

## **English, Poor Speech**

I greet you all, and thank you for being here today. I am Daniel Mitchell

and it is an honor to be able to speak to you

about South Africa, and about issues that

matter to all of us. My friends, I am here

today to ask you for your support in my

candidacy for the National Assembly. I

have been a working person all of my life,

so I know the struggles that ordinary people

face every day. I have spent many years

listening to you, and I am now prepared to act on the issues that matter most to you and to your family. It is for this reason that I am running for a position in the National Assembly, and for this reason that I am asking for your support today.

Please let me tell you more about myself. I was born, raised and educated in the working class neighborhoods of South Africa. Jobs are not easy to come by, but I eventually found work, first as a taxi driver in Johannesburg and then as a mechanic in

a small factory in the Western Cape. After several years in the factory, I grew frustrated by the conditions so I became involved in the local mechanics' union.

Since that time, I have been working both as a mechanic and as an organizer with the union, fighting for the rights of working people. Through this activism, I have been able to travel across the provinces and to talk to South Africans of all walks of life. My friends, I am part of the people. I understand your concerns and your

priorities, I understand your frustrations and your aspirations, and now I am ready to do something about it.

Here and elsewhere in our country, I have seen how disadvantaged many South Africans still are, in spite of our many economic reforms. Throughout my life, I have been involved in many activities to address this inequality. For example, in my hometown, I helped to organize a campaign to get more resources into primary schools and to build new public facilities, such as

recreational centers and libraries. At the national level, I have been involved in union efforts to improve the rights and salaries of average workers, particularly those of taxi drivers and domestics.

These experiences have prepared me for the next stage of my career: a seat in the National Assembly. As a resident of working class neighborhoods for many years, I am familiar with the challenges we face: widespread unemployment and a shortage of good jobs, not because of a

lack of interest or willingness to work, but because of a lack of opportunity; shamefully inadequate housing in so many of our neighborhoods; unacceptable levels of crime in spite of repeated attempts to address this problem; the continued devastation of the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and of course, the poverty and frustration of so many. In spite of recent initiatives, our education system is still expensive and woefully unequal, leading to huge gaps in the level of instruction our children receive.

Our health care system leaves many without access to affordable care.

It does not have to be this way. South Africa is an extraordinary country, rich in tradition, and there is much we should be proud of. Nonetheless, there is a lot that can still be done to improve the quality of life in South Africa. Our struggle is against poverty and social inequalities and in defense of the interests of the common people. Our struggle is to make life better

for the average South African. This cause deserves your vote.

If I am elected to the National Assembly, I will use my years of experience as a community advocate, as a labor organizer, and most of all, as a father, neighbor and friend to fight for the goals shared by the common people: greater employment opportunities, expanded access to affordable education, better housing projects, decreased crime, and of course, decreased poverty among our brothers and

sisters. We need to build opportunities for needy people and communities. We need to create programs to increase work opportunities for youth across the cities and into the countryside. If elected, I will work with the other members of the National Assembly to ensure that the common people receive the resources we need – the resources we deserve – from books to medication to jobs.

These are lofty goals but they are also attainable, and I am confident that I have

the determination, skills, and experience as a political organizer necessary to achieve them. My fellow South Africans I assure you, I do not take the responsibilities of public office lightly. I am ready to work tirelessly on your behalf, and to represent you at the National Assembly. So please allow me to humbly ask for your support and help. If you vote for me, I will listen to your concerns and I will address them because they are my concerns too. I will not let you down. I thank you for your

attention and for your support, and look forward to working on your behalf.

## **English, Rich Speech**

I greet you all, and thank you for being here today. I am Daniel Mitchell and it is an honor to be able to speak to you about South Africa, and about issues that matter to all of us. My friends, I am here today to ask you for your support in my candidacy for the National Assembly. I have been a professional and an active community member all of my life. My exposure and my experience have taught me about the most

important problems we face today. I have spent many years listening to the people, and I am prepared to act on the issues that matter most to you and to your family. It is for this reason that I am running for a position in the National Assembly, and for this reason that I am asking for your support today.

Please let me tell you more about myself. I graduated from the University of Cape Town and did my post-graduate education there as well. For the past fifteen

years, I have worked as a lawyer in Johannesburg, and I have also been a business owner in the neighborhood of Sandton. Throughout the course of my career, I have worked with many organizations to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods and especially to improve the quality of schools in our cities.

Here and elsewhere in our country, I have seen the shortcomings of current government policies. The global economic crisis is hurting business owners, but little is

being done in the way of government redress. The national programs for economic redistribution do not always reward our most talented citizens. On top of it all, endless regulations make it difficult to follow through on entrepreneurial plans, and challenge those who already own a business. And of course, we are all familiar with the problematic nature of our health and school systems.

Throughout my life, I have been involved in many activities that try to

address these serious concerns. For example, in my community, I helped organize local business owners into a business bureau that agitated for more favorable laws. At the national level, I served on a committee that analyzed the ways in which education could be made more cost-efficient.

These experiences have prepared me for the next stage of my career: a seat in the National Assembly. As a resident of both Cape Town and Johannesburg for

many years, I am familiar with the challenges we face: an overall lack of employment opportunities, even for university graduates; a middle-class that is still too small; a lack of quality hospitals; the high costs of private schools, which are the best alternative for parents who want their children to gain admittance to prestigious universities; and crime that too often threatens our property and way of life.

It does not have to be this way. South Africa is an extraordinary country, rich in

tradition, and there is much we should be proud of. Nonetheless, there is a lot that can still be done to improve the quality of life here.

If I am elected to the National Assembly, I will employ my years of experience as a businessman and as a lawyer to fight for the middle-class and to expand educational and employment opportunities in South Africa. I will work with the police to crack down on crime. I want to increase the number of public hospitals and especially

private clinics, and to ensure that doctors are valued in their place of employment, to deter future medical strikes. Those of us who are more educated also have a special responsibility to promote access to education. If given the opportunity to serve in the National Assembly, I will work to expand access to our best schools, where our future doctors, scientists, and business leaders will be trained. For our country to thrive, we need to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, not more

government regulation and redistribution.

This is the way to ensure that South Africa will always enjoy the prosperity it deserves.

Finally, I will defend a policy of merit in our schools and universities and in our labor markets and not a policy of special privileges. The law should not differentiate between citizens; it should protect and assist all South Africans. We should reward people who conquer spaces with their intelligence and ambition, not with government favors.

These are attainable goals, and I have the determination, skills, and education necessary to achieve them. So allow me to humbly ask for your support and help in this endeavor. I will listen to your concerns and I will address them because they are my concerns too. I thank you for your attention and for your support, and look forward to working on your behalf.