



AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (ARC) 2026 ELECTION MANIFESTO



1. Manifesto Introduction and Context

The African Revolutionary Council (ARC) presents this Manifesto to guide its Councillor Candidates in preparing for the 4th November 2026 Municipal Elections. As the face of ARC, Councillor Candidates are required to articulate the party's stand on election priorities as they interact with communities.

The Manifesto is intended to bring hope within communities, underlying the fact that there are alternatives to the present ruling elites that are far removed from the needs of communities. Beyond hope, the Manifesto provides tangible solutions to rescue municipalities from collapse.

The Manifesto further clarifies the stand of ARC in approaching these elections by pointing out three (3) priorities for the party; which are **(a) corruption free municipalities, (b) accelerated service delivery, and (c) people first.**

It is important to first provide the context of the 2026 municipal elections. These elections are taking place within the context of non-performing and collapsed municipal councils across the length and breadth of South Africa.

In the North West Province, over the past five years, no municipality got unqualified audit outcome with no findings from the Auditor-General. This is a serious indictment on the incumbent political leadership as it cannot ensure that municipal officials present sound financial statements and the municipalities comply with all relevant laws and regulations.

Worse, the majority of North West municipalities got qualified audit reports year-in and year-out. Both the political and management leadership are failing keep adequate records, there is incorrect valuation that negatively affect the people and the municipalities cannot resolve mountains of irregular expenditures.



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The impact of all these is rampant corruption, lack of service delivery and inability to put people first in everything the municipalities are planning and implementing. The ripple effect of these is the culmination of many municipalities being unable to meet the basic needs of communities they are meant to serve.

On the 18th November 2025, the Human Rights Commission issued an *Investigative Report into the State of Municipal Service Delivery in the North West*. Accordingly, the report discovered “systematic failures in the provision of basic services, including water, sanitation, waste management and road maintenance and their impact on residents’ constitutional rights”.

The report further points out that North West municipalities are failing to “ensure the regular supply of clean water; provide sanitation services; address sewage spillages; regularly collect solid waste; supply electricity to residents; address illegal dumping; and maintain roads and stormwater systems”.

Emanating from the report, and through interaction with communities on the ground, a clearer picture of total neglect is emerging. The North West municipalities are inward looking, focusing on who gets the tender rather than addressing socio-economic needs of the people.

More people-centred municipalities are required to focus solely on the People. The ARC, in this Manifesto, is making a plain case for that focus. The people are tired and it is now the time for a clearer message to be sent to the ruling elite – Their time has come! It is time for an alternative party to focus on the People.

2. ARC - Who We Are?

The African Revolutionary Council (ARC) is a political formation borne out of a need to represent the people of the North West Province. By registering as a political party with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the ARC is positioning itself as the voice of the people of the province.



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The ARC is responding to the many cries from North West communities who feel that the so-called national political parties are no longer representing their interests at political, social and economic levels.

At political level, there are no ‘national’ voices that are uncompromisingly representing the people of the province. All political formations have rendered North West as a voting fodder for their election campaigns. Beyond the elections, there are no permanent party machineries that are solving the day-to-day problems of the communities.

At municipal governance level, poorly equipped councillors are deployed in municipal councils who cannot represent the people. These political leaders are unable to hold municipal officials accountable for the rot that is accustomed to North West municipalities. These leaders don’t have capacity to engage other spheres (provincial and national) of government to prioritise the people of the province.

The ARC therefore wants to occupy this political space by gaining a voice to articulate the aspirations of the people of the North West. By contesting both municipal and provincial elections, the ARC wants to use political power to change the service delivery trajectory.

We aim to put the people of North West first and get rid of corruption in municipalities and the North West provincial government. This voice must also reverse the appointment in municipalities of people outside the province without exhausting local talent and skills.

At social level, the youth of the North West are decimated by drug related social ills. Social exclusion in the province is the highest level. There are few properly working non-governmental and non-profit organisations that are working with communities to combat social pathologies the youth finds themselves in.



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The entire government structures from national, province to municipalities are not responding adequately. Programmes such as youth moral regeneration collapsed throughout the province. In a nutshell the people are on their own and lack a reliable partner to work with.

The ARC shall therefore ensure that municipalities strengthen community organisations and connects them with other spheres of government. At the centre of this work shall be young people, disabled and older persons.

These sectors, particularly the youth across the province are active and wants to make a brighter future for themselves. The ARC shall tap on this activism on the ground to reverse the plight of the youth, people with disability and the aged.

Our clarion call is activism at every community and ARC councillors must drive this process by playing a leading role in establishing community organisations, agitate for their funding and be part of their programmes. The ultimate objective is to build North West social infrastructure that can respond to social challenges facing the province.

At economic level, the mineral endowments of the North West province are not benefitting the people of the province. This has extended to the mining communities who live in poor conditions albeit having mines on their doorsteps. The provincial and municipal budgets are not circulating in the province and trickling down to the communities of the North West province.

It is common course that outside individuals and companies are milking away North West resources without any intervention from the political leadership. Instead, the political leadership is enabling this looting out of the province.

The ARC must therefore work with organised business in all municipalities to create an environment where the resources of the province benefit communities. The so-called local economic development in municipalities has collapsed.



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It has not made meaningful impact in communities. It is just a network for municipal officials and councillors to continue looting municipal resources.

3. ARC Manifesto Priorities

The ARC has identified three broad priorities that serve as its platform going into the elections. We recognise that municipal structures and systems are well in place since the year 2000. While progress has been made in the institutionalisation of municipal governance, consolidation and translation of these institutionalisation to the people has dismally failed over the last thirty (30) years.

For instance, the apartheid spatial development landscape is still intact. There was never a concerted effort to integrate communities to enhance non-racialism. We still have race-based human settlements with Whites in centre (town), Coloureds and Indians in the periphery (outside town) and Africans in the far periphery (locations). The so-called RDP houses has cemented the far peripheral nature of the Africans.

3.1 Corruption Free Municipalities

The African Revolutionary Council (ARC) stands for corruption free municipalities. We have zero tolerance on corruption. Our councillors must be corruption busters in every committee they serve within the municipality. They must be whistle-blowers and the first to detect and report on corrupt activities. Municipal leadership, at political and administrative levels, must be guided by ethical and moral leadership.

The ARC zero tolerance policy means we shall not turn a blind eye on corruption, even within our members. It is an obligation on the ARC to actively root out corruption. The zero tolerance stance requires no under deals with municipal officials. The relationship between the political and administration must be highly professional with each playing its role. There must be professional distance between the two centres only aiming to serve the people. The favours and deals accustomed to both the political and administrative leadership comes to end now.



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As corruption busters, the ARC councillors shall serve and be the loudest in the public accounts committee of the municipality. This requires prior and continuous training of our councillors to equip them with the necessary skills. The party shall support its councillors on this noble task.

The ARC believes in strong whistleblowing mechanisms to provide adequate framework for reporting corruption. Through ARC, municipalities must develop strong whistleblowing mechanisms. These mechanisms must protect all individuals who report corruption, including municipal officials, political leadership and members of the public.

The ARC shall fashion ethical and moral leadership in municipalities. We believe that leadership has to demonstrate high ethics and lead by example. Ethical conduct is therefore a supreme virtue that must guide our public representatives. Political municipal leadership must be trained of ethics as a compulsory and necessary course as a practical way to mainstream ethics and its virtues. For a society to embrace moral conduct, it must start with the political leadership. This means that public representatives must be beyond reproach. The net effect of this shall be a culture of moral leadership which will permeate through the municipal governance institution.

As one of its priorities in municipal governance, the ARC shall abolish the tendering system and replace it with capacitating municipalities to render its own services. This requires a clear plan to insource rather than outsource municipal services. As part of the plan, the ARC believes strongly in the creation of Municipal Public Works (MPW) that is labour intensive.

At the core of MPW are services such as erection and renovation of municipal parks, cemeteries, swimming pools, environmental rehabilitation, sporting facilities, access roads, libraries, water and sanitation. These amenities are more urgent in rural municipalities as they will contribute positively to job creation and social infrastructure. Throughout the rural communities, lack of access roads became a priority after water provision. ARC shall use municipal resources and equipment to create access roads.



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3.2 Accelerated Service Delivery

Accelerated service delivery is anchored around the municipalities being able to meet the basic needs of the communities.

The ARC shall ensure that the pre-occupation of the political leadership, from the Mayor to a member of the Ward Committee, is service delivery. The Office of the Mayor must be equipped with a Municipal Service Delivery Dashboard (MSDD) of the entire municipality to ensure that the Mayor is the Municipal Champion of Service Delivery (MCSD). This dashboard must be linked to the performance indicators of the Municipal Manager, Directors and Unit Managers.

At Ward level, the Ward Councillors, together with the Ward Committees, shall work with communities on a daily basis to address service delivery issues. ARC Ward Councillors are full time service delivery champions who take local issues and escalate to the Council level. The council meetings must therefore deal with service delivery matters not daily administrative issues. Those must be left to the municipal administration as routine issues. Political leadership must therefore seize every opportunity to reflect on service delivery and inform the agenda of every council meeting.

As a demonstration, each Ward, under the political leadership of the Ward Councillor, must have a Ward Economic Development Plan (WEDP) informed by the community through the Ward Committee. The municipal LED, under the ARC, shall not be drafted as a malicious compliance matter or ticking the boxes by municipal officials. It must be driven at political level, informed by communities based on material conditions on the ground. In any social development paradigm, there is no “one size fits all”. Municipal planning and execution must therefore be “development specific”.

Lastly, the model that the ARC is propagating, shall guide all service delivery interventions throughout South Africa. The so-called integrated development plans (IDPs) are for legislative compliance purposes.



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The present IDPs do not resonate with the demands of the communities on the ground. Any provincial or national development initiative, must found the ground fertile for successful implementation and positive impact on communities because it went through community development framework. Such macro plans must be communicated upon conception to enable communities to internalise, make sense and receive them easily without resistance.

3.3 People First/Batho Pele

The ARC borrows from Batho Pele philosophical approach to services. In this context, the ARC is not reinventing the wheel. We are only cementing the correctness and appropriateness of Batho Pele Philosophy. We are underscoring the fact that Batho Pele is not for cramming its principles for public service job interviews. On the contrary, it is an ancient African philosophy which put another person first before me/you. A visitor in an African home is prioritised with food, shelter and general well-being first. Hence Setswana idiom says “Moeng goroga re je ka wena”.

The African Revolutionary Council further commits itself to put the needs of the communities first; both at the level of planning and implementation. We underline the fact that communities must be timely consulted. The municipality must at least conduct annual Municipal Satisfaction Survey to ensure that it keeps track of the priorities of various communities.

The municipalities, under the ARC, shall facilitate community attendance of council meetings, physically and virtually. This initiative shall empower communities to be involved in municipal governance. The ARC believes in participatory democracy and as such it is incumbent upon the municipalities to facilitate this empowering process.

One of the enabling tools in this regard, is free Wi-Fi connectivity in all communities. The ARC proposes Wi-Fi Parks within the context of Municipal Public Works. These parks must be funded by all three spheres of government with clear roles and responsibilities.



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4. Conclusions

By voting for the African Revolutionary Council, the communities are amplifying their voices to be heard. The voices of communities have been suffocated by years of arrogance and 'I don't care attitudes'. It is time for the communities to reclaim their power and govern in a true sense. This Manifesto has pointed out how communities shall be empowered.

We are a party driven by the outcry of communities after years of neglect, broken promises and inward looking leadership. The formation of the ARC came at a critical point in the history of South Africa. The political vacuum created by self-serving elites is now being filled by the ARC. As we have demonstrated, our Manifesto is focussed solely on communities and their needs.

Our three (3) priorities shall bring fundamental changes to the way the municipalities are being governed. By uprooting corruption, accelerating services and putting people first, the ARC shall make serious interventions in municipal governance. These overarching priorities shall be broken down into implementable plans and reshape municipal governance.

The ARC is therefore ready to play a leading role in municipalities.

AMANDLA!!!!!!!!!!!!

MATLA!!!!!!!!!!!!

ALL POWER!!!!!!!!!!!!