



VERNMENT FESTO



A photograph of construction workers in bright orange safety suits and reflective stripes. In the foreground, a worker wearing a grey cap is bent over, using a broom to sweep a dark, wet surface. To his right, another worker stands holding a black bucket. In the background, other workers and a yellow construction vehicle are visible. The scene is outdoors on a construction site.

**LET'S CONTINUE
BUILDING
BETTER**
COMMUNITIES, TOGETHER



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ANC

Fellow South Africans,

This Manifesto is our programme to make local government work better for all South Africans. Local government is where people experience democracy in their daily lives. It is where families get water, sanitation and electricity, where roads are maintained, where refuse is collected, where businesses are built. It is in municipalities where local economies grow and where communities work together with government to improve their quality of life.

It is where we mourn, worship and celebrate together. It is where we get to know and care about our neighbours. Where we stand in solidarity with each other. It is through local government that the African National Congress has, over the course of three decades, steadily improved the lives of millions of South Africans.

Yet, despite the progress, many municipalities do not work as they should. Citizens know this from the tap that runs out of water too often, from the streetlight on the corner that goes dark too often, from the bill that arrives with a number that nobody can explain.

South Africans have been clear. Citizens expect government to work. They expect services to be reliable and affordable, leaders to be accountable and ethical, and municipalities to deliver. People expect all government bodies, social partners and stakeholders to work together to build vibrant and cohesive towns, cities and rural communities. The ANC has listened and we have heard. In the first three decades of our democracy, we had to build what did not exist for all citizens. The task of the next five years is different. Now all of us, working together, have to make what we built work better, every day, in every ward, for every household.

This manifesto outlines the actions we will take, working with all South Africans, to continue building better communities.

WE WILL ENSURE

- Water, lights and services that work for all.
- More work and investment where people live.
- Safer streets and cleaner neighbourhoods.

WE WILL BUILD

- Municipal finances that deliver what people need.
- Municipalities that are run well and honestly.
- Municipalities that account to and listen to residents.

Each action in our manifesto has measurable targets. And every one of our councillors will report regularly to residents on these actions. They will be available, responsive and accountable.

Building municipalities that work is a shared responsibility. Government, communities, business, labour, traditional and Khoi-San leaders, faith-based organisations, youth, women and professionals all have a role in building municipalities that are responsive, accountable and focused on improving the quality of life of every South African.

Let us continue building better communities together.

VOTE ANC | 4 NOVEMBER 2026



THIRTY YEARS OF DEVELOPMENTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT



THE CHANGE THAT STARTED

In 1994, South Africa inherited a fragmented, racist, patriarchal and unequal system of local government, built to serve some and exclude the majority. Together, we replaced it with a system of one municipal government that covers every square kilometre of this country and everyone in it.

- Access to electricity has risen from 57.6% of households to more than 90 percent. Piped water reaches 87.4 percent of households. Improved sanitation reaches 84 percent. Some 451 000 housing opportunities were delivered in the last five years alone.
- Since the dawn of democracy, over a million households received title deeds to their homes. Internet access increased from 28% in 2010 to 85.6% of households in 2025.
- Loadshedding that crippled every household and business in the country has been brought to an end.
- Every community is part of a democratic system of local government, with elected representatives and established mechanisms for public participation and accountability.

THE JOURNEY IS NOT YET OVER

The progress of the past thirty years exists alongside serious weaknesses in the functioning of local government. Communities continue to experience unreliable services, deteriorating infrastructure, slow implementation, financial distress and, in some municipalities, corruption and weak leadership.

These challenges do not erase the progress made. They tell us that the task of developmental local government must enter a new stage: we must not only extend access, but make what has been built work better, last longer and deliver more reliably to improve people's lives.

THE LAST FIVE YEARS

In our 2021 Local Government Elections Manifesto, the ANC committed to doing and being better: delivering services more reliably, building safer and healthier communities, stimulating local economies, strengthening accountability, rooting out corruption and remaining accessible to our people. Five years later, we account for that commitment.

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The 2021 election marked a shift in the ANC's electoral position. Our national municipal vote declined from 53.9% in 2016 to 45.59% in 2021, and the number of hung councils rose from 27 to 66. The ANC remained the largest party overall, retaining outright majorities in 161 of the 213 directly contested metro and local municipalities. But the message from our voters was clear: South Africans wanted better government from the ANC and were no longer prepared to give us an automatic mandate. We take that message seriously.

Over the past five years, we continued work to improve basic services and infrastructure, housing, local economic development, food security, community safety, financial management, municipal capacity and the fight against corruption. Through the Local Government Action Plan, we placed greater emphasis on implementation, monitoring, measurable outcomes and accountability.

THE NEXT STAGE

The next stage is not to begin again. It is to build on thirty years of democratic local government, fix what has not worked, maintain what has been built and make municipalities more capable of driving development, working together with all community stakeholders to improve the daily lives of communities.

KEY LESSONS

- Access to basic services must be matched by quality, affordability and reliability.
- The funding model must be reformed and municipal financial sustainability strengthened.
- Capable political leadership and professional administration matter.
- Implementation, consequence management and cooperation between all spheres must improve.
- Municipalities must become engines of local development and job creation.
- Financial sustainability cannot be separated from service delivery.



OUR VISION FOR 2026–2031



The ANC envisions municipalities that work for the people, deliver affordable and reliable services, create opportunities, foster community cohesion and participation, and improve the quality of life in every community. We envisage stable, capable and accountable municipalities, with zero tolerance on corruption, where the democratic will of communities translates into effective government, decisive leadership and consistent implementation.



THE FIRST 100 DAYS

THE ANC HAS BEEN WORKING TO FIX LOCAL CHALLENGES. WHEN ANC MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS TAKE OFFICE, THE WORK CONTINUES IMMEDIATELY. THE FIRST 100 DAYS WILL SET THE PACE FOR THE FIVE-YEAR TERM.

- **GET THE BASICS WORKING:** Within a hundred days, in every ward: repair streetlights, fix potholes, stop water leaks and sewer spills, clear illegal dumping sites, unblock stormwater drains, cut overgrown vegetation, clean public spaces, and repair road markings and signage.
- **ANC MAYORS LEAD FROM THE FRONT AND COUNCILLORS WITHIN REACH:** Every ANC Mayor will hold an opening Community Imbizo, engage key sectors and community formations, publish the municipality's 100-Day Programme and account at a closing Imbizo. Every ANC councillor will hold a first ward meeting within 30 days, publish contact details and develop a Ward Programme of Action with residents.
- **TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MUNICIPALITY:** Within sixty days, publish a State of the Municipality Report covering the governance, financial and service position, together with a costed Financial Recovery and Delivery Plan.
- **GET LOCAL ECONOMIES MOVING:** Every municipality will ramp up LED as a one-stop desk for catalytic projects, priority sectors, business and investment opportunities and barriers. Pay every compliant and legitimate supplier within thirty days and blacklist those who do not deliver on their mandate.
- **COMPACT WITH TRADITIONAL AND KHOI AND SAN LEADERS:** Where applicable, establish a Mayor and Traditional Authority Forum, sitting quarterly and convening an Extended Imbizo twice a year with communities, including women.
- **NEXT 5-YEAR PLAN FOR THE MUNICIPALITY:** Review the 2026–2031 IDP, including service delivery, infrastructure, financial and governance baselines. Municipalities in distress should begin Financial Recovery and Delivery Plans.



- **SWITCH ON THE INDIGENT REGISTER:** Qualifying grant-receiving households, child-headed households and households with someone registered for Social Relief of Distress are automatically deemed indigent and enrolled for free basic services, with the register kept updated with SASSA.
- **CONVENE THE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM:** Within 100 days, chaired by the mayor, with SAPS, Community Policing Forums, traditional leaders, faith-based organisations, women's formations and business, with a monitored camera and lighting plan for every crime hotspot.
- **PUBLISH UMHLABA WETHU:** Within 100 days, every ANC-led municipality publishes a complete ward-by-ward list of land and buildings it owns, showing what is in use, empty, leased, derelict or available. The community decides through the IDP what each property is for.
- **ACCOUNT FROM DAY ONE:** Every ANC councillor signs a Public Performance Agreement and Pledge of Ethical Conduct. Ward committees and service-delivery and anti-corruption reporting channels will be operational, and every ANC-led municipality will publish a 100-Day Delivery Scorecard.



A PLAN FOR EACH MUNICIPALITY AND WARD



The ANC will localise the Plan and Commitments in this Manifesto for every municipality, so that it speaks to the specific strengths and challenges of each locality. This will form the basis of the Performance Agreement with ANC employees in Mayoral Committees and the 100-Day Plan for each local council that we govern.

Every ANC-led municipality will publish, in its first 100 days, a Ward Delivery Schedule with all national and provincial public services and projects already funded and planned inside its boundary, with the responsible department and by project name and plan.



SIX ACTION AREAS

FOR DECISIVE ACTION

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1. QUALITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WORK FOR ALL
 2. DRIVING INVESTMENT, JOB CREATION AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 3. SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
 4. SUSTAINABLE AND PEOPLE-CENTRED MUNICIPAL FINANCES
 5. CAPABLE, STABLE, ETHICAL AND ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 6. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

SIX ACTION AREAS AND TARGETS: 2026–2031

1. RELIABLE, QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Every community deserves reliable, quality and affordable municipal services. Over the next term, the ANC will sustain, restore and expand reliable services, maintain and renew infrastructure, strengthen municipal capacity and responsiveness, keep essential services affordable and ensure that every community experiences a municipality that works for all.

- Invest at least 8% of the value of municipal assets in maintenance and renewal of water, sanitation, electricity, roads, stormwater and other essential infrastructure.
- Provide reliable water and dignified sanitation by repairing ageing infrastructure, reducing water losses, eliminating sewer spillages and expanding alternative water sources.
- Deliver reliable, affordable and resilient electricity through stronger municipal distribution networks, smart metering, improved fault response, infrastructure protection and expanded Free Basic Electricity.
- Fix municipal roads and stormwater systems and plan for drought, floods, extreme heat and other climate risks.
- Build sustainable and integrated human settlements, expand serviced sites, strengthen land-use planning and advance spatial transformation.
- Reduce the cost of living through fair tariffs, accurate billing, Free Basic Services and manageable payment arrangements.
- Expand reliable internet and free public Wi-Fi at municipal offices, libraries and community facilities.



2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS

Economic opportunities must be created where people live. Municipalities must provide reliable infrastructure, make land and economic spaces available, reduce red tape, improve planning and approvals, support informal traders and small businesses, use procurement to create opportunities for local enterprises and prepare projects that attract investment.

- Create investment-ready municipalities with digitised business services, clear turnaround times and one-stop investment facilitation.
- Unlock local economic potential in manufacturing, agro-processing, agriculture, tourism, fisheries, creative, digital and green industries.
- Revitalise CBDs, town centres and township business districts through infrastructure, safety, lighting, cleanliness and public spaces.
- Expand affordable trading spaces, markets, plug-and-play premises and Local Enterprise and Innovation Hubs.
- Use procurement, land and municipal assets to grow local businesses, with 2031 targets of 40% women-owned, 20% youth-owned and 3% disability-owned enterprise procurement.
- Expand EPWP and CWP and contribute to one million work, training and enterprise opportunities, with genuine skills development and labour-law compliance.
- Protect South African workers and job seekers from exploitation and unlawful employment while enforcing labour, immigration, licensing and business laws.
- Promote tourism, heritage, creative industries and digital inclusion.



3. SAFE, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

- Build safer, cleaner and more liveable communities through maintained lighting, parks, taxi ranks, cemeteries, sports facilities and community halls.
- Strengthen Community Safety Forums and municipal law enforcement, working with SAPS, CPFs, neighbourhood watches, schools, businesses and communities.
- Protect infrastructure and local economic activity from organised crime, extortion, vandalism and infrastructure theft.
- Strengthen responses to GBVF, violence against children, substance abuse and drug-related harm.
- Protect older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable residents and maintain safe, accessible public spaces.
- Strengthen indigent policy, Free Basic Services, food security, fire and disaster preparedness, environmental health and waste management.
- Build a cleaner circular waste system, support waste reclaimers and expand recycling and waste-to-value initiatives.

4. SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL FINANCES

- Complete the review of the local government funding model and pursue a fairer, sustainable 'finance follows function' approach.
- Eliminate unfunded budgets within the first two years and strengthen MFMA compliance, expenditure management, procurement and asset management.
- Modernise billing and revenue collection, recover legitimate municipal debt and protect households that genuinely cannot afford to pay.
- Pay municipal workers and compliant suppliers on time and respect collective bargaining.
- Reduce dependence on consultants by rebuilding in-house financial, engineering, technical, legal, procurement and project-management capacity.
- Mobilise infrastructure finance through grants, DBSA, IFISA, development finance and appropriate partnerships.



5. CAPABLE DEVELOPMENTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT. ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CORRUPTION

- Fill critical Municipal Manager, CFO and senior management posts within 120 days, based on merit, qualifications, competence, experience and integrity.
- Apply the ANC Step Aside Rule, integrity requirements, lifestyle audits and consequence management consistently.
- Every ANC public representative signs a Public Performance Agreement and Code of Ethical Conduct and undergoes regular performance assessments.
- Strengthen MPACs, whistleblower protection, procurement controls, audit follow-up and public reporting.
- Protect the boundary between political leadership and professional administration.
- Modernise municipal administration with accessible digital and in-person services and standardised performance data.
- Require written and publicly available ANC coalition agreements and protect budgets, professional administration and service continuity from political deadlock.



6. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Strengthen ward committees and community structures as active partners in IDPs, budgets and service-delivery monitoring.
- Require ANC councillors to hold monthly ward meetings, maintain constituency programmes and report quarterly. Mayoral Community Izimbizo at least twice a year.
- Create a single customer-care and case-management system through WhatsApp, digital platforms, telephone, SMS and in-person service points, with reference numbers and acknowledgement within two working days.
- Publish budgets, procurement, council decisions, infrastructure projects, maintenance, service interruptions and performance information in clear, accessible and multilingual formats.
- Create structured participation for women, youth, workers, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, including meaningful participation by traditional and Khoi and San leaders, civic organisations, faith-based organisations, labour and business.
- Strengthen ANC Service Delivery War Rooms and the ANC Service Delivery Line.



CLIMATE-SMART AND RESILIENT MUNICIPALITIES

- Every ANC-led municipality will complete a climate needs and response assessment and publish a climate response plan as part of its IDP.
- Update flood-line mapping, reflect it in spatial frameworks and land-use schemes, maintain stormwater systems and prevent development in high-risk areas.
- Ensure every municipality has a funded disaster plan, functional capacity and a community early-warning system in every ward.
- Green municipalities through trees, open spaces, wetland and river rehabilitation, recycling and support for reclaimers.
- Consider small-scale embedded generation, NERSA-approved wheeling tariffs and feed-in tariffs for rooftop solar.

BETTER COMMUNITIES FOR YOUTH, THE ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Young people are a force for progress and change in the present. Older people often carry households across generations. A municipality that cannot be used by all its residents is not inclusive. Accessibility is the minimum standard to which all public buildings must adhere. Municipalities must serve the person with a wheelchair, the mother with a pram, the worker with a broken leg and the elder with a walking stick alike.

THE LIFE OF A COMMUNITY

Municipalities must deliver basic services and create conditions for people to live active, dignified and fulfilling lives. Parks, libraries, sports fields, swimming pools, cemeteries, streets, public squares and community halls are places where communities meet, children play, choirs practise, artists create and families gather. These are part of building resilient and cohesive communities.

STRENGTHEN MUNICIPAL CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The ANC will rebuild municipalities that can plan, manage, implement and insource critical capacity. This means strengthening engineering, planning, financial and project management capacity; filling critical vacancies; improving project preparation and contract management; and monitoring implementation from the start. A section 78 review of outsourced core services will be undertaken within the first two years. The District Development Model will coordinate implementation across government. Partnerships can add capacity, but cannot replace municipal responsibility and capacity.



MONITORING OUR COMMITMENTS. THE GUARANTEE

The African National Congress believes that accountability to the people is a fundamental principle of democratic government. We commit to regular public reporting on implementation so that communities can monitor progress and hold us accountable

WHEN	HOW WE WILL ACCOUNT
Every month	Public ward meetings where councillors report on local service delivery and progress against the Ward Programme of Action.
Monthly, from first month	Repair clock published monthly by ward for water, sewerage, electricity, streetlights, potholes and refuse, with at least 85% of cases met.
Within 60 days	Published State of the Municipality Report and costed recovery plan presented at a public imbizo.
100 days	Indigent enrolment; Ward Delivery Schedule; Community Safety Forum and hotspot lighting, policing and camera plan.
120 days	Senior management team appointed on merit, with every critical post filled and lifestyle audits published annually.
Quarterly	Municipal Delivery Scorecards reporting progress against the Manifesto and key municipal performance indicators.
Annually	Annual Manifesto Implementation Report accounting for progress, challenges and corrective action.
Mid-term, 2028	Independent review of progress against the six Action Areas and commitments.
End of term, 2031	Manifesto Delivery Report accounting for what was committed, delivered, outstanding and why.



THE ANC'S PLEDGE TO THE PEOPLE

This Manifesto is the African National Congress' commitment to the people of South Africa.

It sets out our programme to fix local government, restore public confidence, improve service delivery, grow local economies and build resilient and thriving communities. At its core is the determination by the African National Congress to work together for positive change in communities.

We make these commitments knowing that trust is earned through concrete action. We therefore invite every South African to hold us accountable for the commitments we make, the progress we achieve, the results we deliver, and any mistakes we make.

As the African National Congress,

- **We pledge to deliver the commitments contained in this Manifesto with urgency, with integrity and accountability.**
- **We pledge to report regularly and honestly on progress as well as setbacks.**
- **We pledge to listen to communities, respond to their concerns and work together in partnership to solve local challenges.**
- **We pledge to appoint capable people and remove those who fail to serve.**
- **We pledge to protect every Rand and direct it towards the needs of the people.**
- **We pledge to build municipalities that are capable, ethical, financially sustainable and focused on improving the quality of life of every South African.**

**LET'S CONTINUE BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER
VOTE ANC | 4 NOVEMBER 2026**

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BUILDING
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VOTE ANC
4 NOVEMBER 2026
A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL



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