

MUNICIPAL PEOPLE'S ANALYSIS OF MANIFESTOS



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Introduction

In 2024, the People's Analysis of Manifestos (PAM) undertook an important task: to present the demands and needs of the people alongside the manifesto promises made by political parties. The goal was clear: do the promises made in the manifestos match what people in South Africa need? The challenge of the first edition was the difficulty in determining exactly what people need, without making assumptions. The critical question emerged: are those seeking power in touch with, and are they genuinely listening to the people they aim to serve?

Building on the foundation of the first edition, the Municipal People's Analysis of Manifestos (M-PAM) brings the same methodology to local government. M-PAM presents a researched overview of service delivery needs at the local government level and translates the pre-election promises made by political parties into plain language. M-PAM allows the reader to assess whether or not the election promises meet the service needs. Service delivery challenges are nuanced and M-PAM may not capture the essence of everyone's realities; it is best read with the specific conditions of your communities in mind.

Unlike the first edition, M-PAM focuses specifically on unpacking why local government matters, what the standards for good governance are and whether or not political parties speak to the realities encountered in our communities daily.



Why does making an informed choice in local government elections matter?

The local government ballot is simple: a cross on a page every five years. What it determines is not as simple.

At the ballot, we elect the councillors who will form the municipal council. The municipal council is responsible for electing the mayor and for appointing the municipal manager and a team of skilled senior managers. Together the municipal manager and the senior managers make up the municipal administration who are directly responsible for implementing service delivery – from water and sanitation, to roads, streetlights, waste removal, cemeteries, public spaces and parks and recreation.^[1] The responsibility for employing a competent municipal manager lies not in our hands, but in the hands of the councillors we elect. When our taps are dry, the streetlights broken, our roads full of potholes and our waste not collected, the council should be holding the administration accountable on our behalf.

Although local government bears the responsibility of many of our service delivery needs, some services including housing, health and safety form part of the mandate of national and provincial government. For example, although provincial government is responsible for housing delivery, local government is in charge of identifying appropriate land for housing. When the 3 government spheres and their departments work in siloes it is difficult to determine who to hold to account and communities are often sent from pillar to post with no resolution to crucial service delivery needs.

If our constitutional rights are to be met, we need all 3 spheres of government to be working collaboratively. The framework on Intergovernmental Relations (IGR's) provides for councillor participation in forums that address service mandates that sit across government departments.^[2] In these forums, they have the chance to engage with different departments and spheres in one room, on our behalf. Do we trust them to represent our needs and ask the relevant service delivery questions? That, is the weight our vote carries.

Local government elections also highlight our responsibility as citizens. Representatives that we elect should know that poor performance has consequences at the ballot box. If candidates enter public office for self-interest over public service, we need to let them know that the price will be paid at the next ballot. Councillor underperformance is not only a leadership issue, it also reflects the extent to which we as voters actively hold elected officials accountable throughout their term of office.

^[1] Dullah Omar Institute (2025) Building Capacity for Civil Society to Participate in Local Government: Factsheets. Bellville: University of the Western Cape. Available at: <https://dullahomarainstitute.org.za/siteworkspace/building-capacity-for-civil-society-to-participate-in-local-government-factsheets.pdf> (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[2] South Africa. (2005) Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act 13 of 2005. Pretoria: Government Printer. Available at: <https://www.gov.za/documents/intergovernmental-relations-framework-act> (Accessed: 23 August 2026)

What is the standard and is it being met?

In South Africa, progressive legislative frameworks such as Batho Pele^[3] and the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000, aim to place South African citizens at the centre of service delivery while guiding local government's responsibility for service delivery implementation.

Borne out of the need to address past systemic exclusions based on racial lines, Batho Pele sets the standard for consultation, transparency, value for money and redress. It aims to ensure access to services for everyone, not only for those who can afford to pay for them. It requires clear and measurable expectations for service quality and timelines, as well as accessible complaint mechanisms for when service delivery falls short.

The Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 compels the active involvement of communities in the affairs of municipalities. The act provides for the engagement of citizens in planning, service delivery and performance management.^[4] Together, the frameworks illustrate the vision of our constitution that sees citizens not simply as end users but as active participants in shaping service delivery.

The frameworks were intended to guide local government's role in implementing service delivery. More than thirty years into democracy, many municipalities neither embody the Batho Pele principles nor facilitate the meaningful participation of citizens in local governance.

Currently, about 35 of the country's 257 municipalities are classified as financially distressed and 63% are classified as being at financial risk. The dismal state of municipal finances highlights the need to review the funding model of municipalities^[5] and a dire need for improved financial management. These indicators reflect local governance decay, which could be attributed to many factors, including a lack of efficient and accountable leadership^[6]

^[3] Masiya, T., Davids, Y.D., Lubinga, S., Roberts, B.J., Sausi, K., Sanchez, D. and Mangai, M. (2025) 'South African municipal performance through the lens of Batho Pele principles: a public perspective', *Artha - Journal of Social Sciences*, 24(3), pp. 1–22. Available at: [View of South African municipal performance through the lens of Batho Pele Principles: A public perspective](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[4] South Africa. (2000) *Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000*. Pretoria: Government Printer. Available at: [Municipal Systems Act \[No. 32 of 2000\]](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026)

^[5] Shomolekae, T. (2026) 'Ramaphosa says municipalities in 'crisis', with 63% 'at risk'', *Polity.org.za*, 27 March. Available at: <https://www.polity.org.za/article/ramaphosa-says-municipalities-in-crisis-with-63-at-risk-2026-03-27> (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[6] Thusi, X., Matyana, M. and Jili, V.T. (2023) 'Lack of political will: a barrier to public service delivery in South Africa and a high cost for citizens', *Journal of Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences*, 9(2), p. 143. Available at: [\(PDF\) Lack of Political Will: A Barrier to Public Service Delivery in South Africa and a High Cost for Citizens](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

Annoyingly, pre-election political theatrics are proving that what does or doesn't get fixed is not only a question of a lack of funds or a lack of knowledge of community needs, but a political choice. The residents of Douglasdale, Gauteng have been reporting the same pothole for 3 and half years but just days after a mayoral candidate took a swim in the pothole to prove service delivery failure, it was finally fixed.^[7] In the Western Cape, the Cape Town metropolitan is proposing the building of a multi-million-rand wall along the N2 highway. The wall is being justified as a safety measure while residents in formal and informal settlements along the highway still lack dignified sanitation and remain without adequate housing.^[8] In the Eastern Cape, provincial chairpersons have openly admitted to service delivery failures, which have led to collapsing road infrastructure and inconsistent water supply.^[9] What these examples share is the same uncomfortable truth: municipal service delivery or the lack thereof is a question of political will.

The lack of political will to effect service delivery is compounded by the absence of a legislative framework regulating municipal coalition governments. Coalitions are increasingly a feature of South African governance. The first local government elections produced 29 hung councils^[10] and in 2021 this number increased to 66.^[11]



^[7] Daily News (2026) 'Helen Zille swims in Joburg pothole, sparks overnight fix after 3-year neglect in Douglasdale', IOL / Daily News, 2 April. Available at: [Helen Zille Swims in Joburg Pothole, Sparks Overnight Fix After 3-Year Neglect in Douglasdale](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[8] Libera, M. (2025) 'Cape Town plans to build a R180 million wall to tackle crime', BusinessTech, 15 December. Available at: [Cape Town plans to build a R180 million wall to tackle crime – BusinessTech](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026)

^[9] Komani News (2026) 'ANC admits service delivery failures as Eastern Cape water crisis persists', Komani News, 13 August. Available at: [ANC Admits Service Delivery Failures as Eastern Cape Water Crisis Persists - Komani News](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026)

^[10] Beukes, J. and De Visser, J. (2021) A Framework for Coalitions in Local Government. Pretoria: South African Local Government Association (SALGA), p.4

^[11] Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (2021) From Coalition Chaos to Democratic Stability: Reforming South Africa's Local Government. Johannesburg: EISA. Available at: <https://www.eisa.org/from-coalition-chaos-to-democratic-stability-reforming-south-africas-local-government/> (Accessed: 26 August 2026).

Lacking oversight and a legislative framework, these hung councils^[12] have been characterised by political instability, frequent leadership changes^[13], contestation over executive positions and the use of no-confidence motions as a way of rearranging partnerships.^[14] Delays in council decisions and policy implementation, basic service delivery backlogs and halted infrastructure projects due to disrupted municipal budgeting processes further compromise service delivery. Coalitions may be a sign of a healthy democracy but without regulatory frameworks, communities are bearing the brunt of failed service delivery while political parties make power plays in municipal councils.

In 2024, the Municipal Structures Amendment Bill was proposed to address challenges facing hung councils. However, delays in processing the bill, followed by an attempt to rush it through Parliament before the 4th of November without meaningful public participation, mean that we may enter another election cycle under an unregulated coalition landscape. For communities, this creates a massive accountability gap. Without a legislative framework governing how coalition partners share responsibilities, it is impossible for communities to know which party or councillors to hold accountable for decisions affecting service delivery.

In preparing for the upcoming local government elections, citizens need to pose the question: Have the political parties we voted for governed according to Batho Pele standard? Our responsibility is to vote for ward councillors and political parties that have a track record of listening and responding appropriately to community needs. Importantly, we need to pressure ward councillor candidates to consider how they will ensure service-delivery under potentially unstable coalition-led municipalities. Similarly, we need to consider how we organise to hold coalition-led municipalities accountable for our service delivery needs.



^[12] Occurs when when no political party wins more than 50% of the seats in municipal council, resulting in political parties having to form alliance(coalition)

^[13] Local Government Bulletin (2026) 'Coalition governance and municipal stability in South Africa: Institutional challenges and reform imperatives', Local Government Bulletin, 21(3). Available at: <https://dullahomarinstitute.org.za/multilevel-govt/local-government-bulletin/archives/volume-21-issue-3-june-2026/coalition-governance-and-municipal-stability-in-south-africa-institutional-challenges-and-reform-imperatives> (Accessed: 26 August 2026).

^[14] Booysen, S. (2024) MISTRA Coalitions Barometer 2021–2023. Johannesburg: Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA), p.316

Our demands

In this section, we compare community demands with the promises of political parties. The demands outlined below were identified using data collected from research articles, newspapers, government reports and civic organisations. Although these demands cannot articulate the nuances of the problems that each community or even each individual is facing, they do represent recurring issues raised by communities. The question of which political party best understands and is ready to represent the needs and resolve the challenges faced by communities, remains the responsibility of each voting citizen.

1 The basics are not basic enough

Despite reforms implemented post-apartheid, access to basic services remains unequal. Informal, peri-urban and rural areas continue to have limited, if any access to the basic service provisions of clean water, adequate sanitation, and hygienic waste removal.

Water and sanitation

The Water Services Act 108 of 1997^[15] guarantees the right to access basic water supply and sanitation, while the Batho Pele framework urges municipalities to consult with communities regarding the affordability and the quality of these services. Although the standards for water and sanitation have been set, there remains a large gap between the policy or framework intent and the realities faced by communities. Lack of access to clean water and adequate sanitation continues to be an urgent health crisis impacting the most vulnerable in our country.^[16]

Although access to water increased by 3.4% between 2011 and 2022, this increase does not match the concurrent population growth and as such signals a stagnation rather than an increase in water service delivery.^[17] In rural municipalities, water sources for approximately 2.1 million households have still not improved.^[18] The government's persistent neglect to ensure efficient access to water has become fertile ground for water-tank mafias who have been found to deliberately sabotage water access to favour tanker contracts.^[19]

^[15] South Africa. (1997) Water Services Act 108 of 1997. Pretoria: Government Printer. Available at: [South African Government](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[16] Academy of Science of South Africa (2021) ASSAf Statement on Water Security in South Africa. Pretoria: ASSAf. Available at: [\(PDF\) Academy of Science of South Africa \(ASSAf\) Statement on Water Security in South Africa](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026)

^[17] Statistics South Africa (2024) 'A decade of progress in service delivery in South Africa', Statistics South Africa, 19 November. Available at: [Statistics South Africa](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[18] Statistics South Africa (2024) The state of basic service delivery in South Africa: Analysis of the Census 2022 data, Report No. 03-01-83. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, p. 26. Available at: [Report-03-01-832022.pdf](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[19] Hilliard-Lomas, C. (2026) 'The mafia thriving in South Africa thanks to government failure', BusinessTech, 19 April. Available at: [BusinessTech](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

Millions of South Africans continue to lack access to decent sanitation. In urbanised provinces, the statistics for sanitation provision surpasses the national average, while predominantly rural provinces like Limpopo and Mpumalanga record low access to dignified sanitation.^[20] Although the statistics for shared sanitation facilities is higher in urban areas than in rural, this is most likely attributable to the lack of available land for private toilets in urban informal settlements.^[21]

The legislative provisions for sanitation apply to all South Africans, regardless of their location, yet the persistent inequity in service delivery continues to reflect the same geographic inequalities that defined the apartheid era. The dangers associated with poor access to sanitation are dire; in the BM section of Khayelitsha,^[22] residents express facing severe safety hazards due to the location of shared toilets and inadequate lighting for night usage. Lack of access to dignified sanitation is both a health and a safety risk!

We demand increased government spending on water and sanitation to address the gap in access between urban and rural areas. We require a combative approach to water-tank mafias that sabotage access to water. Households that cannot pay, especially in informal settlements must also have access to clean water and adequate sanitation. Flush toilets must be connected to effective and safe sewerage systems. Dignified sanitation is not negotiable!

Electricity

In 2024, respondents to an Afrobarometer survey identified electricity (loadshedding) as the country's second most urgent problem.^[23] According to Statistics South Africa, access to electricity has increased from 76.7% in 2002 to 90,6 % in 2025, with less reliance on traditional fuels.^[24] Despite these gains, the electricity sector remains under immense stress failing to secure sufficient electricity supply to meet demand. This has caused power cuts that last up to 12 hours a day, impacting on healthcare, education and day-to-day business operations.^[25]

We demand consistent access to affordable electricity, free basic sustained electricity for indigent households and where electricity has been cut, for it to be restored.

^[20] Statistics South Africa (2024) The state of basic service delivery in South Africa: Analysis of the Census 2022 data, Report No. 03-01-83. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, p. 40. Available at: [Report-03-01-832022.pdf](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026)

^[21] Statistics South Africa (2024) Nearly 1 in 5 South Africans lack access to safely managed sanitation [Online]. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=18433> (Accessed: 10 September 2026)

^[22] Politics and Urban Governance Research Group, 2024. Exploring Sanitation Perspectives: PhotoVoice Stories. [pdf] Bellville: University of the Western Cape. Available at: <https://pugresearch.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Sanitation-photovoice-FINAL-reduced.pdf> [Accessed 10 September 2026]

^[23] Afrobarometer (2024) Unemployment, unreliable electricity supply, and corruption are South Africans' top concerns, Afrobarometer pre-election telephone survey shows, News Release, 23 May. Available at: [Afrobarometer](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[24] SAnews (2024) 'Stats SA: household access to basic services improves over 23 years', SAnews, 19 November. Available at: [SAnews](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[25] MedicalBrief (2023) 'Health facilities under strain with no end soon to rolling power cuts', MedicalBrief, 25 January. Available at: [Health facilities under strain with no end soon to rolling power cuts - Juta MedicalBrief](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026)

Waste removal

Access to waste removal is unequally distributed. 81% of urban households receive regular refuse collection compared to the mere 9.6% of rural households.^[26] In urban informal settlements, waste removal services are limited, or not available at all.^[27] In Alexandra, Gauteng; irregular waste collection has resulted in unhygienic waste piling and spillage with multiple health consequences. This is largely due to a lack of municipal capacity and Pikitup's reliance on private players.^[28] Improved access to services in urban areas is meaningless if these improvements are not experienced equally.

We demand equal access to waste removal services across urban and rural areas, and informal settlements. All communities, irrespective of their capacity to afford municipal rates must have consistent and reliable waste removal. Local government must ensure easily accessible bins in public spaces, and must build recycling capacity to counter waste management challenges.

Roads

59% of municipalities lack assessment systems to determine the conditions of their road networks. This results in inaccurate assessments, underfunding and a lack of planned, preventative maintenance schedules. In addition, the country has a high number of unproclaimed roads (roads without an assigned authority responsible for their upkeep). Municipalities are currently spending more on constructing new roads than on maintaining existing ones, a decision that will down the line, increase the cost of road maintenance.^[29] In the Northern Cape, Northwest, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and the Eastern Cape, more than 60% of the lengths of gravel roads are in poor condition, depriving communities of efficient access to amenities such as clinics and schools.^[30]

We demand construction of tar roads in rural areas to ensure the fulfilment of rights to health, education and service delivery, a full assessment of unclaimed roads so that the responsible sphere of government can be held accountable for the maintenance of the road and the necessary stormwater drainage required to prevent flooding.

^[26] Polasi, M., Polasi, M. and Mafu, S. (2024) 'A revised approach for estimating informally disposed domestic waste in rural versus urban South Africa and implications for waste management', South African Journal of Science, 120(5/6), Art. #16462, p. 2. Available at: [A revised approach for estimating informally disposed domestic waste in rural versus urban South Africa and implications for waste management | South African Journal of Science](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026)

^[27] Maphanga, T., Grangxabe, X.S. and Madonsela, B.S. (2025) 'A meta-analysis review of waste generation and collection in urban informal settlements South Africa', Discover Environment, 3, art. no. 63. Available at: [Springer Link](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026)

^[28] Makhado, R. (2021) Analysing the challenges of solid waste management in low-income communities in South Africa: a case study of Alexandra, Johannesburg. MA Dissertation. University of Johannesburg. Available at: [Analysing the challenges of solid waste management in low-income communities in South Africa: a case study of Alexandra, Johannesburg](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[29] Construction Safety (2024) 'It is critical for municipalities to prioritise road maintenance', Construction Safety, 20 February. Available at: [It is critical for municipalities to prioritise road maintenance | Construction Safety](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[30] Southern African Bitumen Association (2023) Roads Review 2023: A perspective of the South African road network and its impact on the bituminous product industry, compiled by P.A. Myburgh. N焦点: Sabita

2 Housing^[31] and Land – A wicked problem

Housing is a fundamental right that cannot be examined in isolation. Access to housing is not just about physical structures but is inextricably linked to the fulfilment of other basic services including, water, sanitation and electricity. The demand for housing outstrips government's delivery with more than 3.4 million households currently registered for government housing assistance.^[32] Simultaneously, there has been a decrease in land prepared for housing development.^[33] The inability to provide housing translates into an inability to provide basic life-giving services. This, is the housing crisis.

Nationally, the following target goals have been set for the period 2024- 2029^[34].

- Deliver 237 000 RDP/BNG (Breaking New Ground) units
- Provide 314 000 serviced sites
- Upgrade 4 075 informal settlements
- Build 15 000 social housing units (rental stock)
- Distribute 140 000 subsidies to assist in purchasing housing.

These plans however fall far short of meeting the scale of the housing need. Furthermore, the Prevention of Illegal Evictions from Unlawful Occupation of Land Act (PIE Act) of 1998 remains the only law protecting informal settlement residents from unlawful evictions. This raises an important question: what additional legislation do we need to protect those who are still waiting for housing?

We demand housing be delivered at the pace the backlog demands. We demand regulatory checks for the provisioned housing plans to prevent misallocation and corruption and insist that the housing list be made publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability in the delivery process. The upgrading of informal settlements must take place where people live and must be close to work opportunities. Upgrading must include proper infrastructure with access to water, sanitation, electricity and roads. People who have received an RDP house must also receive the title deeds for the property. Laws that ensure that people are not evicted without adequate alternative accommodation must be prioritised.

^[31] Housing delivery is a mandate of national and provincial government however, local government also plays a role by identifying the housing demand, administering housing programmes and making land available extend.

^[32] SAnews (2026) 'About 3.4 million households registered for housing assistance', SAnews, 18 March. Available at: [About 3.4 million households registered for housing assistance | SAnews](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[33] Department of Human Settlements (2024) Approved White Paper on Human Settlements, December 2024. Pretoria: Department of Human Settlements. Available at [APPROVED WHITE PAPER FOR PUBLICATION DEC 2024.pdf](#) (Accessed: 23 August 2026).

^[34] South Africa. Department of Human Settlements, 2024. Minister Simelane Urges MECs and Mayors to Use Expropriation Act to Take Over Abandoned and Hijacked Buildings. Press release. Pretoria: Department of Human Settlements. Available at: <https://www.dhs.gov.za/node/1852> [Accessed 10 September 2026].

3 Safety is non-negotiable

Safety is the bedrock of democracy; without it, citizens cannot fully exercise their rights to freedom of movement and expression. Local government is responsible for enforcing bylaws, traffic policing and crime prevention through visible policing, and the provision of services such as street lighting and social projects. Safety or the lack of it, affects our daily lives and the lives of our loved ones. It is a key factor to consider when voting.

Policing resources for the vulnerable not just the powerful

South Africa is ranked among the most violent societies in the world, with murder, rape, femicide, and domestic violence occurring at alarming levels. While crime affects all socio-economic groups, township communities often live in constant fear because of the high crime levels driven by factors such as unemployment, poverty and the lack of essential crime prevention services. In addition, the rise in extortionist groups is crippling small businesses and sabotaging service delivery. If the VIP Protection Unit can receive an increase of R52 million to protect politicians, it means there is money available to invest in crime prevention in township communities.^[35]

Despite being declared a national disaster in 2025, the high rate of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), persists. According to Police Minister Firoz Cachalia, more than 50,000 GBVF cases were reported in the 2025/26 financial year.^[36] Clearly, insufficient interventions are being implemented to address the crisis. Challenges to be addressed include: delays in the judicial system, lack of specialised training for legal personnel handling GBV cases, limited forensic resources and case files disappearing due to corrupt police.^[37] Coupled with the low prosecution rate of 8%; these challenges prevent survivors from successfully concluding their cases. The desperate efforts invested towards protecting high-ranking officials should be applied to crimes affecting ordinary South Africans. Can a democracy justify guaranteed safety for a small group while the majority live in insecurity?

We demand an adequately resourced anti-extortion task team with a mandate to investigate, prosecute, and secure convictions and witness protection for community members who report extortion. We want every street in every ward to have access to quality street lighting that is regularly maintained, as well as a strong response to vandalism and copper theft. We demand well-resourced police stations in areas with high crime levels and a police task force that is capacitated to deal with Gender Based Violence cases. We demand more visible foot patrols in high-crime and under-resourced communities. The VIP Protection Unit budget must be publicly disclosed and justified.

^[35] Maphumulo, M.N. and Masuku, M.M. (2025) 'We are all equal: politics of very important people blue light security in South Africa', *Frontiers in Political Science*, 7, art. no. 1475435.

^[36] Thobeka Ngema, 'South Africa's GBV crisis: Police statistics reveal alarming trends'. IOL, 25 August 2026, <https://iol.co.za/sunday-tribune/news/2026-08-25-south-africas-gbv-crisis-police-statistics-reveal-alarming-trends/>, Accessed: 27 August 2026.

^[37] Nodangala, N.Z. and Thukuse, B., 2025. Navigating Acquittals in Gender-Based Violence Cases in South Africa: Strategies for Strengthening Legal Outcomes and Supporting Survivors. *Social Sciences*, 6(14), p. 3710

4 Local Economy: We are looking for opportunities not handouts

Our constitution entrusts local government with a mandate to ensure social and economic development. Yet, every day we experience the gap between constitutional provisions and lived realities. The lack of economic opportunities is felt in the desperation of young people sending emails daily in search of work, in the exhaustion of citizens standing in queues for SASSA payments.

The pursuit for paid work is the primary motivation behind internal migration with as many as 28.1% of South Africans leaving their municipalities to find employment.^[38] Although the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has strengthened some local development strategies, there is a need for more spaces in which municipalities can share success stories and learn more about how to create local economic opportunities.

The formalisation of the spaza shop sector without the necessary support required to transition to compliance is a hindrance to economic development. Although the government has set aside R313.7 million to assist small businesses^[39], financial support alone will not resolve the regulatory landscape that remains incredibly complex and costly for small businesses to navigate. The goal should not be to close businesses but to provide informal businesses with all the assistance needed to meet formalisation requirements.

Youth Unemployment

The burden of our national unemployment rate of 33.6% is felt most sharply by young people. Youth aged 15 – 24 face the highest unemployment rate of 60% while the unemployment rate for 25 – 34 year-olds is 40.6%.^[40] Youth are not being absorbed in formal employment and as a result, young people are increasingly dependent on social grants^[41]. Despite “going by the book” and pursuing education as a tool for success, youth are discovering that their hard-earned education does not guarantee entry into the job market. The impact of ongoing unemployment and the lack of economic opportunities is weighing heavily on the mental health of our youth. How can we expect young people to take the place of tomorrow’s leaders when they can’t make ends meet, today?

We demand municipalities to create meaningful employment opportunities for young people within their operations through internships, learnerships and entry-level positions that prioritize local youth. Ward-level opportunities for youth that are similar to the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) must compensate workers on time and provide amenities for trading spaces that are safe, accessible and properly serviced.

^[38] Statistics South Africa (2024) Report on Migration Statistics from the 2022/2023 Income and Expenditure Survey (IES), Report No. 03-04-05. Compiled by R. Maluleke. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: [Migration | Statistics South Africa](#) (Accessed: 24 August 2026).

^[39] SAnews (2025) 'Economic development initiatives to spur economic growth', SAnews, 12 March. Available at: [SAnews](#) (Accessed: 24 August 2026).

^[40] [Statistics South Africa](#) (2026) South Africa's Youth and the Labour Market in Q1 2026. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa.

^[41] [Mpako, A. and Ndoma, S.](#) (2025) South African youth see government as failing on job creation, look to public sector for work, Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 1068. Accra: [Afrobarometer](#)

Employment targets must be embedded in the municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and must be reported on publicly each year in order to track progress. Ward-level support must be made available for small business owners to navigate compliance and application requirements. Laws that protect local business owners from unfair competition must be put in place. The extortion network must be treated as an economic crisis and not just a policing issue.

5 Health and social services

Healthcare and the provision and maintenance of hospitals and clinics falls under the responsibility of provincial, not local government. In some cases, the provincial sphere of governance may entrust metropolitans with healthcare service delivery. Local government's role is to promote good health and prevent ill health through activities like monitoring the safety of drinking water, ensuring hygienic waste removal and disposal and inspecting the safety and hygiene of food outlets.^[42] Local government is also responsible for building and maintaining the roads that give communities access to health services.

Section 27 of the Constitution provides that everyone has the right to access health care services. Even though the majority of South Africans depend on public health care, access remains constrained and determined by socioeconomic status.^[43] About 15% of black Africans live more than 5km from their nearest facility.^[44] When they get to the clinics, they face long queues, staff shortages, poor infrastructure and dissatisfactory service. Healthcare shortfalls extend beyond the challenges of physical access and include the poor quality of care received.

We demand adequate staffing, shorter waiting times, improved infrastructure and equitable access regardless of geographic location or socioeconomic status. We want a public healthcare system that not only fulfils the constitutional mandate but also provides quality and dignified services to all communities. There must be a holistic approach to prioritising elderly people in the healthcare systems including more home visits and the reduction of long queue waits when visiting clinics/hospitals. Digital Health Systems^[45] can improve the access and efficiency of healthcare delivery. To ensure that digital health benefits are accessible to both rural and urban communities, transitions to digital health systems must acknowledge existing digital inequities.^[46]

^[42] Pitt, C. (2026) 'SA has three spheres of government: Which is responsible for providing primary healthcare services?', Spotlight, 7 July. Available at: [SA has 3 spheres of government: which is responsible for providing healthcare? | News24](#) (Accessed: 24 August 2026).

^[43] South African Human Rights Commission (2020) Access to Health Care Educational Booklet. Johannesburg: SAHRC. Available at: <https://www.sahrc.org.za/home/21/files/FINAL%20Access%20to%20Health%20Care%20Educational%20Booklet.pdf> (Accessed: 24 August 2026).

^[44] McLaren, Z.M., Ardington, C. and Leibbrandt, M. (2014) 'Distance decay and persistent health care disparities in South Africa', BMC Health Services Research, 14(1), art. no. 541, pp. 1–10. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-014-0541-1> (Accessed: 24 August 2026)

^[45] The use of digital technologies to strengthen health systems, expand and improve access to healthcare services, transforming the way in which health services are provided and the way people engage with those services.

^[46] MANCOSA, 2026. South Africa's Digital Healthcare Transformation: Growth, Innovation and the Challenge of Access. Available at: [South Africa's Digital Healthcare Transformation: Growth, Innovation and the Challenge of Access - MANCOSA](#) [Accessed 17 September 2026].

6 We only see you during elections: Governance and Accountability

The failures of local government are not new; they have been well documented, consistently highlighted and regularly positioned as a work-in-progress. The issues are identified by scholars, auditors and communities who have been saying the same things for decades. Nothing changes; instead, the rot festers.

South Africa has a legislative framework that sets out what good governance and accountability at local level should look like. Section 152 of the Constitution mandates local government to facilitate community participation in municipal affairs. The Local Government: Municipal Systems Act of 2000^[47] mandates municipalities to receive and respond to petitions, provide notice of meetings and report back to communities. The White Paper on Local government (1998) engenders a vision of citizens participating as voters, consumers and partners towards collaborative governance. However, the inadequacy of participatory channels, maladministration and corruption continues to keep citizens disconnected from the local governance systems that shape the decisions that affect our daily lives.

Ward Committees and committees - The link that does not connect

Legislatively, ward committees are a link between residents and ward councillors. They are intended to ensure a clear flow of communication between communities and government. In practice, ward councillors and committees tend to be inaccessible and only visible during elections. They operate as if they know more about the needs of the communities than the residents do, consequently repressing the voice of the community they are meant to represent. In addition, ward committees that overly depend on the ward councillor compromise the oversight role they can play in holding ward councillors to account.^[48]

We demand ward committees and ward councillors that fulfil their mandate. Ward committee members must be known by the community they are elected to represent. They must host regular meetings that are easily accessible within the ward. The structure must ensure adequate representation of all who live in the ward and should include marginalised groups, like those living in informal settlements and people living with disabilities.

^[47] Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000, s. 19, available at <https://www.cogta.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/MUNICIPAL-SYSTEMS-ACT.pdf>.

^[48] Piper, L. and Deacon, R. (2009) 'Too Dependent to Participate: Ward Committees and Local Democratisation in South Africa', *Local Government Studies*, 35(4), pp. 415–433. doi: 10.1080/03003930902992683.

The IDP: A planning tool that we struggle to access

The Integrated Development Plan outlines how local government intends to meet community needs in the 5-year election term. Every municipality is mandated to consult with their constituents to produce an IDP to guide activities and, municipal spending.^[49] Once developed the IDP is intended to inform the municipal budget. If developed through meaningful community consultation, an IDP can be a powerful tool to hold local government to account.

Sadly, the IDP is an excellent example of a legislation that on paper insists on community participation but, in reality, is at best, used as a tick-box exercise. There is a persistent unwillingness among municipal officials to effectively engage communities in the IDP process and an inability to hold officials accountable for IDP commitments and ongoing service delivery backlogs, despite the framework being in place.^[50] Communities complain that they are often left out of IDP processes or that the municipal budget developed by council does not match or meet the outcomes of the IDP.

Through the Democracy Dialogues led by My Vote Counts (MVC)^[51], the civic formations we collaborate with raised concerns regarding the absence of a functioning mechanism to recall councillors when IDP commitments are not fulfilled. The IDP process is meant to give our communities power over municipal planning but without meaningful participation and consequence for unresponsiveness, that power remains an illusion.

We demand meaningful IDP consultations that allow for genuine participation, not predetermined meetings where communities are used to legitimise decisions that have already been made. Communities must be able to submit priorities and receive feedback as to whether or not their submissions were included in the budget. The IDP must be published in accessible languages and distributed to households in the ward. Council should regularly report back to communities on the progress made to meet the IDP objectives.

^[49] Department of Cooperative Governance (2021) Integrated Development Planning Guideline for Metropolitan Municipalities 2021. Pretoria: Department of Cooperative Governance. Available at: [Integrated Development Plan \(IDP\) Resources - PARI](#). [Public Affairs Research Institute](#) (Accessed: 24 August 2026).

^[50] Mamokhere, J. and Meyer, D.F. (2023) 'Towards an exploration of the significance of community participation in the integrated development planning process in South Africa', *Social Sciences*, 12(5), art. no. 256.

^[51] Spaces created for deliberation and mobilisation around issues that communities face, in this case, democracy dialogues led by civic formations for their constituents, and My Vote Counts plays a supportive role.

Financial mismanagement at Local Government

The Auditor General's 2023/24 consolidated report on municipal outcomes^[52] documents both fraudulent and wasteful and irregular expenditure across local government. Municipalities consistently spend less than what was recommended on capital infrastructure maintenance and as a result, water pipes are not maintained, roads are not repaired and housing projects are not completed because money is missing, stolen or has been used on other things. The Auditor General's report reflects a dismal state of financial mismanagement in municipalities. Officials who have been found to be wasting public money continue to hold positions of power, highlighting a governance culture that lacks consequence management. Without an effective mechanism to exert accountability between elections, citizens bear the brunt of financial mismanagement.

Legislation and frameworks like the Municipal Systems Act and Batho Pele are legal obligations that aim to ensure accountability, and community involvement but, municipalities are consistently failing to fulfil these obligations.

We demand systems to enforce interdepartmental communication. A resident going to the municipality for a billing problem and a housing query should not have to navigate disconnected departments. A single channel of accountability at ward level, with clear points of referral, should be a standard of governance.

These are not new problems; we have been raising the same issues for years. We expect political parties to outline and commit to measures that ensure that: ward committees are genuinely independent and representative, IDP processes are truly participatory, ward councillors are accountable and corruption and financial mismanagement are met with consequences.



^[52] Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA), Consolidated General Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes 2023–24 (Pretoria: AGSA 2025) 67, available at https://mfma-2024.agsa.co.za/report/mfma_report_2023_24.pdf.

The Parties' Promises

Below is a summary of the commitments promised by political parties ahead of the 2026 local government elections. These promises are filtered according to service delivery responsibilities that fall under municipal jurisdiction. The information is drawn from the 2026 election manifestos of the African National Congress, the Democratic Alliance and the Economic Freedom Fighters. Action SA has not released a current election manifesto, so we used their 2024 national manifesto supplemented with the outlined priorities they have expressed publicly. These political parties were chosen on the basis that they have governed metro municipalities directly or through a coalition.

African National Congress (ANC)

Theme	What do they promise?
Service delivery	Water and sanitation: Maintain and upgrade infrastructure, fix water leaks and expand access to safe drinking water through alternative water sources, water reuse and rainwater harvesting. Ensure urgent response to E.coli and sewerage contamination of rivers. Electricity: Maintain and upgrade municipal electricity networks, reduce outages, keep tariffs fair and affordable and increase the capacity of municipalities to respond to technical functions related to electricity. Strengthen co-ordination with Eskom and protect electricity infrastructure from theft and vandalism. Increase monthly free basic electricity for qualifying households. Roads: Fix and maintain roads that fall under local government, including infrastructure planning, response to disasters or climate risks. Build climate-resilient services and infrastructure to strengthen services provided by municipalities. Update indigent registers and ensure free basic services are budgeted for and implemented.
Housing and Land	• Ensure successful implementation of existing informal settlement upgrading projects. • Expand serviced sites and municipal services to new developments and facilitate title deed transfers. Strengthen land use planning and support affordable social housing partnerships. • Partner with provincial and national to strengthen disaster management response. • Regulate rental prices. • Subsidise housing for vulnerable groups, increase land availability for youth, military veterans and seniors and upgrade informal settlements. • Curb urbanisation through managing population growth and urban expansion through integrated spatial planning. Provide government-subsidised housing to qualifying South Africans.

Safety	• Build liveable communities through maintenance of amenities and infrastructure. • Partner with civil society to coordinate local safety plans. • Identify safety hotspots and strengthen law enforcement. • Protect communities, infrastructure and local economic activity from organised crime such as extortion using surveillance. • Enforce bylaws, combat illegal mining and protect communities from it. • Ensure increased safety around transport networks. • Tackle gender-based violence through the implementation of the national strategic plan on GBVF and the strengthening of referral pathways.
Local economy	• Ensure economic opportunities are created where people live. • Reduce red tape, create an enabling environment for people to start enterprises, digitise municipal business services and direct public resources towards local economic activities. • Create conditions for existing businesses to expand and reinvest. • Develop incentives and partnerships that support job creation and skills development. • Identify municipal value chains and priority industries to unlock municipal economic potential. • Invest in township and rural infrastructure and use grants and partnerships with private and non-profit sectors to create jobs and attract investments. • Protect job seekers from exploitation and illegal employment and ensure opportunities created prioritise South African workers and businesses. • Build a fair and regulated local economy by enforcing trading, licensing and bylaws.
Health and Social Services	• Protect public health through strengthening environmental health services, food inspections, refuse collection, waste management and addressing illegal dumping. • Support community HIV awareness and make new prevention methods available in clinics. • Introduce a basic support grant. • Support homeless residents through expanding shelter, social services and reintegration programmes. • Automatically register the elderly and every grant-receiving household on the indigent register.
Governance and Accountability	• Restore local government through pursuing ways for municipalities to raise their own income rather than relying on electricity profits. • Strengthen financial planning, spending, procurement and management of municipal assets. • Ensure municipal workers are paid on time and reduce the consultancy culture in municipalities through building teams. • Introduce accurate and transparent billing systems and recover municipal debts. • Ensure municipalities meet their obligations through increasing infrastructure maintenance funding. • Reduce water and electricity losses and reinvest in maintaining and expanding infrastructure that generates revenue. • Ensure merit-based appointments within municipal administrations and protection from political interference. • Implement zero tolerance for corruption through timely consequence management and enforce a Public Performance Agreement and Code of Ethical Conduct for ANC public representatives. • Provide training for ward councillors, make them available between elections and make municipal governance transparent through publishing budgets and council decisions. • Ensure coalition councils are stable through regulations to protect service continuity.

Democratic Alliance (DA)

Theme	What do they promise?
Service delivery	Water: Ensure quality access to water through setting aside water revenue for fixing leaks, water infrastructure, upgrading wastewater systems, and using private investment and technical expertise to improve delivery. Free access to water for qualifying households. Implement smart meters for residents to reduce waste and bill shock. Electricity: Ensure access to electricity through reinvesting electricity revenue for maintaining and upgrading electricity infrastructure. Enable municipalities to buy and sell power. Support households or businesses that send excess electricity from their solar systems back into the grid for others to use. Free electricity for qualifying indigent households. Waste collection: Support failing municipalities by entering into public-private partnerships to deliver waste removal services. Access to free refuse collection for qualifying households. Roads: Ensure reliable and efficient transport infrastructure through maintaining and upgrading roads. Allocate sufficient budget for upgrading road infrastructure through grants where appropriate. Fix broken billing systems through audits. Enforce spending at least 8% of asset value on repairs and maintenance
Housing and Land	• Establish an independent third-party oversight to repair the housing allocation system. • Fast-track title deed deliveries to beneficiaries through the “ Title-Deed-to-Door” programme. • Release unused state-owned land for affordable and mixed-use housing development. • Prioritise medium-density flats on well-located land over free-standing houses. • Combative approach against illegal land invasions while accelerating legal land release to reduce the pressure that drives invasion of land.
Safety	• Expand municipal police and increase ground visibility through support for neighborhood watches and community policing. • Invest in AI pattern recognition and gunfire detection. • Formalise intelligence transfer between municipal police, SAPS, neighborhood watches and private security. • Provide mentorship programmes, after school sport and arts to prevent youth from engaging in crime. • Rehabilitation for ex-offenders. • Devolve policing power and adequate budgets to local governments.

Local economy	• Replace Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) with a non-racial, non-poverty-targeted economic empowerment model. • Reduce red tape and compliance requirements for businesses. • Simplify registration and expand trading spaces for informal traders. • Ensure residents commute to work using reliable public transport, including a single smart ticket for all modes. • Attract foreign investment and businesses through implementation of investment-ready toolkits providing investors with support. • Reduce red tape and compliance requirements for businesses. • Integrate tourism into local economic planning.
Health and Social Services	• Fight to ensure adequate funding, medicine, equipment and staff for clinics that are legally obligated to them. • Establish a digital dispensing system to improve turnaround times and reduce errors. • Revive neglected public spaces or amenities through an “adopt a Public Space” programme in partnership with the private sector. • Enforce liquor licensing to reduce alcohol related harm in communities.
Governance and Accountability	• Replace cadre deployment with merit-based recruitment to remedy the financial collapse of municipalities. • Contractors will be chosen based on merit to ensure timely completion of projects and prevent corruption. • Acquire revenue through collection of debt owed to municipalities, fix broken billing systems and explore the procurement of a single standardised financial software to reduce dependence on consultants for financial management. • Hold municipal officials personally responsible for losses caused through corruption or negligence. • Establish functioning public accounts and audit committees in every DA-run municipality. • Cut off services in cases of non-payment or illegal connections. • Ensure municipal valuation rolls are updated and accurate. • Capacitate municipalities with more engineers, planners and finance officials. • Implement a proactive municipal support model that identifies early signs of failure before drastic intervention is needed. • Publish procurement records, including award details and contract prices.

Economic Freedom Fighters

Theme	What do they promise?
Service delivery	• Free basic services for qualifying poor households, including backyard dwellings, rural communities and informal settlements. • Automatic registration of qualifying households on the indigent register, removal of historical debt and an increase of free basic water allocation and electricity. • Incorporation of South African Sign Language at municipal customer care centres. • Promote service delivery as a developmental priority rather than a commercial activity. • Terminate extra charges on prepaid meters and install tamper-proof smart meters.
Housing and Land	• Make way for well-located land for human settlement and enforce zoning bylaws to prevent agricultural land being used for residential land. • Engage with state departments that own land and grant municipalities the right of first refusal when selling or transferring state land. • Offer training to communal property associations. • Housing upgrades through fast-tracking distribution of serviced sites, title deed issuing and formalisation of informal settlements with infrastructure. • Complete unfinished housing developments. • Convert hijacked buildings for rental and halt unlawful evictions.
Safety	• Strengthen local law enforcement through upgrading municipal security infrastructure, monitoring tech and using municipal courts to enforce local bylaws. • Community safety through crime prevention initiatives with local policing structures, deploy units in crime hotspots, target rural safety through deploying safety units for stock theft. • Ensure safe public spaces through street lighting improvements for high-crime areas, safe public transportation and prevention of convicted individuals from participating in municipal programs.
Local economy	• Collaborate with traditional leaders to make land available for youth-led development. • Expropriate abandoned buildings and land for youth-led agriculture and business activities, and for disabled persons. • Establish a municipal-owned marketplace and abattoir, and grant water rights for emerging farmers. • Promote micro-irrigation projects to enhance climate-resilient smallholder farming and create 500 youth jobs. • Introduce support for struggling middle-income households through subsidies, adjusted tariffs, affordable payment arrangements, and early debt intervention. • Use municipal procurement to support local economic development. • Allocate municipal employment and procurement to young people alongside free driver's license training programs for unemployed youth.

**Health and
Social Services**

- Healthcare expansion through extended hours for local clinics, establish 24-hour health centres, and deploy mobile units for rural communities.
- Promote service standards by formalising the role of community health workers, strict ambulance response times and establishing substance abuse treatment centres.
- Establish sign language interpreters at primary health centres and GBV victim support centres.
- Distribute free sanitary products in public healthcare facilities.

**Governance
and
Accountability**

- Reduce dependence on labour brokers concerning employment of municipal workers and promote merit-based appointments.
- Establish permanent internal municipal capacity for maintenance and essential services and ensure implementation of projects and programmes through strengthening planning and project management.
- Improve revenue collection and recover debts owed to municipalities and invest that towards service delivery.
- Reform procurement systems and tender awarding processes to eliminate corruption.
- Digital transformation of customer care and billing.
- Promote governance that is rooted in community-based structures through participatory planning forums and ward accountability meetings.
- Introduce performance targets for municipal officials and municipal leadership.

Action SA

Theme	What do they promise?
Service delivery	• Ensure that municipal budgets respond to the pressing needs of residents. • Ensure service delivery through maintaining existing electricity, roads, and water infrastructure. • Establish a dedicated budget for replacing or maintaining ageing infrastructure. • Invest in upgrading sewerage networks. • Ensure all communities, formal and informal, have access to regular refuse collection. • Prevent illegal dumping and ensure residents receive accurate bills. • Ensure pro-poor governance through free basic services, fair rate policies, and access to public amenities in lower-income areas such as libraries and clinics. • Extend working hours in libraries and clinics where applicable. • Extend social support programmes that deal with psychological counselling and assistance. • Ensure bulk infrastructure for informal settlements. • Solve the energy issue through a gradual shift towards a renewable energy mix and creating a competitive and decentralised energy supply market.
Housing and Land	• Implement innovative programs to promote housing opportunities, focusing on site and services release of land for private sector development for affordable housing. • Prioritise housing access for all income groups and speed up title deed transfers. • Identify hijacked and abandoned buildings and land owned by the state for affordable housing. • Strengthen cooperation between Tshwane Metro Police Department (TMPD), SAPS, Home Affairs and other agencies to confront illegal activity, address hijacked and non-compliant properties and reclaim public spaces.
Safety	• Ensure stricter punishments for crimes, adequately resource the police service, prioritise community safety and improve the performance of criminal justice and correctional service systems. • Eradicate crime through ensuring a just, inclusive and equitable society. • Increase the number of municipal law enforcement officers. • Use of technology, such as CCTV to prevent crime. • Ensure public lighting for crime hotspots and collaborate with communities on community safety projects. • Strengthen visible law enforcement, protect municipal infrastructure from theft and vandalism and enforce by-laws fairly

Local economy	• Recruit skilled graduates into the public sector. • Create a conducive regulatory and political sphere for a competitive and responsible market-based economy. • Fund financial literacy, education and awareness programs to ensure socio-economic development. • Drive competition within local economy and promote local trade. • Ensure youth development through improving the performance of the education system. • Expand access to skills development programmes and use the opportunity fund to address youth unemployment.
Health and Social Services	• Extend health-care working hours, invest in mobile clinics to increase access to primary healthcare. • Reduce reliance on grants through economic prosperity and increase existing social grants. • Reform SASSA to reduce corruption and improve access to social grants. • Conduct regular reviews of grants.
Governance and Accountability	• Prioritise ethical public service by maintaining zero tolerance for corruption. This will be done through establishing forensic units in municipalities, lifestyle audits, providing whistleblower protection, and implementing corruption risk assessments. • Collaborate with non-governmental organisations and civil society to establish independent watchdogs in municipalities. • Ban service providers convicted of corruption from working in municipalities. • Implement merit-based appointments with skill audits to filter out improperly appointed officials. • Improve accountability mechanisms such as performance agreements and consequence management. • Increase front-line staff and limit senior management roles, directing expenditure to service delivery. • Use information technology to improve municipal internal processes and move towards paper-free administration. • Improve the ease of making payments. • Ensure accessible audit trails of government decisions and processes.

What's next?

M-PAM is not intended to dictate which party we should vote for. It is a tool for reflection to guide us in answering the hard questions. The challenge is to assess whether party promises align with the needs of our communities. This means reading manifesto promises with our lived realities in mind and asking honestly: are we content with the current state of service delivery in our wards? If not, how will we use our vote to elect responsive councillors and accountable political parties?

Our votes are not just crosses on paper; they are tools to hold councillors and political parties to account. When political parties consistently fail to deliver on their promises it's tempting to choose not to vote, but stepping away from the ballot is giving away the means we have to enforce accountability. When the gap between promise and delivery becomes unacceptable, our vote is a powerful tool of reward or punishment.

Our work to ensure our service delivery needs are heard and met does not end with the 4th of November elections. Democracy doesn't stop at voting; it is a continuous responsibility to participate in local governance. Let's make our voices heard in IDP consultations, let's track municipal budget spending and hold our ward councillor to account for meeting the needs of our communities.

