

# **MSUKALIGWA PEOPLE FIRST**

## **2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO**

### **"Putting Our People First"**

**Building a Municipality that Works for Everyone**

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Fellow Residents of Msukaligwa,

For too long, our communities have been promised better lives while unemployment has grown, water shortages have become the norm, roads have deteriorated, electricity infrastructure has failed, and corruption has robbed our people of opportunities.

Msukaligwa People First was founded because we believe that local government should serve the people—not politicians, not connected individuals, and not corrupt interests.

This manifesto is our contract with every resident. It is practical, measurable and built from the voices of our communities across all nineteen wards.

We believe:

- Every family deserves clean drinking water.
- Every household deserves reliable electricity.
- Every young person deserves an opportunity to work.
- Every business deserves a fair opportunity to grow.
- Every taxpayer deserves honest government.

Together we can restore our municipality.

Together we can create jobs.

Together we can rebuild our future.

Together we will Put Our People First.

**Gift Bongani Phakathi**

President

Msukaligwa People First

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## OUR STORY

Msukaligwa People First was established by residents who refused to accept the continued decline of our municipality.

Our movement was born out of frustration with:

- Collapsing service delivery
- Poor financial management
- Corruption
- Nepotism
- High unemployment

- Failing infrastructure
- Youth unemployment
- Poor leadership

We believe communities deserve a municipality that works.

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## OUR VISION

To build a prosperous, clean, inclusive and well-governed municipality where every resident has access to opportunities, quality services and a better future.

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## OUR MISSION

To restore accountable local government through ethical leadership, transparent governance, sustainable economic growth and people-centred service delivery.

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## OUR VALUES

- Integrity
  - Accountability
  - Service Excellence
  - Ubuntu
  - Transparency
  - Community Participation
  - Professionalism
  - Respect
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# THE STATE OF OUR MUNICIPALITY

This chapter will summarise:

- Water infrastructure failures
- Electricity outages
- Auditor-General findings
- Irregular expenditure
- Poor audit outcomes
- Road deterioration
- Sewer spillages
- Waste management failures
- Housing backlogs
- Youth unemployment
- Poverty
- Skills shortages
- Local business challenges
- Community safety concerns
- Declining investor confidence

(Include charts, maps and Auditor-General statistics.)

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## OUR SIX PRIORITIES

### Priority One

EMPLOYMENT AND JOB CREATION

"Our Economy Must Work for Our People."

Policy commitments include:

- Local Jobs First Policy
- Municipal Employment Database
- Annual Job Creation Targets
- Investment attraction
- Industrial development
- Agricultural development
- Mining value chain development
- Tourism development
- Expanded Public Works opportunities
- Local procurement
- Youth employment incentives

Performance indicators include annual jobs created, local employment percentages and investment attracted.

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## **Priority Two**

### HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Every Family Deserves a Home.

Expanded commitments:

- Transparent housing allocation
- Housing audit
- Serviced sites
- Informal settlement upgrading

- Affordable rental housing
  - Community facilities
  - Public transport integration
  - Roads and stormwater
  - Water and sanitation
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## Priority Three

### RELIABLE SERVICE DELIVERY

Water.

Electricity.

Roads.

Sanitation.

Refuse Removal.

Stormwater.

Parks.

Street Lighting.

Public Facilities.

Infrastructure maintenance plans.

Asset management.

Ward maintenance teams.

24-hour municipal call centre.

Performance dashboards.

Service delivery standards.

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## Priority Four

### SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Skills centres.

TVET partnerships.

Artisan development.

Digital skills.

Coding academies.

Youth innovation hubs.

Internships.

Apprenticeships.

Career guidance.

Women in technical careers.

Adult education.

Entrepreneurship training.

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## Priority Five

### BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT

Business incubators.

Local supplier development.

Investment promotion.

Township economy.

Agriculture.

Manufacturing.

Mining suppliers.

Tourism.

Business finance.

Municipal procurement reform.

LED Forum strengthening.

Annual Investment Summit.

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## **Priority Six**

### **PROTECTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY**

Supporting lawful enforcement of immigration laws.

Working with national authorities.

Local supplier preference within the law.

By-law enforcement.

Support for compliant businesses.

Local procurement.

Township economy.

Community safety partnerships.

Fair competition.

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## **ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES**

### **Good Governance**

Zero corruption.

Lifestyle audits.

Transparent procurement.

Open budgeting.

Professional administration.

Independent reporting.

Merit-based appointments.

Performance contracts.

Public participation.

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## **Youth Development**

Youth Enterprise Fund advocacy.

Sports development.

Digital economy.

Innovation.

Leadership programmes.

Municipal bursaries.

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## **Women Empowerment**

Economic participation.

Safety programmes.

Leadership development.

Support for women-owned businesses.

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## **Senior Citizens**

Accessible municipal services.

Priority housing.

Healthcare advocacy.

Community support.

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## **Persons with Disabilities**

Accessible infrastructure.

Employment opportunities.

Inclusive municipal services.

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## **Environmental Sustainability**

Waste recycling.

River rehabilitation.

Renewable energy.

Tree planting.

Climate resilience.

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## **OUR FIRST 100 DAYS**

1. Water Recovery Programme.
2. Electricity Recovery Programme.
3. Infrastructure Audit.
4. Housing Audit.

5. Local Jobs Register.
  6. Business Support Centre.
  7. Investment Summit.
  8. Skills Development Initiative.
  9. Municipal Performance Dashboard.
  10. Anti-Corruption Hotline.
  11. Lifestyle Audits.
  12. Publish Housing Waiting List.
  13. Publish Municipal Vacancies.
  14. Launch Ward Service Teams.
  15. Repair Priority Infrastructure.
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## **FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN**

### **Year 1**

Stabilise finances and restore services.

### **Year 2**

Infrastructure expansion.

### **Year 3**

Economic growth.

### **Year 4**

Housing acceleration.

### **Year 5**

Sustainable municipality.

Include measurable annual targets.

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## **OUR CONTRACT WITH THE PEOPLE**

We pledge to govern honestly.

We pledge to place residents first.

We pledge to protect public money.

We pledge to create opportunities.

We pledge to listen.

We pledge to deliver.

Our promise is simple:

**Putting Our People First.**

**Building a Municipality That Works.**

**Creating Opportunities for Every Resident.**