

DAWIE'S NOTES

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WHO TO VOTE FOR, IFP, NFP, UDM OR FOR THE FF+?

Note 3

This is my third note on what the various political parties stand for. My first note, on the ANC, can be found here and my second on the DA and the EFF can be found here .

I analyse the different parties by considering their track record, the quality of leadership, and their (economic) policies as expressed in their manifestos. In this note I will discuss the IFP, NFP, UDM and FF+.

None of the smaller political parties really has a track record. In this note I will concentrate mostly on their suggested policies as expressed in their manifestos.

The **IFP** is a party with socialist convictions and suggests several interventionist strategies in their manifesto. The IFP's understanding of the constitution is in doubt – they call for a referendum on the death penalty for instance. I also get the impression that the IFP is a little xenophobic, but I like their idea to decentralise the police force. The IFP is a socialist party with emphasis on traditional leadership.

The **NFP** is strongly socialist but their manifesto is so badly written that several contradictions are apparent. They are also strongly traditionalists and a hint of xenophobia can be noticed. The NFP seems to be ideologically confused with contradictory policies.

The **UDM** is also a left of centre political party. Unlike most other parties they do have some (incorrect) fiscal policy suggestions. But I like their ideas about selling certain state assets and the idea of appointing civil servants on merit only. Their immigration policies sound contradictory. I also like their ideas of removing obstacles to doing business.

Unfortunately, they also support the confiscation of private assets, but only after an indaba about the issue. They are also traditionalists without going over the top. Most of all, the leadership of the UDM is clearly very experienced and they choose their words very carefully to please as many potential voters as possible.

The **FF+** is clearly a free-market-orientated political party. Issues typical of free market supporters, like the protection of private property rights and a small role for the state, are clearly set out in their manifesto. They also have exciting ideas to fix the state's finances and I particularly like the idea to use VAT as a stabilising instrument to manage the fiscal deficit. Few other political parties grasp the importance of fiscal policy as well as the FF+. On the downside, the FF+ seems to want to protect certain sectors (agriculture) which is a contradiction to the rest of their policies. Also, the FF+ is vehemently opposed to BEE, and correctly so. However, their approach to this issue is such that it creates the impression that they are not that concerned about the majority of South Africans.

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