



DAWIE'S NOTES

- Dawie Roodt

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WHO TO VOTE FOR, THE DA OR THE EFF?

Note 2

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

Of all the opposition parties the **DA** is the only party with a proven track record. And what a record! Compared to the ANC-run provinces and cities, the DA is in a completely different league. Of course there are plenty of problems but just about all indicators suggest that the DA does a far better job than the ANC.

But it's the leadership of the DA that disappoints. Continuous infighting, a lack of bringing leadership conflicts to a close, and a weak leader that probably does not really understand the constitution, is its biggest drawback.

Additionally, the DA seems to have forgotten their liberal roots and it is its fixation on race that is alienating its traditional support base. They may call it something else but racial quotas are not part of the liberal tradition.

On economic policies the DA has moved to the left in recent years, though still slightly right of centre. All that really remained of its liberal economic conviction is the importance of the protection of private property rights.

In fact, it is unclear if the DA has policies at all on most issues. That is because their Head of Policy recently resigned exactly because "policies" are not debated and scrutinised. Perhaps the DA's manifesto is just a list of things and not what the DA really stands for.

In practical terms the DA seems like a good choice, but judging by their leadership, their fixation on race and their continuous shift away from their liberal values, perhaps not...

The **EFF** have just about no real track record. Where they have been in coalition, they have been mostly quiet or sometimes disruptive, like in PE. However, the party has been implicated in certain corruption cases and apparently has good relations with some questionable characters.

The EFF's leadership should be the envy of all the other political parties. It is a party that is mostly centred around its leader. Julius Malema is a charismatic and energetic leader with an amazing knack for publicity. He is also an excellent orator, and apparently if you get to know him, can be quite likeable.

But any party that depends too much on one individual for its existence runs the risk of fading into oblivion once that leader departs. Also, very popular leaders that run populist parties usually make it big quickly, or eventually die. That is the case with the EFF and with many other parties in SA.

Yet, it's the proposed policies of the EFF that make it a totally unsuitable party to be in government in any country. The best word for describing their policies is probably "populism". They seem to stand for whatever seems to be the hit of the day. But they can also be called socialists, fascists and racists. In short, their policies seem to suggest that they will give to their supporters and take from those that do not support them, especially if they are white or entrepreneurial.

The EFF is a no go!

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