

PRO-POOR POLITICAL MOVEMENT (PPM)

OFFICIAL ELECTION MANIFESTO

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
4 NOVEMBER 2026

“Finally, reclaim what belongs to us.”

A PRO-POOR PROGRAMME FOR DIGNITY, OPPORTUNITY
AND ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. A Message To The People
2. Our Vision, Mission And Values
3. The Pro-Poor Test For Every Policy
4. Honest Government And The Fight Against Corruption
5. Fair Tenders And Community Benefit
6. Jobs, Skills And Local Employment
7. Supporting Smmes And The Township Economy
8. Affordable Electricity And Basic Services
9. Water Security And Household Water Tanks
10. Housing, Land And Human Settlements
11. Roads, Potholes And Public Infrastructure
12. Youth Development, Sport And Recreation
13. Crime Prevention, Drugs And Extortion
14. Education, Ecd, Tvet And Vocational Training
15. Healthcare And Social Development
16. Women, Children And Vulnerable Households
17. Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry And Food Security
18. Environment, Recycling And Clean Communities
19. Land For Ecd, Places Of Worship And Community Facilities
20. Transport, Taxis And Community Access
21. Good Governance And Community Participation
22. The First 100 Days: Listen, Review, Act
23. Measuring Progress And Reporting To Residents
24. Funding Our Priorities Responsibly
25. Our Election Pledge
26. Call To Vote

A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE

Fellow residents of Bitou Municipality,

The Pro-poor Political Movement (PPM) presents this manifesto as a public commitment to put people—especially the poorest of the poor—at the centre of local government. Too many households face the daily pressure of unemployment, unaffordable services, insecure housing and limited opportunities for young people. Our movement believes that municipal resources must be managed honestly and used to improve the lives of residents.

Our approach is practical and community-centred. We will listen to residents, identify urgent needs ward by ward, scrutinise municipal spending, and advocate for fair access to jobs, housing, land and basic services. We will work with community organisations, workers, small businesses, farmers, young people, faith groups and civil society.

This manifesto sets out the priorities PPM will pursue through lawful municipal processes, public participation, oversight, partnerships and responsible budgeting. Some proposals require cooperation from provincial or national government, public utilities, private partners or other institutions. Where that is the case, PPM will advocate, negotiate and report publicly on progress rather than pretend that a municipality can act alone.

Our pledge is simple: the poorest must not be forgotten when decisions are made. Public office is a responsibility, not a personal reward. We invite residents to judge us by our actions, our honesty and our willingness to be held accountable.

Finally, reclaim what belongs to us.

OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Vision: A municipality where poverty is reduced, essential services are delivered fairly, public resources are protected, communities help shape decisions, and every person is treated with dignity.

Mission: To advocate for and advance policies that prioritise poor and vulnerable residents, improve access to services and opportunities, strengthen local economic development, and ensure transparent, accountable and participatory governance.

PPM's founding values are human dignity, equality, non-discrimination, participatory democracy, accountability, transparency, anti-corruption, social justice, economic transformation and community-driven development. These values must guide the way the movement conducts itself, chooses priorities and evaluates public decisions.

Pro-poor government means asking a basic question before every major decision: how will this affect a household that has the least money and the fewest choices? It means listening to residents who are often ignored, directing attention to underserved neighbourhoods, and ensuring that public benefits are allocated according to transparent rules and genuine need.

PPM respects the constitutional rights and dignity of all people. We reject racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia and all forms of unfair discrimination. We believe community unity is strengthened when people can participate safely and equally, regardless of background, age, disability, religion or economic position.

THE PRO-POOR TEST FOR EVERY POLICY

PPM will apply a pro-poor test to municipal budgets, tariffs, development plans, procurement and service delivery. The test asks whether a decision improves access for people who are struggling, whether its costs fall unfairly on low-income households, whether public money is being used efficiently, and whether residents have had a meaningful opportunity to participate.

We will advocate for the needs of informal settlement residents, backyard dwellers, unemployed people, pensioners, child-headed households, people with disabilities, homeless people, low-income workers, small traders and households facing food insecurity. Their needs must be visible in municipal planning rather than treated as an afterthought.

Public participation must be more than a meeting held after decisions have effectively been made. Residents should receive understandable information, reasonable notice, accessible meeting opportunities and feedback explaining what was heard and what action will follow.

PPM will distinguish between promises within direct municipal control and matters requiring other spheres of government. We will use council processes, integrated development planning, budget submissions, public petitions and intergovernmental engagement to pursue changes responsibly.

Fairness does not mean making promises that cannot be funded. It means setting priorities openly, explaining trade-offs, protecting essential services and publishing progress so residents can judge whether commitments are being honoured.

HONEST GOVERNMENT AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Corruption, favouritism and wasteful expenditure take resources away from services and opportunities that residents need. PPM will support transparent municipal administration and firm action against wrongdoing, regardless of who is implicated.

We will advocate for fair and competitive procurement, clear tender criteria, accessible public notices, proper records of decisions and effective oversight. Contracts should be awarded on lawful criteria, including capability, compliance, price, quality and value for money—not political connections, family relationships or personal loyalty.

PPM will call for credible investigation of allegations involving irregular, unauthorised, fruitless or wasteful expenditure. Where evidence supports recovery or disciplinary action, the municipality should pursue lawful remedies and refer suspected criminal conduct to the appropriate authorities. Allegations must be investigated fairly and must not be treated as proof before due process.

We will encourage safe reporting of suspected wrongdoing and support protections for whistle-blowers in accordance with the law. We will also advocate for regular reporting on audit findings, corrective measures, consequence management and recovery of losses.

Residents deserve to know how public money is spent. PPM will push for plain-language summaries of budgets, tender awards and project progress, while respecting legitimate privacy and confidentiality requirements. Our standard is simple: public money must serve the public.

FAIR TENDERS AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT

PPM supports procurement that is open, competitive, fair and accountable. Tender information should be easy to find, requirements should be clear, and applicants should be treated consistently. Unexplained differences in opportunities, repeated awards to connected parties or weak project performance deserve scrutiny through proper processes.

We will advocate for independent oversight and conflict-of-interest controls in procurement. Tender evaluation must follow the law and published criteria. Local economic development should be promoted through lawful measures such as unbundling suitable contracts, supplier development, training, accessible tender briefings and opportunities for qualifying local businesses.

PPM wants township businesses and emerging suppliers to compete fairly and grow. We will advocate for municipal procurement targets and programmes that are legally permissible, transparently designed and monitored. These should not become a new route for patronage or exclusion.

Where projects fail to deliver value, PPM will call for performance reviews, contract management and appropriate remedies. Where evidence indicates collusion, fraud or price-fixing, the matter should be referred to the relevant oversight and law-enforcement bodies.

Every rand saved from waste or spent more effectively can help improve service delivery. Residents should receive regular information on procurement outcomes, local supplier development and action taken when contracts do not meet their obligations.

JOBS, SKILLS AND LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment is one of the most serious challenges facing households in Bitou. PPM will advocate for a local employment strategy that connects municipal projects, businesses and training opportunities with residents seeking work.

We will push for a regularly updated, privacy-respecting register of local job seekers and their skills, designed with fair access and clear rules. Municipal projects and participating businesses should be encouraged to advertise opportunities openly and consider qualified local applicants in accordance with labour and procurement law.

PPM supports insourcing where a transparent assessment shows that it can improve service quality, build municipal skills, provide decent work and deliver value for money. Decisions should consider total costs, worker protections, service standards and the municipality's ability to manage the work effectively.

We will advocate for partnerships with TVET colleges, SETAs, employers and community organisations to provide apprenticeships, learnerships, work readiness, artisan training and practical experience. Young people need routes from training into real employment, not certificates without opportunity.

Public employment programmes should be transparent, temporary opportunities should be fairly allocated, and participants should receive clear information about selection criteria and duration. PPM will encourage regular public reporting on jobs created, training completed and opportunities reaching unemployed residents.

SUPPORTING SMMEs AND THE TOWNSHIP ECONOMY

Small businesses, informal traders and township enterprises can create jobs, provide essential goods and keep economic activity circulating locally. PPM wants local businesses to grow from survival to sustainable enterprises that can employ people and serve wider markets.

We will advocate for simpler, clearer business-support processes, accessible licensing guidance, safe trading spaces and help navigating lawful compliance requirements. Small enterprises should be able to understand what the municipality requires without relying on personal connections.

PPM supports business forums, mentorship and practical training in bookkeeping, digital marketing, customer service, business planning and tender readiness. We will seek partnerships that connect local businesses to finance, markets and procurement opportunities.

We will advocate for lawful, transparent measures that help qualifying local enterprises compete for appropriate municipal work. Opportunities should be advertised fairly and monitored so that support reaches intended beneficiaries rather than a small circle of connected businesses.

Spaza shops, market traders, service businesses, mechanics, welders and other local enterprises need an environment that supports both livelihoods and neighbourhood wellbeing. Regulation should protect health, safety and residents while being fair, consistent and understandable.

AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY AND BASIC SERVICES

Electricity is essential for cooking, lighting, studying, safety and running small businesses. PPM opposes tariff decisions that place unreasonable pressure on poor households and will advocate for transparent, affordable and legally sustainable pricing.

We will call for clear explanations of tariff proposals, meaningful public consultation, careful assessment of effects on low-income households and protection for eligible indigent residents. Billing and credit-control processes should be understandable, accurate and applied consistently. Residents must have accessible ways to query errors and seek assistance.

PPM will advocate for fair indigent-support arrangements and targeted relief for eligible pensioners, child-headed households and other vulnerable residents, subject to lawful criteria and available funding. No household should be left unable to understand why a deduction was made or how to challenge it.

We will encourage energy-efficiency measures, solar and other appropriate renewable-energy initiatives, and partnerships that can reduce long-term costs. Such projects should be assessed for affordability, reliability, maintenance and benefits to the public.

Water, sanitation, refuse removal, roads and other basic services must be planned fairly. PPM will press for underserved areas to receive attention based on need, public-health risks and transparent service standards. Residents should be told what work is planned, when it is expected and how delays will be addressed.

WATER SECURITY AND HOUSEHOLD WATER TANKS

Reliable access to water is fundamental to dignity, health and household security. PPM will advocate for better maintenance of water infrastructure, prompt repair of leaks, clear communication during interruptions and fair treatment of residents.

We support a programme to expand household rainwater tanks, prioritising low-income households and areas where the programme is practical and safe. PPM will seek funding partnerships and clear eligibility criteria so that assistance is distributed transparently and equitably.

Water tanks must be installed safely and maintained properly. Public information should explain rainwater storage, appropriate uses, cleaning, mosquito prevention and the need to follow public-health guidance. Tanks are a supplement to, not a replacement for, reliable and safe municipal water services.

We will support water conservation, leak detection, water-efficient equipment and appropriate monitoring that protects residents' privacy and complies with law. Commercial users should be encouraged and, where lawful, required to meet relevant conservation and compliance standards.

PPM will advocate for public reporting on water losses, infrastructure repairs, supply interruptions and the progress of household-support programmes. Water policy should protect both immediate household needs and the long-term sustainability of the resource.

HOUSING, LAND AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Every person deserves a safe and dignified place to live. PPM will advocate for housing and land policies that respond to the needs of low-income households, informal settlement residents and backyard dwellers.

We will call for a transparent audit of suitable public land and a clear explanation of how land is allocated, subject to ownership, planning, environmental, infrastructure and legal requirements. Allocation processes must be open, needs-based and protected against favouritism, land speculation and unlawful occupation.

PPM supports affordable housing options, upgrading of informal settlements, improved services and planning that helps communities access schools, transport, health facilities and employment. Housing developments should include realistic provision for roads, water, sanitation, electricity and community facilities.

Backyard dwellers and overcrowded households should be included in housing needs assessments and municipal planning. We will advocate for clear waiting-list information, fair eligibility rules, regular progress updates and meaningful engagement with affected residents.

We also support identifying suitable land for early childhood development facilities and places of worship through lawful planning processes. The objective is inclusive development that respects community needs, safety, infrastructure capacity and the rights of all residents.

ROADS, POTHoles AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Roads, stormwater systems, streetlights, pavements and public facilities affect safety, livelihoods and access to services. PPM will advocate for a transparent maintenance plan that identifies the most urgent repairs and explains how limited resources are prioritised.

We will push for a public way to report potholes and infrastructure faults, with reference numbers where feasible and feedback on the status of reported problems. Priority should be given to dangerous defects, routes used by emergency services, school access and areas where damage creates serious risks.

Municipal maintenance contracts should include clear standards, timelines and inspections. Payment should be linked to verified work completed, in accordance with contract terms. Repeated failures should trigger corrective action and appropriate contract management.

PPM will advocate for routine maintenance rather than waiting until small defects become expensive failures. Stormwater drainage, sanitation infrastructure and road surfaces should be inspected and maintained to reduce flooding, damage and public-health risks.

Residents should receive understandable updates on planned works, budgets and delays. We will encourage community monitoring that supports accountability without replacing the professional duties of municipal staff.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, SPORT AND RECREATION

Young people need opportunity, support and a sense of belonging. PPM believes sport, recreation, education, mentorship and access to skills can help build confidence and strengthen community safety.

We will advocate for safe, accessible and maintained sports fields, playgrounds and recreation facilities. Investment should be guided by community needs, fair access for girls and boys, inclusion of young people with disabilities and a realistic plan for maintenance and staffing.

PPM supports a sports and recreation programme that works with schools, clubs, coaches, volunteers and local sponsors. It should help identify talent, encourage participation, teach teamwork and discipline, and connect young people with life skills and educational opportunities.

We will advocate for youth mentorship, career guidance, digital skills, entrepreneurship training and work-readiness programmes. Youth voices must be heard when programmes are designed and evaluated.

Sport is not a substitute for jobs, good schools or effective policing, but it can be an important part of a wider strategy to reduce isolation and create positive pathways. PPM will support evidence-informed programmes that combine opportunity, safety, education and community involvement.

CRIME PREVENTION, DRUGS AND EXTORTION

Every resident deserves to live without fear of violence, intimidation, extortion or drug-related harm. PPM will support lawful, coordinated crime-prevention efforts involving residents, community policing structures, law-enforcement agencies, schools and social services.

We oppose extortion and protection-fee demands because they exploit families, traders and businesses. We will encourage safe reporting, appropriate victim support and action by the competent authorities. People who report crime should not be pressured to take the law into their own hands.

PPM rejects mob justice, vigilantism and informal punishment that denies people due process. Community safety must respect the rule of law and the rights of victims, witnesses and accused persons.

We will advocate for prevention programmes addressing substance abuse, alcohol-related harm, gang recruitment and youth vulnerability. These should include awareness, counselling, rehabilitation referrals, family support and constructive opportunities for young people.

Visible policing, safer public spaces, functioning streetlights and trusted communication channels can contribute to safety. PPM will seek regular community safety discussions that identify local concerns, review progress and build cooperation without exposing vulnerable residents to unnecessary risk.

EDUCATION, ECD, TVET AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Children's opportunities should not depend on their family's income. PPM will advocate for stronger support for early childhood development, safe learning environments and access to after-school assistance where municipal partnerships can help.

We support identifying suitable land and facilities for ECD services through lawful planning, with attention to safety, accessibility, infrastructure and the needs of underserved communities. ECD providers should be connected to relevant training, support services and funding information.

PPM will advocate for improved access to quality public education and appropriate school facilities through engagement with the provincial education authorities, which carry key responsibilities for schools. We will also support safer school routes and effective scholar-patrol arrangements in partnership with relevant authorities.

TVET colleges, apprenticeships and vocational training can provide practical pathways into trades and technical careers. PPM will seek partnerships for training in fields such as plumbing, electrical work, construction, mechanics, agriculture, digital services, care work and business administration.

Mentorship and parental-awareness programmes can help families support children's learning and wellbeing. We will promote community-led homework support, reading initiatives, career guidance and positive role models.

HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Access to timely healthcare is essential to dignity and wellbeing. PPM will advocate for improved local access to clinics, emergency response and adequately resourced health services through engagement with the provincial health authorities and other responsible institutions.

We support the community's call for expanded hospital and emergency services, including assessment of the need for services available around the clock. Such a goal requires feasibility planning, trained staff, appropriate facilities, sustainable funding and cooperation across government. PPM will press for clear information about plans and progress.

Mental health and substance-use challenges should be addressed with compassion, professional care and community support. We will advocate for accessible information, referral pathways and support for families caring for people experiencing mental-health difficulties.

Social development programmes should recognise the needs of homeless people, destitute households, older persons, child-headed families and people with disabilities. PPM will seek coordination with existing services and partners to improve access to food support, shelter, skills development and appropriate care.

We will support dignified, accessible public facilities and advocate for equal participation in education, employment, sport and community life for persons with disabilities. All programmes should be developed with affected people, not merely on their behalf.

WOMEN, CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS

PPM believes the wellbeing of children is a shared community responsibility. Children need safe homes, supportive adults, education, recreation and protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

We will support community mentorship, after-school activities, parenting awareness and referral networks that help families find appropriate services. These initiatives must respect children's rights, protect confidential information and involve qualified professionals where necessary.

Gender-based violence is unacceptable. PPM will promote prevention awareness, respectful relationships, safe reporting and access to counselling, healthcare, shelter and legal support through competent service providers. Survivors must be treated with dignity and must not be blamed or pressured into unsafe decisions.

Older persons, pensioners, child-headed households and people living with disabilities can face particular hardship when basic services become unaffordable. PPM will advocate for needs-based support and accessible municipal processes, subject to lawful eligibility criteria and available resources.

We reject discrimination based on gender, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation or background. A pro-poor municipality must be judged by how it treats people with the least power to make their voices heard.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FORESTRY AND FOOD SECURITY

PPM supports local food production as a way to improve household resilience, create livelihoods and strengthen the local economy. Small-scale farmers, emerging producers and subsistence households need access to suitable land, water, advice, markets and training.

We will advocate for the identification of appropriate land for community gardens, small-scale farming and livestock commonage where land use, environmental conditions, animal welfare and public safety permit. Allocation must be transparent and supported by clear management arrangements.

PPM will seek closer cooperation between communities and relevant agricultural, land-reform and veterinary services. Training in soil care, sustainable production, animal health, water management and business planning can help small producers improve results.

Fisheries and forestry can also contribute to livelihoods when managed sustainably and in accordance with environmental and licensing requirements. We support practical partnerships that improve skills, local participation and responsible stewardship of natural resources.

Community gardens, food-growing projects and recycling-based composting can link food security with environmental action. PPM will advocate for programmes that are properly planned, locally accessible and evaluated for their long-term benefit.

ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING AND CLEAN COMMUNITIES

A clean and healthy environment is part of a dignified life. PPM will advocate for reliable refuse collection, cleaner public spaces, responsible waste disposal and improved communication about service schedules.

Recycling and composting can reduce pressure on landfill sites and create work opportunities. We will seek partnerships with community organisations, local enterprises and relevant agencies to develop sorting, collection and recycling initiatives that protect workers and residents.

Public education can encourage waste reduction, water conservation and responsible disposal of hazardous materials. Programmes should be practical, accessible and supported by appropriate infrastructure rather than placing the full burden on households.

PPM supports parks, playgrounds and open spaces that are safe, maintained and accessible. These areas can support children's development, exercise, community interaction and pride in neighbourhoods.

Environmental assessments and compliance should be handled according to applicable law. Small-scale farmers and local enterprises should receive clear guidance about relevant requirements, while environmental protection and public health remain priorities.

LAND FOR ECD, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities help neighbourhoods learn, worship, organise and support one another. PPM will advocate for transparent planning to identify suitable land or facilities for early childhood development centres, churches and other legitimate community needs.

Any allocation must follow applicable land-use, zoning, building, environmental and safety requirements. Decisions should consider accessibility, existing infrastructure, community need and the fair use of public land.

PPM respects freedom of religion and the right of communities to preserve their cultural traditions. Municipal processes should be fair and non-discriminatory, and must not favour one faith or organisation because of political relationships.

We will encourage public information about application requirements, decision timelines and available land where disclosure is lawful. Applicants should receive clear reasons for decisions and information about review or appeal processes where applicable.

Community facilities should be planned as part of inclusive neighbourhood development, alongside roads, water, sanitation, safe access and other necessary services.

TRANSPORT, TAXIS AND COMMUNITY ACCESS

Reliable and safe transport is important for workers, learners, patients and businesses. PPM will encourage engagement between commuters, taxi operators, transport authorities and law-enforcement agencies to address safety, service quality and local concerns.

We support compliance with applicable licensing, roadworthiness and passenger-safety requirements. Commuters should be treated with dignity, and concerns should have clear channels for reporting and follow-up.

Where school routes or pedestrian areas are dangerous, PPM will advocate for assessments and practical safety measures in partnership with the responsible authorities. Better signage, road maintenance, safe crossings and coordinated enforcement can help reduce risk.

PPM will encourage respectful dialogue with the taxi industry and other transport providers. Regulation must be lawful, consistent and focused on safety and reliable service rather than political interference.

Public transport decisions should consider residents who are far from jobs, education and healthcare. We will advocate for planning that takes the needs of low-income households into account.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Democracy must continue after election day. Residents have the right to participate in municipal planning, budget discussions and decisions that affect their communities through lawful public processes.

PPM will advocate for regular ward-level engagement, accessible public meetings and plain-language explanations of municipal budgets, service plans and performance. Communities should receive feedback showing how their submissions were considered.

We support stronger community oversight of projects and service delivery. Such oversight should complement, not replace, the legal responsibilities of councillors, municipal officials, auditors and other oversight bodies.

PPM will promote transparent reporting on commitments, project timelines, spending and obstacles. When a commitment cannot be delivered as planned, residents deserve an honest explanation and a revised course of action.

Political leadership must put public interest before personal advantage. PPM will oppose nepotism, cronyism and favouritism and support lawful, merit-based decisions. Coalition arrangements and council decisions should be guided by public commitments and accountability to residents.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS: LISTEN, REVIEW, ACT

PPM's first 100 days in a position to influence municipal decisions will focus on listening, establishing facts and starting practical work. These actions will be pursued through the powers available to elected representatives and the municipality's lawful procedures.

Days 1–30: begin ward-level listening sessions; compile priority service-delivery concerns; request clear public information on budgets, audit findings, procurement and ongoing projects; and identify urgent risks involving roads, water, sanitation, electricity and public safety.

Days 31–60: publish a prioritised issue register; engage relevant municipal departments and responsible external authorities; review barriers facing eligible indigent households and local small businesses; and propose transparent reporting on tender processes and project performance.

Days 61–100: present a public progress report; advocate for a costed action plan on priority repairs and service gaps; pursue consultations on affordable services, housing needs, water tanks, youth programmes and local economic development; and identify funding or partnership opportunities.

Progress will be measured by whether information is made available, residents are heard, responsible departments are engaged, proposals are formally submitted and practical next steps are recorded. PPM will not claim that complex projects can be completed in 100 days; the commitment is to begin transparently and report honestly.

MEASURING PROGRESS AND REPORTING TO RESIDENTS

Promises must be accompanied by public reporting. PPM will advocate for a simple manifesto scorecard that shows each commitment, the responsible authority, the latest status, the next step and any obstacle that needs to be resolved.

Where reliable baseline information is available, targets should include measurable indicators such as service requests resolved, repair times, public meetings held, procurement information published, training placements created and progress on housing or water-support programmes.

Targets should be set after reviewing budgets, municipal powers, existing contracts and reliable data. PPM will not invent figures or promise results that depend on funding or decisions outside municipal control.

Quarterly public updates should explain both progress and delays. Where a project is behind schedule, residents should be told why, what corrective action is being considered and when the next update will be provided.

Accountability also applies to PPM itself. The movement should listen to criticism, correct mistakes and explain how it has represented residents. A pro-poor programme is credible only when people can see what has been done and ask questions about what has not.

FUNDING OUR PRIORITIES RESPONSIBLY

PPM recognises that municipal resources are limited and must be managed responsibly. A pro-poor budget should prioritise essential services, maintenance, public health, safety and programmes that create sustainable opportunities for residents.

We will advocate for careful review of spending, improved project management, reduction of avoidable waste and recovery of money where lawful processes establish that losses occurred. Savings should not be assumed before they are verified, and essential services must not be weakened by unrealistic budget decisions.

PPM will seek partnerships with provincial and national departments, development agencies, community organisations, businesses and other funders where their mandates align with local needs. Funding proposals should be transparent and include realistic costs, maintenance plans and measures of success.

Capital projects must be assessed for long-term operating costs. A facility is not a success if it cannot be maintained, staffed or safely accessed. The municipality should explain the expected cost and public benefit before committing resources.

Public funds must be allocated according to lawful priorities and open procedures. PPM will support public scrutiny of budgets and spending so residents can understand the choices being made on their behalf.

OUR ELECTION PLEDGE

To the residents of Bitou Municipality, PPM makes this pledge: we will put the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable at the centre of our political work. We will advocate for honest leadership, fair services, local opportunity and decisions that can be explained to the public.

We will work to make municipal procurement more transparent, support local businesses, promote youth development, improve access to housing and basic services, and press for practical action on community safety. We will engage other spheres of government where local government alone cannot deliver the required change.

We will not treat public office as a private benefit. We will oppose corruption and favouritism, respect the rights of all residents and encourage people to participate peacefully and constructively in democracy.

We ask residents to measure PPM by our consistency, our conduct and the evidence of our work. A manifesto is not a substitute for action; it is a public commitment that must be monitored and reviewed.

On 4 November 2026, let us work towards a municipality where dignity is real, opportunities are fair and public resources serve the public.

CALL TO VOTE

On 4 November 2026, make your voice count.

Vote for a municipality that listens. Vote for transparent government. Vote for affordable services, fair opportunities and dignity for the poorest of the poor.

Vote for the Pro-poor Political Movement (PPM).

FINALLY, RECLAIM WHAT BELONGS TO US.

Pro-poor Political Movement (PPM) — people first, public money protected, communities empowered.