OUR VALUES & GOVERNANCE PILLARS

PRINCIPLES THAT DEFINE US. CONSTITUTIONALISM THAT RESTRAINS POWER. GOVERNANCE THAT MUST DELIVER.

At **ARISE AFRIKA ARISE INDEPENDENT CONGRESS (AAAIC)**, our values are not decorative words for political campaigns. They are standards by which political leadership must be exercised, public power controlled, institutions governed and public performance assessed.

We believe that South Africa needs more than promises. It needs competent leadership, ethical public administration, constitutional accountability, effective institutions and communities empowered to participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their lives.
Our philosophy begins with a fundamental proposition: **PUBLIC POWER IS A PUBLIC TRUST—AND MUST ALWAYS BE EXERCISED LAWFULLY, RESPONSIBLY AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.**

PART I: OUR CORE VALUES

1. **MERITOCRACY**

Competence. Integrity. Character. Performance. Service.
Public responsibility must be entrusted to people who demonstrate the ability, integrity and commitment required to serve. Political loyalty, personal connections or patronage must not substitute for competence.

Meritocracy must also be applied fairly and transparently, with equal dignity, lawful equality and genuine opportunities for people to develop their abilities.

2. **UBUNTU**

Our humanity is strengthened by how we treat one another.
We recognise our shared humanity and collective responsibility. We advocate dignity, compassion, mutual respect and solidarity, particularly towards communities whose needs have been neglected or whose voices have been marginalised.

3. **TRUTH**

Public trust cannot survive dishonesty.
Leadership requires honesty, transparency, truthful communication and a willingness to acknowledge mistakes. Public institutions must communicate responsibly, disclose information lawfully and confront wrongdoing rather than conceal it for political convenience.

4. **JUSTICE**

Justice must be pursued through lawful, fair and impartial processes.
We support equal protection under the law, access to justice, independent institutions and fair treatment. Allegations must be addressed through proper procedures, and accountability must not become a tool for political persecution.

5. **FAIRNESS & EQUITY**

Fair governance recognises both equal dignity and differing needs.
Public opportunities, services and resources must be administered fairly, transparently and responsibly. Decisions should be lawful, evidence-informed and attentive to legitimate community needs, without favouritism or arbitrary discrimination.

6. **VOICE OF THE VOICELESS**

Communities must be heard—not merely spoken for.
Residents must have meaningful opportunities to raise concerns, participate in public decisions and hold representatives accountable. Participation must extend beyond election day into planning, implementation, oversight and evaluation.

PART II: CONSTITUTIONALISM—THE FOUNDATION OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

THE CONSTITUTION MUST GOVERN THOSE WHO GOVERN US.

AAAIC recognises constitutionalism as a foundational principle of legitimate democratic government. It means that no individual, political party, public representative or state institution stands above the Constitution and the law.

The Constitution is not simply a document to be invoked when politically convenient. It establishes binding standards governing public authority, democratic participation, rights, responsibilities and the exercise of state power.
Our commitment to constitutionalism entails:**SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION**

All public power must be exercised consistently with the Constitution. No political mandate authorises unlawful conduct or places a public official above constitutional obligations.

THE RULE OF LAW

Government decisions must have a lawful basis, comply with applicable legal requirements and remain open to appropriate scrutiny and review. The law must not be applied selectively to protect allies or punish opponents.

DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY

We support multiparty democracy, free and fair elections, political participation, peaceful competition and respect for the lawful transfer and exercise of political authority.

INDEPENDENT AND ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTIONS

Institutions responsible for elections, justice, oversight and public accountability must be able to perform their lawful functions without improper political interference.

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

Democratic governance must respect fundamental rights, equality, human dignity and lawful freedoms. Majority support does not remove the obligation to respect constitutional rights.

ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH LAWFUL MEANS

Where public power is abused, the response must be evidence-based and pursued through appropriate constitutional, administrative, parliamentary or judicial mechanisms.

CONSTITUTIONALISM MUST APPLY EVEN WHEN IT IS POLITICALLY INCONVENIENT.

AAAIC must be prepared to uphold these principles consistently—including when constitutional limits, independent scrutiny or lawful accountability constrain its own leaders or political interests.

PART III: OUR GOVERNANCE COMMITMENTS

FROM PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE

Our values must translate into measurable standards of public conduct and institutional performance.

1. **MERITOCRATIC LEADERSHIP**

Promote competence, ethical conduct, transparent selection criteria and responsibility for performance.

2. **CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

Promote lawful decision-making, respect for oversight institutions, compliance with court orders and accountability for abuses of public power.

3. **ETHICAL AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT**

Support openness, responsible disclosure, integrity in public administration and effective measures against corruption and conflicts of interest.

4. **RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC FINANCE**

Promote lawful budgeting, prudent expenditure, transparent procurement and proper stewardship of public resources for public benefit.

5. **EFFECTIVE, PEOPLE-CENTRED SERVICE DELIVERY**

Advance capable administration, realistic planning, measurable service standards and responsible responses to community needs.

6. **PARTICIPATORY AND INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY**

Encourage meaningful public consultation, accessible civic education and sustained community participation before, during and after elections.
These commitments describe the governance standards AAAIC seeks to advance. Specific programmes, implementation measures and performance indicators should be developed through the Party's approved policies and relevant governance frameworks.

PART IV: OUR STANDARD OF LEADERSHIP

We recognise that political credibility is earned through conduct, consistency and performance—not claimed through slogans.

We therefore believe that public leadership must be measured against five essential questions:

- Is it lawful and constitutionally compliant?
- Is it ethical, honest and transparent?
- Are the people entrusted with responsibility competent?
- Are public resources being used responsibly?
- Are communities receiving meaningful answers and measurable results?

These questions should inform how government is evaluated and how AAAIC evaluates its own conduct, representatives and commitments.

OUR DECLARATION

AAAIC stands for a South Africa in which **the Constitution is respected, the law is applied fairly, democracy is defended, merit matters, public resources are protected and communities are heard.**

We aspire to a political culture in which leadership is a responsibility, public office is a trust and accountability is an obligation—not an optional gesture.

OUR VALUES MUST BE VISIBLE IN OUR CONDUCT. OUR PRINCIPLES MUST BE REFLECTED IN OUR POLICIES. OUR GOVERNANCE MUST BE JUDGED BY ITS

RESULTS.
TOGETHER BUILDING A FAIRER, BRIGHTER AND PROSPEROUS SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH MERITOCRACY.