

About CITIZANS

CITIZANS is a civic movement aimed at encouraging primarily professionals and the youth to become more active citizens by contributing their knowledge and skills in order to shape ideas and actions towards dealing systemic national level issues in South Africa.

Although we are more an interest group, we are also registered with the IEC as a commitment to doing all we can to see that our proposals are actioned: we want to be more than a think tank and a talk shop.

South Africa also has a growing number of undecided voters, and we want to offer them an alternative.

Shared Aspirations and Shared Values

Shared Aspirations

- A Safe, Fair, and Prosperous society for all
- A beacon of Courage and Creativity to the world

Shared Values

- Accountability
- Transparency

7 Priorities and respective proposals (key proposals in red)

1. War on Crime and Looting

- Improve whistleblower protection and incentives
- **12 months jail term for employing illegal immigrants**
- Introduce R 5000 cash transaction limit
- Stricter entry requirements and vetting of law enforcement officers
- Reduce Prisoner benefits

2. Transforming Society

- Introduce Land tax for suboptimal use of commercial land, and regulated land price for expropriation purposes (**land expropriation at cost**)
- English as business language and medium of instruction
- Workplace diversity quotas and harsher penalties for missed targets.
- **R 1500 public service allowance with 60 public service hours, funded partially scrapping R350 SRD and child grant**

3. Growing Economy

- Energy security build on coal and gas for base load and with renewables over time
- Fix water infrastructure in start investing in desalination infrastructure.
- Food security independence plan
- State economic role as custodian of natural resources and basic services
- Improve ease of doing business, no business tax for profit below R5m
- Developmental SME finance with first 10% loss taken by state.
- Moratorium on administered services prices for up to 2035
- National salary increase cap of 5% up to 2035.
- Scrap BEE and replace with inclusive Economic Transformation policy with focus state procurement, workplace diversity and supplier/enterprise development.
- Reduce foreign exposure limit of local approved funds from 45% to 20%
- Create 2 million jobs in 2 years through creating state capacity instead of tenders for basic services at inflated costs

4. Fixing Education and Training

- Free education up to 1st NQF7 level, and cap on private school fees at R60k a year
- Change high school to compulsory boarding system.
- English sole required academic language from grade 8.
- Artisan training path option offered from grade 8.
- Support cultural education, including national languages and history

5. Embracing Digital Evolution

- Satellite connectivity fallback option, and zero rate access to select online platforms.
- Digitise government services, including enhanced biometrics options.
- Monetise randomised government data through services with private sector.
- Invest in SA as digital and venture capitalist hub for the region.
- Target technology skills investment and funding

6. Entrenching Good Governance

- Eliminate provincial and local political layer and reduce ministries to 12 clusters.
- Professionalise public service and improve incentives.
- Consolidate and integrate public service system (e.g., one vehicle licencing system)
- Introduce limited veto powers for developmental purposes, with 2/3r ratification.
- Extend political party funding disclosure requirements to NGOs

7. Additional Sources of State Funding

- Increase corporate tax to 30%, and 50% tax for taxable personal income over R12m.
- Land tax for suboptimal commercial land use, and for personal land over 1000 sqm
- Heightened focus on tax leakage and illicit money and commodities flow
- Government data business
- Build and promote flagship tourism assets and routes, including Robben Island as premier entertainment and event destination.
- Extend property development into shoreline.
- Infrastructure Investment Fund (managed by independent panel), funded by R500bn 5% loan from SARB, R250bn grant from GEPIF, R250bn 5% bond to other pension funds, 2 to 5% mineral royalties depending on refinement level, and Reparations/compensation for stolen assets/funds and historic injustice.

Making sense of political options

Often the question is do we not have too many political options already. And our argument is we have too many bad options if one assumes we all agree South Africa is a developing country with social challenges which require clear and measurable development policies.

Below is an example of how we would rank the popular parties on the basis of:

- Clarity of developmental interventions
- Perceived credibility to govern

