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17th February 2015

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This report is intended to summarise the activities of the DDF through to December 2014 and to serve as a point of departure for 2015 and the events leading to the 2016 municipal elections and the 2019 general elections.

DDF National Executive and Leaders:

The National Executive Council members are; John Barrington, Nofumene Mqweba, Welington Mqweba, Zola Mtsi, David Ramabulana, Johannes Mfaniseni Donsa, Pat Medingoane. All except Pat Medingoane are founding members and John and Nofumene are co-leaders of the DDF.

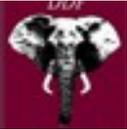
2011-2014

The preliminary meeting of the DDF was held on 8th July 2011 and a later telephonic meeting 16th November 2011 and the inaugural meeting was held 15th January 2012.

Regular meetings of the NEC were held during 2012 and 2013. The goals of the party during this period were 1) to set up a web site (<http://ddforum.co.za>), 2) to open a bank account (FNB 17th August 2012), 3) to accept a constitution and 4) to register as a political party with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). The party was registered 24th June 2013. It was intended to register December 2012 but the DDF NEC was not satisfied with some of the signature sheets submitted and the exercise was repeated from January 2013 onward, with greater care taken with the collection process.

This did not leave the party sufficient time to prepare for and make an impact on the April 2014 general elections and the party could not come up with the required R200 000 deposit for inclusion in the National Assembly elections. The party's position, then and at the time of writing, is that the constitutionality of elections requiring financial deposits are questionable because the requirement bars many from participation in the electoral process and that this is contrary to the spirit of the constitution. It is the intention of the party to challenge the constitutionality of those elections for that reason, if the means to do so ever become available. The party never the less participated in the processes leading up to the elections and gained valuable experience at IEC preparatory meetings and the National Party Liaison Committee (NPLC).

After the elections NEC members took a well earned breather and never really recovered their pre-election momentum. Regular monthly / fortnightly meetings, the NEC cash flow, DDF Blogging and Tweeting all slowed. The meetings were continued with a scattering of members attending. This was no way to impact on the electorate of South Africa and the DDF needs to reclaim its pre-election enthusiasm.



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Policy Development:

During the period under review, the DDF developed a comprehensive set of policies. The DDF regards itself as a party bound by policies. What that means is that when called upon, the DDF will implement its publicly stated policies. What the DDF stands for in its policies will be continued when it is in power. In short, the DDF advocates transparency of policy and application of policy.

What continued since the 2014 general elections was policy development and interaction with some interested and interesting personalities in the economic and political fields. Discussions continued with those who might have some empathy with DDF goals and policies and might contribute to DDF policy development.

Of note are the conversations with Mr. Dennis Beckett, creator of the political philosophy and system of Demogarchy. Demogarchy argues for greater access to elected representatives and officials with pretty much immediate powers of recall, to ensure satisfactory compliance with the will of the constituents. These powers of recall would normally be exercised whenever the constituents were moved to do so. The premise is that the average constituent is not really interested in politics so long as politics work for them, but want and need an effective means to remedy things when politics stop working for them, this being the power of recall. Demogarchy posits that elected representatives and officials should fear the wrath of their constituents, who could recall recalcitrant representatives or officials at any time during their term of office. There is more to Demogarchy than just that but that power of recall makes Demogarchy attractive to the DDF and fuels the conversation with Mr. Beckett.

Also of note is an ongoing conversation with Mr. Dawie Roodt. Mr. Roodt is a senior economist in South Africa and is a Director and Senior Economist of the Efficient Group in Pretoria. John Barrington (JB) approached Mr Roodt after hearing him comment on radio about the economy. Mr Roodt was happy to discuss DDF policies. They first met on 19th November 2014. Mr. Roodt's initial position was to say that what the DDF were trying to do (*with TEAL*) wouldn't work, citing concerns about a possible negative effect of TEAL on the liquidity of the economy. JB asserted that TEAL will work as the areas of concern mostly fall outside the banking system with only periodic net settlements occurring in the banking system. While TEAL may be imperfect, it was none the less doable. Mr. Roodt agreed to debate the topic and it transpired that there were probably more things in common in their positions than not.

Commonalities included the need for radical tax reform and an acknowledgement that TEAL met a great many of the conditions Mr. Roodt considered necessary for tax reform. At the close of our meeting Mr. Roodt was asked to consider how TEAL could be made to work. Also in the closing moments of the meeting, the question of a Basic Income Grant (BIG) was raised and Mr. Roodt's response was that he thought a BIG was necessary. So it appears there is lots more to discuss. Mr. Roodt has indicated he would like to continue the discussion into 2015. This conversation is in process.



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2015-2019:

The DDF NEC needs to re-commit itself to the furtherance of DDF goals. In the short term, conversations such as those above will continue to consolidate and develop policy. A Basic Income Grant may become additional policy, while TEAL and Senate policies (see the DDF web site <http://ddforum.co.za>) and the direct democracy flowing there from down to all levels of representative government in the country, can also be strengthened and enhanced by those conversations. In the medium to long term, the DDF needs to become a household expression and representation of transparent and responsive government and the DDF Logo, our Elephant, should be visible to every voter in the country every day of every year so when voters go to the polls the significance of the emblem is already burned indelibly in the eyes, minds and hearts of the voters. With that in mind the DDF intends embarking on a saturation marketing program.

Obviously that will need to be funded. The strategy will be to start at a low cost with low penetration level, affordable by the NEC, and allow funding to grow with improved penetration, membership and exposure.

Financial Records:

Given that there has been very little financial activity, no formal accounts are presented with the annual report and no audit has been undertaken. All monies received from members of the NEC, except for funds earmarked for the Button Campaign, have been banked. The records are available for inspection by any registered member of the DDF.

Electoral Policies:

Specifics of DDF Electoral policies are still to be confirmed but the DDF will stick to its roots. That is; the DDF was founded in part because Independent candidates in the 2011 municipal elections found themselves with no infrastructure and very little policy beyond the best of intentions. The DDF currently wishes to support independent candidates in the 2016 elections. A strategy and framework needs to be developed to provide independent candidates a political home with well thought out policy and logistical support without compromising their status as independent candidates. If that strategy succeeds, the same structure and framework can be used to build the candidate lists for the 2019 elections.

The target constituency for both these elections will be disaffected voters within the existing political framework – from all existing political parties but particularly from the ANC – and the two 2nd largest parties in the 2014 elections, the NO VOTE party and the NOT REGISTERED Party. Collectively this could give the DDF an absolute majority in the 2019 parliament. If the DDF are savvy about how they present their policies and about their policy content, this absolute majority could be extended to cover the 75% majority needed to re-write the constitution, to retain the good bits and deal with the bad bits, which basically have made it possible for government to legislate and regulate in a manner contrary to the spirit of the constitution and even to run elections in a manner which, while they may be constitutional in the strictest sense of the word, in the opinion of the DDF, are not in accord with the spirit of the constitution.



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Electoral Policies (continued):

While the constitution guarantees equality, the state permits and encourages a state of inequality, where some South Africans are more equal than others. As George Orwell wrote in *Animal Farm*, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" and the DDF will be committed to end the 'more equal than others' syndrome that presently pervades South African politics and South African society.

DDF and the South African Constitution:

The DDF want a South African constitution which is single minded in the protection of individual rights even in the face of legislation, and which can withstand the onslaught of the politics of enrichment of the few, at the expense of and in preference to the needs of the many.

DDF Political and Economic Principles:

These policies do not make the DDF a socialist party. The DDF is and will remain a party committed to the free market, capitalism (meaning private ownership of capital, property and the means of production) and the rule of law. Never the less, DDF policies, particularly on all domestic issues, will seek to empower those lacking empowerment, irrespective of race, colour, creed, wealth or cultural affiliations.

Conversation with South Africa:

In addition to pursuing electoral goals, the DDF's role is to engage South Africa in a conversation on the constitutional and democratic future of South Africa, so, although the DDF are not yet represented in any of the legislative assemblies of the country, the DDF are none the less fulfilling a vital role in the future history of South Africa.

Electoral Goals:

The DDF's electoral goals are to provide a support base for any independent candidates wishing to contest the 2016 municipal elections and to constitutionally unseat the ANC in the National Assembly as soon as possible. If the DDF fail in that goal before the 2019 general elections, it intends to convert the conversation it is having with South Africa into an overwhelming majority for the DDF in the National Assembly, at those elections.

Signed at Johannesburg this 17th day of February, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J A Barrington', written over a horizontal line.

J A Barrington
Founding Member and Co-leader.
Direct Democracy Forum

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N W Mqweba', written over a horizontal line.

N W Mqweba
Founding Member and Co-leader.
Direct Democracy Forum