



QINA MHLALI QINA

POLITICAL MANIFESTO

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

UNITED. EMPOWERED. UNSTOPPABLE.

A NEW VISION FOR ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Area of Focus
OR Tambo District Municipality and Ingquza Hill Local Municipality
Eastern Cape, South Africa

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OUR MANIFESTO

1. PREAMBLE: A NEW CHAPTER FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Qina Mhlali Qina is a community-based political organisation established by local people who believe that our communities deserve better leadership, improved service delivery, economic opportunities and a meaningful role in decisions that affect their lives.

We believe that the people of OR Tambo District and Ingquza Hill deserve a future in which every community has access to reliable basic services, young people have opportunities to build their futures, women are economically empowered, local businesses can grow, and rural communities are given the resources and attention they deserve.

For too long, many communities have faced challenges relating to unemployment, poverty, inadequate infrastructure, limited economic opportunities and the slow delivery of essential services. These challenges require leadership that listens, plans carefully, acts decisively and remains accountable to the people.

Qina Mhlali Qina enters the political space with a commitment to work towards practical solutions, strengthen community participation and promote responsible leadership.

We recognise that meaningful development requires cooperation between municipalities, the provincial and national governments, traditional leaders, businesses, community organisations and residents.

Our manifesto represents a commitment to work towards a better future through transparency, responsible governance, economic development and people-centred service delivery.

We believe that development must reach every village, every ward and every household.

2. OUR VISION

To build empowered, economically active, inclusive and developed communities where residents enjoy reliable basic services, equal opportunities, accountable leadership and a better quality of life.

We envision an OR Tambo District and an Ingquza Hill Municipality where rural communities are no longer left behind, young people can pursue meaningful opportunities, local businesses thrive, and public resources are used responsibly for the benefit of all residents.

3. OUR MISSION

Our mission is to represent community interests, promote transparent and accountable local government, improve service delivery, encourage local economic development and create an environment in which residents can participate meaningfully in shaping their future.

We will work towards practical development programmes, stronger partnerships, responsible budgeting and effective monitoring of municipal performance.

4. OUR CORE VALUES

- Accountability: Leaders must answer to the people they serve.
- Transparency: Municipal decisions, spending and development priorities must be communicated openly.
- Integrity: Public office must be used to serve communities, not personal interests.
- Community participation: Residents must have a meaningful voice in local development.
- Equality and fairness: Opportunities and services must be pursued fairly across communities.
- Youth empowerment: Young people must be included in leadership, skills development and economic opportunities.
- Service before self: The needs of residents must remain central to public service.
- Unity and cooperation: Sustainable development requires communities to work together.

5. OUR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

PILLAR 1: IMPROVED BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

Access to essential services is fundamental to dignity and development. Qina Mhlali Qina will advocate for improved municipal planning, effective maintenance and fair distribution of basic services.

- Promote reliable access to clean and safe water.
- Advocate for improved sanitation and wastewater management.
- Strengthen the maintenance and upgrading of local roads, including rural access roads.
- Promote improved refuse collection, waste management and cleaner public spaces.
- Encourage the maintenance of streetlights and public infrastructure.
- Monitor municipal service delivery and raise unresolved community concerns through the appropriate channels.
- Advocate for fair and transparent prioritisation of infrastructure projects, especially in underserved communities.

We believe that residents should not have to struggle indefinitely for basic services that are essential to a dignified life.

PILLAR 2: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

The future of our communities depends on the opportunities we create for young people today. Qina Mhlali Qina recognises that unemployment, limited skills development and a lack of economic opportunities prevent many young people from reaching their full potential.

- Promote access to learnerships, internships, apprenticeships and workplace training.
- Strengthen partnerships with businesses, government departments, colleges and training institutions.
- Support youth entrepreneurship through business development information, mentorship and links to funding opportunities.
- Advocate for fair and transparent recruitment processes for municipal opportunities.

- Promote skills programmes in construction, agriculture, technology, tourism and other relevant sectors.
- Encourage the use of local labour where appropriate and lawful in public infrastructure projects.
- Support youth-led community initiatives, innovation and development programmes.

Young people must not only inherit the future; they must participate in building it.

PILLAR 3: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Women play a central role in households, businesses and community development. Their contribution must be recognised through meaningful economic and social opportunities.

- Support programmes for women-owned businesses and cooperatives.
- Promote access to business training, mentorship and information about funding opportunities.
- Encourage fair participation of women in local development initiatives.
- Build partnerships that expand skills training and employment opportunities for women.
- Support community programmes for vulnerable households and family wellbeing.
- Promote greater participation of women in public leadership and decision-making.

Empowering women strengthens families, creates opportunities and contributes to the development of the entire community.

PILLAR 4: AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture has the potential to become an important driver of economic development in OR Tambo and Ingquza Hill. Our rural communities have land, agricultural knowledge and people who are willing to work, yet many face challenges involving resources, infrastructure, markets and access to support.

- Support small-scale farmers, emerging farmers and agricultural cooperatives.
- Promote access to agricultural training, equipment, inputs and relevant funding programmes.
- Build partnerships that connect local farmers to reliable markets.
- Encourage community gardening and food-production initiatives.
- Support livestock farming and other suitable rural enterprises.
- Advocate for improved rural access roads that assist farmers in transporting products.
- Cooperate with relevant government departments and agricultural organisations to unlock development opportunities.

We want agriculture to contribute to food security, household income, job creation and the growth of local businesses.

PILLAR 5: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS GROWTH

Local economic development must create opportunities for residents to participate in the economy. Spaza shops, informal traders, construction companies, cooperatives, service providers and emerging entrepreneurs all have an important role to play.

- Promote local economic development initiatives that respond to each community's needs.
- Encourage lawful and transparent opportunities for local businesses to compete for municipal contracts.
- Advocate for fair procurement and the prevention of corruption and favouritism.
- Support business information sessions on registration, compliance, tender procedures and available support programmes.
- Encourage partnerships between local entrepreneurs, established businesses and development agencies.
- Promote local manufacturing, agro-processing and other viable industries.
- Advocate for improved business infrastructure and suitable spaces for informal traders.

- Encourage investment in tourism and other industries that can create sustainable local employment.

Our long-term objective is to build an economy in which local people are producers, employers, entrepreneurs and active participants in economic growth.

PILLAR 6: INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure creates the foundation for economic activity, access to services and improved living conditions. Qina Mhlali Qina will advocate for infrastructure that responds to community needs and supports long-term development.

- Improve roads connecting villages, schools, clinics, businesses and economic centres.
- Promote better maintenance of community halls and public facilities.
- Advocate for safe and accessible public spaces.
- Improve access to water, sanitation and other essential infrastructure.
- Support suitable facilities for sports, recreation and youth activities.
- Promote better planning and monitoring of municipal infrastructure projects.
- Engage relevant authorities regarding housing needs and suitable residential infrastructure.

Projects should be prioritised transparently according to community needs, available resources and approved development plans.

PILLAR 7: SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Sports and cultural activities can strengthen discipline, unity, health and social development. Qina Mhlali Qina recognises the efforts of local sports associations, coaches, artists and community organisations.

- Promote improved access to sports grounds and recreational facilities.
- Build partnerships with sports associations and development organisations.
- Support youth leagues, tournaments and community sporting events.
- Help talented young people access coaching, training and development pathways.
- Engage partners regarding suitable accommodation and support facilities for elite and full-time athletes, where feasible.
- Promote local arts, music, culture and heritage.
- Encourage sports and cultural activities that unite communities and discourage harmful social behaviour.

PILLAR 8: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND DIGITAL ACCESS

Education and skills development are essential for breaking cycles of poverty and expanding opportunities. Qina Mhlali Qina will promote initiatives that improve access to learning, training and information.

- Encourage partnerships that expand educational support and career guidance.
- Promote awareness of bursaries, learnerships, scholarships and skills programmes.
- Advocate for improved digital access and digital literacy in underserved communities.
- Support initiatives connecting young people with career opportunities and further education.
- Encourage community learning programmes and access to relevant public information.
- Work with appropriate authorities to raise concerns about educational infrastructure and access to essential facilities.

We will seek partnerships with schools, colleges, universities, businesses and government institutions to expand opportunities for residents.

PILLAR 9: ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT LEADERSHIP

Good governance is essential to every development commitment. Qina Mhlali Qina believes that municipal leadership must be accessible, ethical, transparent and responsive to community needs.

- Promote regular engagement between elected representatives and residents.
- Support meaningful ward committee participation and community consultation.
- Advocate for transparent municipal budgeting and expenditure reporting.
- Monitor approved development plans and municipal projects.
- Raise concerns about wasteful expenditure, corruption and maladministration through lawful reporting mechanisms.
- Encourage fair treatment of residents regardless of political affiliation.
- Promote merit, competence and ethical conduct in public administration.
- Communicate progress, challenges and decisions to the communities represented.

Leadership is not a privilege to be enjoyed; it is a responsibility to be fulfilled.

PILLAR 10: HEALTH, CLEAN ENVIRONMENTS AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Healthy communities require safe environments, accessible services and cooperation between residents and public institutions.

- Improve coordination with relevant authorities on access to healthcare services.
- Promote cleaner public spaces and responsible waste disposal.
- Encourage community awareness programmes on environmental protection.
- Promote better maintenance of drainage systems and public infrastructure where municipal responsibility applies.
- Build partnerships supporting vulnerable residents and households facing hardship.
- Improve access to information about available social and community support services.
- Support community initiatives that promote dignity, safety and a healthier living environment.

PILLAR 11: COOPERATION WITH TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND COMMUNITY STRUCTURES

Traditional leaders, community organisations, faith-based institutions, civic groups and residents have an important role in local development. Qina Mhlali Qina will promote constructive engagement while respecting each institution's responsibilities and independence.

- Strengthen consultation with traditional leaders on community development concerns.
- Encourage cooperation on infrastructure, rural development and community wellbeing.
- Support peaceful and inclusive community dialogue.
- Promote partnerships between municipalities, civil society and local development organisations.
- Encourage community participation in identifying priorities and monitoring progress.

Lasting development is more effective when communities are consulted and their local knowledge is respected.

6. OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE

Qina Mhlali Qina understands that a manifesto must be more than a collection of promises. It must provide a basis against which residents can assess the conduct and performance of their elected representatives.

- A listening leadership: Residents must have accessible channels to raise concerns.

- A development-focused municipality: Resources should be directed towards approved priorities that improve people's lives.
- Fair economic opportunities: Local businesses and entrepreneurs should be treated fairly within the law.
- Responsible public spending: Municipal funds must be used for their intended purposes.
- Regular progress reporting: Communities should receive understandable updates on projects and challenges.
- Inclusive development: Rural communities, young people, women, people with disabilities and vulnerable residents must be considered in planning.
- Cooperation across government: We will pursue support from relevant provincial and national institutions where local government alone cannot resolve a problem.

Some projects require funding, feasibility assessments, government approvals and partnerships. We will communicate these realities honestly rather than make commitments that cannot responsibly be fulfilled.

7. IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

FIRST 100 DAYS, WHERE ELECTED AND OPERATIONALLY ABLE

- Engage communities to identify urgent service delivery challenges.
- Establish clear channels for receiving and recording residents' concerns.
- Review available municipal plans, budgets and outstanding projects.
- Identify priority issues requiring engagement with municipal departments and other authorities.
- Communicate an initial programme of action and processes for tracking progress.

FIRST YEAR

- Advocate for measurable priorities to be reflected in the municipality's Integrated Development Plan, budget and service delivery plans.
- Monitor selected infrastructure and service delivery projects.
- Facilitate engagement between communities, government departments and development partners.
- Promote business, agricultural and youth-development information initiatives.
- Publish periodic progress updates on commitments, achievements and unresolved challenges.

THROUGHOUT THE TERM OF OFFICE

- Review progress against agreed development priorities.
- Participate in lawful oversight and accountability processes.
- Engage residents through ward meetings and other appropriate community forums.
- Report challenges honestly and identify corrective actions.
- Advocate for fair and responsible use of public resources.

Implementation will depend on the organisation's electoral representation, the legal powers of the relevant municipality, approved budgets, institutional capacity and cooperation with other stakeholders.

8. OUR CALL TO COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Qina Mhlali Qina believes that building better communities is a shared responsibility.

We invite residents, traditional leaders, young people, women, workers, farmers, entrepreneurs, community organisations and development partners to participate in shaping the future of our communities.

We encourage residents to remain informed, participate in public consultations, raise concerns through appropriate channels and hold public representatives accountable.

Our mission is to contribute to a better system of leadership and development in which the voices of ordinary people are heard and their needs are taken seriously.

Together, we can work towards communities that are better connected, economically stronger, more accountable and more inclusive.

9. CONCLUSION: THE FUTURE MUST BE BUILT TOGETHER

Qina Mhlali Qina stands for a future in which leadership is measured by service, development is measured by its impact on people's lives, and public resources are managed in the interests of the communities they are meant to serve.

We believe that OR Tambo District and Ingquza Hill have the people, potential and resources to achieve meaningful progress. What is needed is responsible leadership, effective planning, strong partnerships and a shared commitment to development.

Our manifesto is a call for a new standard of public service: one grounded in accountability, opportunity, dignity and practical action.

We will strive to ensure that rural development receives attention, young people have pathways towards opportunity, local businesses can grow, and residents have a stronger voice in the decisions that shape their lives.

The task ahead requires unity, determination and collective responsibility.

QINA MHLALI QINA — UNITED. EMPOWERED. UNSTOPPABLE.

Together, let us build communities where opportunity is expanded, public service is respected, and development reaches the people.