

GREATER TSANTSABANE COMMUNITY FRONT

GTCF

POLITICAL MANIFESTO

2024 – 2029

Postmasburg | Tsantsabane Local Municipality | Northern Cape

"PROGRESS THROUGH PEOPLE"

A community-first movement for a better Tsantsabane

— FOREWORD FROM THE FOUNDING LEADERSHIP —

Fellow citizens of Postmasburg and the wider Tsantsabane community,

We stand before you not merely as politicians seeking votes, but as your neighbours, your family, and your fellow residents who have watched in pain as our beloved municipality crumbles under the weight of political incompetence, rampant corruption, and systematic maladministration.

The Greater Tsantsabane Community Front (GTCF) was not born in boardrooms or party offices. It was born in the dusty streets where potholes remain unfixed for years. It was born around kitchen tables where families sit without running water. It was born in the dark — literally — when load-shedding combines with broken municipal infrastructure to plunge entire neighbourhoods into blackouts that last days, not hours.

Tsantsabane Local Municipality has failed its people. Years of mismanagement, tender fraud, cadre deployment over competence, and outright theft of public resources have left us with a municipality that exists in name only. Departments are dysfunctional. Service delivery is non-existent. Accountability is absent.

Enough is enough. The time for change is now. The GTCF offers Postmasburg a clear, honest, and actionable path forward — one built on the values of accountability, transparency, community participation, and dignity for every resident.

This manifesto is our covenant with you. It is our promise. Read it. Hold us to it. Because we will deliver.

The GTCF Founding Leadership

Greater Tsantsabane Community Front — Postmasburg

1. WHO WE ARE

The Greater Tsantsabane Community Front (GTCF) is a community-rooted political movement founded in Postmasburg, Northern Cape. We are parents, teachers, miners, farmers, small business owners, youth, and elders — united by a single conviction: that Tsantsabane Local Municipality can and must be transformed into a functional, responsive, and accountable institution that serves ALL its residents equally.

GTCF is non-racial, non-tribal, and proudly local. We are not affiliated with any national political alliance or corporate interest. Our loyalty belongs exclusively to the people of Tsantsabane.

Our Core Values

- Accountability — Every cent of public money must be tracked and accounted for
- Transparency — Municipal decisions made openly, with community input
- Dignity — Every resident deserves basic services as a matter of right, not favour
- Competence — Appointments based on merit, skill, and integrity — never political connections
- Community Power — Residents must have a meaningful voice in how their municipality is run
- Zero Tolerance for Corruption — No exceptions, no second chances for those who steal from the public

2. THE CRISIS: THE STATE OF TSANTSABANE TODAY

Tsantsabane Local Municipality has failed its constitutional mandate. The scale of dysfunction is not accidental — it is the direct result of political interference, cadre deployment, financial mismanagement, and a culture of impunity that has been allowed to fester for too long.

A thorough and honest assessment of conditions in Tsantsabane reveals the following critical failures:

2.1 Financial Collapse

- The municipality has received consecutive qualified and adverse audit opinions from the Auditor-General
- Billions of rand in irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure have been recorded with no accountability
- Municipal workers, including essential services staff, experience chronic salary payment delays
- Creditors and service providers are owed massive sums, threatening all municipal contracts

- Revenue collection systems are broken — billing errors are rampant and unresolved for years

2.2 Political Meddling and Maladministration

- Senior positions filled through cadre deployment rather than merit, producing incompetent leadership
- Elected councillors routinely interfere in day-to-day administrative functions, paralyzing management
- Tender processes manipulated to benefit politically connected businesses at inflated prices
- Whistleblowers harassed, intimidated, and silenced rather than protected
- Section 139 interventions by provincial government have repeatedly failed to produce lasting results

2.3 Service Delivery Collapse

- Water supply: Unreliable, unsafe, and frequently interrupted for days or weeks at a time
- Sanitation: Broken sewage infrastructure causing public health hazards across multiple wards
- Roads: Severe deterioration of road networks with no meaningful maintenance or repair programmes
- Electricity: Distribution failures compound national load-shedding, leaving residents in darkness
- Refuse removal: Irregular or completely absent in large parts of the municipality
- Public facilities: Libraries, community halls, parks, and sports facilities left in derelict condition

2.4 Social and Economic Consequences

- Businesses cannot operate reliably without stable utilities, driving unemployment higher
- Postmasburg's mineral wealth — iron ore and manganese — does not translate into community benefit
- Youth unemployment exceeds 60%, with no municipal economic development strategy in place
- Health services are strained by inadequate infrastructure and poor municipal support
- Community safety is compromised by broken street lighting and dysfunctional local policing forums
- Skilled professionals and young people continue to leave Postmasburg for better-served towns

The GTCF recognises that these failures are not inevitable. They are the consequence of bad governance. We will change that governance — and we will do it transparently, with the full participation of residents.

3. WHAT GTCF WILL DO: OUR FIVE-PILLAR PLAN

The GTCF commits to a comprehensive, phased plan of action anchored in five strategic pillars. Each pillar addresses a critical dimension of municipal failure and sets out measurable commitments that residents can track and evaluate.

PILLAR 1: CLEAN, ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

The foundation of all service delivery is clean governance. Without it, no programme succeeds and no resource reaches the intended beneficiaries. The GTCF will rebuild the governance architecture of Tsantsabane from the ground up.

Within the first 100 days of taking office, GTCF commits to:

- Commission a full forensic audit of all municipal finances, contracts, and procurement over the past five years
- Refer all findings of fraud, corruption, and irregularity to law enforcement authorities without delay
- Publish a complete register of all tenders, contracts, and payments on the municipal website — updated monthly
- Suspend and investigate all officials implicated in maladministration pending outcome of investigations
- Establish an Independent Municipal Integrity Office, staffed by professionals appointed by community vote

Structural governance reforms GTCF will implement:

- Enforce strict separation between political leadership and administrative functions as required by the Municipal Systems Act
- Implement a competitive, merit-based recruitment process for all senior positions, with independent oversight panels
- Introduce a binding Code of Conduct for all councillors, with automatic suspension for breaches
- Establish quarterly public accountability sessions where senior officials report directly to residents
- Create a secure, anonymous whistleblower hotline with guaranteed legal protection for reporters
- Introduce performance contracts for all section 57 managers, with measurable delivery targets

PILLAR 2: RESTORING ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Every resident of Tsantsabane has a constitutional right to access basic services. GTCF will treat service restoration as a non-negotiable emergency — not a long-term aspiration.

Water and Sanitation:

- Conduct immediate assessment of all water infrastructure including pipes, pump stations, and storage tanks
- Implement an emergency repair programme for critical water failures within the first six months
- Develop a 5-year Water Master Plan aligned with national DWS standards and funded through grants and DBSA financing
- Achieve 24/7 reliable water supply to all urban areas within 24 months
- Accelerate the extension of waterborne sanitation to all underserved areas within the municipal boundary
- Test and publish monthly water quality results at all access points

Roads and Stormwater:

- Conduct a full road network audit and publish a prioritised repair schedule within 90 days
- Establish a dedicated roads maintenance team within the municipality using local labour
- Implement a ward-by-ward roads rehabilitation programme over five years
- Develop stormwater management systems to prevent annual flooding of communities and infrastructure
- Introduce community road monitoring committees in each ward to report deterioration in real time

Electricity:

- Engage Eskom and NERSA immediately to resolve the municipality's electricity distribution account and debt
- Conduct full audit of the municipal electricity distribution network and prioritise critical repairs
- Explore renewable energy solutions including solar microgrids to reduce dependence on Eskom for essential services
- Establish a local energy resilience fund to subsidise solar installations for low-income households
- Ensure all public facilities — clinics, schools, community halls — have backup power within 18 months

Refuse Removal and Cleanliness:

- Introduce a reliable, scheduled refuse collection system for all residential areas within six months
- Establish community recycling points and partner with waste collection enterprises for sustainable waste management
- Launch a municipal greening and beautification programme employing local youth
- Identify and remediate all illegal dumping sites within the municipal area

PILLAR 3: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION

Tsantsabane sits on some of the richest mineral deposits in the world. Iron ore and manganese mining have generated immense wealth from our land. Yet the majority of Postmasburg's residents remain poor and unemployed. GTCF will change this equation.

- Establish a Tsantsabane Local Economic Development (LED) Office with a dedicated full-time team and annual budget
- Negotiate community benefit agreements with all mining companies operating in the Tsantsabane area, ensuring meaningful local procurement, employment, and community investment
- Create a Tsantsabane SMME Fund to provide grants and low-interest loans to small businesses, cooperatives, and emerging entrepreneurs
- Develop a dedicated industrial zone and business park in Postmasburg to attract manufacturing and processing investment
- Partner with SETA institutions to establish accredited skills development programmes aligned to local industry demand
- Launch a youth entrepreneurship incubator programme providing mentorship, workspace, and startup support
- Promote agri-business development in the Tsantsabane hinterland, leveraging the Northern Cape's agricultural potential
- Introduce a preferential local procurement policy requiring all municipal suppliers to demonstrate meaningful local content
- Develop a Postmasburg tourism strategy leveraging the area's natural heritage, history, and mining industry
- Establish a dedicated local labour desk to match unemployed residents with employment opportunities in mining, construction, and government projects

GTCF commits: Within five years, Tsantsabane will achieve at least 5,000 new formal employment opportunities through targeted LED, mining beneficiation partnerships, and infrastructure-driven construction programmes.

PILLAR 4: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND HEALTH

A municipality's true measure is not only in kilometres of road tarred or litres of water delivered — it is in the quality of life experienced by its most vulnerable residents. GTCF places human dignity at the centre of its agenda.

Education and Youth:

- Rehabilitate and fully equip all municipal libraries and establish two additional community learning centres
- Partner with the Department of Education to ensure all schools within Tsantsabane receive adequate infrastructure support from the municipality
- Launch a free public WiFi programme at all libraries, community centres, and public spaces
- Establish an annual GTCF bursary programme for tertiary education — funded through mining community levies
- Create structured after-school programmes and safe study spaces for learners across all wards

Health and Wellbeing:

- Ensure all clinics and health facilities receive adequate municipal infrastructure support — water, power, and access roads
- Partner with the Northern Cape Department of Health to expand primary healthcare services in underserved areas
- Introduce a municipal health promotion programme targeting TB, HIV, substance abuse, and maternal health
- Establish dedicated safe spaces and support services for victims of gender-based violence across all wards
- Develop sporting facilities — functional soccer fields, netball courts, and athletics tracks — as mental health and community cohesion investments

Housing and Spatial Development:

- Develop and implement a Tsantsabane Human Settlements Plan aligned with provincial housing targets
- Accelerate delivery of title deeds to all residents of informal settlements and RDP housing beneficiaries
- Establish an informal settlement upgrading programme with dignified interim services as a starting point
- Introduce a housing maintenance programme to prevent deterioration of existing municipal housing stock

Safety and Community Security:

- Restore full functionality of all Community Policing Forums (CPFs) and provide meaningful municipal support
- Repair and expand the municipal street lighting network across all wards as a priority safety intervention
- Establish a Tsantsabane Community Safety Patrol programme employing local youth as peace officers
- Partner with SAPS to address substance abuse, gang violence, and domestic violence in high-risk areas

PILLAR 5: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY

The residents of Tsantsabane are not passive recipients of services — they are the owners of this municipality. GTCF will fundamentally restructure the relationship between the municipality and its residents, placing community participation at the heart of every decision.

- Establish functional Ward Committees in all wards, with proper training, support, and real decision-making authority over ward budgets
- Introduce participatory budgeting — allowing residents to directly influence how a portion of the municipal budget is allocated in their areas
- Hold quarterly public meetings in every ward where councillors and officials must account for their actions
- Publish a monthly Municipal Scorecard tracking progress on all GTCF commitments — freely available online, at municipal offices, and at community centres

- Establish a Community Complaints Management System with guaranteed 72-hour acknowledgement and 30-day resolution targets for service issues
- Create dedicated representation channels for youth, women, elderly, and persons with disabilities
- Ensure all municipal meetings are live-streamed and minutes published within five working days
- Introduce a Citizens' Budget — a simplified, plain-language version of the municipal budget published annually

4. THE GTCF FIRST 100 DAYS PLAN

Residents of Tsantsabane have heard promises before. What follows is not a promise — it is a binding plan of action with specific timelines. The community is invited to track every commitment from Day 1.

TIMELINE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
Day 1–7	Appoint interim Municipal Manager and establish executive committee — merit-based, no political interference	<i>GTCF Council Caucus</i>
Day 1–14	Commission full forensic audit of all municipal finances and procurement from previous 5 years	<i>Independent Auditors</i>
Day 1–30	Launch emergency water repairs in the five most critical service failure areas	<i>Municipal Technical Team</i>
Day 1–30	Activate all Ward Committees and hold inaugural community meetings in all wards	<i>GTCF Councillors</i>
Day 30–60	Publish complete municipal budget, contracts register, and organogram online	<i>CFO & Communications</i>
Day 30–60	Review all existing municipal contracts for legality, value for money, and performance	<i>Legal & Audit Office</i>
Day 60–100	Present 5-year Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) at public meeting	<i>Municipal Manager & CFO</i>
Day 60–100	Launch LED Office and begin mining community benefit agreement negotiations	<i>LED Office</i>
Day 100	Public accountability session: account to Tsantsabane residents on every Day 1 commitment	<i>GTCF Leadership</i>

5. OUR PLEDGE TO THE PEOPLE OF TSANTSABANE

The GTCF understands that trust must be earned — especially in a community that has been failed so many times by those who promised so much. We make the following solemn pledges:

- We will never place party interests above community interests

- We will act against corruption in our own ranks with the same vigour we demand of others — without fear or favour
- We will not make promises we cannot keep — our commitments are costed, planned, and achievable
- We will publish our progress openly — including our failures — because honest accountability is the foundation of trust
- We will ensure that the mineral wealth extracted from Tsantsabane soil returns real benefit to Tsantsabane people
- We will govern by listening — community meetings are not performances, they are decision-making forums
- We will protect whistleblowers, community activists, and all those who speak truth to power
- We will ensure the most vulnerable among us — the elderly, disabled, orphaned, and chronically ill — receive the support and dignity they deserve

6. CONCLUSION: THE CHOICE IS YOURS

The Greater Tsantsabane Community Front does not ask for blind faith. We ask for the opportunity to prove ourselves. We present this manifesto not as marketing material, but as a legal and moral covenant with the people of Postmasburg and all of Tsantsabane.

The path we offer is not easy. Rebuilding a broken municipality takes courage, competence, and sustained community involvement. But it can be done. It has been done in other municipalities across South Africa and across the African continent — when communities demanded better and held their leaders accountable.

Tsantsabane deserves running water. Tsantsabane deserves lit streets. Tsantsabane deserves a municipality that pays its bills, maintains its roads, and treats every resident with dignity. Tsantsabane deserves leaders who serve the people — not leaders who serve themselves.

Join us. Organise with us. Vote for the GTCF.

Together, we will build the Tsantsabane our children deserve.

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