



AFRICAN RENAISSANCE UNITY

MANIFESTO

VICTORY **UNITY** **ALWAYS**

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01 Introduction

- a) South Africa has 205 local municipalities, 8 metropolitan municipalities, and 44 district municipalities. Since the introduction of the local government system under the Constitution and subsequent municipal legislation in the post-1994 democratic era, many communities continue to experience unacceptable living conditions despite constitutional guarantees of basic services.
- b) Millions of South Africans still face inadequate service delivery. Basic infrastructure is deteriorating, while many communities continue to experience persistent water shortages and unreliable water services. Access to decent housing remains a significant challenge, and many households still lack reliable electricity and safe, dignified sanitation, with some communities continuing to rely on the bucket toilet system.
- c) Communities are also confronted with rising levels of crime, substance abuse, unemployment, and poverty. Poorly maintained roads, collapsing municipal infrastructure, dysfunctional billing systems, increasing municipal tariffs, and declining public healthcare services have further reduced the quality of life for many residents. Growing of undocumented migration and the regulation of informal businesses, including spaza shops.
- d) For many years, South Africans have been promised improved service delivery and economic development. However, in many municipalities, these promises have not translated into meaningful improvements. Corruption, financial mismanagement, wasteful expenditure, and the misuse of public funds have undermined public trust and diverted resources away from essential services and community development.
- e) Local government must return to its constitutional purpose: providing accountable, transparent, and efficient governance that delivers quality services to every community. Municipal resources must be managed responsibly, infrastructure must be maintained and expanded, corruption must be eradicated, and public representatives must be held accountable for their performance. Every South African deserves safe communities, reliable basic services, economic opportunities, and a municipality that serves the people with integrity and professionalism. Now it time to free our people from corrupt Politician and restore dignity to the citizen and delivery services they deserve, let the people elect the public representative that resonate with the people, councillors and mayors that will serve the people with dignity and respect, Public representative that will respect traditional and churches leader and work with them in order to improve live of the people moral regeneration
- f) Now is the time to free our people from corrupt politicians and restore dignity to every citizen. South Africans deserve honest leadership, quality service delivery, and public representatives who place the needs of the people above personal interests.
- The people must elect public representatives who truly resonate with their communities councillors and mayors who lead with integrity, humility, dignity, and respect. Leadership is not about power; it is about serving the people faithfully, transparently, and accountably.
- g) Our public representatives must work hand in hand with traditional leaders, religious leaders, community organisations, and residents to build safer, stronger, and more united communities. By

h) respecting these important institutions and fostering genuine partnerships, we can promote moral regeneration, strengthen social cohesion, and improve the quality of life for all.

i) Together, we can restore trust in local government, rebuild our communities, and ensure that every citizen receives the services they deserve. It is time to put the people first, restore ethical leadership, and build municipalities that work for everyone

02 Water and Sanitation

Water is not a luxury. Water is life, and access to clean and reliable water is a basic human necessity. No community should be deprived of water,

We demand reliable access to clean, water must be free for every household and community.

ARU will revamp aging water infrastructure and replace old asbestos water pipes to protect communities from serious health risks linked to asbestos exposure.

ARU will employ community workers in every ward to monitor and repair water leaks, helping to save billions of litres of water wasted every year. Each ward team will be equipped with one service vehicle and employ between four and six workers.

ARU will expand municipal reservoirs and water storage capacity to ensure communities receive a clean, reliable, and uninterrupted water supply.

ARU will also explore desalination projects to convert seawater into safe drinking water as part of a long-term water security strategy.

To improve emergency response, ARU will invest in municipal infrastructure such as water tanks and mobile water supply systems to support communities during water shortages and service disruptions.

Municipality will provide an accurate, transparent, and reliable billing system for all residents. The Municipality will ensure that meter readings are captured correctly, accounts are updated regularly, and billing queries are resolved promptly. Modern technologies, including smart metering and automated meter-reading systems, will be implemented to reduce billing errors, improve transparency, and ensure that residents are charged only for the services they have actually used.

The Municipality will also strengthen customer support services to ensure that all billing disputes are handled fairly and efficiently.

03 Electricity

ARU will employ 4 workers in each ward and provide 1 vehicle per ward to ensure quick response and maintenance of streetlights and other electricity-related infrastructure.

The programme will also focus on improving energy reliability and service delivery within communities.

ARU will embark on renewable energy projects, including solar energy and gas-powered solutions, to promote sustainable development, reduce electricity shortages, and create long-term economic opportunities.

- Improve maintenance of electricity infrastructure
- Enhance public safety through functioning streetlights
- Create local employment opportunities
- Promote clean and sustainable energy
- Strengthen service delivery in all wards

04 Safety and Security

ARU will strengthen safety and security across the Metro by training and employing enough Metro Police and security personnel to safeguard communities, businesses, public facilities, and transport routes day and night.

ARU will work to restore law and order in the streets of by addressing homelessness through coordinated social intervention programmes, shelters, rehabilitation support, and public safety measures in partnership with communities and relevant stakeholders.

ARU will end the outsourcing of municipal security services and build a professional, accountable, and well-equipped municipal security force under the direct control of the Municipality.

The movement will introduce modern technology and innovation to improve crime prevention and emergency response, including:

- Drone surveillance for crime monitoring and disaster management
- Smart CCTV surveillance cameras in townships, business districts, taxi ranks, and public spaces
- Integrated command and control centres for rapid response
- Digital monitoring systems to fight cable theft, vandalism, and illegal dumping

ARU will also invest in specialised emergency and patrol units, including helicopters for aerial patrols, disaster response, search-and-rescue operations, and support for law enforcement agencies during emergencies and major incidents.

The goal is to build a safer, cleaner, and more secure for all residents, visitors, workers, and businesses

05 Roads Civil Works and Infrastructure

ARU will employ six ward-based workers to maintain potholes and road infrastructure within their respective wards. The municipality owns the asphalt plant and will utilise it exclusively for municipal projects. In addition, more access roads will be built to improve connectivity between communities and businesses.

African Renaissance Unity will prioritise the improvement and upgrading of rural road infrastructure to connect communities, schools, clinics, farms and local economies.

Rural communities must not be left behind because of poor and neglected roads. ARU will advocate for properly planned, maintained and accessible roads that support economic development, safe transportation and reliable access to essential services.

06 Transport Network System

African Renaissance Unity will revive and modernise the public transport network to ensure safe, affordable and reliable transport for all residents.

ARU believes that the Municipal Bus Service should be returned to the direct management and control of the Municipality's Transport Department. Public transport is an essential service that must be accountable to the people and managed in the public interest.

The Municipality must assume full responsibility for the operation, maintenance, administration, and expansion of the bus service instead of relying on third-party operators. Direct municipal management will improve accountability, service delivery, route planning, affordability, and the overall quality of public transport for residents.

That initiative will:

- Create stable employment opportunities for local residents.
- Improve service reliability and passenger safety.
- Ensure affordable transport for workers, students, and pensioners.
- Allow the Municipality to reinvest revenue into improving transport infrastructure.
- Expand transport routes to underserved townships, rural areas, and informal settlements.
- Integrate bus services with other public transport systems across Municipalities .

The movement will prioritise the development of Fast rail train (Bullet Train) and public transport infrastructure, including fast train routes connecting:

- King Shaka International Airport to connect all cities
- Durban CBD to surrounding townships and industrial areas
- The construction and upgrading of taxi ranks across all major townships and urban centres
- Safer and cleaner bus and taxi facilities
- Smart transport systems and traffic management technology
- Better roads and transport access for workers, students and businesses
- Job creation through transport infrastructure projects and maintenance programmes

07 Housing and Human Settlements

ARU will work to reclaim and restore law and order in our city and townships. Hijacked buildings will be renovated and converted into decent low-cost housing units for struggling families and vulnerable residents.

The movement will prioritise the construction of quality homes for communities living in temporary shelters and informal settlement (shacks), ensuring that every family has access to safe, dignified, and decent housing.

ARU believes housing is a basic human right, and the municipality must act urgently to provide sustainable human settlements, basic services, and safer living conditions for all residents of Municipalities.

08 Sport Parks Recreation and Entertainment

Sport plays a pivotal role in our society. It serves as a unifying instrument that brings together people from different backgrounds, cultures, and communities. Through sport and entertainment, social cohesion is strengthened, healthy lifestyles are promoted, and opportunities are created for youth development and community participation.

African Renaissance Unity will promote sport, recreation, music, and cultural activities in all communities across the Region. We recognize that investment in sport and entertainment contributes to social development, talent identification, job creation, and crime prevention among young people.

As part of our programme, we will develop and upgrade sporting and entertainment facilities

These facilities will be properly maintained and protected through a community-based management programme. Local residents will be employed by the municipality to oversee the upkeep, security, and maintenance of community infrastructure, ensuring that sports grounds, recreation centres, and public facilities remain clean, safe, and accessible at all times.

Through these initiatives, we aim to create vibrant communities, support local talent, encourage active lifestyles, and make sport and recreation a cornerstone of social and economic development.

The municipality will support local musicians, performers, visual artists and cultural practitioners through funding programmes, performance opportunities and skills development initiatives. Existing entertainment facilities and cultural venues will be renovated and upgraded to provide quality spaces for artistic expression.

Old and underutilised entertainment centres and recording studios will be restored and equipped with modern technology to support the growth of the creative economy and provide opportunities for emerging talent.

A state-of-the-art municipal recording studio will be established to support upcoming artists by providing affordable access to recording, production and media services. The facility will also offer training programmes in music production, sound engineering, digital media and entrepreneurship

The municipality will provide sponsorship and support to local football associations, leagues and community clubs to ensure the sustainable development of grassroots football.

Football development programmes will be established to identify and nurture talented young players from local communities. Training clinics, coaching programmes and youth tournaments will be organised.

Community football clubs and schools will be assisted with essential sporting equipment, including footballs, kits, boots and training gear, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

Existing football grounds and sports facilities will be upgraded and properly maintained. New community sports fields will be developed where necessary to ensure that all communities have access to quality sporting infrastructure.

Annual municipal football tournaments and festivals will be hosted to promote community participation, healthy lifestyles and social unity while providing exposure for talented athletes.

09 Agricultural Support and Rural Development

One Village One Farmer

ARU will promote and support small-scale farmers through training programmes, access to farming inputs, and technical assistance to improve agricultural production. Farmers will be assisted in accessing markets for their produce. We will work closely with traditional leaders to make land available for agricultural use by local communities. This partnership will help expand farming opportunities, improve food security, and create employment, particularly for young people and women.

ARU believes that every household should have a food garden to promote the production and consumption of fresh, healthy, and organic food. Community and household gardens will be encouraged and supported through the provision of training, seeds, tools, and ongoing agricultural support.

Through these initiatives, we aim to strengthen rural and urban agriculture, reduce poverty, improve nutrition, create sustainable livelihoods, and contribute to local economic development.

Emerging and small-scale farmers will receive support to increase production, access markets, and participate in agro-processing and food supply chains.

10 Local Economic Development and Business Empowerment

Local businesses must be actively integrated into the mainstream economy to promote economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development. ARU will prioritise the empowerment and participation of local businesses in key economic sectors,

Spaza shops must be owned and operated by local community members to strengthen township economies and support household incomes. Shopping malls and commercial centres must prioritise outsourcing services and procurement to local businesses, contractors, and service providers.

ARU will also advocate for some retail spaces in malls and shopping centres to be allocated to local entrepreneurs and small businesses, ensuring that communities participate directly in the economy of their areas.

To promote economic growth and job creation, ARU will create opportunities for the local tourism sector by supporting township tourism, cultural heritage initiatives, local accommodation establishments, food markets, entertainment, and community tourism projects.

We believe local business empowerment is key to reducing unemployment, poverty, and inequality while building strong and self-reliant communities.

We will build bakeries in all sub-regions to promote community upliftment, create employment opportunities, develop local skills, and ensure access to affordable food. These community bakeries will support youth, women, and local entrepreneurs while strengthening local economic development and food security. Through this initiative, we will create sustainable community-owned enterprises; provide training in baking, business management, and food production, while ensuring that local communities benefit directly from economic activities in their areas.

We will restart township industrialisation to create jobs, support local manufacturing, empower small businesses, and build sustainable community economies. Our programme will prioritise youth employment, skills development, access to funding, and the establishment of local industrial hubs that will revive economic activity in townships and rural communities. We will support cooperatives, emerging entrepreneurs, informal traders, and community factories to ensure that local people participate meaningfully in the economy and benefit from industrial development.

Local businesses will be supported to participate in maritime services, fishing, aquaculture, tourism, harbour-related activities, and coastal development projects.

Local enterprises will be prioritised in municipal and private sector procurement systems to ensure that goods and services are sourced locally wherever possible.

Support will be provided to local manufacturers and producers to stimulate industrial development, create employment, and reduce dependence on imported products.

Local contractors, builders, and suppliers will be given fair opportunities to participate in public and private infrastructure projects within Municipalities

Local property developers will be encouraged and supported to participate in housing, commercial, and mixed-use developments to promote inclusive urban growth.

Investment in digital infrastructure, innovation hubs, skills development, and technology-based businesses will be prioritised to prepare for the digital economy.

Training, mentorship, access to finance, and business development programmes will be established to strengthen local businesses and improve their competitiveness.

African Renaissance Unity will protect and support South Africa's local textile, clothing and manufacturing industries. We believe that a strong local textile industry is essential for job creation, industrial development, economic growth and the empowerment of local communities.

11 Environmental Affairs Planning and Disaster Management

ARU is committed to preserving and protecting the environment for future generations through the enforcement of environmental by-laws and sustainable development practices.

ARU will promote the use of modern technology to safeguard the environment, improve waste management, monitor pollution, and support conservation initiatives. Indigenous plants, wildlife, and natural ecosystems throughout will be protected and conserved to maintain biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

Illegal building and dumping activities will not be tolerated. All developments will be required to comply with municipal planning regulations and environmental standards. Both public and private buildings must be properly maintained to ensure safe, clean, and attractive communities.

ARU will further promote environmental education, community clean-up campaigns, tree-planting programmes, recycling initiatives, and the responsible use of natural resources. Through these measures, will remain a clean, sustainable, and environmentally friendly city that attracts investment, tourism, and economic growth.

Municipality will be equipped with the necessary modern technology to monitor weather conditions and manage disasters effectively, as climate change continues to cause increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. The Municipality will invest in advanced early warning systems, weather monitoring equipment, flood detection technology, and disaster response infrastructure to protect communities, businesses, and public assets.

ARU will strengthen disaster preparedness by establishing efficient communication systems that provide timely warnings to residents during floods, storms, fires, and other natural disasters. Emergency response teams will be properly trained, equipped, and coordinated to respond rapidly to emergencies.

The Municipality will also work closely with relevant government departments, research institutions, and environmental agencies to improve climate resilience and ensure that is prepared for the impacts of climate change. Special attention will be given to vulnerable communities, coastal areas, rivers, and flood-prone zones to reduce risks and safeguard lives and property

12 Employment and Job Opportunities

ARU will promote sustainable employment by registering EPWP workers as permanent employees. The programme will also create ward-based jobs for water maintenance, electricity repairs, and road maintenance, ensuring long-term work opportunities for local communities.

The insourcing of security guards and cleaners will play a major role in job creation and improving working conditions. Local businesses will also contribute significantly to economic growth and employment opportunities within the community

13 Immigration and Undocumented Foreign Nationals

The African Renaissance Unity (ARU) believes that immigration must be managed in a lawful, fair and effective manner that protects the interests of South African citizens.

Our commitments are:

No undocumented foreign national should reside in any municipality or ward. Every person living in South Africa must possess valid documentation in accordance with South African immigration laws.

Immigration laws must be consistently enforced, and undocumented foreign nationals must be processed through the legal immigration system and be deported.

Employers who knowingly employ undocumented foreign nationals in violation of labour and immigration legislation must face strict legal penalties.

Employment opportunities should prioritise South African citizens and permanent residents, while recognising that legally documented foreign nationals may work where permitted by law, particularly in sectors requiring scarce or specialized skills.

Buildings that have been unlawfully occupied must be reclaimed through and renovated where appropriate, and converted into affordable residential accommodation or public facilities that benefit local communities and generate sustainable municipal revenue.

All businesses, including spaza shops, must comply with South African laws, municipal by-laws, health regulations, licensing requirements and tax obligations. Government support programmes should prioritise empowering South African-owned small businesses and township enterprises. Municipalities must work closely with the Department of Home Affairs, the South African Police Service, and other law enforcement agencies to combat illegal immigration, organised crime, human trafficking and corruption.

ARU will encourage the establishment of community street committees that work in partnership with the police, community policing forums and local authorities to improve neighbourhood safety, report criminal activities and strengthen community vigilance.

Anyone who breaks the law, whether a South African citizen or a foreign national, must be investigated and dealt with fairly and firmly through the justice system. No person should be above the law.

14 Finance and Administration

ARU will employ qualified and experienced officials to ensure that the municipality is managed efficiently and professionally. Accountability and ethical leadership will be taken seriously, and all wrongdoing, maladministration, and corruption will be dealt with decisively and in accordance with the law. The municipality will promote transparency, good governance, and effective service delivery to all communities.

The municipality must also be able to generate its own income in order to become financially sustainable. This will be achieved through the implementation of a correct and reliable billing system, improved revenue collection, and the effective collection of municipal tariffs and service fees. Sound financial management will help ensure that public funds are used responsibly to improve infrastructure, services, and community development.

Wasteful expenditure will not be tolerated. All municipal spending must be justified, transparent, and aligned with service delivery priorities.

Municipal finances and records must be captured accurately and managed professionally. Proper financial controls and record-keeping systems will be implemented to ensure accountability and compliance.

Service providers must be paid within 30 days of submitting valid invoices and according to the work that has been completed and verified. Fair and timely payment will support economic growth and maintain good working relationships.

All municipal resources and assets must be protected, maintained, and used responsibly. Regular maintenance programmes will be implemented to ensure municipal infrastructure, vehicles, equipment, and facilities remain in good condition and continue to serve communities effectively.

African Renaissance Unity believes that can become a clean, safe, economically strong, and service-driven municipality that works for all people regardless of race, religion, background, or political affiliation.

Together with communities, traditional leaders, faith organisations, workers, businesses, students, and residents, we can rebuild and restore dignity, hope, and development for future generations.

15 People Living with Disabilities

African Renaissance Unity ARU believes that people living with disabilities are equal members of society and must enjoy the same rights, opportunities and dignity as every other citizen. Disability must never be a basis for discrimination, exclusion or unequal treatment.

People living with disabilities must be given full and meaningful opportunities to participate in all sectors of society, including politics, government, business, education, employment and community development. They must be encouraged and supported to participate in local government and to serve as municipal councillors and community leaders.

Municipalities must create an inclusive and accessible environment for people living with disabilities. Public buildings, facilities, roads, sidewalks, recreational spaces and other public infrastructure must be designed or adapted to accommodate people with different forms of disability.

Public transport must also be accessible and properly equipped to accommodate people living with disabilities, including appropriate facilities for wheelchair users and people with visual, hearing and other disabilities.

ARU will advocate for

Equal political, economic and social opportunities for people living with disabilities.

Greater representation of people living with disabilities in municipal councils and government structures.

Accessible public buildings, facilities, roads, sidewalks and recreational spaces.

Accessible and affordable public transport equipped to meet the needs of people living with disabilities.

Stronger enforcement of laws and policies protecting people living with disabilities from discrimination.

Increased employment, skills development, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities.

Meaningful consultation with organisations representing people living with disabilities when municipalities develop policies, infrastructure and services.

16 Tourism and Maritime Development

Tourism and the maritime economy have significant potential to drive economic growth, create employment, and attract both domestic and international investment. African Renaissance Unity will implement the following programmes:

Upgrade and modernise tourism attractions, heritage sites, entertainment centres, and recreational facilities to improve the visitor experience and increase tourism revenue. Revitalise beach areas by improving infrastructure, enhancing cleanliness, and implementing comprehensive safety measures to make South Africa's beaches attractive and secure for tourists and local communities.

Reconstruct and maintain buildings, public facilities, harbours, promenades, and other critical infrastructure along the coastline to support tourism, maritime activities, and local economic development.

Deploy additional police officers, specialised tourism safety units, and advanced surveillance technology, including CCTV and smart monitoring systems, to safeguard tourists, tourism infrastructure, and public spaces.

Invest in ports, fishing harbours, maritime training, shipbuilding, marine tourism, and ocean-based industries to unlock the full potential of South Africa's blue economy and create sustainable employment opportunities.

17 Traditional Kingdoms and Religious Institutions

African Royal Kingdoms and traditional leadership institutions are among the oldest systems of governance and social organisation on the continent. Together with religious institutions, they have played an important role in preserving culture, values, customs, identity, and social cohesion for generations.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa should be amended to establish a fourth arm of the State, known as the Royal Counsellor. This institution would formally recognise the important role of traditional leadership in governance, nation-building, social cohesion, and the preservation of South Africa's cultural heritage.

The Royal Counsellor would serve as an independent constitutional institution that provides advice and recommendations on matters affecting traditional communities, indigenous knowledge systems, customary law, land, cultural affairs, and national unity. The institution would work in cooperation with the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary while remaining politically impartial.

The responsibilities of the Royal Counsellor may include:

- a) Advising the President and Parliament on matters relating to traditional leadership and customary governance.
- b) Promoting cooperation between traditional leaders, government institutions, and local communities.
- c) Protecting and promoting indigenous cultures, languages, customs and heritage.
- d) Providing guidance on legislation affecting traditional communities and customary law.

e) e) Supporting conflict resolution and mediation in matters involving traditional authorities where appropriate.

f) Governments should recognise and respect the important role of traditional kingdoms and religious institutions in society. Cooperation between governments, traditional leaders, and religious leaders should be strengthened at all levels to promote peace, social development, cultural preservation, and community welfare.

g) Traditional kingdoms should be consulted on matters affecting their communities and should have representation in advisory and legislative structures where appropriate and consistent with constitutional principles. Their knowledge and experience can contribute to policymaking, conflict resolution, community development, and nation-building.

h) Governments should respect the autonomy of traditional kingdoms and refrain from unnecessary interference in their internal affairs, customs and cultural practices,

i) The state should support traditional and religious institutions through dialogue, cooperation, capacity building, and development programmes that benefit local communities. Traditional leaders, religious leaders, and government institutions should work together to resolve social challenges, promote unity, and advance the well-being of all citizens.

j) The preservation and promotion of African cultural heritage, languages, traditions, and indigenous knowledge systems should be recognised as an important component of national development and African renewal.

African Renaissance Unity is the hope of the hopeless.

It is the voice of the voiceless.

It is the struggle for total human emancipation.

African Renaissance Unity will deliver the freedom charter.

The time has come to restore a dignity, empower our communities and build Local government of the people.

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