isolation and distance from policing centres.*

The ID believes that innovative solutions and structures need to be set up in the rural areas so as to provide a greater level of service and security to all our rural people.

#### **Greater Regional and International Cooperation**

*South Africa has unfortunately become a haven for many organized crime syndicates that have links throughout the Southern African region and the world.*

The ID would foster greater international co-operation in fighting such scourges as the trafficking in women and children and the international drug trade.

#### **More Responsive Justice System**

*Our justice system is not functioning optimally and its independence is constantly attacked by high-ranking officials in the ruling party. Many of our courts are overwhelmed by huge case-loads and citizens are struggling to gain timely and affordable access to justice.*

The ID will continue to stand up and defend the constitutionally entrenched principle of the independence of the judiciary. It is also important, however, for the prosecutorial arm of the judiciary to be independent. This means that magistrates and prosecutors must not be trained together. Judicial officers must be kept separate from prosecutors and regulations and mechanisms must be implemented to ensure this independence. The ID would ensure that justice is available for all with assistance being provided by the State for legal representation in civil, criminal and human rights abuses. The ID would tighten up bail laws that too often see dangerous criminals released back on to the streets. The ID would re-introduce night courts as a way of dealing with the backlogs of court cases. In addition, more small claims courts will be established where retired judges can be brought in to service them.

#### **Ensuring Correctional Service Facilities do not become Universities of Crime**

*South Africa's prisons are hopelessly overcrowded and are not up to the task of reforming criminals. Unofficial statistics report that 80 percent of criminals who leave jail revert back to their criminal ways. Many prisons still detain*

*children despite a court judgement obtained by ID Leader Patricia de Lille deeming such practice unconstitutional.*

The ID would alleviate the overcrowding in our prisons by cutting down on the number of awaiting trial prisoners who are languishing in jail. The ID would ensure that these cases are processed far more efficiently by the justice system. The ID would encourage alternatives to incarceration for less serious offences. The ID would ensure that there are adequate places of safety for children as too many children's constitutional rights are being abused by being kept in prison. In too many instances these children are abused by the elder inmates and are taken further into the criminal underworld.

### **Factoring in the Cost of Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

*The costs of alcohol abuse and its links to criminal activities are not properly accounted for in South Africa. In 2006 for instance, 47 percent of homicide victims were drunk at the time of death. It is recognised that alcohol is a huge contributory factor to social crimes and it is important that we start devising a comprehensive plan to deal with its effects. Drugs are also destroying many communities and stealing the future of our youth.*

The ID would firstly undertake a thorough costing study of alcohol and its linkages to crime. On the basis of this the ID would suggest a variety of interventions to be planned and implemented by government and other stakeholders. In the interim the ID would lobby for effective enforcement of the laws on underage drinking with the police taking a firmer and consistent line. Liquor licenses must be more strictly controlled and restricted to a certain number within a particular community. The ID would also ban all alcohol advertising.

In terms of tackling drug abuse the ID believes that we need to both reduce the demand for drugs and take strong action against those that supply the drugs.

In terms of reducing demand, the ID would institute a comprehensive drug prevention campaign that is targeted at our youth and works in partnership with civil society, parents and young people. The ID would also establish more rehabilitation centres to help people end their addictions.

In terms of restricting the supply, the ID would run a sustained police campaign and introduce tougher laws against drug lords. The ID would rotate police officers in communities so as to avoid corrupt connections being formed with local drug lords.

Communities will be brought into this fight, by police acting on complaints regarding houses where illicit activities are taking place. In this way we can all be a part of the solution in turning the tide on drug abuse in our communities.

### **Building Safe and Caring Communities**

The Independent Democrats maintains that the best way to reduce crime in South Africa over the long term is to build safe and caring communities. We need to invest in our youth and give them opportunities to thrive in life. At the moment our society is simply producing too many criminals, which are spurred on by the sense of hopelessness and breakdown in community values. South Africa's consumerist culture is fostering aspirations for material goods, which in our context of poverty and extreme inequality often cannot be realised except through resorting to crime. It is therefore imperative that we build a different value system whereby the quality of human relations is valued more than our material goods. We need to build caring communities whereby neighbours look out for each other and everyone, especially women, children and the elderly are respected and cared for rather than abused. Only in this way will we break the cycle of violence that is spurring on South Africa's high crime rate. The ID is committed to working with all communities in building the badly needed social cohesion and bridging the divides that the fear of crime has wrought on our society.

## **Solutions for building houses and homes**

### **The ID's vision for Housing**

The ID's vision is to build sustainable communities across the country where every family can have adequate shelter and easily access all essential services that are required for people to live healthy and prosperous lives. The ID wants to bridge the divides which were created by apartheid spatial planning. The ID wants to build a South Africa where communities embody the diversity of our

country and South Africans learn to live together rather than in our own gated communities.

### **Challenges**

Currently only 1.8% of the total government expenditure is dedicated to housing. One of the biggest problems in the housing sector is mobilizing finance for low cost housing. Those earning slightly more than R3 500 per month battle to get private sector top-up funding. Savings, formal credit and private sector investments have not been mobilized enough to supplement the subsidy of those persons who do qualify for one. The poor are also often the victims of commercial micro-credit and traditional loan schemes.

At this point in time rental housing is very expensive in South Africa, leading to overcrowding in flats and people living in backyard shacks. This issue is not recognized in the Government's Housing White Paper.

People that reside in better-developed areas tend to be very antagonistic toward the development of low cost housing as they believe it will have a negative impact on the rates base and property values of their area. In addition, the housing subsidies do not cover more affluent areas and this entrenches apartheid spatial planning while exacerbating the transport problem for many workers.

Housing programmes are implemented in a top-down fashion, where beneficiaries and/or local government aren't empowered enough in the process. Productive, mutually empowering state partnerships between the state and civil society do not feature to the extent that they should in housing projects.

Too many people are not benefiting from the housing subsidies due to fraud and corruption. Some beneficiaries are forced to sell their houses for extra income due to their inability to maintain their homes. The housing backlog is widening as a result of rapid urbanization and the failure of housing programmes to keep it apace. The number of dwellings classified as "inadequate" (mostly shacks) has grown 20% from 1.5-million in 1996 to 1.8-million in 2001. Housing delivery in South Africa needs to double from the

current delivery rate of about 250 000 housing units a year to 500 000 units if the backlog is to be removed. The government's new housing policy continues to emphasise quantity and not the quality of housing.

### **The ID's Solutions for housing**

#### **Transparent and Fair Housing Process**

*It is a tragic reality that the issue of housing has often been used by political parties to divide our people who are desperate for housing. They have been able to exploit the issue because of the confusion created through multiple housing lists and people not being made aware of the process.*

Delivery of houses should be done according to the original housing lists. The ID wants a comprehensive audit of houses already allocated, as well as people that still are on the waiting lists. Housing waiting lists must be transparent so that communities can monitor the application process. In some municipalities housing waiting lists are non-existent, and the ID will call for its restoration and a comprehensive audit of the housing need in the particular municipality.

#### **Provision of Services and Security of Tenure**

*Many informal communities suffer from lack of secure tenure and the provision of basic services. Many of these communities are forcibly removed by the government to make way for housing programmes that they don't end up benefiting from.*

The ID believes that people need to be given security of tenure so as to allow them to plan for their future and invest in their community. Basic services need to be provided to all communities and subsidies need to be made available.

All housing sites must be serviced by government over and above the subsidy, where the subsidy will then be used for the top structure only in order to build a better dwelling. The land must be provided free of charge.

All housing must be energy efficient and have solar water heaters installed so as to reduce the energy costs of the household.

Government should not only build houses, but build communities where there are schools, clinics and other important infrastructure such as proper drainage systems and roads.

### **Greater use of the People's Housing Process (PHP)**

To date, only 10% of all housing delivery has occurred through the PHP. The Independent Democrats wants this programme to be massively expanded.

In this process families are the key decision makers and their skills are seen as the primary resource. Minimum intervention from the state but maximum support is another key feature of this program, along with the fact that families have the maximum choice available.

- PHP ensures that housing delivery takes place in a participatory way.
- The home owner is more conscious of their house as an asset.

Current barriers to this expansion are major policy constraints that include government officials concentrating on the numbers only instead of the development gains that come with the process.

Community trusts should be formed through newly established community institutions or existing NGOs. The trust would then decide which PHP option would work best for its community and obtain the necessary support needed in terms of skills that would be relevant to the project (i.e. builders, accountants, managers, etc.).

### **On Rental Housing**

Rental accommodation can offer the poor a flexible and convenient form of shelter, especially for those who migrate circularly as well as those who cannot bear the costs of living on the outskirts of cities.

The Independent Democrats believe that the government needs to speedily formulate and implement rental housing as a core housing provision measure. With the already gigantic backlog growing bigger by the day it is clear that drastic measures are needed with much more state support. The housing crisis has vast social consequences for South African society and brings about



immense developmental challenges, including water and sanitation, environmental challenges, and health challenges.

Municipalities must target zones for housing that would fit into their Integrated Development Plans. Capital subsidies would have to be obtained from the provincial government and other needed finance would be accessed from the Renewal Debt Program.

Municipalities would be required to encourage investments into these development zones with planning and rates concessions, and public investment in the environment.

Subsidies from local authorities would reduce the rents of poor families.

### **On integrating our communities and Bridging the Apartheid Divides**

It is high time that South Africa follows the global trend of having rich and poor communities living together so that we can bridge the apartheid divides and build the sorely needed social cohesion in our country. The ID would support and initiate innovative measures that can make our communities more representative of the diversity of our country.

## **Solutions for a Sustainable Energy Future**

### **The ID's Vision of our Energy Future**

The ID has a bold vision for the energy sector of South Africa in which hundreds of thousands of jobs are created through harnessing the enormous potential of South Africa's abundant renewable energy resources. It is a vision that sees South Africa at the forefront of the global energy revolution, where we can strategically position ourselves as a leader in certain technologies, particularly solar thermal and solar photovoltaic.

### **Present Challenges**

Government has failed us and our economy by not adequately planning and investing in our energy infrastructure. This failure to act despite constant

warnings has a projected cost to the South African economy in excess of R50 billion and has created unnecessary hardships for many citizens. The electricity crisis has effectively squandered one of the few comparative advantages that South Africa possessed, namely, cheap and reliable electricity. As a result of the government's mismanagement of the energy sector South Africa's energy supply will be under severe strain for at least the next seven years, forcing us to live with the constant threat of black-outs. In addition to this, it is a sad fact that 30 percent of households in South Africa do not have access to any form of electricity.

In the past, South Africa's economy has been largely built on a minerals-energy complex, where cheap electricity was used to mine our country's vast mineral resources. Unfortunately this form of development, while generating some benefits, has also come at a huge cost to our natural environment. It is for instance estimated that over 4000 deaths can annually be attributed to the pollution emanating from our coal-fired electricity production.

South Africa's reserve electricity margin has dropped from 34 percent in 1994 to only 7 percent in 2008. This has brought with it the constant threat of black-outs and has constrained our economic growth prospects.

It will take at least seven to ten years to build new coal fired and nuclear powered generating plants, thereby putting our security of electricity supply under threat in the short to medium term.

The vast majority of our electricity is generated by burning coal with massive local, regional and global pollution impacts.

South Africa's economy is extremely energy intensive and the 14<sup>th</sup> biggest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world.

Eskom wants to undertake a massive new build programme which will cost in excess of R1.3 trillion over the next 25 years and runs the risk of substantially increasing our foreign debt.

The price of electricity is being raised with little concern for the impact on the poor.

### **The ID's Plan for a Sustainable Energy Future**

The ID has a progressive plan for meeting South Africa's future energy needs. We would alleviate our immediate electricity crisis through employing two measures. Firstly, we would run a comprehensive and well-resourced energy efficiency campaign that reduces the energy intensity of our economy. Secondly, we would fast-track the implementation of renewable energy projects that can be brought on stream within the next few years. This will be achieved through opening up the grid and paying appropriate tariffs for different renewable energy technologies.

The ID totally rejects the current government proposal of spending R700 billion on contracts with foreign companies to build nuclear power stations. This ill-conceived plan will only plunge South Africa into huge foreign debt while creating minimal jobs for South Africans. In the long-term, South Africa could utilize this money to build up a renewable energy industry that could provide for most of our energy needs in a sustainable manner while creating far more jobs at a more appropriate skills level.

### **Ensuring Short-Term Energy Security through a Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Campaign**

The most important initiative that government can advance in resolving the short-term electricity crisis is energy efficiency and demand side management measures. Government, however, has not been effective at rolling out this campaign and has struggled to reduce the bureaucratic hurdles involved in obtaining subsidies and incentives for such measures. The current subsidy scheme for solar water heaters is hopelessly inadequate at providing an incentive for their uptake and government will not come close to meeting its target of a million solar water heaters within three years.

The ID would ensure that all responsibility and funds for energy efficiency is removed from Eskom and placed in the National Energy Efficiency Agency. The ID would further ensure that Energy Service Companies (ESCO's) receive approval and funding for their energy efficiency proposals within two months as opposed to the year long wait they are currently subjected to. The ID would institute a comprehensively funded government initiative that would install solar

water heaters in households throughout South Africa. The ID would change the building regulations to make solar water heaters mandatory in all new constructions. At the same time the ID would institute a massive training programme for unemployed South Africans to become skilled in installing solar water heaters. This alone should create in excess of twenty thousand new jobs and save more than ten percent of South Africa's electricity demand.

**Open up the Electricity Grid to all South Africans – Democratise Energy and make everyone part of the solution!**

Eskom currently has monopoly control over the South African electricity market. Eskom therefore unilaterally makes decisions over South Africa's energy future and controls both the generation and transmission side of the electricity market, making it very difficult for Independent Power Producers to break into the market.

The ID believes that the electricity grid belongs to all South Africans and not to Eskom alone. The ID would open up the grid to other energy producers by ensuring that independent power producers are guaranteed a certain price for any energy that they provide.

**Set Realistic Feed-in Tariffs for Renewable Energy**

At present renewable energy generators cannot obtain a realistic price for their energy from Eskom. This is despite the fact that Eskom is running their gas fired turbines off diesel for fifty percent of the time at the astronomical cost of R2.80 a kilowatt hour. Many renewable energy technologies could provide electricity at a quarter of that price.

The ID would immediately announce feed-in tariffs for different forms of renewable energy generation that are commensurate with their production costs. These tariffs would be set in such a way that they would decrease by 10 percent each year so as to encourage early uptake and advances in the technologies. The ID would allow for two-way metering so as to offer households an economic incentive to generate their own electricity using solar panels on their roofs.

### **Position South Africa as a World Leader in Solar Energy**

South Africa receives double the world's average solar radiation, with some parts of the country recognized as the best in the world for solar thermal technologies. Despite this abundant solar resource, South Africa has still not built a single solar thermal plant even though it is a mature technology, which has been producing energy in the United States for over twenty years. Seventy percent of the components can also be built in South Africa, thereby providing enormous opportunities for large scale employment generation. In addition, certain parts of South Africa have excellent resources of pure grade silicon, which is utilized to manufacture photovoltaic panels. The ID therefore maintains that South Africa must implement an industrial policy that can create a thriving solar energy technology industry, which will create huge amounts of jobs while opening up massive future export opportunities.

In addition to solar energy technologies, South Africa has the requisite skills base to start producing turbine blades for the global market. Currently there is a global shortage of turbine blades due to the huge growth of the wind industry and South Africa can benefit immensely from this.

In the longer term South Africa the potential to generate energy from our long coastline through utilizing both wave and ocean current energy. In order to capitalize on this potential more research and development funds need to be channelled to these areas of study by the Department of Science and Technology.

### **Pull the Plug on the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor**

The ID has been an outspoken critic of the government sponsored nuclear experiment called the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor. Over R8 billion of taxpayers money has been wasted on this expensive vanity project with very little to show for it. It is behind schedule by almost ten years and it will require a further R10 billion before the first demonstration plant is even built. In addition this type of technology does not create many jobs and has only made a few nuclear scientists wealthy. Until recently, the ID has been the only political party to consistently oppose this project every time millions of

taxpayers money was wantonly set aside for it in the country's budget. The ID believes that if this money had been spent on solar thermal technology we would already have had a functioning plant producing megawatts of electricity.

#### **Invest in Clean Coal Technology**

It is an unfortunate reality that in the short to medium term South Africa will still depend on coal fired electricity generation for a large amount of its electricity production. Although the ID believes that the transition to a sustainable energy economy can occur fairly rapidly, in the interim all measures will need to be put in place that can reduce the harmful pollution of our coal-fired plants. This would include the installation of scrubbers that can reduce the acid rain problem as well as fluidized bed technologies. In addition, the ID maintains that all new coal-fired power stations need to be fitted with carbon capture and storage capabilities so as to ensure that future carbon emissions can be captured when the technology comes of age.

#### **Implementation of a comprehensive and well-funded Electrification Programme**

The National Electrification programme that was started by Eskom in 1994 initially saw millions of households connected to the electricity grid. This programme, however, slowed considerably from 2000 onwards as Eskom was corporatized and the mandate for electrification shifted to the Department of Minerals and Energy. Currently over 30 percent of South African households do not have access to any form of electricity, many of which are in remote rural areas making the cost of grid connection exorbitantly expensive. Once again the ID maintains that there is enormous scope for renewable energy to provide for the energy needs of such households. In order to make this programme a success though, the ID would provide the requisite resources and set targets for the complete electrification of the country by 2014.

## **Be a Part of Creating the Dream**

### **The ID's Vision for the Arts**

The ID has a progressive vision for the arts and culture sector in South Africa, where all of our artists are given the necessary government support to provide inspiration for our nation building task. The ID sees our artists being at the forefront of promoting change in our society by communicating messages that confront some of our nation's most important issues.

### **Current Challenges**

The ID recognizes that there is a crisis of confidence in the arts and culture sector - the very sector whose inspiration and vision of a better society did so much both at home and abroad to foster the ideals of a non-racial, non-sexist democratic society, and to raise awareness of the injustices perpetrated under apartheid.

The contribution of artists across the world to the liberation movement was significant. Truly, all South Africans owe our artists a debt of thanks. How has the government repaid our artists? By systematically undervaluing their achievements, mismanaging their finances and undermining their very livelihood.

The Independent Democrats believes there is an urgent need for capital investment in the arts to redress the inequalities created during the apartheid era. The use of festivals that continually invest in infrastructure, training and skills transfer is an economically viable and practical method.

### **The IDs Solutions for the Arts**

#### **Increase funding for the Arts and Culture Sector**

The proportion of public money set aside by government for arts funding has always been grossly disproportionate to the needs of the sector, resulting in individual grants always being a fraction of the aid requested. While the ID recognizes that there are urgent demands on the state purse for health, education, housing, job creation and fighting crime, the ID is committed to re-examining budgetary income, and increasing the share of public funding

available to the NAC and the NFVF, in the first place, and the Arts and Culture Ministry in the second.

### **Sound Management of the Sector**

Unfortunately, in the last two years Government has further undermined the confidence and financial probity of the sector, by a series of ill-advised appointments. The ID is committed to an immediate review of the appointment procedures of management with a view to having on the Board and management of all arts funding bodies persons who are qualified, able and representative of the sector, and who enjoy as far as possible the confidence of those who will be the likely beneficiaries of public funding.

### **Effectively Utilising the National Lottery as a Funding Source**

The ID acknowledges that there are other means of stimulating investment in the Arts and Culture sector outside of government, and is fully committed to re-examining these as well. The National Lottery is a huge earner of revenue on a weekly basis, and utilising the present admirable system of application for arts sponsorship from the Lottery - the ID will argue for an increase in the proportion of Lottery revenue available to the arts, as we believe this is an appropriate method of funding which does not financially encumber the state. The ID furthermore supports an immediate overhaul and audit of the present organizational structure of the Lottery, as we believe that its beneficiaries are being hampered by inept financial management.

### **Increasing tax incentives for private-sector sponsorship**

The ID believes that tax incentives both for individuals and for companies who subsidise or sponsor the arts, along the lines presently existing for sports sponsorship, need to be looked at.

### **Establishing an Arts and Business Forum (ABF)**

The ID is committed to encouraging the business and the Arts and Culture sector to find new and imaginative ways of assisting each other with regard to mutual commercial opportunities, and without wanting to manage or manipulate its deliberations or the end results. The ID would facilitate the setting-up of an Arts and Business Forum (ABF). This structure will bring together leading artistic managements, arts practitioners' organizations and business leaders in a regular public conference to seek innovative and



mutually beneficial ways of promoting Arts and Culture. Various corporations have already put in place imaginative methods of promoting the arts; together, the arts and culture sector and business will be encouraged by the ID to seek new ways of promoting and cross-subsiding each other.

### **Prioritising the Arts in South Africa**

The ID believes that as a sector the arts can be very effective in the creation of jobs. The economic potential of the arts sector both as a tourist and an export product is hopelessly under-appreciated by the government. If government has firm policies in place and acts on the importance of the arts, business will follow.

### **Restructuring the Arts and Culture Ministry**

In accordance with the principle of peer control in pivotal arts management positions, the ID is committed to the belief that all appointments in the Arts and Culture Ministry, from the Director-General downwards, should be made with a view to encouraging efficiency, goal-orientation and vision throughout the Department. There is substantial room for improvement in the Department for increased efficiency, financial probity and delivery. There is a perception in the sector, encouraged by a series of recent appointments to high-salaried and vaguely-titled positions in the Ministry, that this Department is top-heavy with over-paid, underachieving bureaucrats. The ID would investigate this to find out whether there is any truth in this perception, and if, so, to restructure the Ministry in favour of efficiency, deliverance and sound financial discipline. The ID is committed to appointing as Minister to this vital portfolio a person who has the following characteristics: (1) he or she shall be well respected by peers in the Arts and Culture community; and have a high and lauded profile; (2) he or she shall have demonstrable and documented managerial experience in a significant branch of the arts; (3) he or she shall be an outstanding, eloquent and passionate ambassador for the riches of South African arts and culture, and thus ambassador for South Africa itself.

### **Fostering Cultural Tourism**

The ID passionately believes in the fostering and development of Cultural Tourism, that is to say, that the arts of South Africa are one of the most outstanding aspects of our national life, and that properly marketed and

publicised, these arts have the potential to be a major creator of jobs and a draw-card for tourists. The ID believe that the Ministers of Arts and Culture, Tourism and the Environment, and Trade and Industry, must co-operate more closely in searching for urgent ways and means of promoting Cultural Tourism - both inside and outside South Africa.

### **Freedom of Expression**

Artists are the torch-bearers of vision. Our artists are grudgingly acknowledged, barely tolerated, generally ignored. The ID believes passionately in our artists, as the bearers of enlightenment, vision and delight to all the people of South Africa. The ID believes that, without vision, the people perish; and artists are the bearers of vision. Without them, we would be spiritually undernourished as well as bereft of visions of betterment. In the continuing search for a better world for all, our artists are the torch-bearers of that vision: they keep the utopian spirit alive in humankind. The ID recognizes that the vision of artists is sometimes uncomfortable for those in power, often, necessarily so. In the interests of fostering a truly democratic culture in South Africa, the ID is committed to maintaining the independence, financial self-sufficiency and visionary vigour of the Arts and Culture sector in all its forms.

## **Sustainable Solutions for our Environment**

### **The ID's vision for our Environment**

The ID firmly upholds the belief that the environment is an integral part of all of our lives by providing the natural resources necessary for us to live. Our vision of the environment is one in which there is greater environmental justice, where there is greater equity in the usage of our natural resources and poor communities are no longer subjected to industrial pollution.

### **Challenges for South Africa**

South Africa is a country blessed with natural resources. It is the third richest country in the world in terms of its diversity of life and it is the only nation that has an entire plant kingdom within its borders. Our seas have a higher habitat and ecosystem diversity than the entire rest of the world as they cover 5 major marine bio-geographical regions. It is therefore clear there is a great

responsibility for us to protect this richness for not only ourselves but for future generations and all of humanity.

In the past, however, environmental policy was drawn up in isolation of other socio-economic challenges facing our country. The Independent Democrats firmly believe that the environment is an integral part of all of our lives by providing the resources necessary for sustainable livelihoods. Contrary to popular perceptions, the economy is a sub-set of the environment and not the other way round.

Equitable access to clean water, land that is able to support agriculture; and air that is free of pollutants that are detrimental to our health are all essential components for building a South Africa that is able to sustain our growing population. By giving priority to environmental issues, the Independent Democrats believes that the principles of equity and justice need to be taken into account as unfortunately it is in many cases the poor who have been denied access to natural resources and the enshrined constitutional right of an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being. It is also in the environmental realm that we have seen some of the worst cases of government corruption as environmental standards have been conveniently ignored in order to fast track industrial and elite developments.

### **The ID's Solutions for the Environment**

#### **Establishment of a Ministry of Sustainable Development**

Historically, the Ministry of Environmental Affairs has been viewed as a soft ministry, which has enjoyed very low priority within the cabinet cluster. It has therefore not enjoyed the importance or budgetary resources that the other ministries have with the result that a largely reactive approach has been taken to environmental issues in South Africa.

The ID would change this pattern by establishing a Ministry of Sustainable Development, which will adopt a proactive stance towards fostering sustainable development in South Africa. This ministry will formulate cross-

cutting policies that will actively transform sectors of our economy into more sustainable enterprises. In doing this it will transform our current economic growth model from being linear in nature to being circular. This means that whereas our economy currently exploits resources to produce products with some of their components then landing up as waste, we will gradually move to an economy in which there is zero waste and all resources are being utilized at a rate at which they can be sustainably replenished.

## **Air**

### **Air Pollution**

The Independent Democrats believe that air pollution is one of our most pressing environmental problems. The government has failed to act in a timely and effective manner in addressing the concerns of communities who live in the pollution hotspots of South Africa. Although the Air Quality Management Act has been passed by parliament in 2004 it has not always been implemented effectively with government often dragging its heels in forcing polluters to comply.

The ID would ensure that the constitutional right to a healthy environment is given absolute priority and government speedily enforces any transgressions. The ID would ensure that the three spheres of government coordinates their efforts so that polluters are unable to escape the full might of the law.

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

South Africa is currently the 14th biggest emitter of the greenhouse gases in the world that are responsible for global climate change. Climate change is one of the most pressing environmental challenges facing the world over this century and in a South African context is predicted to destroy half of our rich biodiversity, increase our water scarcity and threaten low lying areas such as the Cape Flats with sea water intrusion. It is therefore imperative that we put in place measures now to address our greenhouse gas emissions that are predominantly caused by the burning of coal for electricity generation. The only way to achieve this is through increasing our energy efficiency and supporting

the growth of renewable energy technologies.

The ID would lobby for a study being conducted on radiation levels of the surrounding areas of Koeberg Nuclear power station and the nuclear waste disposal site in the Northern Cape as recent studies in the United States has shown there to be a 32.5 percent increase in cancer rates of children living near nuclear facilities.

## **Earth**

### **Return to the Land – Getting Serious about Land Reform**

*It is clear that the government has not been serious about land reform or agricultural development over the last 14 years. The land reform target has become a moving target with every five years the government revising how much land will be redistributed and by when. The government has also not given nearly enough budget to effect a proper land reform process in South Africa. On the other side, it is clear that some farmers have stalled the process by trying to push up the price of their land beyond market value and often only the most marginalized land has been sold making it very difficult for the land beneficiaries to farm productively. We clearly need a new approach to land and agriculture in South Africa.*

The ID would firstly conduct land audits in all municipalities to see what land is held by what entities, public and private. On the basis of the IDP we would then set about procuring land that is needed for specific purposes. The government has not played a proactive role in the land market and has rather waited for land to come on to the market before purchasing it. We need to be more proactive while still living up to the constitutional provision that appropriate compensation must be paid.

Secondly, we would ensure that where possible all unproductive State land that is not being used for a certain purpose is transferred to communities.

Thirdly, the ID would ensure that land reform recipients actually stay on the land rather than only farm on it periodically.

Fourthly, we would provide greater financial and technical support for both land reform recipients and current small scale farmers so that they can create a viable livelihood from farming.

Fifthly, we would prioritise rural development by making the rural areas an attractive place to live through the urgent provision of quality services such as schools, clinics, electricity, water and sanitation and road infrastructure that can open up markets for small scale farmers.

Finally, the ID would review government policy on agriculture, where farmers are currently being squeezed between monopoly prices on the input side with products such as fertilisers and collusion on the processing side that keeps the prices of agricultural produce low while pushing up the prices that consumers pay. In addition there is very little protection in the way of tariffs or subsidies for farmers and they are often unable to compete against the subsidized markets of the North. The ID would therefore institute a comprehensive rural development programme, complete with land reform and beefing up the much needed support to our farming community.

#### **Set Aside more Land for Conservation and Eco-tourism**

The Independent Democrats believe that we should aim to increase the land set aside for conservation to meet the international standard of 10 percent. It is also important for the surrounding communities to be more involved in decision making and sharing of the benefits from national parks as past policy excluded them and generated animosity towards conservation ideals.

#### **Support for Small Scale Farmers**

The current government has placed most of its emphasis on the large scale farming sector while neglecting the needs of small scale producers.

We believe a central component of increasing household food security and building self-reliant communities is through the propagation of food gardens. In

order to encourage such a practice we would be in favour of establishing a large scale permaculture centre of excellence that could train agricultural extension workers to empower rural households to use the resources of their land optimally.

### **Combating Desertification**

Declining soil quality is found to be having a huge impact on nutritional levels in food, making the case for organic farming even stronger. South Africa should be promoting and supporting organic farmers to a much a greater extent, particularly given the increasing demand for organic produce in Europe and the commensurate export opportunities that therefore exist in this sector.

### **Confronting the Dangers of Genetically Modified Organisms**

The Independent Democrats question the reliance on failed models of industrial agriculture that have damaged our soils, rivers and the sustainability of farming. The most recent of these is crops that contain Genetically Modified Organisms. These crops do not increase production and hold unique dangers that have not been properly investigated. We would push for a review of the GMO Act so as to put in place greater measures to protect our biodiversity. We believe that greater access to information should be afforded to the public with regards to both GMO tests and labelling of food products.

### **Promoting Recycling**

The large waste stream in South Africa needs to be urgently addressed as many of the major cities are running out of landfill space. Recycling must be encouraged by instituting user pays principles for all waste generation, from household to industrial scale.

The majority of recycling activities in South Africa are carried out by homeless people who use waste as a way of creating sustainable livelihoods for themselves. It is important that this environmental service is recognised and that these activities are legitimised and that the price that people are paid for

these recycled materials is subsidised. This subsidisation should be directly correlated to the amount of money that local authorities save by having these materials kept out of landfill sites.

## **Water**

### **Demand Side Management of Water**

We recognise that South Africa is a water scarce country and that we need to enact all measures possible to ensure that we conserve this resource properly. Greater demand side management measures need to be instituted such as raising tariffs for high volume users.

### **Improving Water Quality**

South Africa is currently in the midst of a water crisis – something which the government seems to be in a state of denial over. Our water quality has declined considerably due mainly to pollution from mines, industrial activity and inadequate sewerage treatment.

The ID would ensure proper environmental compliance on the part of mining companies. The ID fought hard to ensure that new legislation was passed that shifted environmental authorization from the Department of Minerals and Energy to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The ID would ensure that all disused mines are rehabilitated so that they do not continue to pollute the environment. Where possible, we will ensure that the companies responsible are held liable for such rehabilitation measures. Any future mining activities will be subjected to strict environmental compliance so that we can turn around the terrible environmental legacy that mining has wrought on our country.

### **Installation of Biogas Digesters**

The ID believes that our current system of dealing with sewerage is hopelessly outdated. Firstly, thirty percent of all water that households utilize is used for the express purpose of flushing away human waste, which in itself is a valuable resource. The ID would therefore consider wherever possible



implementing compost toilets. This is especially necessary in many rural areas which do not have any form of sanitation and the human run-off creates the conditions for cholera and typhoid. In addition, the ID would look at installing biogas digesters in municipal sewerage works which can treat waste while providing fertilizer and a clean energy source.

### **Reducing the Negative Effects of Dams**

The Independent Democrats also believe that the guidelines set by the World Commission on Dams need to be adhered to when deciding on the building of any new dams.

### **Bridging the Divides – Building Social Cohesion**

South Africa has emerged from a tragic past where the majority of our people were oppressed through both colonialism and apartheid. This legacy of oppression is reflected in the enormous divides, which have unfortunately become entrenched in our society.

In seeking to build a new society that is based on fundamental human rights it is vitally important that these divides are bridged in a manner that can forge an inclusive nation. The ID firmly believes, however, that it is not enough to simply claim that we are now one nation when many of the inequalities of the last 350 years have been entrenched in the very structure of our society. In order for true reconciliation to occur in South Africa, the ID believes that all South Africans have to be prepared to take concrete action to address these structural inequalities. This is going to require compromise, redistributive actions and a massive display of humanity.

This means that certain transformation policies like affirmative action and Black Economic Empowerment need to be employed in order to address these issues. Unfortunately, however, these policies have in some instances not achieved their desired aims and have in some instances led to the enrichment of a few individuals rather than broad-based empowerment. In other instances, affirmative action, particularly in the public sector, has sometimes been implemented on the basis of a person's political affiliation rather than on their

previously disadvantaged status. This has sometimes had negative effects on service delivery.

The ID believes that we desperately need social cohesion in South Africa, where all of us, rich and poor, black and white, have an understanding of our country's history and a shared vision of where our country needs to go. Too often our politics is based on division and on campaigning for the interests of one or other group. The ID rejects this type of politics, and we believe that we need to come together as a nation and deal with the structural inequalities that prevent so many of our people from being able to play a productive role in this economy. We support transformation that addresses the historical and structural inequalities in our society. Such a transformation, however, must always be done with the goal of building a more inclusive economy in which more people are able to contribute to our shared prosperity.

We need to get beyond ideological posturing and ask the questions of whether these policies as they are currently implemented are achieving their objectives. It is beyond question that we need transformation to both address the institutional exclusion of black people from the mainstream economy during apartheid and the manner in which such exclusion perpetuates itself across generations unless active steps are taken to address it. While some talk about 'an equal opportunity society', The ID believes that there is no equal opportunity unless one addresses the structural barriers that continue to exclude the majority of black people from the mainstream economy.

But transformation must not be used to simply enrich a few black people. It must be an inclusive process, where the goal is not to exclude white people from positions, but rather to make it easier for black people to gain access to jobs that were denied them in the past. We also need to ensure that black economic empowerment is broad based and we support worker schemes where the actual workers are given an equity stake in companies rather than a few individuals. The ID believes that a limit to BEE should be discussed so that, for example, when an individual's wealth exceeds a certain amount, say R20 million, they should no longer be given preferential treatment through BEE.