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THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

A guide to making moral choices.

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

SOLIDARITY

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice.¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

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“ It is up to the Christian communities to analyze with objectivity the situation which is proper to their own country. ”

– POPE FRANCIS



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RESEARCH BY CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARY LIAISON OFFICE



ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

UNITED DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (UDM)

LIFE

- There is no mention of abortion and assisted suicide made in the manifesto

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Education

- Must get back to basics where teachers teach and learners learn
- Provide the necessary infrastructure to improve the quality of education
- Create an enabling environment to provide school-leavers with a free, good quality education and proper life skills
- Curb violence in schools and protect from rape

Health

- Aims to improve the health care system through the provision of proper equipment and efficient financial management
- Bring health care services closer to the people
- Ensure nutritional education and family planning are the basis of primary health care
- Ensure and integrated response to drug and alcohol abuse with the department

ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

- Government must do more i.e. intervene decisively in the economy
- Manage public spending by reducing the size of ministries and hiring capable individuals
- Prioritise infrastructure development that focuses on rural advancement to curb rapid urbanisation and create rural employment opportunities
- Provide tax incentives to employment creating businesses
- Support small businesses, encourage and train young and aspiring entrepreneurs
- Empower the youth, women and people with disabilities
- Government must protect local industries against foreign competition to ensure job creation

POVERTY

- Focus on food security through accelerating growth in the agricultural sector which can be used as a vehicle for development in rural areas
- Protect domestic agricultural producers and subsidise them for more competitiveness in order to create jobs and contribute to especially rural development and eradicate poverty

- Land must be returned to rightful owners to further progress in the agriculture sector

CRIME AND CORRUPTION

- Coordination between state security forces, i.e. between police, SANDF and intelligence agency
- Coordinate with communities to fight against crime (establish strong neighbourhood watch)
- Defense force must guard and patrol country's borders
- Make a clear distinction between political and administrative positions to combat corruption
- Hire capable individuals and move away from cadre deployment and ensure political heads only provide oversight on administration
- Establish a corruption court to deal with corruption cases

ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS (EFF)

LIFE

- There is no mention of abortion and assisted suicide made in the manifesto.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Education

- Free basic education
- Better school infrastructure
- Larger capacity at University to accept students.
- More access to university fees funding

Health

- Improved health care
- Increased access to clinics and hospitals
- Carry out National Health Insurance
- Ensure quality professionals

Housing and Sanitation

- Create spacious homes for people
- Eradicate the bucket system within 5 years
- Provide decent toilets in homes
- Stop the bank from repossessing the house if payments can not be made.

Safety and security

- Increase police visibility
- Improve the effectiveness of the justice system
- Ensure that everyone has access to justice
- Protect the right to protest

- Ban the use of live ammunition by police during protests

ECONOMIC POLICY

- Nationalization of Mines, Banks and other key sector enterprises
- Expropriation without compensation
- State will run the major sectors to ensure that the benefits are distributed to all South Africans.
- Increase Africa's development

POVERTY AND JOBS

- Increase the minimum wage for most sectors
- Create sustainable jobs through nationalization
- Increase social grants

CORRUPTION

- Stop Tenders – use of private companies to do the work government should be doing.
- Will create state administration courts to deal with cases of corruption.
- Introduce a minimum of 20 years sentence for those guilty of corruption

INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY (IFP)

LIFE

- There is no mention of abortion and assisted suicide made in the manifesto

SOCIAL ISSUES

Education

- Focus on the quality of the curriculum
- Get the parents involved in their children's education
- Offer training support to teachers
- Remove the politic of unions and governing bodies from the sphere of education and teaching
- Promote inclusive education that speaks to all abilities.

Health Care

- Ensure competent professionals
- Provide affordable health services
- Ensure access to quality equipment

Housing and Sanitation

Improve service delivery

Safety and Security

- Relook at the prison system
- Rehabilitation

ECONOMIC POLICY

- Remove the politics of unions from the economy
- Support Small, Medium Enterprises
- Develop mining and manufacturing industries
- Use idle farms and financial incentives to promote farming

POVERTY AND JOBS

- Revise labour laws to help promote job creation
- Develop skills through funding training, apprenticeships and learning programs.

- Re-evaluate tax incentives and zones to stimulate job creation and development in the rural areas
- Want to eradicate poverty and not just alleviate it

CORRUPTION

- Don't stand for corruption
- Will prosecute those guilty of corruption
- Will fire all those found guilty of corruption
- Will eradicate the tender fraud by allowing the National Treasury to monitor all processes

DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (DA)

LIFE

- There is no clear mention of abortion and assisted suicide made in the manifesto

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Human settlements and services

- Provide serviced plots closer to urban centres
- Ensure beneficiaries of state-subsidised houses receive tittle deeds

Education

- Deliver textbooks to every child on time
- Train 15 000 more teachers per year
- Work with universities to establish dedicated teacher colleges
- Provide proper planning and infrastructure
- Expand assistance provided through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)

Health

- Ensure hospital management teams are qualified and effective
- Work to reduce mother to child HIV/Aids transmissions and provide greater HIV/Aids education
- Develop standardised response time for emergencies in urban and rural areas
- Use information technology to improve health system
- Work with NGOs to combat drug and alcohol abuse, and conduct random drug testing at school where necessary

ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

- Support increased corporate investment and personal saving
- Broaden participation in the economy by providing access to capital for outsiders
- Government will make it easier for businesses to trade with other countries
- Reduce red tape for small businesses
- Deliver six million real jobs
- Provide incentives for job creation by businesses: youth wage subsidy
- Provide people with the education and skills needed for employment

POVERTY

- Protect all South Africans from extreme poverty and hunger
- Expand school nutrition scheme to include up to grade 12 learners
- State owned communal agricultural land must be released for reform purposes to help the poor and increase food security
- Introduce land reform policy that achieves justice while retaining productivity in agricultural produce

CRIME AND CORRUPTION

- Aims to make South Africa safer with a trusted police service that does not engage in criminal activities
- Aim to put nearly 100 000 carefully selected, well-trained police officers on the streets
- Target specific crimes through special units e.g. Narcotics, Gangs, Sexual violence
- Establish a Judiciary Commission of Inquiry to investigate causes of police brutality and the extent of police corruption
- Allow the public to attend meetings where tender decisions are made
- Prohibit government ministers, public servants and their immediate families from doing business with the state
- Establish an independent, effective and highly specialised, prosecution-driven anti-corruption unit
- Stop abuse of public monies by ministers

THE AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ACDP)

FAMILY LIFE

- They will amend laws and policies that undermine family life
- Highlight issues of law dealing with, access to contraceptives; abortion without parental consent; inappropriate sex education in schools
- Will also look at policies attempting to ban parental chastisement as well as the legalisation of pornography.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Job creation

- In its first section on jobs the ACDP outlines that it aims to “boost employment, reduce poverty and achieve annual economic growth of 7%”.
- It is also aimed to increase investment in infrastructure in order to provide sufficient power generation, ports, roads, public transportation, dams, and reservoirs.
- They also intend to review the current controversial e-tolling system and have stated that they would consider alternative models.

Welfare

- The ACDP seeks to increase the social wage and intends on discouraging the dependency that South Africans have on social welfare.
- Socially, they aim to increase the number of social workers and community development workers to ensure that South Africans receive better services.

Education

- They will highlight the issue of access to early childhood development from 0-7 years
- Free education to learners in certain schools
- A review of the school pass rate system in order to address the disjuncture between the standard of matric passes in relation to the requirement from tertiary institutions as important issues
- Attracting skilled and experienced teachers
- Reintroducing school inspectors to monitor school teaching and safety in schools
- Training to empower teachers to deal with undisciplined children.

Health

- ACDP will extend the roll-out of antiretroviral treatment and will draw attention to the dangers of obesity as well as ensuring intervention in reducing maternal and child mortality,

- Highlight the need to implement the National Health Insurance scheme to broaden healthcare services to many South Africans
- Focus on renewable energy and clean technology as serious issues for the health of all South Africans.

Housing and land

- The ACDP focuses on upgrading informal settlements that will reduce the risk of flooding and fire while also trying to replace the bucket system.
- They aim to consider alternative housing models through the use of technology.
- A comprehensive housing waiting list needs to be established and that development frame-works needs to take into account distance between job location and people.
- Land restitution is on their manifesto agenda as they aim to prioritise this process and get it to its final stages if elected.
- Agricultural development of food and security in order to aid small and subsistence farmers is another priority.

Safety and Security

- ACDP will focus on establishing more police stations, forensic laboratories and courts in order to protect South African citizens,
- Focus on restorative justice programmes so that convicted criminals of minor offences may return and serve communities
- Criminals with major offences which include: murder, rape, armed robbery and car-hi-jacking, will be denied bail.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

- ACDP will ensure that government expenditure is reviewed and that a culture of savings and investment is a priority,
- Look at the current economic empowerment model and will ensure that it filters into broader socio-economic upliftment,
- Extend the youth wage subsidy
- Encourage training and development within industries through grants and tax incentives.

CORRUPTION

- The Protection of the State Information Bill is on the priority list for the ACDP and ensure that they will review the situation of exposing corruption.
- They aim to reintroduce the unit that investigated crime and corruption - the Scorpions, while also aiming to strengthen chapter 9, institutions such as the Auditor General, Public Protector and other bodies.
- The current practice whereby politicians who are accused of corrupt conduct and suspended on full pay, (as outlined in their manifesto and would have to refund the state) will be reviewed.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC)

LIFE

- According to the Bill of Rights, the right to life, has been held to prohibit capital punishment, but does not prohibit abortion
- The issue of “right to life” is left open for legislative action after democratic discussion in the future. It needs sensitive and informed debate with extensive participation by all interested parties and a respect for differing views.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Human settlements and basic services

- Accelerate the provision of basic services and infrastructure in existing informal settlements
- Provide one million houses to qualifying households
- Continue to work towards universal access to running water

Education

- Work towards realising two years of compulsory pre-school education and strive for fuller integration of grade R educators in the post and remuneration structure.
- Eradicate illiteracy
- Improve quality of basic education and quality of teaching
- Introduce compulsory community service for all graduates

Health and social security

- A publicly funded and publicly administered NHI Fund will be established
- Further expand free primary health care
- Intensify campaign against HIV/Aids
- Continue to provide social grants to those who qualify

ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

- The government aims to buy 75% of local products to boost domestic manufacturing and job creation.
- Prioritise infrastructure programmes to produce and sustain more than 250 000 jobs through the construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure.
- Create 6 millions work opportunities through the Extended Public Works Programme
- Promote youth employment and training schemes
- Build an extensive support network for small businesses and co-operatives
- Engage intensively with the financial sector to promote investment
- Promote equality and decent work place
- Implement the National Development Plan

POVERTY

- Continue to invest in rural development, especially economic and social infrastructure
- Ensure land reform is developmental and contributes to food security
- Provide support to emerging farmers
- Expand the food for all programme

CRIME AND CORRUPTION

- Work further to reduce crime through intelligence support and coordination, and police visibility
- Form partnerships with communities to fight against crime (Community Policing Forums)
- Prohibit public servants and public representatives from doing business with the state.
- Continue to ensure control and regulation of private security
- Establish a central tender awarding process for major projects in all spheres of government.
- Strengthen boarder control to improve security and manage immigration effectively
- Corrupt officials will be individually liable for all losses encored as a result of their actions

AGANG SOUTH AFRICA (AGANG SA)

LIFE

- There is no mention of abortion and assisted suicide made in the manifesto

SOCIAL ISSUES

Education

- The belief that parents' involvement is imperative to making a school a better place is paramount to Agang.
- They believe in assisting teachers with dealing with discipline difficulties.
- It is on their agenda that teachers living in rural areas should receive an allowance
- a minimum 50% pass mark for all subjects and grades is necessary
- They are committed to removing mud schools and fixing infrastructure
- They believe that all students who achieve 70% or higher should receive bursaries in order to incentivise excellence
- They aim to abolish SETA and will link FET colleges to the industries that students will serve.

Empowerment

- Transformation is highlighted by Agang as an issue that should not be dependent on scorecards but instead on the quality of schooling.
- They believe that twenty years of broad-based black economic empowerment has left its mark with greater inequalities.

Jobs

- Agang wants to abolish SETA's and introduce a tax rebate system to reintroduce industry colleges to train artisans.
- They want to transform public schools into vocational schools for the youth.

Health and housing

- Agang aims that everyone has access to affordable healthcare
- that private doctors are brought in to run clinics
- more focus is put on housing
- every citizen to have a title to the property they own.
- South Africa needs a land reform programme to address the effects of apartheid.
- They will facilitate a rapid transfer of land owned by the state to address the land for both rural and urban South Africans
- The use of modern technology to grow industrial crops in order to detoxify compromised land in mining areas.

Safety and security

- Agang SA wants the police are demilitarised and that any public official accused of corruption receives a minimum sentence of 15 years
- Suggests that they will create a national register of public servants convicted of corruption and will ban government officials and their families from doing business with government
- To ensure this they will pass a whistle-blower law that rewards and protects those who come forward with information.

BUSINESS

- Agang strives to relax regulations by FICA and RICS in order to make things easier for smaller businesses
- Intend to help those who have to deal with harassment as micro-business owners or informal traders
- In terms of law, Agang will revise the Labour Relations Act in order to create provisions for secret strike ballots
- Commits to protecting vulnerable workers and aims to introduce a qualifying period for dismissals.