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VAAAL

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION MANIFESTO

Vaal Party. For us, by us.



VAAAL

A Municipality That Works & A Productive Greater Vaal

Maintain what the public owns. Restore community life.
Give the region a serious political institution of its own

2026
**MUNICIPAL
ELECTION
MANIFESTO**

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THE VAAL CAN GOVERN WITH CONFIDENCE

Vaal Party is a regional political institution built for the Greater Vaal and capable of thinking at the scale of the country. This manifesto asks voters for a municipal mandate to make public institutions useful, protect the foundations of daily life and expand the region's productive capacity.

The Greater Vaal is one connected economic, industrial, environmental, social and cultural region. Its municipalities remain locally accountable, while its water systems, river, industry, transport, labour market, tourism and investment opportunities require practical cooperation across boundaries. Vaal Party begins with that reality and turns it into a governing programme. The programme is grounded in capable institutions, maintenance before deterioration, productive local development, organised community life, strategic public assets and clear responsibility. Each commitment is designed to remain useful whether Vaal Party governs, shares authority or advances it through council and public advocacy.

The five public outcomes

Outcome	What residents should experience
A municipality that works	Accurate accounts, traceable requests, clear responsibilities, maintained records and professional administration.
Public assets that are maintained	Roads, stormwater, facilities, fleet, parks and networks protected through inspection, maintenance and renewal plans.
A productive Greater Vaal	Land, infrastructure, skills, finance and procurement connected to enterprises, producers and industrial capability.
Organised community life	Clean public places, sport, libraries, culture, recreation and viable community institutions.
A region represented in its own name	Focused cooperation across the Greater Vaal and a political voice rooted in the region.

Every vote has work to do

Where voters give Vaal Party governing authority, the commitments below will be translated into the integrated development plan, budget, service-delivery targets, delegations and public reporting. Where authority is shared, Vaal Party will negotiate written programme commitments and performance standards. Where it serves in opposition, the same programme will guide motions, amendments, questions, committee work and public oversight.



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1. A municipality designed to work

Municipal capability is the platform for every service and development programme.

Vaal Party proposes an institution organised around the work it must perform and the systems it must oversee.

A function-led institution

- Map every lawful function as directly performed, externally operated, shared, regionally coordinated or proposed for redesign, with one accountable municipal owner for each function.
- Align the organisational structure, delegations, job descriptions, funded posts and performance agreements with that functional map.
- Fill critical finance, engineering, planning, legal, governance, information, project, inspection, customer-service and operational posts through lawful competence-based processes.
- Protect institutional memory through complete records, governed data, project handovers and contract files that remain with the municipality.
- Use consultants for finite specialist work and build permanent internal capability wherever the work is continuous and predictable.

Political accountability and professional administration

Council and office bearers set policy, approve budgets, oversee performance and answer publicly. Officials implement lawfully and professionally. Vaal Party supports energetic oversight and rejects interference in tenders, appointments and individual administrative decisions.

Digital government and one municipal record

- Integrate customer, property, meter, billing, asset, geographic, project, procurement, contract, document and performance information through governed data standards.
- Create secure electronic records and traceable approvals that preserve institutional memory.
- Provide safe digital payments and online services alongside telephone, walk-in and assisted access.
- Use automation and appropriate artificial intelligence under legal, information-security, audit and human-accountability controls.
- Maintain tested cybersecurity, backups, access controls and service-continuity plans.

Integrity that follows power

- Publish lawful procurement plans, awards, deviations, contract changes and performance information in forms residents can use.
- Record and manage conflicts of interest throughout specification, evaluation, award and contract delivery.
- Tie audit findings to named responsibility, funded corrective action, deadlines and verifiable closure.
- Protect good-faith reporting, investigate professionally, recover losses and apply consequence management with due process.
- Build an institutional ethics partnership with practical training, advice, risk assessment and annual certification for relevant governance roles.



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2. Honest finance and fair revenue

A municipality becomes financially credible when its budget is based on collectable cash, its accounts are defensible, essential creditors are paid and residents can see how recovery is progressing.

- Reconcile valuation, property, customer, meter, tariff, billing, collection and indigent records.
- Create accessible, time-bound account disputes with evidence, reasoned decisions and corrected accounts.
- Apply lawful credit control consistently, with lifeline access and indigent support for qualifying households.
- Protect electricity, water and rates revenue through accurate metering, fair tariffs, action against theft and transparent cash priorities.
- Build budgets from credible revenue and cash-flow assumptions; protect current payments to bulk suppliers and disclose material liabilities and changes.
- Publish a monthly recovery dashboard covering cash, collections, creditor payments, capital delivery, audit correction, maintenance and service performance.

3. Maintain and renew public infrastructure

Maintenance protects the value residents already own. Vaal Party proposes to connect asset knowledge, technical people, operating budgets, tools and work orders into a permanent municipal maintenance system.

- Create condition-based registers for roads, stormwater, buildings, facilities, parks, fleet, plant and every network or asset the municipality owns or oversees.
- Fund preventive maintenance, renewal and emergency readiness before avoidable deterioration consumes larger budgets.
- Rebuild functional depots, workshops, stores, drawings, equipment, spares, vehicles and disciplined work-order systems.
- Prepare designs, approvals, land, cash flow and procurement before construction begins, and place every completed project in a funded operating and maintenance plan.
- Publish project milestones, contractor changes, delays, completion evidence and the condition in which assets are handed over.

Technicalise the municipality

Vaal Party proposes a five-year pathway towards at least 500 junior, senior and master municipal artisans, supported by technicians, technologists, engineers, foremen and supervisors. Existing employees may enter appropriate learning pathways after assessment against aptitude, performance, entry requirements and workforce need. Training must include accredited learning, workplace mentors, tools and real municipal work.



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4. Direct and dependable municipal access

Residents should be able to reach the municipality without needing personal political access. Every request should become a traceable item of public work.

- Create one municipal service-request system across digital, telephone, walk-in and assisted channels.
- Issue a reference, assign the responsible unit, publish realistic service standards and show the status of the work.
- Provide clear escalation when a deadline is missed and close each request with completion evidence or a reasoned lawful outcome.
- Connect requests to assets, teams, work orders, recurring faults and maintenance plans.
- Use complaint patterns to correct systemic staffing, supplier, infrastructure or policy failures.

5. Clean, safe and cared-for communities

Waste collection, public safety, by-laws, parks, facilities, cemeteries and the public realm shape health, dignity, movement, investment and everyday confidence in a place.

Waste and cleanliness

- Publish dependable collection schedules and manage routes, crews, fleet availability and service failures through operational data.
- Provide lawful drop-off options for bulky household waste and small traders, then restore recurring dumping sites through removal, lighting, barriers, design and enforcement.
- Manage landfills, transfer sites and recovery facilities lawfully and connect viable recycling cooperatives and enterprises to material flows.

By-laws, courts and public safety

- Modernise by-laws and make the complete enforcement chain work from inspection and notice to evidence, independent prosecution, adjudication and municipal follow-through.
- Focus municipal enforcement on by-laws, traffic, environmental health, municipal assets, fire, disaster readiness and lawful municipal policing arrangements, while working with SAPS within its national mandate.
- Maintain emergency vehicles, equipment, communications, staffing and tested response plans.
- Use safer public-space design, lighting, sightlines, active facilities and reliable maintenance as part of prevention.

Parks, facilities, greening and cemeteries

- Map parks, playgrounds, open spaces, trees, verges, civic places and facilities, then publish equitable maintenance standards and schedules.
- Treat mass greening as long-term public infrastructure, with suitable indigenous trees, establishment care and replacement where removal is necessary.
- Use governed leases and partnerships that retain public ownership, access standards, maintenance duties and municipal oversight.
- Reorganise cemeteries as a professionally managed, revenue-visible public unit with accurate records, maintained sites, core in-house operations and dignified indigent burials.



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6. Build the productive Greater Vaal

Local economic development should enlarge the ability to make, repair, build, grow, create, move, trade and invest. Vaal Party proposes to connect public assets and programmes to durable productive capability.

- Create one municipal service-request system across digital, telephone, walk-in and assisted channels.
- Issue a reference, assign the responsible unit, publish realistic service standards and show the status of the work.
- Provide clear escalation when a deadline is missed and close each request with completion evidence or a reasoned lawful outcome.
- Connect requests to assets, teams, work orders, recurring faults and maintenance plans.
- Use complaint patterns to correct systemic staffing, supplier, infrastructure or policy failures.

7. Restore organised community life

Community life grows through accessible facilities, organised programmes and organisations that can sustain community activity. Vaal Party proposes to connect municipal responsibility with capable community participation.

Community organisations as practical partners

Vaal Party proposes a larger practical role for communities and community organisations in suitable local programmes. Participation should be governed by clear agreements, fair access, capable leadership, safeguarding, transparent funding, measurable performance and municipal oversight.

Community access should guide design. Libraries, community centres, recreation, sport, culture, environmental work and other suitable activity should grow around real functions, usable facilities, demonstrated need and sustainable operating plans. Community delivery strengthens local capability while the municipality retains public standards and responsibility.

Sport, culture, libraries and participation

- Re-establish professionally governed sports councils and use lawful facility leases that protect ownership, public access, maintenance and safeguarding.
- Build weekly Saturday-morning under-10 multi-code sport through equipment, volunteers, qualified support and organised councils.
- Create age-appropriate development pathways using equipment, vouchers and development support for minors.
- Operate libraries, community centres and cultural facilities as active institutions with programmes, information, access standards and accountable governance.
- Structure monthly portfolio engagement with properly constituted ward committees, record actions and report back before matters disappear into administration.



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8. Secure water and restore the Vaal River

Reliable water, functioning sanitation and a healthy Vaal River are essential to households, industry, agriculture, public health, recreation and regional confidence.

- Oversee water quality, pressure, interruptions, wastewater compliance, pump stations, treatment works, spillages, asset condition, maintenance and capital upgrades through a public scorecard.
- Reduce physical and commercial losses through metering, maintenance, water balances, leak repair and accurate billing.
- Build reliable energy, backup, spares, emergency repair and process-control capability for critical water and wastewater assets.
- Translate court orders and statutory interventions into a public matrix of sites, work packages, responsible institutions, funding, deadlines, compliance measures and corrective action.
- Coordinate pollution monitoring, incident response, public health warnings, enforcement, ecological restoration, recreation and tourism across the Greater Vaal.
- Protect public river access and responsible waterfront development within environmental and infrastructure limits.

9. Establish the Greater Vaal Compact

The Greater Vaal should cooperate wherever the system is genuinely regional. The compact will keep local municipalities accountable for local functions while creating formal machinery for shared work.

Regional field	Compact work
Water and wastewater	Shared risks, pollution, infrastructure, demand, investment, emergency response and public data.
Industry and investment	A common investment proposition, industrial land, supplier development, skills and project facilitation.
Transport and logistics	Cross-boundary mobility, public transport, freight, corridors and spatial coordination.
River and environment	Restoration, monitoring, safety, enforcement, recreation and responsible development standards.
Tourism, culture and sport	Regional routes, calendars, producers, facilities, events and shared promotion.
Specialist capability	Shared professional and technical capacity where scale improves quality, resilience or affordability.



Every arrangement will state the legal authority, ownership, funding, decision rights, data custody, performance standards, reporting, dispute process, review and exit position. Regional cooperation will be built around defined systems and measurable work.

10. Protect public assets and future options

Vaal Party distinguishes public ownership from public operation. Strategic land, networks, corridors, infrastructure, regulatory authority and system data must remain under effective public control. Operation may be assigned to a public entity, community organisation, cooperative or regulated operator when the function and capability require it.

- Keep clear ownership records and public access to operational, customer, financial, maintenance and asset data.
- Set enforceable service, access, tariff and investment obligations appropriate to the function.
- Protect emergency continuity, step-in, remedy, termination, handback, asset-condition, interoperability and data-portability rights.
- Require measurable maintenance, investment and skills transfer throughout an operating term.
- Assess public operation, renewal, extension, replacement or another lawful model at each decision point using complete evidence and capable institutions.
- Prevent any single operator, state or bloc from gaining systemic control over strategic regional assets.



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11. Named programmes for the municipal term

Vaal Party proposes the following programme designs for lawful adoption, funding and implementation. Their amounts are deliberate first-year rebuilding envelopes: the first year restores delivery systems in local economic development, tourism and sport, recreation, arts, culture and libraries before scale. The plan is to double these programme investments annually as verified capacity grows and each increase enters a lawful budget.

Programme	Public result
M'buzi-in-a-Kraal Creative Ecosystem	First-year base: R1 million. A sustained learning, production, industry-access and networking platform for the regional creative economy, with planned annual doubling as delivery capacity grows.
Vaal River Carnival	First-year base: R7 million, including about R6 million for events and producers. A distributed heritage, tourism, sport and creative-production platform, with planned annual doubling as delivery capacity grows.
Tourism Producers Masterclass	First-year base: R2 million, including twenty R50,000 implementation grants. A rigorous route for 20 to 30 non-accommodation tourism producers, with planned annual doubling as delivery capacity grows.
Municipal farms cooperativisation	First-year base: R1 million. Transparent land access, member-owned enterprises, technical support, value chains and real markets, with planned annual doubling as delivery capacity grows.
Sports councils and facility leasing	Professionally governed councils and facilities with protected public ownership, access, maintenance and safeguarding.
Grassroots children's sport	First-year base: R1 million for equipment. Weekly under-10 multi-code participation, with planned annual doubling as delivery capacity grows.
Soccer development pathway	First-year base: R600,000 for heritage tournaments and R120,000 in under-19 winner prizes. Recurring competition and age-appropriate development, with planned annual doubling as delivery capacity grows.



Named programmes continued

Programme	Public result
CBD business funding	First-year base: R2 million, with an indicative R50,000 average grant. Productive enterprises in priority commercial nodes, with planned annual doubling as delivery capacity grows.
Municipal business grants	First-year base: R2 million using the 80/20 grant-band design. Equipment, certification, productive inputs and market entry, with planned annual doubling as delivery capacity grows.
Artisans and technical capability	A five-year municipal artisan pipeline supported by accredited learning, mentors, tools, depots and real work.
Institutional ethics partnership	Practical ethics systems, advisory support, risk assessment, training and accountable certification.
Cemeteries public operating unit	Revenue-visible management, accurate records, maintained sites, core in-house operations and dignified service.
Portfolio and ward committee engagement	Monthly structured engagement, recorded actions, named responsibility and report-back.
Vaal River access and small-vessel administration	Clear municipal amenity, event, access, tariff and environmental rules coordinated with national vessel-safety law.

A vote for a capable regional future

Vaal Party offers the Greater Vaal a political institution of its own and a practical programme worthy of the region. The mandate is to make municipal work visible, maintain public value, expand productive capacity, restore community life and cooperate at the scale shared systems require.

Vaal Party asks for the authority to begin with the Vaal, govern with discipline and keep the public future open.

THE VAAL CAN WORK



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THE VAAAL MANDATE

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VAAL

PUBLIC POLITICAL COMPACT

The Vaal Mandate

The authority Vaal Party asks the people of the Greater Vaal to grant

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STABILITY • TRUST • CONFIDENCE • RELIABILITY

A political institution of our own

The Vaal Mandate asks the people of the Greater Vaal to authorise a serious regional political institution to represent the region in its own name, exercise public power with discipline and build practical capacity across its communities.

The Greater Vaal is a real region. Its municipalities, towns and communities share an industrial economy, a labour market, the Vaal River, water and wastewater systems, transport routes, public institutions, cultural life and economic opportunity. Vaal Party gives that region a political centre of gravity.

Regional loyalty gives the party a clear starting point. National-quality policy, institutional competence and constitutional seriousness give it the scale required to govern responsibly.

REGIONAL IN LOYALTY. NATIONAL IN CAPABILITY

The authority sought

A vote for Vaal Party authorises its representatives to use seats, council votes, budgets, motions, oversight, negotiation and public advocacy for the following purposes.

1. Represent the Greater Vaal as a politically real region whose priorities can be expressed in its own name.
2. Make municipalities and public institutions capable of performing their lawful functions consistently.
3. Protect, maintain and use strategic public assets for long-term public value.
4. Build a productive regional economy in which people can make, repair, build, grow, create, trade and invest.
5. Restore organised community life through clean places, public facilities, sport, libraries, culture and viable community institutions.
6. Place functions at the lowest level capable of performing them effectively while preserving cooperation, institutional capacity and visible accountability.
7. Use public entities, community organisations, cooperatives and regulated private operators according to the nature of the function while retaining public control of strategic assets and future choices.
8. Cooperate across the Greater Vaal wherever water, infrastructure, industry, transport, environment, tourism, culture and investment require regional scale.
9. Exercise council and coalition power as an independent regional institution with a mandate that remains visible to voters.



**THE
VAAL
MANDATE**

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The public philosophy beneath the mandate

Principle	Public meaning
Capability	Every institution must possess the professional, technical, financial and administrative ability required by its functions.
Subsidiarity	Functions sit at the lowest effective level, supported by cooperation among institutions that retain meaningful capability and judgment.
Public responsibility	Ownership, regulation, funding, operation, oversight and ultimate accountability remain identifiable in every delivery model.
Maintenance	Existing assets and productive capacity are protected through inspection, upkeep, renewal and lifecycle planning.
Productive development	Public action expands the ability of people and enterprises to produce, earn, employ and invest.
Regional cooperation	Shared systems are governed at useful scale while local functions remain locally accountable.
Institutional integrity	Political and administrative power are governed by law, records, transparency, oversight and due process.

Local responsibility and useful scale

Vaal Party believes public functions should be performed at the lowest level capable of performing them well. Local responsibility, regional cooperation and national coordination should reinforce one another while accountability stays visible.

Municipalities should control direct services, local infrastructure, land use, public places and community-facing regulation. Shared regional systems should be coordinated at the scale at which they actually work. National institutions should maintain common standards, redistribution and sovereign functions.

Resources, personnel, assets, records and technical capability should sit with the functions they support. Communities and community organisations can contribute to suitable local work, while public institutions retain standards, oversight and responsibility.

The result is capable interdependence: institutions cooperate across boundaries without surrendering the judgment, information or capability required for their own responsibilities.



Public ownership and capable operation

Strategic land, networks, corridors, infrastructure, regulatory authority and system data form the public foundation of the state. Vaal Party will keep these assets under effective public control while selecting the operating model best suited to each function.

Community access is the destination. One organisation may perform compatible work and a specialist organisation may serve several wards. Public authorities retain standards, funding oversight and responsibility for outcomes.

Cooperatives organise member-owned productive activity and may distribute benefits according to their rules. Farms and other producer activity should use cooperatives where membership, governance, markets and enterprise support make the model viable. Community organisations and cooperatives are partners in different kinds of work; neither replaces municipal responsibility.

The productive and functioning Vaal

The mandate joins institutional competence to economic and community development. Municipal government should make daily public functions dependable and use its assets and authority to expand the region's productive possibilities.

- Functioning municipalities with accurate accounts, traceable service requests, maintained records and accountable administration.
- Infrastructure protected through asset knowledge, preventive maintenance, renewal and permanent technical capability.
- Clean, safe and usable public places supported by waste services, by-laws, courts, parks, facilities and emergency readiness.
- Industrial, manufacturing, agricultural, creative, tourism and local-enterprise growth supported by land, infrastructure, skills and transparent public programmes.
- Community access to sport, libraries, culture, recreation and programmes built around viable functions, facilities and community organisations.
- Water security, functioning sanitation and restoration of the Vaal River as an environmental, economic, recreational and regional asset.

The first-year envelopes for local economic development, tourism and sport, recreation, arts, culture and libraries are deliberately controlled rebuilding investments. They restore delivery systems before scale. Vaal Party proposes doubling these programme investments annually as verified capacity grows and each increase enters a lawful budget.



THE VAAL MANDATE

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Community organisations and cooperatives

The mandate applies at every level of representation. Electoral outcomes change the instruments available to the party; they do not change the public purpose for which those instruments are used.

Community access is the destination. One organisation may perform compatible work and a specialist organisation may serve several wards. Public authorities retain standards, funding oversight and responsibility for outcomes.

Cooperatives organise member-owned productive activity and may distribute benefits according to their rules. Farms and other producer activity should use cooperatives where membership, governance, markets and enterprise support make the model viable. Community organisations and cooperatives are partners in different kinds of work; neither replaces municipal responsibility.

How the mandate operates in council

Vaal Party supports a larger practical role for communities and community organisations in suitable local programmes. Their participation should rest on real need, usable facilities, capable governance, clear agreements, fair access, sustainable finance and measurable public results.

Position	Use of authority
Governing authority	Place the mandate in the budget, integrated development plan, delivery targets, institutional design and public performance account.
Coalition government	Secure a written governing programme, assigned responsibilities, decision rights, information access, performance standards and remedies for breach.
Minority support	Tie support for budgets or executives to defined programme work, lawful information and measurable public outcomes.
Opposition	Use votes, motions, amendments, questions, committees, investigations and public explanation to advance the mandate and create an accountable record.



Coalition without political disappearance

Vaal Party may cooperate with other parties where a written, lawful and publicly explainable agreement can advance the Vaal Mandate. Cooperation can share authority without transferring the party's vote, voice or regional purpose to another organisation.

- A negotiated public programme and budget direction.
- Clear responsibilities, delegations, decision rights and information access.
- Professional appointments and procurement protected from party bargaining.
- Performance measures, reporting dates and public accountability.
- Dispute, breach, correction and exit provisions.
- Freedom for Vaal Party representatives to uphold the mandate on matters outside the agreement.

The standard for Vaal Party representatives

Every Vaal Party representative receives public authority on behalf of a regional political institution. That authority carries a clear standard of conduct.

- Act within the Constitution, law, party mandate and public role.
- Set policy and exercise oversight without interfering in tenders, appointments or individual administration.
- Declare interests, manage conflicts and keep a complete record of material decisions.
- Use public resources only for public purposes.
- Report votes, negotiations, performance and constraints honestly to residents.
- Protect the party's institutional identity while cooperating professionally with others.
- Put the long-term capacity of the Greater Vaal ahead of personal position or short-lived publicity.

The relationship with the voter

Vaal Party seeks authority from voters and remains accountable for how that authority is used. A vote does not require membership, attendance, party clothing, public support or an explanation of a private decision. The ballot belongs to the voter.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BELONG TO US TO VOTE FOR YOURSELF



**THE
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MANDATE**

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The Vaal Mandate

This mandate is a request for political recognition joined to public responsibility. It authorises Vaal Party to think from the Vaal, work at the scale each function requires and keep the region's public assets, institutions and future choices strong.

One region can support many communities and municipalities. One regional party can cooperate widely and remain itself. One private vote can give that institution the authority to begin.

THE VAAL DESERVES A POLITICAL INSTITUTION OF ITS OWN



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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Vaal Party. For us, by us.



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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

2026 EDITION

**A capable municipality
A productive Greater Vaal
A regional political institution of our own**

Vaal Party. For us, by us.

A Long Term Programme for the Vaal

Vaal Party's programme begins with localism: capable institutions close to the people, productive opportunity for young people and local enterprises, maintained community assets, environmental repair, public integrity and a stronger Greater Vaal voice. These priorities belong in the structure and daily work of government, not in isolated projects.

Vaal Party proposes a capable and disciplined public state, with functions performed at the lowest level able to perform them effectively. Strategic assets remain under public control. Community organisations, cooperatives and private operators may contribute where their form fits the work, while authority, information, oversight and accountability remain clear.

Progress should be visible in ordinary life. Municipal systems should work. Public assets should be maintained. Young people should find routes into skills, enterprise, cooperatives, technology, research and creative production. Communities should have access to libraries, sport, culture, civic education and safe public space. The Greater Vaal should cooperate where its systems are regional in practice.

The Five Public Commitments

Commitment	Public meaning
Make the municipality work	Restore professional administration, ethical governance, accurate information, financial discipline and accountable customer service.
Maintain what the public owns	Protect infrastructure, land, facilities, public spaces, networks and institutional knowledge through funded lifecycle management.
Build the productive Vaal	Connect skills, land, infrastructure, grants, procurement and regional industry to real production, trade and durable income.
Restore community life	Activate sport, arts, culture, libraries, parks, public spaces and capable civic institutions close to the people they serve.
Give the region a voice	Build a serious Greater Vaal political and institutional presence and cooperate at regional scale where shared systems require it.



STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES
AND GOALS

Capable Ethical and Professional Government

Vaal Party proposes a municipality whose structure, skills, delegations, records and performance systems match the work it must perform. Political leaders must set policy and account publicly. Officials must administer lawfully and professionally.

- Review the organisational structure against current municipal functions, partnership responsibilities and the capabilities that must remain inside the municipality.
- Fill critical governance, risk, compliance, finance, engineering, planning, project, ICT, legal, records and operational posts through lawful competence-based recruitment.
- Create transparent graduate, internship, apprenticeship and entry-level pathways linked to real municipal capability needs, with open advertising, fair selection and published criteria.
- Reduce permanent dependence on consultants by bringing recurring management, analysis and institutional intelligence into the municipality.
- Restore performance agreements, consequence management, audit response, risk controls and reliable institutional memory.
- Protect procurement, recruitment, licensing, grants and individual administrative decisions from political interference while retaining democratic oversight of policy and performance.
- Establish a municipal ethics partnership with practical advice, risk assessment, protected reporting and annual ethics certification for relevant committee service.
- Investigate credible allegations lawfully, protect whistleblowers, recover losses where the evidence permits and report consequence management without prejudging outcomes.
- Publish enough information for residents to understand who decided, who implemented, what was spent and what result was produced.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Financial Credibility and Legitimate Revenue

Financial credibility requires current payment discipline, accurate billing, protected revenue and reliable service. The municipality must collect lawful revenue and make it reasonable for residents to comply.

- Reconcile customer, meter, property, valuation and account data and give residents an accessible route to correct errors.
- Protect current creditor payments while resolving historic liabilities through lawful financial recovery.
- Provide transparent indigent support and lifeline access to qualifying households through one verified register.



**STRATEGIC
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- Enforce against theft, fraud, tampering, illegal connections and avoidable non-payment after accurate accounts and due process.
- Publish a financial recovery account covering cash, collections, current creditors, new arrears, financial commitments and corrective action.
- Align every programme with the lawful budget, procurement, performance and reporting chain before expenditure begins.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Technical Capacity and Maintenance

Vaal Party supports maintenance before avoidable deterioration and a permanent municipal ability to inspect, diagnose, repair, construct, supervise and verify public infrastructure.

- Reconcile asset registers with ownership, physical condition, service risk, maintenance history and present operating responsibility.
- Adopt funded maintenance and renewal plans for roads, stormwater, buildings, parks, facilities, fleet, plant and every retained municipal network.
- Rebuild functional depots, workshops, stores, tools, vehicles, drawings, spares and work-order systems.
- Create a five-year pathway towards at least 500 junior, senior and master municipal artisans supported by technicians, technologists, engineers, foremen and supervisors.
- Use suitable general workers as an assessment pool for accredited technical pathways without creating automatic entitlement to apprenticeships or posts.
- Require capital projects to include testing, handover data, maintenance requirements, warranties, skills transfer and accountable asset ownership.
- Use consultants and contractors for finite specialist value while retaining the public intelligence required to specify, supervise and test their work.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

A Productive Greater Vaal Economy

Local economic development should increase the capacity to make, repair, build, grow, trade, create and invest. Public support must leave behind equipment, competence, customers, productive assets or stronger places.

- Develop a Greater Vaal industrial strategy around engineering, fabrication, construction materials, industrial maintenance, energy-related industries, recycling, agro-processing, logistics, water technologies and industrial services.



**STRATEGIC
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AND GOALS**

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- Build practical pathways for young and first-time producers, enterprises and member-owned cooperatives through training, workspace, tools, compliance support, incubation and market access, and measure whether supported activity is trading and becoming more productive.
- Make municipal procurement accessible and transparent while preserving capability, value, integrity and lawful competition.
- Begin with a R2 million first-year municipal business-grant envelope, with 80 percent for grants up to R25,000 and 20 percent for grants above R25,000 and up to R50,000. Treat this and the next three programme amounts as first-year bases, with annual investment planned to double as verified delivery capacity grows.
- Use a R2 million first-year CBD revitalisation fund to activate viable premises and productive enterprises in priority commercial nodes, with an indicative average grant of R50,000.
- Begin municipal-farm and producer-cooperative support with a R1 million first-year envelope linked to land, water, governance, production, processing and real markets.
- Begin with a R2 million first-year Tourism Producers Masterclass cycle combining practical product development with R50,000 implementation grants for qualifying funded graduates.
- Measure enterprise support by productive assets acquired, businesses trading, markets reached, jobs or member income sustained and dependence on repeated subsidy reduced.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

Strategic Land and Functional Communities

Municipal land is a strategic public asset. It should support functioning communities in which housing, work, transport, infrastructure, commerce, recreation and public services reinforce one another.

- Complete and maintain a verified municipal land and property register covering ownership, occupation, condition, use, lease status and strategic value.
- Retain or lease strategically valuable land and dispose only through lawful, transparent and reasoned processes where long-term public value is greater.
- Release suitable land for industrial, commercial, agricultural, housing and public-facility purposes only with a credible infrastructure and operating plan.
- Regenerate CBDs, township nodes and transport-linked places through clean public environments, infrastructure, safety, lawful land use and active premises.
- Use suitable remediated land for urban agriculture or public benefit where soil, water, environmental and market conditions make the use viable.
- Judge housing and land decisions by whether they create functioning communities rather than isolated stands without services, opportunity or public life.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6

Community Institutions and Civic Capability

Civic capability grows when residents can learn, organise, research and participate close to home. Vaal Party supports strong libraries, community organisations, learning institutions and regional knowledge networks that make opportunity and public life more accessible.

- Build practical partnerships with capable community organisations around defined local needs, usable facilities, clear agreements and public standards.
- Build community participation around real functions, usable facilities, demonstrated need, capable organisations and sustainable operating plans rather than fixed entity quotas.
- Measure community coverage by access to working libraries, centres, recreation, sport, culture, environmental activity and social support instead of by entity counts alone.
- Modernise libraries as active centres for information, assisted digital access, research, civic learning and platform-neutral lifelong education.
- Use libraries and suitable community or cultural facilities as platforms for digital access, coding, technical learning, online courses, enterprise support and assisted access to public services.
- Build a Greater Vaal knowledge network linking communities, higher-education institutions, young researchers, independent policy institutes, industry and public bodies around reliable regional evidence.
- Encourage capable alumni and community members to participate lawfully in school governing bodies where school communities choose them.
- Pursue regional access to national agencies, regulators, funders and development institutions through practical combinations of staffed service points, outreach and digital access.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 7

Sport, Arts, Culture, Libraries and Community Life

Community facilities should support recurring public life, progression and local capability. Vaal Party proposes connected institutions and programmes rather than isolated events or buildings without activity.

- Re-establish professionally governed sports councils and use lawful facility leases that preserve municipal ownership, public access, maintenance standards and oversight.
- Begin the facility network in Sharpeville, including George Thabe, Sebokeng, including Saul Tsotetsi, Boipatong, Bophelong, Evaton and Vanderbijlpark.
- Provide a R1 million equipment envelope for weekly Saturday-morning, under-10, multi-code grassroots sport with safeguarding, volunteers and progression routes.



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- Run six heritage football tournaments at a R100,000 planning allocation each, six alternate-month under-19 tournaments with a R20,000 winner prize, and regular under-17 and under-15 development using vouchers, equipment or support rather than cash to minors.
- Build M'buzi-in-a-Kraal as a 30-session Friday creative ecosystem at Eldorado Arts Centre, serving up to 300 participants per session through local role models, industry bodies, public agencies, skills and networking within a R1 million cycle.
- Use the R7 million Vaal River Carnival envelope as a distributed September platform for heritage, tourism and creative production, with about R6 million directed to events and producers and a progression route for M'buzi participants.
- Maintain and activate existing libraries, cultural centres, sports grounds and recreation facilities. Add facilities in underserved communities where access, demand, land, capital and a funded operating model justify expansion.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 8

Clean, Safe, Green and Dignified Communities

Waste, public safety, parks, by-laws, facilities and cemeteries shape public health, dignity, investment and daily confidence in local government. They must work as ordinary municipal functions.

- Restore predictable waste collection, route control, fleet availability, disposal discipline, recycling pathways and systematic action against illegal dumping.
- Focus municipal enforcement on by-laws, traffic, environmental health, public amenities and municipal assets while SAPS retains its national policing mandate.
- Support community policing forums and lawful cooperation on violence against women and children, unsafe premises, drug markets and substance-related harm.
- Restore municipal court capacity and the full evidence-to-adjudication chain required for enforceable by-laws.
- Benchmark by-laws against high-performing municipalities, remove obsolete or unnecessary barriers, and adapt enforceable rules to the Vaal's legal, commercial, environmental and community context.
- Expand indigenous tree planting, maintain parks and open spaces, replace trees when removal is necessary and build reliable nursery and maintenance capacity.
- Operate cemeteries through a professionally managed, revenue-visible public unit with accurate records, maintained sites, adequate equipment, in-house core operations and dignified indigent burials.



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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 9

Water Security and Vaal River Restoration

Water is an essential service, an economic input, an environmental resource and a regional strategic asset. The Vaal River must be protected through functioning wastewater systems, enforceable standards and a permanent regional commitment.

- Publish measurable water and sanitation standards covering service continuity, water quality, wastewater performance, investment, assets, finance, data and customer response.
- Prioritise leaks, pressure, meter accuracy, wastewater maintenance, pump-station reliability, treatment performance and pollution prevention.
- Translate court orders and statutory interventions into one public obligation register connecting legal duties to assets, projects, budgets, deadlines, evidence and responsible institutions.
- Hold every polluter accountable through verified monitoring and lawful enforcement, whether the source is public, industrial, commercial or private.
- Coordinate environmental recovery with public health, recreation, tourism, waterfront development and safe public access.
- Update small-vessel and Vaal River by-laws within lawful municipal powers, with clear safety, facility, fee, environmental and enforcement provisions.
- Build a Greater Vaal river compact for shared monitoring, incident response, investment, enforcement and public information across boundaries.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 10

Digital Customer and Participatory Government

Residents should be able to use ordinary systems rather than personal political access to obtain service, information and redress. Digital government must strengthen human accountability rather than hide it.

- Integrate customer, billing, asset, GIS, project, procurement, document, property and performance information through governed data standards.
- Give every service request a reference, responsible function, service standard, escalation route and closure record across digital, telephone, walk-in and assisted channels.
- Protect human assistance, appeals and accountable discretion for residents who cannot use digital channels.
- Publish plain-language budgets, tariffs, by-laws, standards, contracts and performance information in reusable formats.



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- Structure monthly ward-committee engagement with municipal portfolios through a R1.2 million annual planning envelope based on ten engagements per month, twelve monthly cycles and a R10,000 ceiling per sitting.
- Require public representatives to maintain accessible constituency arrangements and give residents a reliable report-back route through lawful ward and council structures.
- Use civic education to explain rights, responsibilities, municipal powers, participation routes and the limits of each institution's authority.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 11

Public Control of Strategic Assets

Vaal Party distinguishes public ownership from public operation. A municipality may use external capability for a defined purpose, while strategic ownership, regulatory authority, system data and future public options remain protected.

- Place every strategic service arrangement under public performance, maintenance, investment, revenue, data and customer-accountability controls.
- Require every public operating institution to combine professional delivery, transparent finance and effective municipal oversight.
- Use external operating or investment partners only where capital or specialist capability is genuinely required and the public case is stronger than realistic alternatives.
- Protect intervention, termination, emergency continuity, handback, data portability, asset-condition, performance-security and skills-transfer rights in every operating arrangement.
- Use revenue from public asset arrangements to strengthen enduring municipal functions, education, technical capability and the municipality's ability to choose among future models.
- Approach every review point with evidence and several lawful options, including public operation, extension on better terms, replacement, cooperativisation where suitable or institutional redesign.



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The Greater Vaal Compact and Regional Voice

The Greater Vaal is an economic, industrial, environmental, social and cultural region whose shared systems cross municipal boundaries. Vaal Party proposes practical regional cooperation without forced amalgamation or the loss of local accountability.

- Establish focused regional compacts for water and wastewater, industry and investment, transport and logistics, the river and environment, tourism and culture, and shared technical capability.
- Define authority, ownership, funding, decision rights, data custody, standards, reporting, dispute resolution, review and exit for every regional arrangement.
- Present the Greater Vaal as one serious investment, industrial, tourism and skills proposition while preserving the identities and responsibilities of its communities and municipalities.
- Attract public institutions, higher-education partners, civil-society organisations, development funders and professional networks that expand the region's institutional depth.
- Use regional cooperation only where scale improves the result; keep genuinely local functions locally accountable.
- Build Vaal Party as an unapologetically regional political institution with the policy depth and governing bandwidth expected of a national party.



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Priority Programme Commitments

The figures below are deliberate first-year rebuilding envelopes for local economic development, tourism and sport, recreation, arts, culture and libraries. The first year restores delivery systems, procurement discipline, facilities, programme support and monitoring before scale. Vaal Party proposes doubling these programme investments annually as verified implementation capacity grows and each increase enters a lawful budget.

Programme	Settled design	Planning commitment
M'buzi-in-a-Kraal Creative Ecosystem	Thirty Friday sessions at 09h00 at Eldorado Arts Centre, with up to 300 participants per session and a structured creative, industry, government, skills and networking programme.	First year: R1,000,000; planned annual doubling with verified delivery
Vaal River Carnival	Distributed September heritage, tourism and creative platform, including a progression route for M'buzi participants and an approximate R50,000 average event benchmark.	First year: R7,000,000, including about R6,000,000 for events and producers; planned annual doubling with verified delivery
Tourism Producers Masterclass	Twenty to thirty weekly sessions for a cohort of up to 30 non-accommodation producers, with 20 grant-eligible funded places and R50,000 completion grants for qualifying funded producers.	First year: R2,000,000; planned annual doubling with verified delivery
Municipal Farms Cooperativisation	Transparent farm leasing, producer cooperatives, community-producer integration, production planning, processing and market access.	First year: R1,000,000; planned annual doubling with verified delivery
Municipal Business Grant Scheme	Productive equipment, compliance and capability for local enterprises, with technical assessment, supplier verification and monitored use.	First year: R2,000,000 with an 80 percent and 20 percent grant-band split; planned annual doubling with verified delivery
CBD Revitalisation Business Funding	Place-based support tied to lawful occupancy and productive activation of priority commercial nodes.	First year: R2,000,000 with an indicative R50,000 average grant; planned annual doubling with verified delivery
Grassroots Children's Sport	Weekly Saturday-morning, under-10, multi-code participation through sports councils, trained volunteers and safeguarding partners.	First year: R1,000,000 for equipment; planned annual doubling with verified delivery
Soccer Tournaments Programme	Six heritage tournaments, six alternate-month under-19 tournaments and bi-weekly under-17 and under-15 development using non-cash support for minors.	First year: R600,000 for heritage tournaments and R120,000 in under-19 winner prizes; planned annual doubling with verified delivery
Municipal Technical Capacity	A structured occupational pathway for junior, senior and master artisans supported by professional and supervisory capacity, tools, depots and real municipal work.	At least 500 artisans over five years subject to lawful workforce and annual budget planning
Ward Committee Engagement	Monthly evidence-led engagement between properly constituted ward committees and the relevant municipal portfolios, with agendas, attendance, action registers and report-back.	R1,200,000 annual planning envelope

How Progress Will Be Judged

Field	Public test
Institution	Are critical functions staffed, governed, recorded and performed by accountable institutions
Finance	Are billing, collection, cash, creditors, financial commitments and expenditure becoming credible
Assets	Are public assets known, maintained, available and protected through their full lifecycle
Service	Can residents report, track, escalate and close ordinary municipal requests
Capability	Can the municipality inspect, repair, supervise, verify and make informed future choices
Public realm	Are communities cleaner, safer, greener, maintained and more usable
Economy	Are enterprises, producers, workers and places more capable and productive after support
Community	Do public facilities sustain recurring participation, access, safeguarding and progression
Water and river	Are water, wastewater and river outcomes improving through verifiable operating evidence
Region	Are shared Greater Vaal systems governed through defined commitments, useful scale and public accountability
Integrity	Can residents identify who decided, who operates, who benefits and who remains accountable



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THE WORK CONTINUES

CONCLUSION

Vaal Party's strategic objective is a Greater Vaal able to govern, maintain, produce, cooperate and choose its future from a position of capability.

These objectives form one connected programme. They align public capability, maintenance, productive opportunity, community institutions, environmental repair and regional cooperation around results residents can see.

Local loyalty and institutional seriousness belong together. Vaal Party proposes to make municipal government work, protect the foundations of public life, enlarge productive opportunity, restore community institutions and give the Greater Vaal a political voice of its own.

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