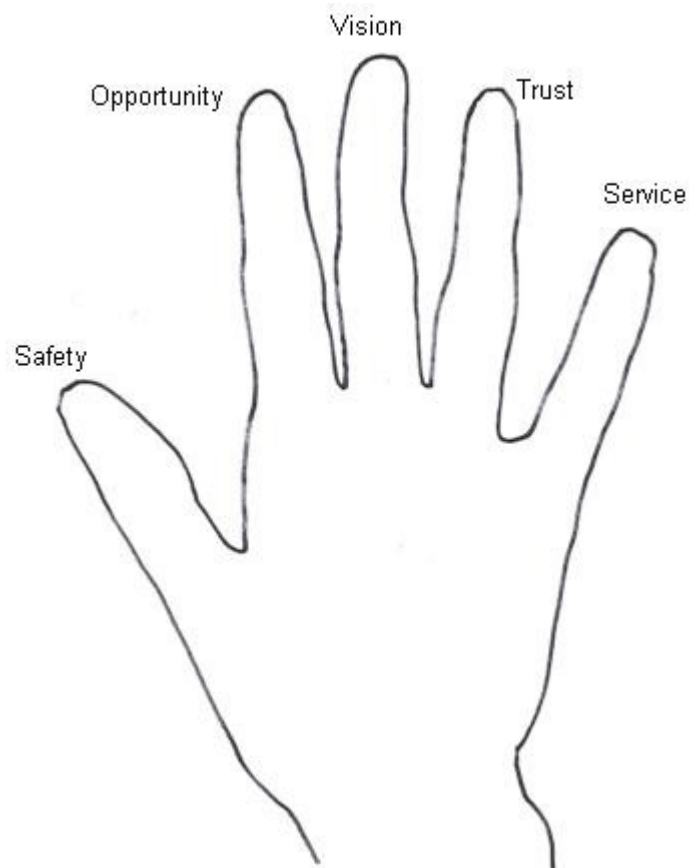


Coalition of Hope



www.coh.co.za

Listen up!

Our nation is in crisis but with this crisis comes great opportunity!

Here is a call to all South Africans to form a **Coalition of Hope** that unites all clear-minded people around a common vision.

Ask forty million South Africans what they want for this great nation, and you will get forty million unique answers. Listen carefully to the people and you will hear the soul of South Africa. If a wise person will distil the many answers into one vision, the soul of our nation will be heard and forty million people will each respond,

“That is what I said!”

In a million different ways, the people of South Africa are saying “We are tired of crime, corruption, poverty, unemployment, disease, HIV/AIDS and a host of other problems. We are tired of leaders and public servants who scramble for power to enrich themselves but fail to use that power in service of our nation”. Most of us are paralysed by fear and insecurity, overwhelmed by the seemingly insurmountable problems that beset our nation. But it does not have to be this way.

Although our challenges may be many and complex, the solutions are few and simple! Few enough to be counted on the fingers of one hand and simple enough for the youngest child to be inspired to dream great things.

*A large tree may have many branches but,
if you take an axe to its root, the tree will be toppled!*

Will we, the people of South Africa, sit up and listen?

Will we stand together and build a nation worthy of our amazing potential?

Our time has come, will we act together as one?

We have done it before, we can do it again!

The future is in our hands, TODAY!

Creative and Inspiring Solutions.

We may understand our challenges well but we have not developed creative and inspiring solutions. A “fight against crime and corruption” or “poverty alleviation” cannot truly inspire a nation because it provides no vision of the better alternative. If anything, our track record is evidence that fighting against a problem increases the problem. It’s a Law of Attraction, thing!

So instead of “fighting against crime” or “eradicating poverty” let us unite around creative, inspiring goals that galvanise all South Africans to work towards an inspiring dream. Something like “**Safety and abundance for all!** Can you visualise living in safety? Can you visualise a life of abundance? It’s much easier that visualising “no crime” or “no poverty”! Positive and inspiring goals would empower us as a nation to act consistently with the vision.

*Dream no small dreams for they have no power
to move the hearts of men (and women!). Goethe*

Can you imagine a day when you are safe and at peace with your neighbours?

How proud would you be if South Africa was the safest nation on earth?

We are one of the most beautiful countries in the world, so why not the safest?

Would this inspire you to positive action?

Why not now?

Let us understand that we will only become a winning nation if enough ordinary South Africans share a common vision of a bright future and are willing to work together to accomplish it. The dream starts in our hearts and our homes and then out into our towns, cities, provinces and nation. It can start today, with you!

The Soul of South Africa!

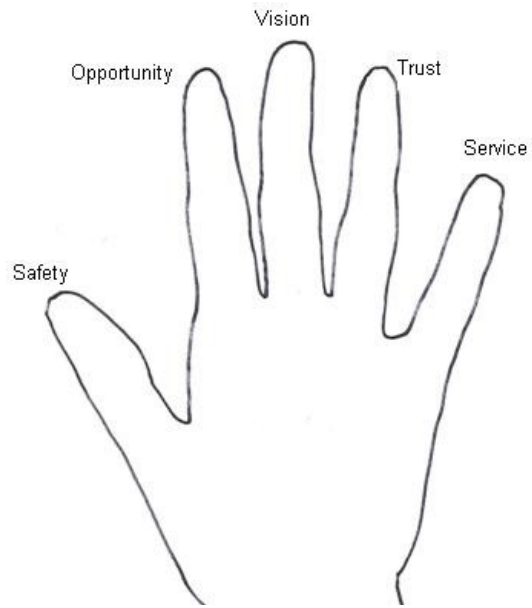
Here is one ordinary South African’s understanding of what could be if we will listen to the soul of South Africa.

Our challenges may be many and complex but the solutions are few and simple.

- Few enough to be counted on the fingers of one hand;
- Simple enough for the youngest child to be inspired to dream great things.

Five core elements of a new vision for South Africa.;

1. **Safety** and **Peace** for all.
2. **Opportunity** to develop our awesome potential.
3. A national **Vision** that inspires us to be the champions we are.
4. Leaders, worthy of the nation's **Trust** and **Respect**.
5. Excellent, efficient and effective **Public Service** for all.



Our most precious resource is abundant and available!

As our mines dig ever deeper in search of diminishing resources we, the people of South Africa, must wake up to the fact that our most precious, untapped resource is in plentiful supply above the ground; that resource is us, the people of this great nation.

Within every man, woman and child is a champion ready and able to break free. It is not that we cannot break free, it is that we do not know how to release this awesome potential and break free of the many things that hold us back.

Our challenge is to discover innovative ways to release the massive potential of the people. We need innovative educational solutions that extend well beyond the school grounds and we need these solutions on a massive scale. If, for example, every person with valuable knowledge, skill and experience invested just a few hours each week teaching, inspiring and empowering others to do the same, we could very quickly create a foundation for greater productivity and growth.

Set our imagination free

As people and as a nation, we have unlimited potential to create a beacon of hope to Africa and the world. Therefore let our imagination soar as we seek creative and inspiring ways to achieve what we want.

Let us talk together as we seek fresh solutions to old problems.

Here are four questions we should ask.

Question 1. What do I want for my life, my family and my nation?

Question 2. What am I willing to do to realise these dreams?

Question 3. What does my brother, sister, friend, colleague or neighbour want to achieve?

Question 4. How can we work together to achieve our goals?

Sit down with your brother, sister, friend, colleague or neighbour and share your thoughts. Believe that can be champions again. We have done it before, we can do it again!

Some answers

Here again are a few thoughts in reply to the first two questions. I hope they will inspire you to explore your own ideas.

Inspiring Goal 1. Safety and peace for all.

Can you imagine: Living in the safest country in the world? Where respect for the law and each other is the norm? Where the pain and anger of earlier conflicts is past? Can you imagine a nation healed?

What I can do:

1. Love myself and my neighbours, seeking to do only good, not harm.
2. Respect our Nation's constitution and the Rule of Law.
3. Do what is right and stop wilfully breaking the law, no matter how trivial it may seem.
4. Have the courage to report crime and corruption without fear or favour.
5. Support community law enforcement initiatives in my community.

Love and respect lie at the heart of a healed South Africa, "united in our diversity" in which all live in safety and peace.

What I expect of our elected representatives and public servants;

1. Fair, efficient and effective enforcement of the law
2. Speedy justice for all
3. Innovative strategies to reduce crime and rehabilitate offenders, especially non-violent, first offenders.

4. Open and effective dialogue with the communities they serve.

Inspiring Goal 2. Opportunity to develop our awesome potential.

Can you imagine: An abundance of opportunities open to you, if you have the resolve to do what it takes to achieve your dream? No limits to what you can reap, if you are willing to sow the right seeds?

What I can do:

1. Offer my commitment to contribute more than I consume
2. Share my knowledge, experience and ability with others who are willing to learn.
3. Make the best possible use of every opportunity afforded to me

What I expect of our elected representatives and public servants;

1. Enact policies that encourage economic growth and fair labour practices
2. Implement extensive public “work & education” programmes
3. Provide effective support for a massive drive for volunteers.

Inspiring Goal 3. A national Vision that inspires us to be the champions we are.

Can you imagine: Waking up each day knowing that you are an active participant in the most amazing national transformation? We did it in 1994, the toast of the world, but the “rainbow nation” stalled as our leaders scrambled for power to secure their own interests and not those of the people. We can do it again, this time with the commitment and resolve to finish well. Can you see it?

What I can do:

1. Offer my personal commitment to excellence in all that I say, think and do.
2. Actively participate in causes that I believe will empower this nation.
3. Encourage everyone I know to get involved in support of a great vision.

What I expect of our elected representatives and public servants;

1. To provide bold, courageous and inspiring leadership and a clear plan of action.
2. Policies that promote active engagement with civil society at all levels.

Inspiring Goal 4. Leaders, worthy of the nation’s Trust and Respect.

Can you imagine: Leaders, at all levels of society, being qualified to lead by virtue of their moral integrity, competence and skills? Leaders who count it a privilege to serve the best interests of the people they lead.

What I can do:

1. Be a leader in my home and community who is worthy of trust and respect.
2. Hold elected leaders to account.
3. Have the courage to confront corruption and incompetence.
4. Vote for a political party or representative that openly subscribes to an “above reproach” morality.

What I expect of our elected representatives;

1. Politicians who are “above reproach”, untainted by impropriety, dishonesty and corruption.
2. Political parties’ commitment to purge from their midst all representatives who are tainted by impropriety, dishonesty and corruption.

“Above reproach” is the only foundation for a nation’s respect and trust in its leaders. We can rightfully expect our leaders to be the cream of our nation’s citizens. See the section on *“Leaders we Trust and Respect”* below for more on what we, the electorate, should expect with regard to the moral calibre of our leaders and the role of political parties.

Inspiring Goal 5. Excellent, efficient and effective Public Service for all.

Can you imagine: Every public servant counting it a privilege to serve the taxpayers who make their secure employment possible? Every public servant committed to delivering excellent, efficient and effective service because it matters?

What I can do:

1. Vigilantly monitor the quality of service offered by public servants,
2. Be as quick to praise as I am to complain
3. Have the courage to report abuses wherever and whenever they occur.
4. To volunteer my time and effort to assist the public sector in achieving common objectives

What I expect of our elected representatives and public servants;

1. Competent public servants with real delegated authority and the necessary organisational support for excellent, effective and efficient service delivery.
2. Public servants who honour the secure employment offered within state institutions by delivering their best.
3. Effective mechanisms to prevent abuse and prosecute public servants who abuse their power.

Innovative ways need to be devised to increase the capacity of our public servants and empower them to deliver effective and efficient services to the people.

That's a start to the debate.

I hope that my idea of five Inspiring Goals will have inspired you to think of your own Inspiring Goals and that you will take the time to write them down, read them often and, above all, act on them consistently and persistently.

It is in working together that we will build a better life for ourselves, our families and nation.

Go for it! Write them down!

2010 World Champions, all South Africa!

Is there any better date for us to be a winning nation than by the opening ceremony of the 2010 Soccer World Cup in July 2010?

In July 2010, the South African soccer team will take to the field to represent our nation at the Soccer World Cup and our best wishes will go with them at every game.

But the Soccer World Cup is much more than just a game, it's an opportunity for our nation to stand with our heads held high as the world turns its attention on South Africa.

It will be an opportunity for every South African to display the awesome potential of our people, it will be your opportunity to take pride in what we have become as a united land.

Victory will be in all of our hands. When the world's attention turns upon our nation, will we be ready to shine?

I BELIEVE WE WILL
IF WE ARE WELL PREPARED
"NOW" IS THE TIME TO PREPARE!!

Get involved. Make a difference!

One thing is sure, we will only accomplish the dream of a winning nation if we are each willing to take constructive action for a better South Africa. So what can you do?

1. Dream of a brighter future!

Hope starts in the hearts and minds of individuals who are passionate about something and the Coalition of Hope workshops are there to help you discover your passion.

2. Attend a Coalition of Hope workshop, it's free.

Structured around the four questions in "Let your imagination soar", the three-hour workshops will help you create productive relationships at home, work and in your community. The workshop is free but, if necessary, presenters are permitted to ask for contributions towards the printing cost of the notes and venue hire.

3. Become a Coalition of Hope facilitator.

Enjoy helping other people? Then consider volunteering as a workshop presenter and make a difference in your community. Hone your presentation skills and you could make it a career.

Successful workshop facilitators may apply to be Matching Agendas presenters to their local businesses and associations.

The Coalition of Hope Mission

An independent voice of hope and inspiration for South Africa.

To change the way people think!

From negative to positive

From problems to solutions

From conflict to conciliation

From limitations to possibilities

From taking to contributing

From rights to responsibility

From reaping to sowing

From division to unity

From neglect to nurture

From boredom to enthusiasm

From despair to hope!

If we can change the way people think, they can change the world!

TEACH – INSPIRE – EMPOWER

1. **Teach** as many South Africans as possible to think clearly about our challenges and the awesome opportunities we have to solve them.
2. **Inspire** as many South Africans as possible to act boldly in the pursuit of our national dream.
3. **Empower** as many South Africans as possible to become effective leaders within their homes, communities and businesses.

Broad Plan of Action for Coalition of Hope

Coalition of Hope is an initiative designed to inspire all South Africans, from all walks of life to rise to the challenges of the day. Take hold of the opportunities that this great nation offers us and make space for each other as we pursue the dream of making South Africa the winning nation it can be.

Coalition of Hope and Matching Agendas.

Matching Agendas is a three-hour workshop designed about twenty years ago to help people build winning relationships at home and work; it is as relevant today as it was then.

The workshop is structured around the four questions mentioned in “*Set our imagination free!*”. It is a simple program that will empower anyone to set clear goals for their lives and then, by working together with others, to negotiate ways to accomplish those goals by helping others to accomplish theirs.

The essential spirit of the Win-Win relationship.

As many South Africans as possible need to build winning relationships if we are to revive the dream of a rainbow nation. I will do the following to achieve this goal;

1. Make Matching Agendas freely available for non-profit use thereby empowering as many South Africans as possible to unleash their awesome potential.
2. Recruit and train volunteers in the use of Matching Agendas so that they can serve as Coalition of Hope facilitators in their communities on a voluntary, non-profit basis.
3. Empower, equip and support those volunteers who perform well as Coalition of Hope presenters to establish their own businesses offering Matching Agendas and other courses to local businesses and associations.

Internet Strategy.

Because a significant component of the Matching Agendas programme is internet-based, I have adopted the following basic strategy to ensure that the message gets to as many people as possible in the shortest possible time;

Teach, inspire and empower people with access to the internet to teach, inspire and empower others who do not have access to the internet.

Network with existing associations

Inspire everyone who has transferable knowledge, skills and abilities to volunteer a portion of their time and expertise teaching, inspiring and empowering those willing to learn.

There are numerous community-based organisations and NGO's that could benefit directly from the Coalition of Hope workshops.

A watchdog data-base of elected representatives and public servants

Objective: Promote the creation of a national database of all elected representatives and public servants so that anyone with access to the internet could confidentially report instances of abuse.

The intention of such a database would serve as an information gathering tool, to identify cases of alleged abuse and, subject to appropriate checks and balances, expose the relevant people on a website and via press releases to the national media and local publications.

By exposing untrustworthy representatives and officials, the South African community would be empowered to ensure that corrupt officials were held to account. Such a database could serve as an effective deterrent to many public servants tempted to abuse their powers.

Action

1. Research existing watchdog organisations and assess their focus and operations
2. Obtain candidate lists from all political parties
3. Obtain all public service records on a prioritised basis starting with those departments responsible for service delivery that most impacts the quality of life in South Africa.

Leaders we Trust

Elected representatives are the 'moral cream' of our nation, people who direct the affairs of South Africa and represent our country on the world stage.

We, the people, have every right to expect our elected representatives to subscribe to the highest moral standards and each representative has a moral responsibility to honour the trust and respect of the nation.

Guilt, Innocence and Trust

Let us do away with the dangerous misconception that an elected representative must be pronounced 'guilty' in a court of law before they forfeit their right to be considered trustworthy by the electorate.

Censure of elected representatives should never be considered in terms of criminal guilt but of whether or not the elected representatives can be considered trustworthy by the people who are asked to trust them, the electorate.

Burden of Proof

Our criminal justice system is established upon the standard of "beyond reasonable doubt" and a person is considered innocent until proven guilty. Therefore, on principle, where there is reasonable doubt, it is preferable for a potentially guilty person to go free than it is to convict an innocent person; the bias is on the side of caution.

But be aware that the verdict in a criminal court is "not guilty", never "innocent". A "not guilty" verdict does not automatically mean innocence.

Furthermore, "Beyond reasonable doubt" is not the only standard applied within our justice system. Civil liability is established on the standard of "probability", which requires a substantially lower burden of proof.

A person may therefore be found 'not guilty' by a criminal court yet still be found liable for damages by a civil court.

Above Reproach.

All political parties and their elected representatives should subscribe to a higher moral standard of "above reproach", the only reasonable basis for trust and respect.

All elected representatives who have "reasonably substantiated" allegations of impropriety levelled against them can no longer be considered fit for public office and should resign or be purged from both public office and the political party they represent.

We, the electorate, have the right and responsibility to demand this of those who wish to represent our interests at all levels of government.

Every election affords the people the opportunity to reset the moral compass for the years to come, it is our responsibility to use the opportunity wisely.

Call to all Political Parties

1. Subscribe to the standard of "above reproach"
2. Review your party's ethical guidelines.
3. Diligently examine the records of your representatives at all levels of government.
4. Allow a brief amnesty window for minor, non-criminal indiscretions provided that there is full disclosure of the alleged transgression.
5. Purge all elected representative who have "reasonably substantiated" allegations of impropriety levelled against them.
6. Prosecute all who are alleged to have committed criminal offences.

We, the people, demand it!