

**KAAPSE
CAPE**
FORUM

CAPE MANIFESTO

Place the *Cape's* future
in the *Cape's* hands.

A.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

The Cape Forum will, among other things, focus on promoting community self-reliance in Western Cape communities and help establish growing federalism in the province and local communities.

The Cape Forum, by establishing strong, self-reliant communities, will focus on a self-help approach, inter alia to help combat poverty, develop community economies, ensure safety and establish well-functioning communities. We believe self-reliant communities are the building blocks for a healthy democratic federal dispensation, established from grass-roots level upwards. This self-help approach is reflected in the Cape Forum's motto, namely "Place the Cape's future in the Cape's hands".

Heinrich Wuyngaard



B.

MANIFESTO

We as members of the various Cape communities who support this manifesto commit ourselves – while appreciating our rich diversity and in a spirit of cooperation and mutual recognition and respect – to working for a better future for all the communities of the Western Cape.

The Western Cape is a meeting place, where the Khoisan as original inhabitants together with people from across the world who have become indigenised over centuries, are now forming a unique community of diverse communities.

We are determined not to allow ourselves to be divided by the numerous matters on which the inhabitants of the Western Cape may disagree. Therefore, we support the Cape Forum's *modus operandi* to focus, in a spirit of solidarity, on our shared interests and objectives, as well as those matters that unite our communities, while recognising and respecting differences in a spirit of tolerance.

Co-existence within a diverse environment means that each of us, in a spirit of mutual recognition and respect, leaves space for communities to maintain and develop their distinctive cultural and religious customs as well as to celebrate their historical events.

As a community of communities, we subscribe to the universal values of freedom, equality and justice for all. Bringing hope will be our horizon.

1. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND WE ADVOCATE:

- developing community self-reliance that will increasingly enable communities to take their future into their own hands.
- growing federalism that will strengthen the hands of communities, municipalities and the provincial government to take control of their own future.
- promoting the civil and human rights of all Cape communities.
- creating space for all communities to flourish economically.
- developing mutual recognition and respect among communities.
- promoting a healthy and safe existence within a globalised environment.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE HEREBY DECLARE:

- that we are acutely aware of the Cape's history of alienation, conflict and discord and that, consequently, we are determined to build a future where the dignity of all people is respected.
- that purposeful efforts have to be made to tackle the cycle of poverty and social challenges through self-help projects in communities without creating new forms of state-sanctioned prejudice.
- that the province is a home to all its inhabitants, where they may live in freedom, safety and prosperity on a basis of mutual recognition and respect among communities.
- that communities have an obligation to oppose improper centralistic government interference in matters directly affecting communities.
- that cooperation among communities is a priority.
- that cooperation is possible and essential, notwithstanding various party-political affiliations and other differences.

3. GROWING COMMUNITY SELF-RELIANCE AND FEDERALISM

Through this Cape manifesto we commit ourselves to doing everything in our power to make the pursuit of growing community self-reliance for Cape communities a reality, in urban as well as rural areas.

We are working to ensure that the Western Cape as a community of communities will be empowered to take control of its own future by establishing growing federalism, which entails that more powers have to be devolved to communities, municipalities and the provincial government. We will also, in a dedicated way, start building federalism from grass-roots level by taking control over the future of our communities.

In this regard we rely on the numerous international examples of federalism as recognised forms of state and the relevant international conventions created for this purpose.

Furthermore, we are unapologetic about primarily also pursuing in particular the interests and empowerment of minority communities in a wider framework. In this regard we view the historical alienation of specifically coloured communities in the Western Cape as a tragedy and we commit ourselves to counteracting this alienation.



4. FOCUS AREAS

We hereby commit ourselves to focusing specifically and resolutely on the following outputs:

Growing federalism

This endeavour can become a reality for the Western Cape only if this idea is supported by the majority of the inhabitants of the Western Cape. The Cape Forum as an inclusive Cape organisation will be eminently geared towards ensuring that federalism and greater provincial powers for the Western Cape will receive majority support. Growing federalism, where powers are devolved to the provincial government, municipalities and communities, coupled with communities taking their future in their own hands from grass-roots level upwards, will therefore form the Cape Forum's core campaign. Other Cape issues, such as recognition of communities' cultural rights, will also be attended to in establishing the Cape Forum as the civil society organisation of preference for the people of the Western Cape.

The objective of the Cape Forum, which will be expanded into a mass movement in the Western Cape, should be to draw people together on matters on which they agree and to promote tolerance with regard to differences that may exist. The Cape Forum therefore should focus on acquiring greater provincial powers at a practical level. Greater provincial and municipal powers are a common denominator of the various groupings pursuing different levels of autonomy. Those organisations aiming at full independence may of course carry on with their work. However, they will have to leave space for the Cape Forum, which is not focused on secession but rather on bread-and-butter issues linked to acquiring greater federal powers for the Western Cape. When differences exist about the final destination, it does not have to constitute differing on the starting point (growing federalism).

Campaigns proposed

The bread-and-butter issues present possibilities at a practical level to mobilise people in favour of growing autonomy. These issues will be tackled in two phases. This includes the following (with safety being the highest priority):

(1) Safety

The inability of the police to curb serious crime in the province – gang-related violence, murders, farm attacks – is putting the spotlight on the debilitating effect the ANC’s centralisation and cadre deployment are having on security services. Research has to be conducted to plot a road map towards greater control of the police. The objective is to have the police – under local management – better equipped, better trained and better supported so they will be better able to perform their constitutional task.

As a first step, consideration could be given to fully utilising existing municipal powers for rendering community policing services. This should be followed by provincial control of the police. Expansion and utilisation of neighbourhood watches, which can play an enormous part in communities within the framework of the law, should receive priority.

(2) Taxation

Should the Western Cape be given control over policing or any of the other powers currently vested in the national government, this will inevitably result in a dramatic increase in the expenditure of the provincial government. For this reason, greater provincial control over the taxes contributed from the Western Cape to the national fiscus should be a strong focus of any campaign for growing autonomy. Preliminary indications are that Western Cape taxpayers are currently subsidising other provinces.

The amounts withheld will be in keeping with the amounts the national government would have spent on the service concerned. In other words, nothing will be taken away from national projects to which the province contributes and no other province or institution will be affected negatively by this approach. We recognise our commitment to the rest of South Africa and we will honour our financial responsibility towards national issues.

(3) Housing

Over the past few decades, housing has become an increasing problem – on the one hand owing to the existing backlogs, but certainly also due to the increase in population numbers caused by people moving to the Western Cape in search of economic opportunities. This has resulted in the formation of increasing numbers of informal settlements, where service delivery currently is neither possible nor practically feasible. Meanwhile, thousands of backyard dwellers have been waiting for generations for a dwelling of their own. Funds for housing at present are allocated by the national government, and greater provincial and local control will also in this regard serve to benefit greater autonomy.

Issuing title deeds for housing in ecologically responsible environments as indicated by the local government is one possible solution to the growing problem of housing.

(4) Energy

The unreliability as well as unaffordability of Eskom and the inability of the national government to solve the energy crisis mean that the provincial government, local governments, companies and private persons should be given greater authority to contribute to the electricity grid. Such an approach would relieve the pressure on Eskom without interfering with the national energy plan.

The municipality of Stellenbosch was one of the first municipalities in the Western Cape to commit themselves to acquiring more power in an independent way rather than to depend on the national grid going forward. This example could be followed with success.



(5) Water

The countrywide water crisis, as has also been experienced in the Western Cape, proves the need for the provincial and local governments to be fully empowered to exercise control over the Western Cape's water resources. This will have to involve the maintenance and expansion of existing infrastructure as well as the renewal of infrastructure and technology as focus areas.

As with power supply, there will be no negative effect on a national water plan. Management of local institutions will have only a local reporting line, where funds will also be used for upgrading and training.

(6) Food security: Land affairs, agriculture and fisheries

Control over the natural resources of the Western Cape currently vested in the national Department of Agriculture and that of Forestry and Fisheries has to be transferred to the Western Cape government. Many traditional fishing communities who have been utilising the marine resources of the Western Cape for centuries, are being seriously disadvantaged by the national government's policies that are prejudicial to the local communities and the tourism industry in the Western Cape.

The increasing issues of food security and property ownership are also exerting pressure on sustainable solutions in the agricultural community, jeopardising job security as well. These uncertainties have to be addressed, not only to ensure that justice is done, but also to increase business confidence in the province.

(7) Criminal justice system

The crisis in which the criminal justice system finds itself at present requires the provincial prosecuting authority to function independently of the national prosecuting authority. An independent judiciary must be established in the Western Cape, and by-laws in the province should enjoy greater recognition in the judicial system.

(8) Education

Education remains a core responsibility of parents as well as communities. For this reason, school governing bodies and the provincial government should have more control over education in this province. This is of particular importance regarding the sensitive issue of language preference at schools, where many historically Afrikaans schools are being turned into English monolingual ones to accommodate children from other linguistic communities. Conversely, better provision should be made for multilingualism and mother-tongue education so that learners may be educated in their home language. Poor financial planning in education is another factor that would be better dealt with through direct management.

(9) Infrastructure: Public transport, ports and railway network

The current challenges regarding infrastructure and the management thereof require that the provincial and local governments should take over these functions completely from the national government. Week after week the news is dominated by the decay and vandalism of the Cape railway network, among other things. This is detrimental to commuters and to the province's commercial objectives. Problems at ports are also harming the local economy. Furthermore, the tourism sector is being hampered by negative factors facing public transport, ports and railway networks.

(10) Health

With the current standards at some hospitals and clinics already low, further deterioration is something that residents of the Western Cape cannot accept. Poor service delivery and mismanagement are not only a burden on taxpayers and the economy, but are costing lives. Health facilities run at local level will result in a dramatic increase in expenditure by the provincial government. For this reason, greater provincial control over the Western Cape's tax contribution towards the national fiscus, should be a strong focus of any campaign for growing autonomy.

5. CALL TO ACTION

Join the Cape Forum **now!**

We hereby call upon everybody who supports community self-reliance for Western Cape communities and growing federalism to become a member of the Cape Forum. This is not exclusive to residents of the province, but for all who have an interest in the prosperity of the Western Cape and her people. This manifesto is a document that will guide our activities, but always aimed at creating a Western Cape that will provide a home where all the Cape communities can live in lasting freedom, safety and prosperity in a spirit of cooperation and mutual recognition and respect.

6. CONTACT DETAILS

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