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MANIFESTO FRAMEWORK

Lepelle-Nkumpi and Capricorn District stand at a critical point in their development. Our municipalities have enormous untapped potential in their **agricultural land, mining resources, water, young people, traditional institutions and strategic location**, yet too many of our communities continue to experience unemployment, poverty, inadequate services and limited economic opportunities.

Our **Development and Transformation Priorities (DTP's)** are therefore aimed at **turning resources into tangible opportunities** and improving the quality of life of our people.

We will pursue a new model of developmental local government founded on **clean and accountable governance, efficient and sustainable service delivery, infrastructure-led development, job-creation, skills development, agricultural and mining transformation, SMME support, digital inclusion and constructive partnerships with traditional authorities, private sector, public and provincial entities as well as development finance institutions (DFIs).**

SAReA's commitment is to build a municipality that does not merely administer poverty, but actively creates the conditions for investment, enterprise, employment, dignity and sustainable prosperity for all the people of Lepelle-Nkumpi and Capricorn District.

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LEPELLE-NKUMPI DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION PRIORITIES

Quality Services, Water and Sanitation

- Provide **free water and sanitation to our schools and clinics**, particularly in rural and disadvantaged communities.
- Deliver **efficient, effective and sustainable municipal services**
- Improve the utilisation of sewerage and mining water systems, including partnerships with **Water Research Commission (WRC)** and other relevant institutions.
- Reduce water losses and improve the reliability and sustainability of water infrastructure in partnership with other relevant water authorities.

Education, Skills and Opportunities for Young People

- Establish **mining and agricultural schools** to equip young people with practical skills linked to the municipality's economic opportunities.
- Facilitate **internet access at schools**, particularly rural schools.
- Provide **free learner-drivers training and licences** to qualifying young people, subject to lawful eligibility criteria and available funding.
- Partner with the private sector to transfer commercial agricultural and other skills to **15 000 young people over 5 years**.
- Link skills development directly to employment, entrepreneurship and access to markets.

Agriculture and Rural Economic Development

- Provide **free livestock feeds and vegetable seeds** to emerging farmers and vulnerable rural households subject to available funding.
- Help emerging farmers access **agricultural input and output markets**.
- Build partnerships between commercial farmers, emerging farmers, agricultural institutions and young people.
- Promote value-chain development so that **residents do not merely produce agricultural products** but can participate in **processing, packaging, distribution and marketing**.
- Develop infrastructure in partnership with Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) to unlock agricultural and other productive economic activity.

Jobs, SMMEs and Local Economic Development

- Provide practical support to SMMEs and emerging local businesses and co-operatives.
- Review and implement a comprehensive **Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy**.
- Create or facilitate **9000 jobs in waste and environmental-management systems**, including recycling, waste recovery, environmental rehabilitation and related enterprises
- Use municipal procurement and development programmes to expand opportunities for **local businesses and co-operatives**, within applicable procurement laws.
- Help local enterprises and co-operatives to **gain finance, markets, skills and infrastructure**.

Mining and Economic Transformation

- Establish specialised **mining and agricultural schools** to ensure that local young people acquire skills relevant to the municipality's major economic sectors.
- Develop partnerships with mining companies, agricultural enterprises and DFIs to increase local economic participation.
- Promote local procurement and enterprise development around mining operations.
- Work to **curb capital flight and brain drain** by hiring local professionals and promoting local investment, local procurement, local ownership and reinvestment of a greater proportion of economic value within Lepelle-Nkumpi and Capricorn District.
- Ensure that mining and other major economic activities produce tangible benefits for local communities.

Infrastructure for Development

“Build infrastructure that unlocks economic opportunity, rather than infrastructure that merely consumes public resources”.

- Develop infrastructure programmes in partnership with DFIs, government departments, private investors and other strategic partners.
- Prioritise infrastructure that supports agriculture, mining, tourism, SMMEs, housing, water, sanitation, digital connectivity, **sport and recreation as well as the arts.**
- Explore innovative financing models to accelerate infrastructure delivery **without placing unsustainable pressure on the municipal budget.**

Health services, Recreation and Digital Transformation

- Advocate for and assist in the **digitisation of health systems** and public spaces to reduce long queues at public health facilities and ensure proper recreation by residents.
- Promote electronic appointment, patient-management and information systems where appropriate.
- Work with local and provincial health authorities to improve co-ordination between municipal services and healthcare facilities.
- Support digital connectivity in clinics and communities to reduce the rural digital divide.

Clean, accountable and ethical government

- Eradicate **corruption, fraud, maladministration** as well as **fruitless and wasteful expenditure.**
- **Recover public money lost through corruption, irregularity and waste wherever legally permissible.**
- **Dismantle the culture of fear, intimidation and victimisation within Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality**
- Eliminate **nepotism, favouritism and tribalism** in Lepelle-Nkumpi and other workplace.
- Ensure that appointments, procurement and advancement are based on merit, **competence, fairness and the law.**
- Strengthen accountability of political office-bearers, officials, contractors and other service providers.
- **Review and rescind, where permissible, all unlawful and unjustified council resolutions taken in the past.**

Land, Traditional Authorities and Development

- Ensure compliance with the **Spatial Development Framework (SDF)** and **Land Use Management Scheme (LUMS)**
- Strengthen and or establish effective enforcement of **SPLUMA and municipal land-use by-laws.**
- **Resolve land disputes** involving traditional authorities and other legitimate claimants through lawful and structured processes **by financial year 2027/28.**
- Establish constructive and respectful working relationships between **Municipal Council and Traditional Authorities.**
- Ensure that traditional authorities participate meaningfully in development affecting their communities.

Traditional Authorities in Municipal Governance

- **Allow Magoshi to exercise their lawful rights in Municipal Council as ex-officio members,** including participation in Council proceedings to the extent permitted by applicable constitutional and legislative framework.
- Establish institutional mechanisms for regular engagement between Council and traditional authorities.
- Develop lawful arrangements for **sharing appropriate proceeds from property development with traditional authorities** where their communities and land are directly affected.
- Enter into appropriate **revenue collection agreements** with traditional authorities, where legally permissible.
- Ensure that traditional authorities are treated as **development partners rather than obstacles to development.**

Safety, Security, Disaster and Investment

- Put in place, or cause to be put in place, **comprehensive safety, security and disaster management programmes** aimed at creating a secure environment for **residents, businesses and investors**.
- Work with SAPS, ESKOM, Private security, Traditional Authorities and other stakeholders to combat vandalism, theft, and criminality affecting infrastructure and economic activity.
- Establish good working relations with ESKOM and support the **protection of ESKOM infrastructure**.
- Use improved safety and security as a foundation for attracting **fixed investment** into Lepelle-Nkumpi and Capricorn District.

Investment, Economic Retention, Capital Flight and Brain Drain

- Create conditions to encourage businesses and professionals to **invest, operate and reinvest locally**.
- Curb capital flight and brain drain by strengthening local supply chains, local procurement, local enterprise and professionals' participation and investment plus services opportunities.
- Promote partnerships between the municipality, private sector and DFIs to mobilise investment.
- Ensure that major developments generate local jobs, local business opportunities, skills transfer and sustainable economic benefit.

A Municipality That Works: Clean Government, Quality Services, Jobs, Investment And Opportunity For Every Community