



ACTIONS SA 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO

FIXING SOUTH AFRICA STARTS WITH FIXING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ActionSA was founded by patriotic South Africans who believe that government must work for the people it serves. We believe in capable, ethical government that fixes what matters most, respects your money, upholds the rule of law and creates opportunities for people to build better lives.

We will put South Africans first, protect those who genuinely need support and build municipalities that are safer, more affordable and better places to live, work and raise a family.

**South Africans are gatvol of excuses.
Now, let us fix it.**



OUR OFFER

A municipality that fixes what matters most

Reliable water, electricity, roads, refuse removal and infrastructure. We will focus municipal government on delivering the services residents depend on every day.

A municipality that respects your money

We will restore financial discipline, protect municipal revenue and spend residents' money on the services and infrastructure that matter most.

A professional government that works for you

We will build capable, professional municipalities that employ people on merit, insource where it makes sense and hold officials accountable for getting the job done.

A government without corruption

We will fight corruption, strengthen accountability and ensure that public money is spent on residents rather than lost to fraud, inflated contracts and dishonest officials.

Safe communities where the rule of law applies

We will strengthen municipal law enforcement, protect communities and infrastructure, enforce the law fairly and use every lawful municipal power available to help tackle crime and illegal immigration.

OUR OFFER

A municipality where businesses can flourish and jobs can grow

We will cut red tape, support entrepreneurs, attract investment and make municipalities partners in creating the conditions for businesses and jobs to grow.

A municipality that leaves no community behind

We will progressively expand access to services, housing, transport and opportunity so that every community is treated with dignity and no resident is forgotten.

Clean, healthy and resilient communities

We will tackle illegal dumping and pollution, maintain public spaces and build cleaner, healthier communities that are better prepared for environmental and climate pressures.

Governing together when voters decide It

Where voters choose coalition government, we will put a programme of government before political positions and work for stable, ethical and effective government.

What you can expect from an ActionSA councillor

Our councillors will be accessible, accountable and focused on solving community problems, following through on service failures and using their positions to serve residents.



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INTRODUCTION

Local government must work

For most South Africans, government is not something experienced in Parliament or through speeches and policies. It is experienced in the street outside your home, the water coming from your tap, the electricity powering your business, the refuse collected from your neighbourhood and the municipal bill you receive every month.

Too often, local government is failing that basic test.

Across South Africa, municipalities are under growing financial pressure. Infrastructure has been neglected. Communities live with potholes, sewage spills, unreliable services, illegal dumping and failing public facilities. Residents and businesses are expected to pay more while too often receiving less in return. In many communities, the rising cost of housing and everyday municipal services is making it increasingly difficult for ordinary families to afford to live in the places they call home.

In some municipalities, corruption, political interference and financial mismanagement have brought local government close to collapse. In others, services may function better, but deep inequalities remain and too many residents are excluded from the opportunities their municipality should provide.





Fixing South Africa starts with fixing local government

Functional municipalities are the foundation of functioning communities, growing local economies and a country in which people can build better lives.

South Africans are gatvol of excuses. Gatvol of paying for government that does not work. Gatvol of politicians who make promises at election time and disappear afterwards.

ActionSA understands that frustration. But frustration alone will not fix our municipalities. Action will.



What we believe

ActionSA believes the purpose of local government is simple: to serve the people who live there. That starts with fixing what matters most.

Water must flow. Refuse must be collected. Roads must be maintained. Infrastructure must be protected. Public spaces must be clean and safe. Residents must receive accurate bills and professional service when they need help.

But good local government must do more than keep the lights on.

It must spend residents' money responsibly, employ capable people and

insource appropriate municipal functions where this is practical and financially sustainable, building the internal capacity to deliver more services directly. It must enforce the law fairly and fight corruption. It must create an environment in which businesses can invest, entrepreneurs can succeed and jobs can grow.

It must put South Africans first. Scarce public resources, opportunities and services must benefit the communities they are intended to serve, and the law must be enforced fairly and without fear or favour. Immigration enforcement is primarily a national responsibility, but municipalities cannot simply ignore illegal immigration in their communities. They must use every lawful municipal power available to them and work with the responsible authorities rather than use divided responsibilities as an excuse for inaction.

And it must work for every community. Your race, where you live, what you earn or who you vote for should never determine the standard of government you receive.

Good government should give people the services, infrastructure, safety, connections and opportunities that expand their freedom to build better lives. It should also recognise that people need to be able to afford to live, work and raise their families in the communities they call home.

Rights and responsibilities also go together. Those who can pay must pay. Those who genuinely cannot must be supported. And a municipality that collects rates and tariffs must deliver reliable services and value in return.

Government must lead, but it does not have to work alone. Strong municipalities work with residents, businesses, civil society and other spheres of government to solve problems.





What we have learned

ActionSA does not approach local government only from theory. Our approach has been shaped by governing municipalities, working in complex coalitions and serving communities from both government and opposition.

We have learned that turning around a municipality is difficult. There are no shortcuts. It requires financial discipline, professional administration, responsible political leadership and difficult choices about limited public money. Above all, it requires relentless attention to the everyday work of government.

Different municipalities have different powers and capacities. We will use every power available to each municipality. Where another sphere of government holds the powers needed to solve a problem, we will work actively with it rather than use divided responsibilities as an excuse for inaction.

We will not promise that every problem can be fixed overnight. Many municipalities have suffered years of neglect and infrastructure takes time and money to rebuild. But residents have every right to expect their municipality to start moving in the right direction.

LET US FIX IT

ActionSA is asking South Africans for the strongest possible mandate in their municipality. Our commitment is not to govern through slogans. It is to build municipalities that:

-  **Fix what matters most**
-  **Respect your money**
-  **Build a capable government that works for you**
-  **Fight corruption**
-  **Uphold the rule of law and put south africans first**
-  **Help businesses flourish and jobs grow**
-  **Leave no community behind**
-  **Build clean, healthy and resilient communities**

Government must do its job. Residents must play their part.

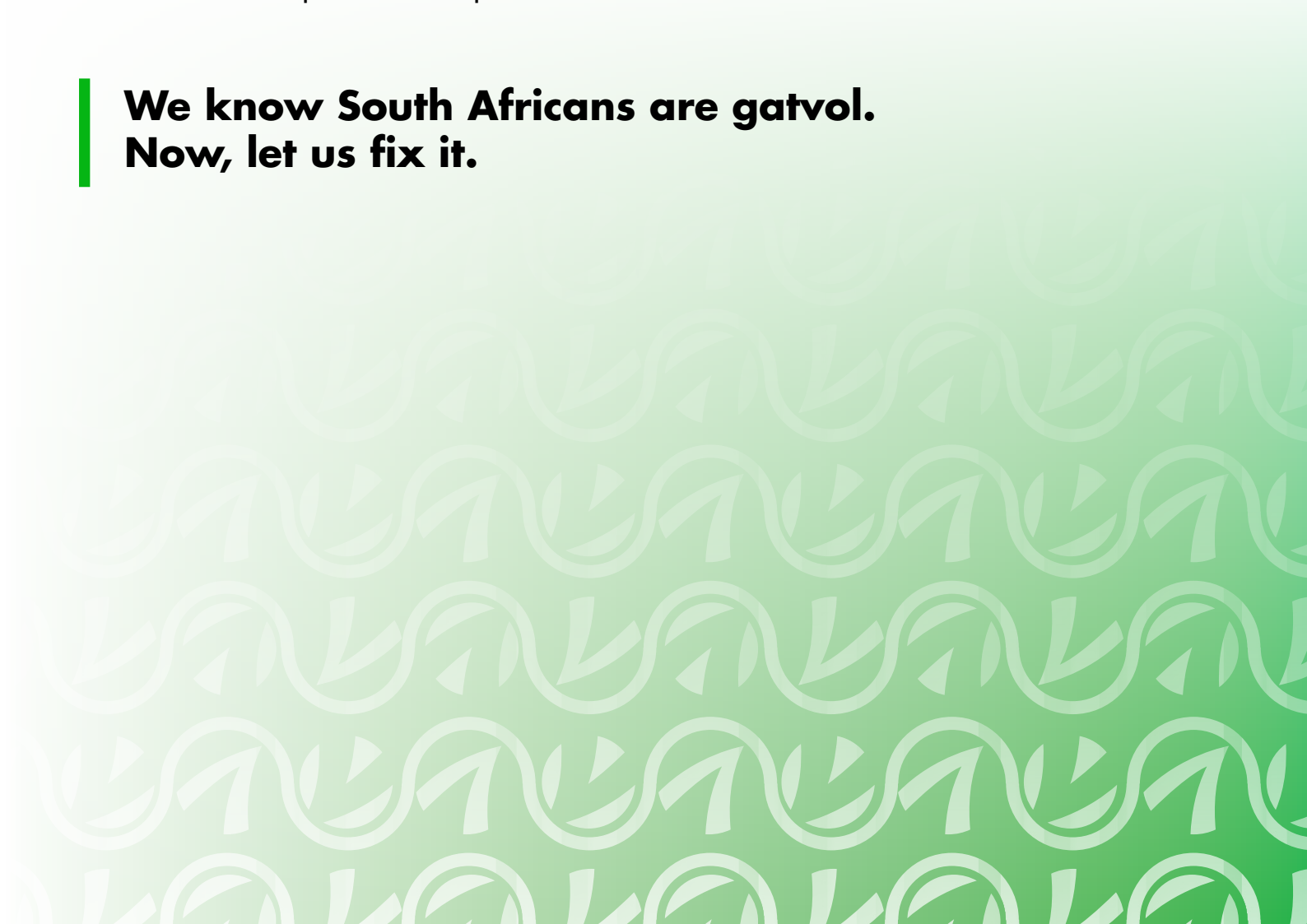
A functioning municipality is a partnership between government and the people it serves.

Government must do its job: deliver reliable services, spend public money responsibly, enforce the law, maintain infrastructure and treat residents fairly.

Residents must play their part: those who can afford to pay for services must pay, people must obey the law and municipal by-laws, communities must help protect public infrastructure and residents must hold their government accountable when it fails.

ActionSA will never use residents' responsibilities as an excuse for government failure. But neither will we pretend that government can build functioning communities if the rules are ignored and those who can pay simply refuse to do so.

We will do our part. We expect residents to do theirs.



**We know South Africans are gatvol.
Now, let us fix it.**

A MUNICIPALITY THAT FIXES WHAT MATTERS MOST

The first job of a municipality is to fix what matters most: the basic services we all rely on. Residents should be able to open a tap and get clean water, switch on a light and have electricity, travel on maintained roads, live without sewage running through their communities and know that their refuse will be collected.

Across South Africa, failing infrastructure, poor maintenance and weak municipal management have made even these basic expectations uncertain.

ActionSA will put reliable basic services back at the centre of local government. We will maintain what we have, fix what is broken and invest in the infrastructure communities need for the future.



Securing our water future

Reliable access to clean water is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of local government. South Africa is a water-scarce country, and growing demand, climate change and failing infrastructure are placing our water supply under increasing pressure.

ActionSA will make water security a priority in every municipality we govern.



Fixing water infrastructure: We will prioritise the repair, maintenance and replacement of ageing pipes, pumps, reservoirs and other critical water infrastructure.



Stopping water losses: We will aggressively tackle leaks, illegal connections and failing infrastructure so that more treated water reaches residents instead of being lost from municipal networks.



Protecting drinking water: We will properly operate, maintain and monitor municipal water systems to ensure that water supplied to residents is safe to drink.



Planning for water security: We will plan for population growth, increasing demand, climate change and water scarcity, including additional water sources, reuse and storage where appropriate and affordable.



Ending dependence on contracted water tankers: Water tankers should provide emergency relief, not replace functioning infrastructure. We will prioritise permanent solutions and, where emergency supply remains necessary, build appropriate municipal tanker capacity rather than relying indefinitely on expensive contractors.



Maintaining and renewing infrastructure

Municipalities cannot provide reliable services when the infrastructure behind them is allowed to deteriorate. ActionSA will move municipalities away from waiting for infrastructure to fail and towards maintaining and renewing it before it breaks.



Maintaining before it breaks: We will prioritise preventative maintenance and progressively repair, refurbish and replace ageing infrastructure according to its condition and the consequences of failure.



Protecting infrastructure budgets: We will provide adequate funding for repairs and maintenance and ensure that money budgeted for this purpose is spent as intended.



Building what we can maintain: New infrastructure investment will respond to service needs, population growth and economic development, while taking account of what municipalities can sustainably operate and maintain.

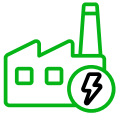


Equipping municipalities to do the work: We will maintain fit-for-purpose municipal fleets, equipment and operational capacity and reduce unnecessary dependence on expensive long-term rentals and contractors.



Keeping the lights on

Reliable electricity is essential for households, businesses and local economic growth. ActionSA will strengthen municipal electricity networks and reduce avoidable outages.



Fixing electricity infrastructure: We will maintain and progressively replace ageing substations, transformers, cables and other electricity infrastructure.



Reducing electricity losses: We will tackle illegal connections, meter tampering, electricity theft and other losses that place municipal networks and finances under pressure.



Protecting electricity infrastructure: We will strengthen efforts to prevent cable theft, vandalism and the destruction of critical infrastructure.



Finding new sources of electricity: Where legally and financially possible, we will diversify municipal electricity supply and pursue competitively priced electricity from alternative producers.



Planning for growing communities: We will expand electricity infrastructure to keep pace with population growth, housing development and economic activity.



Providing dignified sanitation

Every resident deserves access to safe and dignified sanitation, and no community should have to live with sewage flowing through its streets, rivers or homes.



Expanding access to sanitation: We will progressively work towards safe and dignified sanitation for every household, using solutions appropriate to local circumstances.



Fixing sewer infrastructure: We will maintain, repair and renew ageing sewer networks to reduce blockages, spills and infrastructure failures.



Improving wastewater treatment: We will properly operate and maintain wastewater infrastructure to protect communities and the environment.



Responding quickly to sewage spills: We will establish clear response standards for sewer blockages and spills and hold municipal services accountable for meeting them.



Fixing our roads and stormwater systems

Municipal roads connect residents to jobs, schools, businesses and essential services. ActionSA will maintain the roads communities already have while progressively addressing infrastructure backlogs.



Fixing potholes faster: We will set clear standards for repairing potholes and other dangerous road defects.



Maintaining and improving municipal roads: We will prioritise preventative maintenance and rehabilitation while progressively addressing deteriorated roads and infrastructure backlogs.



Keeping stormwater systems working: We will regularly maintain stormwater infrastructure to reduce flooding and prevent avoidable damage to roads, homes and other infrastructure.

Collecting refuse reliably

Every community deserves reliable refuse collection and clean surroundings.



Reliable refuse collection: We will provide regular, scheduled refuse collection across formal and informal communities, with services appropriate to local needs.



Acting on missed collections: Residents will have accessible ways to report missed collections, with clear standards for resolving them.



Keeping communities clean: Our commitments to tackling illegal dumping, maintaining public spaces and improving environmental management are set out under Clean, Healthy and Resilient Communities.

Service standards you can rely on

Residents should not have to fight their municipality to get a leaking pipe repaired, a pothole fixed or a missed refuse collection addressed.

ActionSA will establish clear and measurable service standards for core municipal services so residents know what they can expect and municipalities can be held accountable when they fail to deliver.



Setting clear service standards: We will establish measurable standards for core municipal services and report openly on whether they are being achieved. The most important service standards will be published and reported on monthly, so residents can see where their municipality is delivering and where it is falling short.



Making it easier to report and track problems: Residents will have accessible ways to report service failures in person, by telephone and through appropriate digital channels, and to follow them until they are resolved.



Keeping residents informed: Municipalities will communicate with affected communities during major service interruptions and provide realistic information about restoration.



Holding officials accountable: Municipal departments and officials will be measured against service standards and held accountable for repeated failures to meet them.

ActionSA believes residents should expect the services they rely on to work. We will build municipalities that maintain their infrastructure, respond when things go wrong and deliver reliable services to every community.

A MUNICIPALITY THAT RESPECTS YOUR MONEY

A municipality cannot deliver reliable services if it cannot manage its finances.

Across South Africa, too many municipalities are in financial distress. As unemployment and poverty have grown, fewer households can afford to pay for services, while failing infrastructure and poor service delivery make it harder to attract and retain the businesses and investment municipalities need.

ActionSA will restore financial discipline, grow municipal revenue bases and ensure that public money is spent on residents' priorities. When money is tight, services must come first.



Building financially sustainable municipalities

ActionSA will ensure that municipalities live within their means while building stronger local economies that can sustain better services into the future.



Budgeting with money we actually have: We will adopt credible, funded budgets based on revenue municipalities can realistically collect. We will not make spending promises municipalities cannot afford.



Setting fair and sustainable rates and tariffs: We will limit annual municipal rates and tariff increases to no more than the prevailing rate of inflation, unless a higher increase is demonstrably necessary to protect essential services and is transparently justified through the municipal budget process.



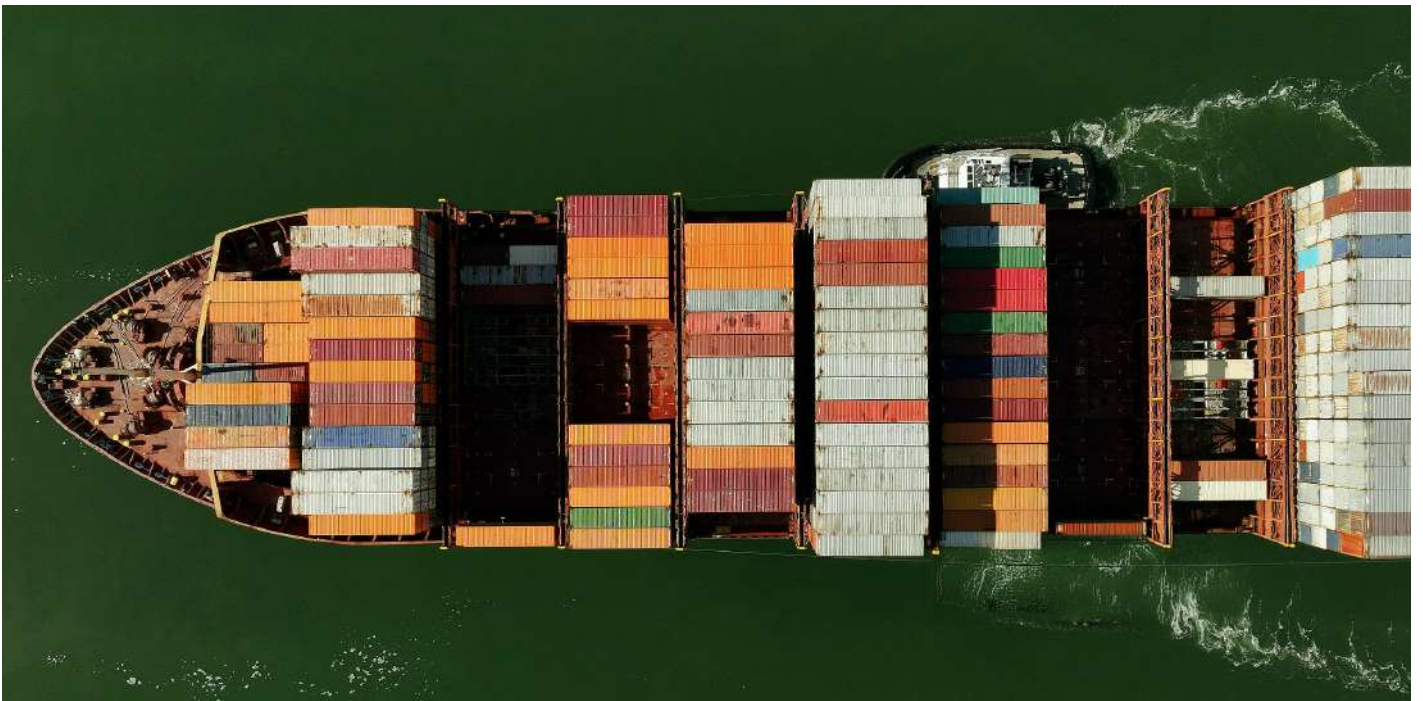
Turning around financially distressed municipalities: Where we inherit municipalities in financial crisis, we will implement credible recovery plans that stabilise finances, protect essential services and rebuild revenue collection.



Growing and protecting the revenue base: We will attract investment, enable development and provide the reliable services needed to retain businesses and paying residents, growing the number of people who can contribute to their municipality.



Planning for the long term: Today's spending decisions must not create financial obligations that municipalities and future residents cannot afford.



Those who can pay, must pay

Municipalities cannot provide services without collecting the revenue needed to pay for them. ActionSA will distinguish between residents who cannot pay and those who will not pay.

Those who genuinely cannot afford basic services deserve support. Those who have the means to pay must pay their fair share.



Supporting those who cannot pay: We will proactively identify and register qualifying indigent households so residents who genuinely cannot afford basic services receive the support to which they are entitled.



Ensuring support reaches the right people: We will keep indigent registers accurate and up to date so that support is directed towards households that genuinely need it.



Fighting for adequate funding for poor households: We will advocate for a greater and fairer equitable share for local government that properly reflects the cost of providing basic services to growing indigent populations. National government should prioritise funding these essential services over waste, luxury and unnecessary bureaucracy.



Cracking down on those who will not pay: We will firmly enforce credit control against residents and businesses that have the means to pay but refuse to do so. There can be no culture of non-payment in an ActionSA municipality.



Making government pay what it owes: We will aggressively pursue legitimate municipal debt owed by national and provincial government departments and other public institutions.



Stopping the theft of municipal services: We will act against illegal connections, meter tampering, bypassed meters and other forms of service theft that force paying residents to carry the cost.

Getting your bill right

If municipalities expect residents to pay what they owe, municipalities have a responsibility to charge them correctly.



Accurate municipal bills: We will improve metering and billing systems so residents are charged accurately for the services they receive.



Fixing billing problems faster: We will establish clear processes and turnaround times for resolving legitimate billing disputes before inappropriate enforcement action is taken.



Making it easier to pay: We will provide safe, reliable and convenient ways for residents and businesses to pay their municipal accounts.

Cutting waste before cutting services

Financial discipline starts with government itself. Residents should not be expected to accept deteriorating services while politicians and officials spend money on things municipalities can do without.



Cutting unnecessary spending: We will reduce spending on unnecessary international and domestic travel, excessive catering, conferences, luxury vehicles, VIP protection and other non-essential expenditure. Public money must be spent on services for residents, not political perks and privileges.



Putting frontline services first: We will prioritise basic services, infrastructure maintenance and technical, operational and frontline capacity before administrative comforts and political projects.



Controlling the wage bill: Municipal administrations must be built around the people needed to deliver services, not unnecessary management and politically motivated appointments.



Using consultants only when they add value: We will build internal capacity and use consultants where specialist expertise is genuinely required, not to perform work municipalities should reasonably be capable of doing themselves.

Getting value for every rand

If municipalities expect residents to pay what they owe, municipalities have a responsibility to charge them correctly.



Getting value for money: We will strengthen procurement, benchmark prices where appropriate and ensure municipalities pay fair and competitive prices.



Opening up procurement: We will make municipal procurement more transparent by publishing appropriate information on tenders, bidders, awards, contract values, variations and supplier performance, so residents can see how their money is being spent.



Holding suppliers to account: We will act against suppliers that fail to deliver on their contractual obligations, including through restriction or debarment where appropriate, and will not allow suppliers that repeatedly fail residents to continue benefiting from municipal contracts.



Planning and funding projects properly: Projects will be properly planned and funded before construction begins, reducing unfinished projects, escalating costs and wasted public money.



Spending infrastructure budgets properly: We will improve planning and project management so infrastructure budgets are actually spent on delivering and maintaining infrastructure.



Paying suppliers on time: We will pay legitimate, correctly submitted invoices within prescribed timeframes so businesses, particularly small businesses, are not forced to finance municipal failures.



Paying for the water and electricity we buy: Municipalities will meet their legitimate obligations to bulk suppliers so unpaid accounts and interest do not threaten future service delivery.

Using municipal assets for residents

Municipalities own valuable land, buildings and other assets that too often stand vacant, deteriorate or cost residents money without delivering any benefit.



Knowing and protecting what we own: We will maintain accurate asset records and hold those responsible accountable for ensuring municipal property is properly managed, maintained and safeguarded.



Putting unused assets to work: We will identify underused municipal land and buildings that can support service delivery, housing, economic development or other community needs.



Releasing assets we do not need: Where municipal property serves no strategic public purpose, we will consider releasing it for productive development rather than allowing it to deteriorate at residents' expense.





Municipal entities must serve residents

Municipal entities should exist because they provide a better way of delivering a necessary public service, not because they provide additional boards, executives and bureaucracy.



A clear purpose for every entity: We will review municipal entities to ensure each has a legitimate service delivery or strategic purpose.



Ending unnecessary duplication: Where entities duplicate municipal functions or add bureaucracy without improving services, we will reform, consolidate or close them where legally and operationally appropriate.



Demanding financial sustainability: Municipal entities must manage their finances responsibly and will not become permanent drains on municipal budgets without compelling public-interest reasons.



Holding boards and executives accountable: Entities will face clear performance standards and effective oversight to ensure they deliver value to residents.

Open and honest municipal finances

Residents have a right to know how their money is being managed.



Reporting honestly on our finances: We will make municipal financial information accessible and report openly on performance, including where municipalities fail to meet their targets.



Improving audit outcomes: We will strengthen financial controls, act on audit findings and work progressively towards clean audits rather than allowing the same problems to recur year after year.



Acting on financial warning signs: We will intervene early when declining revenue, growing debt or cash-flow pressures threaten service delivery.

ActionSA's approach is simple: protect those who cannot pay, pursue those who will not pay, grow the number of people who can pay, and make every rand work harder for residents.

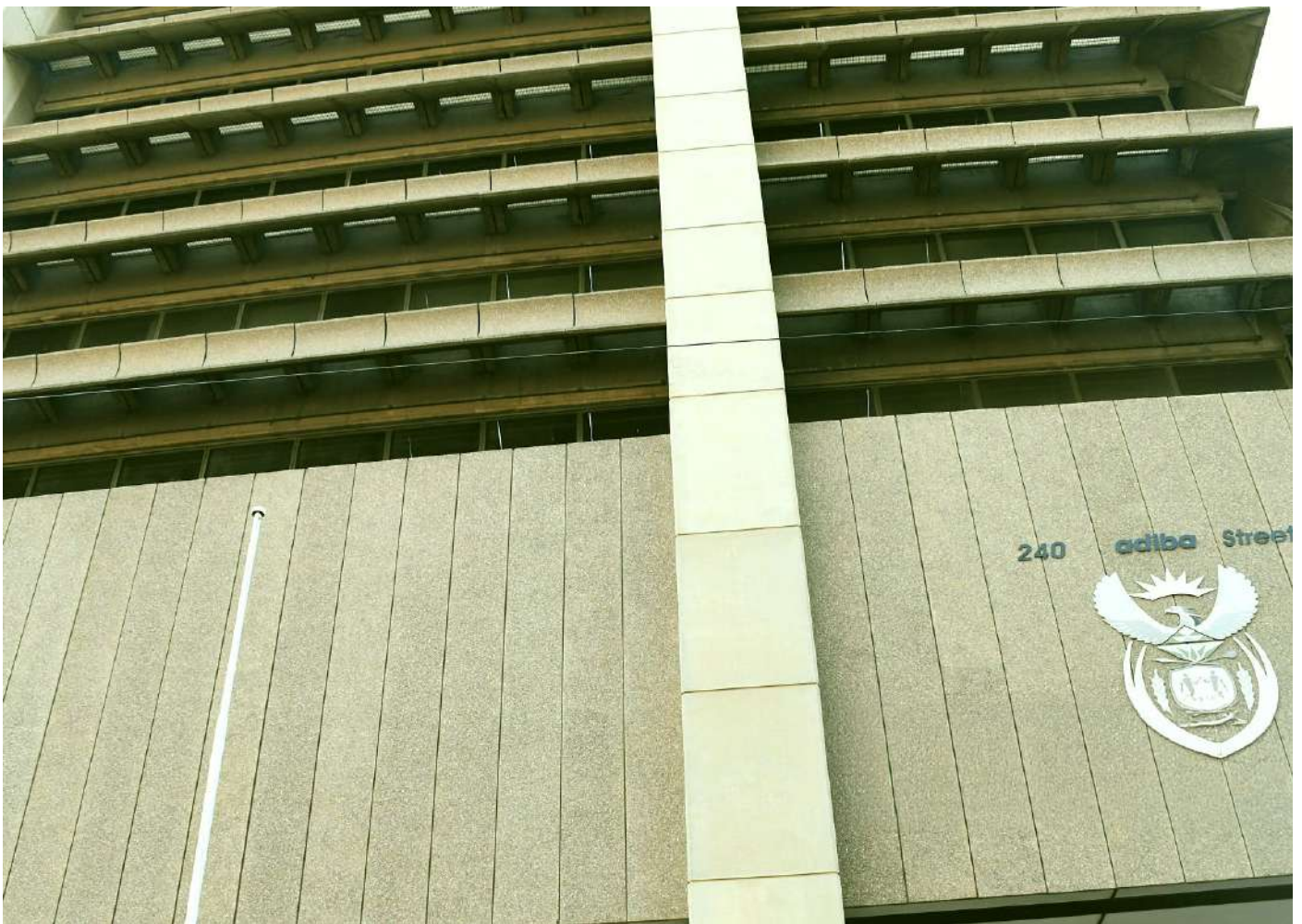


A PROFESSIONAL GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS FOR YOU

A municipality can only work when the people working in it know what they are doing, have the tools to do their jobs and are held accountable for getting the job done.

Too many municipalities have been weakened by cadre deployment, political interference, critical vacancies and administrations that have lost the skills needed to deliver basic services.

ActionSA will build professional municipal administrations that put residents first. Municipal jobs must go to people who can do the job, not people with the right political connections.



Hiring the right people

Residents deserve a municipality staffed by competent people committed to public service.



Ending cadre deployment: We will end the practice of using municipal jobs to reward political loyalty. Political connections will never be a qualification for employment in an ActionSA municipality.



Hiring people who can do the job: Appointments will be based on qualifications, competence, experience and merit through proper recruitment processes.



Understanding the skills we need: We will conduct skills audits where appropriate to identify critical gaps and align recruitment, training and workforce planning with the capabilities municipalities need.



Prioritising critical skills: We will prioritise funded vacancies for engineers, technicians, financial professionals, planners and other scarce skills essential to service delivery.



Filling critical vacancies: We will fill critical funded vacancies and reduce prolonged acting appointments that weaken leadership and accountability.



Keeping good people: We will work to retain skilled and experienced employees and make municipal government a place where capable professionals can build meaningful careers.



Making performance matter

Qualifications and appointments mean little if employees are not accountable for what they deliver.



Setting clear expectations: Officials will have clear responsibilities and measurable performance targets linked to the services and outcomes they are responsible for.



Making performance management mean something: We will properly enforce performance agreements rather than treating them as a compliance exercise.



Recognising people who deliver: Excellent performance should be recognised through appropriate performance and progression systems.



Acting on poor performance: Employees will receive appropriate support to improve, but persistent underperformance will have consequences through fair and lawful processes.



Resolving disciplinary matters quickly: Disciplinary processes will be conducted as quickly as the law and principles of procedural fairness permit, so that misconduct is dealt with promptly and employees are not left in prolonged uncertainty.



Ending indefinite suspension: Suspension will be used only where justified and will be subject to clear time limits and regular review. Employees should not remain on suspension indefinitely while disciplinary processes drag on.



Holding managers accountable: Senior managers will be responsible for the performance of the departments, budgets, employees and services entrusted to them.

Making government easier to deal with

Residents should not need to understand municipal bureaucracy to get something done.



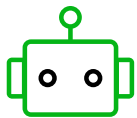
Cutting unnecessary red tape: We will simplify municipal processes and remove unnecessary paperwork, approvals and administrative obstacles.



Taking more services online: Where appropriate, residents will be able to submit applications, make payments, access information and interact with their municipality through simple digital services.



Keeping services accessible: Digitalisation must not exclude residents. Appropriate in-person and other accessible channels will remain available.



Using technology and artificial intelligence responsibly: We will use digital technology and artificial intelligence where they can improve service delivery, reduce administrative burdens, identify problems earlier and help municipalities make better decisions. Technology will support municipal employees, not replace accountability or human oversight.



Keeping proper municipal records: We will strengthen information and record management so important decisions, contracts, project records and municipal information are properly maintained.



Building institutions that survive political change: Municipal systems and services should not collapse whenever political leadership changes. We will preserve institutional knowledge and continuity.





Building the next generation of municipal professionals

Municipal employees are essential to fixing local government. Good employees deserve competent leadership, proper working conditions and opportunities to develop.



Working constructively with employees: We will maintain professional labour relations while keeping residents' right to reliable services at the centre of municipal decision-making.



Attracting skilled graduates: We will create pathways for capable graduates, particularly in scarce technical and professional fields, to enter municipal government.



Providing paid opportunities for young people: We will use paid graduate and professional internships, apprenticeships and other development opportunities to give young people meaningful work experience while building the skills municipalities need.



Developing our people: Municipal employees should have opportunities to strengthen their skills and progress professionally where performance and organisational needs justify it.

Professional political leadership

The standards we expect from municipal officials must also apply to the politicians who lead them.



Keeping political offices lean: Political offices will be limited to the staff reasonably required to support elected office bearers and will not become employment schemes for political activists.



Respecting the administration: Politicians will set policy and priorities but will not improperly interfere in appointments, procurement or lawful administrative decisions.



Holding political leaders accountable: ActionSA mayors and political office bearers will have clear responsibilities and will be expected to report honestly on progress, take responsibility for the areas they lead and act where government is falling short.



Putting residents before politics: Municipal administrations exist to serve residents, not political parties. We will build professional institutions capable of serving communities regardless of who holds political office.

ActionSA will build municipalities where people are appointed because they can do the job, equipped to deliver and held accountable for their performance. Residents deserve nothing less.

A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT CORRUPTION

Corruption steals directly from residents. Every rand lost to fraud, inflated contracts or dishonest officials is money that cannot be spent fixing roads, maintaining water infrastructure or delivering services.

Rules and policies alone are not enough. ActionSA will build municipal systems that make corruption harder to commit, easier to detect and more difficult to hide.

There will be no different standard for politicians, officials or service providers. Anyone who abuses public money must face the consequences.



Making corruption harder

The standards we expect from municipal officials must also apply to the politicians who lead them.



Designing corruption out of municipal systems: We will progressively digitise and automate high-risk procurement, supplier and payment processes to reduce opportunities for manipulation and improper interference.



Creating digital audit trails: Important financial and procurement decisions will leave clear records of who acted, what was changed and who approved it, making manipulation easier to detect.



Making procurement more transparent: We will make appropriate information about municipal tenders, contracts and successful bidders easily accessible so residents can see who is doing business with their municipality.



Exposing conflicts of interest: We will require proper declarations of interests and strengthen checks to prevent politicians, officials or people connected to them from improperly benefiting from municipal decisions.



Checking who we do business with: We will strengthen supplier screening and act against suppliers that provide false information, engage in collusion or attempt to corrupt municipal processes.



Closing opportunities for corruption: We will regularly assess fraud and corruption risks to identify vulnerable municipal systems and processes and strengthen controls before those weaknesses can be exploited.





Finding corruption wherever it occurs

The standards we expect from municipal officials must also apply to the politicians who lead them.



Conducting compulsory lifestyle audits: We will ensure regular lifestyle audits of political office bearers, senior municipal officials and officials involved in public procurement and other high-risk functions, in line with ActionSA policy.



Using data to detect corruption: We will use procurement and financial data to identify unusual transactions and patterns that may indicate fraud, collusion or manipulation.



Building strong investigative capacity: Municipalities must have access to credible and appropriately independent forensic capacity to investigate allegations of fraud, corruption and serious financial misconduct.



Strengthening independent oversight: Internal audit, risk management and audit committees must be properly capacitated and able to scrutinise high-risk municipal systems and processes.



Acting on warning signs: Repeated audit findings, unusual procurement patterns and weaknesses in financial controls will be treated as risks requiring action, not findings to be acknowledged in another report.

Protecting those who speak up

Corruption is often exposed because someone is prepared to speak out. People who report wrongdoing in good faith should not have to put their careers or livelihoods at risk to protect public money.



Safe ways to report corruption: We will provide secure and confidential channels for employees, suppliers and residents to report suspected corruption and misconduct.



Protecting whistle-blowers: We will protect people who report wrongdoing in good faith from victimisation or retaliation within the municipality.



Investigating credible allegations: Reports will be properly assessed and credible allegations investigated rather than ignored or allowed to disappear into the system.

Making corruption have consequences

An investigation means little if its findings are never acted upon. Proven corruption and serious financial misconduct must have consequences.



Acting on investigations: We will ensure that credible forensic, audit and disciplinary findings are acted upon rather than allowed to gather dust.



Holding those responsible accountable: Where employees are found guilty of misconduct, we will pursue fair and lawful disciplinary action. Evidence of criminal wrongdoing will be referred to the appropriate law-enforcement authorities.



Debarring corrupt and failing suppliers: Suppliers involved in fraud, corruption, collusion or serious contractual non-performance will be pursued for restriction or debarment ("blacklisting") from doing business with the municipality or the state, using the applicable National Treasury and other lawful processes. A supplier that steals from residents, colludes with officials or repeatedly fails to deliver should not simply be awarded another contract.



Holding managers accountable: Managers who ignore corruption, fail to implement financial controls or refuse to act on established wrongdoing must themselves face consequences.

Getting residents' money back

Removing a corrupt official or supplier is not enough. Where public money has been stolen or unlawfully lost, ActionSA will work to recover it.



Recovering what belongs to residents: We will use available legal and civil mechanisms to recover money, property and municipal assets lost through fraud, corruption and unlawful conduct.



Following recovery cases through: We will track matters referred for recovery or criminal action rather than treating a referral as the end of the municipality's responsibility.

The same rules apply to politicians

ActionSA cannot demand integrity from municipal employees while holding politicians to a different standard.



No political interference in procurement: Political office bearers will not improperly interfere in tenders, supplier appointments, payments or other administrative procurement processes.



Declaring our interests: Political office bearers must comply fully with requirements for declaring financial and other interests and managing conflicts of interest.



Holding our own representatives accountable: ActionSA representatives implicated in credible allegations of corruption will be subject to appropriate investigation, and proven wrongdoing will have consequences.



No protection for the politically connected: Political position, party membership or personal relationships will never be a reason to shield anyone from investigation or accountability.

ActionSA will not rely on policies and paperwork alone to fight corruption. We will build transparent and traceable systems, investigate suspicious conduct, protect those who expose wrongdoing, punish those who abuse public money and fight to recover what residents have lost.

SAFE COMMUNITIES WHERE THE RULE OF LAW APPLIES

Every resident deserves to feel safe where they live, work and travel. While municipalities cannot replace the South African Police Service, they have an important responsibility to enforce municipal by-laws, protect public spaces and infrastructure, improve road safety and use every power available to them to make communities safer.

ActionSA will strengthen municipal law enforcement and restore respect for the rule of law. We will work with communities and other spheres of government because safer communities require a coordinated response.



Getting residents' money back

Municipalities need properly trained and equipped officers to enforce the law and respond to the needs of growing communities.



Putting more officers on the ground: We will progressively increase municipal law-enforcement capacity according to population, local enforcement needs and what each municipality can sustainably afford.



Deploying officers where they are needed: Resources will be directed towards communities and areas where they can have the greatest impact, informed by enforcement data and local needs.



Training and equipping our officers: Officers will receive appropriate training, equipment and support to perform their duties professionally, safely and effectively.



Building specialised law-enforcement capacity: Where local crime patterns justify it, we will develop specialised municipal law-enforcement units and capabilities focused on priority threats such as cable and infrastructure theft, organised service theft and drugs. These units will undertake targeted, intelligence-led operations and work closely with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and other responsible authorities where matters fall outside municipal powers.



Making enforcement stick: We will train officers to issue legally compliant notices, properly record evidence and prepare cases that can withstand scrutiny.



Enforcing our by-Laws

Municipal by-laws must mean something. When rules are routinely ignored without consequence, communities become less safe, orderly and liveable.



Enforcing by-laws consistently: We will enforce municipal by-laws fairly and without fear or favour across all communities.



Bringing municipal departments together: Integrated operations will bring together law enforcement, environmental health, building control, fire safety and other municipal functions to address problems comprehensively.



Working across government: Where municipalities do not hold the necessary powers, we will work with SAPS, Home Affairs and other authorities rather than allowing gaps between spheres of government to become excuses for inaction.



Acting against dangerous and non-compliant properties: We will use building, planning, health, fire and other municipal powers to address properties that endanger residents, violate municipal laws or are exploited for unlawful activity.



Acting against illegal connections and service theft: We will remove dangerous illegal connections and act against organised service theft while working to expand lawful access in underserved communities.

Strengthening municipal courts

Enforcement achieves little if violations never result in consequences.



Strengthening municipal courts: We will work with justice and prosecuting authorities to strengthen existing municipal courts and expand capacity where appropriate.



Getting cases court-ready: Better training and coordination will ensure that inadequate evidence and avoidable administrative errors do not undermine legitimate enforcement.



Following enforcement through: We will improve systems for tracking notices and cases so enforcement does not end when an officer leaves the scene.



Protecting critical infrastructure

The theft and vandalism of water, electricity and other municipal infrastructure causes service failures that directly affect residents.



Building our own security capacity: Where protecting municipal assets is a permanent requirement, we will progressively build accountable internal security capacity rather than relying indefinitely on outsourced private security.



Using specialist security where necessary: External security may still be used where specialised capabilities are genuinely required and cannot reasonably be maintained internally.



Protecting infrastructure according to risk: We will identify vulnerable water, electricity and other critical infrastructure and direct security resources where they are most needed.



Using technology as a force multiplier: Appropriate sensors, alarms, cameras, remote monitoring and other technologies will support faster detection and response rather than relying only on guards and patrols.

Working with communities to keep them safe

Government cannot make communities safer by working alone. Residents often know where problems are developing and where enforcement is most urgently needed.



Working with Community Policing Forums: We will strengthen cooperation between municipal law enforcement and legitimate CPFs so local knowledge helps inform safety priorities.



Supporting community safety partnerships: We will work with neighbourhood watches, businesses, schools and other legitimate community organisations to strengthen cooperation around local safety.



Keeping communities connected to law enforcement: We will improve channels through which residents can report safety concerns and share information.



Government remains responsible for enforcement: Community participation will complement professional law enforcement, not replace government's responsibility to enforce the law.



Protecting public spaces and restoring order

Government cannot make communities safer by working alone. Residents often know where problems are developing and where enforcement is most urgently needed.



Taking back neglected public spaces: We will address vandalism, illegal dumping and other forms of disorder that make public spaces unsafe or unusable.



Acting against hijacked and derelict buildings: We will use available municipal powers to address hijacked, abandoned, dangerous and derelict buildings and, where possible, return them to safe and productive use.



Keeping public lighting working: We will prioritise streetlight repairs and maintenance, particularly where darkness creates safety risks.



Designing safer public spaces: Safety will be considered when designing, upgrading and maintaining streets, parks, transport facilities and other municipal spaces.



Applying the rules fairly: Restoring order must never mean criminalising poverty. Municipal rules will be enforced consistently while vulnerable residents are treated with dignity and connected to appropriate support where necessary.

Making our roads safer

Traffic policing should make roads safer, not simply generate revenue.



Targeting dangerous driving: We will focus enforcement on speeding, reckless driving, unroadworthy vehicles and other behaviour that puts lives at risk.



Improving traffic management: Traffic resources will be deployed strategically to improve road safety and reduce congestion at major problem areas.



Using data to prevent crashes: Enforcement and accident data will identify dangerous roads and intersections requiring stronger enforcement, engineering improvements, lighting or other interventions.



Strengthening emergency services

When lives are at risk, residents need emergency services capable of responding.



Building emergency-response capacity: We will progressively strengthen fire and emergency services with the trained personnel, vehicles, equipment and facilities required to respond to local risks.



Keeping emergency equipment operational: Vehicles, equipment and facilities must be properly maintained so that emergency capacity is available when residents need it.



Planning coverage around risk: We will use population growth, development patterns, incident data and local risks to identify gaps in emergency-service coverage and prioritise resources accordingly.



Working across emergency services: Municipal emergency services will coordinate with provincial and national services and other appropriate partners during major incidents and disasters.

Working together against crime

Municipalities cannot investigate and prosecute serious crime, but they can make it harder for criminal activity to take root.



Enforcing the law without fear or favour: We will enforce municipal by-laws and regulations consistently and without fear or favour, including those relating to land use, trading, health and safety. The law must apply equally to everyone, and municipalities will not ignore unlawful conduct because enforcement may require cooperation with other spheres of government.



Tackling illegal immigration: While immigration enforcement is primarily the responsibility of national government, municipalities cannot simply ignore illegal immigration in their communities. We will use every lawful municipal power available to us and work closely with the Department of Home Affairs, SAPS and other responsible authorities to identify and refer suspected immigration violations encountered through lawful municipal operations and ensure that these cases are followed through by the appropriate authorities.



Supporting the fight against drugs and organised crime: We will use municipal enforcement powers and appropriate specialist capabilities, including K9 units where feasible and operationally justified, to support action against drugs and serious criminal activity.



Bringing the right authority to the problem: Where criminal investigation, immigration enforcement or another matter falls outside municipal powers, we will actively bring the responsible authority into the response rather than treating jurisdiction as an excuse for inaction.

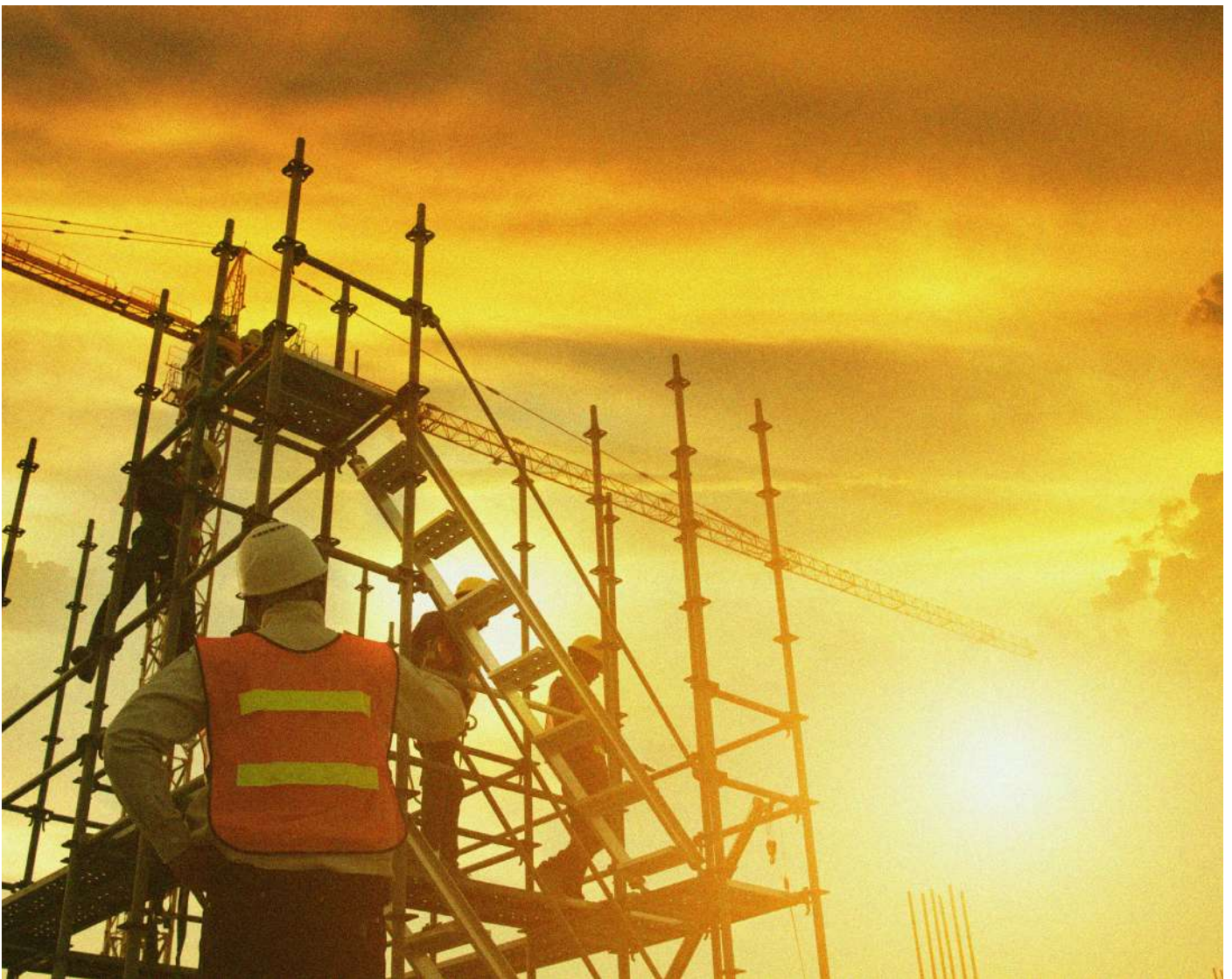
ActionSA will build safer communities by strengthening municipal law enforcement, enforcing by-laws, protecting infrastructure, strengthening emergency services and working with communities and other authorities. The rule of law must apply consistently in every community and to everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from.

A MUNICIPALITY WHERE BUSINESSES CAN FLOURISH AND JOBS CAN GROW

Municipalities do not create most jobs, but they can either make it easier or harder for businesses to invest, grow and employ people.

Too often, businesses and entrepreneurs face slow approvals, unnecessary red tape, unreliable services and municipal systems that treat investment as a problem rather than an opportunity.

ActionSA will make municipalities partners in local economic growth. Our approach will be red carpet, not red tape.



Making it easier to invest

Businesses should not have to fight municipal bureaucracy to create jobs and invest in communities.



Cutting red tape: We will simplify unnecessary municipal requirements and processes that delay investment and make it harder to do business.



Speeding up approvals: We will improve the processing of planning, building and other development applications and publish clear turnaround standards so applicants know what to expect.



Creating a clear entry point for investors: We will provide coordinated municipal support to help significant investments navigate approvals, infrastructure requirements and other municipal processes.



Providing red-carpet service to major businesses: We will proactively engage major employers and investors to resolve legitimate municipal obstacles that threaten investment, expansion or jobs.



Measuring what matters: Local economic development initiatives will be judged by whether they enable investment, economic activity and jobs, not by the number of meetings, events or programmes municipalities run.





Helping businesses and entrepreneurs grow

The same municipality that welcomes a major investor should help smaller businesses and entrepreneurs navigate the requirements they need to grow.



Supporting SMMEs and entrepreneurs: We will provide accessible guidance and support to help businesses understand municipal requirements, access appropriate opportunities and overcome unnecessary administrative obstacles.



Opening municipal opportunities fairly: We will make it easier for local SMMEs to compete for municipal procurement opportunities where lawful and competitive, while protecting transparent competition and value for money.



Supporting local labour: Where legally permissible and operationally appropriate, municipal projects will create opportunities for local labour and skills development.



Working with partners: We will work with businesses, universities, training institutions and civil society to support entrepreneurship, skills development and stronger local economies.

Opening opportunities for young people

Youth unemployment is one of South Africa's greatest challenges. Municipalities cannot solve it alone, but they can help young people gain the skills, experience and opportunities needed to enter the economy.



Connecting young people to opportunity: We will support skills, entrepreneurship and partnership initiatives that help young people move towards work and sustainable livelihoods.



Making public employment a pathway, not a destination: We will ensure temporary municipal employment programmes provide useful work experience and opportunities to progress rather than creating false expectations of permanent municipal employment.



Making municipal work opportunities fair: Short-term municipal work opportunities will be allocated through transparent and auditable processes rather than political patronage, with skills development included wherever possible.



Building pathways into the economy: We will work with businesses, educational institutions and other partners to connect young people to training, work experience, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.



Rebuilding our economic centres

CBDs, town centres and other economic nodes should be places where people want to work, trade and invest. Municipalities must actively address their decline rather than simply manage it.



Regenerating economic centres: We will coordinate infrastructure investment, cleaning, safety, by-law enforcement and economic development to rebuild declining CBDs, town centres and other important economic nodes.



Dealing with hijacked and derelict properties: We will use available municipal powers to address hijacked, abandoned and dangerous buildings and support their return to safe and productive use.



Building improvement partnerships: Where appropriate, we will support improvement districts and similar partnerships between municipalities, businesses, property owners and communities to improve and manage economic areas.



Protecting investment through reliable services: Economic regeneration must be supported by functioning infrastructure and reliable municipal services that give businesses confidence to remain and invest.





Supporting a safe and thriving informal economy

Informal traders and small businesses are an important part of local economies and livelihoods. Municipalities should make legitimate compliance easier while enforcing the standards necessary to protect communities.



Making compliance easier: We will simplify registration and municipal requirements where possible so legitimate informal businesses and traders can comply with the law.



Protecting health and safety: Spaza shops, food traders and other businesses must comply with applicable environmental health, food-safety and hygiene requirements. We will enforce these standards and work with other spheres of government where their powers are required.



Providing appropriate places to trade: Where locally justified, we will develop and maintain municipal markets, trading areas and basic infrastructure that enable safe and orderly trading.



Protecting legitimate traders: We will act against businesses that repeatedly or deliberately violate health, safety and trading requirements while ensuring legitimate traders are treated consistently and fairly.

Combating illicit trade

Illicit trade undermines legitimate businesses, deprives the state of revenue and can expose communities to unsafe or counterfeit goods. Municipalities have an important role to play in enforcing trading, licensing, health, safety and other local requirements while working with national and provincial authorities to tackle organised illicit activity.



Acting against illegal businesses: We will strengthen enforcement against businesses operating illegally or selling counterfeit, stolen or otherwise unlawful goods, while ensuring legitimate informal traders are not unfairly targeted.



Targeting illicit markets: We will identify areas where illicit trade is concentrated and conduct targeted enforcement operations, working with SAPS, SARS, Home Affairs and other relevant authorities where matters fall outside municipal powers.



Protecting legitimate businesses: We will ensure that businesses that comply with the law are not placed at a competitive disadvantage by those operating outside it.



Enforcing the rules fairly: Enforcement will target unlawful conduct without criminalising poverty or informal livelihoods, and legitimate traders will be given clear requirements and a fair opportunity to comply.

ActionSA will build municipalities that welcome investment instead of obstructing it, help businesses and entrepreneurs grow, open opportunities for young people and rebuild the economic centres on which local jobs and livelihoods depend.

A MUNICIPALITY THAT LEAVES NO COMMUNITY BEHIND

A municipality cannot call itself successful while entire communities remain excluded from reliable services, decent infrastructure and economic opportunity.

South Africa's municipalities reflect the deep inequalities of our past. Where people live still shapes their access to transport, jobs, housing, public facilities and basic services.

ActionSA will work to build one municipality for all, where every community is treated with dignity and municipal investment progressively expands people's freedom to build better lives.



Building one municipality for all

The quality of government residents receive should never depend on their postcode, income or political affiliation.



Treating every community fairly: Municipal services and investment will be guided by need, infrastructure conditions, population growth and development priorities, not political considerations.



Planning with evidence: We will use population, development, infrastructure and geographic information system (GIS) data to understand where communities are growing and direct future investment accordingly.



Addressing spatial inequality: Municipal planning and investment will progressively connect historically excluded communities to services, transport, jobs and economic opportunity.



Making development accessible: New development should support more integrated communities and improve access to the opportunities people need to participate fully in their municipality.



Expanding housing opportunity

Municipalities cannot solve South Africa's housing crisis alone, but they have important responsibilities for planning, land and infrastructure, and can play a wider role in human settlement development where functions are assigned or programmes are implemented with other spheres of government.



Upgrading informal settlements: Where land is safe and suitable, we will support progressive in-situ upgrading and improve basic services while longer-term development continues. Where settlements cannot safely remain, relocation must be lawful, humane and undertaken with affected communities.



Accelerating title deeds: We will address municipal administrative backlogs that prevent qualifying residents from receiving title deeds and the security of ownership they provide.



Expanding routes into housing: We will support site-and-service development, affordable ownership and rental opportunities, using municipal land and infrastructure strategically where appropriate.



Protecting homes for long-term residents: We will regulate short-term rentals where their growth reduces the availability or affordability of housing for local residents, while recognising the importance of tourism to local economies.



Working across government: Where housing programmes or funding fall under provincial or national government, municipalities will actively work with those spheres to accelerate delivery rather than treating divided responsibilities as an excuse for inaction.



Connecting communities through public transport

Public transport connects people to jobs, education, healthcare and economic opportunity. Where municipalities have responsibility for public transport, they must provide services that are reliable, safe, accessible and properly integrated with the wider transport system.



Making public transport reliable: We will improve the reliability and frequency of municipal public transport and ensure routes and timetables reflect how residents actually travel.



Making public transport safer: We will improve safety on municipal public transport, at stations and interchanges, including through appropriate security, lighting, maintenance and law enforcement.



Connecting people to opportunity: We will prioritise routes that connect communities to jobs, schools, healthcare, public services and economic centres.



Integrating transport: We will work with other spheres of government and transport operators to improve integration between municipal services and other public transport systems.

Planning for growing communities: New housing and economic developments will be planned alongside the transport infrastructure needed to connect residents to jobs and services.

Bringing healthcare closer to communities

Primary healthcare is principally a provincial responsibility, but where municipalities operate healthcare facilities, ActionSA will use that capacity to improve access and ensure residents receive a professional and dignified service.



Improving access to municipal healthcare: Where municipalities operate clinics, we will improve access in underserved communities and, where demand and resources justify it, extend operating hours.



Taking healthcare closer to communities: We will use mobile clinics and appropriate outreach services to reach informal settlements, rural areas and communities without nearby facilities.



Making municipal clinics work better: We will prioritise adequate staffing, maintenance and effective management of municipal healthcare facilities.



Connecting residents to wider support: We will work with provincial health departments, civil society and other partners to connect vulnerable residents to appropriate health and social services rather than allowing divided responsibilities to become an excuse for poor access.



Improving access to substance-use treatment and rehabilitation: We will work with other spheres of government, treatment providers and civil society to connect residents to appropriate treatment, rehabilitation and recovery support and, where municipal powers and resources allow, expand access in underserved communities.



Public facilities that strengthen communities

Development is about more than overcoming poverty. People also need places to learn, exercise, meet, participate and spend time together.

Well-run libraries, parks, sports facilities, community halls and other public spaces contribute to wellbeing, dignity and social cohesion. They expand the opportunities people have to learn, participate in community life and pursue their potential.



Maintaining community facilities: We will ensure municipal libraries, community halls, recreational and other public facilities are properly maintained and progressively made accessible to people with disabilities so they can serve the communities they were built for.



Making facilities more accessible: Where demand and affordability justify it, we will extend the operating hours of clinics, libraries and other appropriate municipal facilities so more residents can use them.



Expanding access where facilities are limited: Mobile and outreach services will help reach remote and underserved communities where permanent facilities are not practical.



Supporting sport and recreation: We will maintain and progressively improve appropriate sporting and recreational facilities that support healthier communities and provide constructive opportunities for young people.



Supporting residents who need it most

Local government is often the part of the state closest to vulnerable residents. Municipalities should use the powers, facilities and partnerships available to them to help connect people to appropriate support.



Supporting early childhood development: We will use appropriate municipal powers, facilities, regulatory assistance and partnerships to support ECD providers and make legitimate compliance easier.



Supporting survivors of gender-based violence: We will strengthen municipal referral networks, partnerships with service providers and appropriate training for frontline personnel so survivors can be connected to the help they need.



Protecting vulnerable households: We will provide appropriate municipal rebates and protections for qualifying pensioners and other vulnerable households, while ensuring support reaches those who genuinely need it.



Working with others: We will partner with civil society, communities, other spheres of government and service providers where they have expertise or responsibilities municipalities do not possess.



Government that reaches and listens to everyone

Residents should be able to access their municipality and have a meaningful say in decisions that affect their communities.



Keeping municipal services accessible: Digitalisation will expand access without replacing appropriate in-person services for residents who cannot use digital channels.



Taking services closer to communities: We will use mobile and outreach services where appropriate to make municipal assistance more accessible in underserved areas.



Making participation meaningful: We will improve participation in municipal planning, budgeting and other statutory processes and provide residents with feedback on the issues they raise.



Opening digital channels for participation: Appropriate digital platforms will complement physical meetings and make it easier for more residents to participate in municipal decision-making.

ActionSA will build one municipality for all, where the community you live in does not determine the dignity of the services you receive or the opportunities available to you, and where functioning government gives every resident greater freedom to build a better life.

CLEAN, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Everyone deserves to live in a clean, healthy and well-maintained community. Illegal dumping, neglected public spaces, pollution and environmental decline affect people's health, dignity and quality of life, while making communities less attractive places to live and invest.

Keeping communities clean is first and foremost the responsibility of local government. But municipalities can achieve more when residents, businesses and civil society work alongside them to improve and protect the places we share.

ActionSA will build cleaner, greener and more resilient communities that people are proud to call home.



Keeping our communities clean

Clean communities require reliable municipal services and consistent enforcement.



Tackling illegal dumping: We will identify dumping hotspots, improve enforcement and act against individuals and businesses that illegally dispose of waste.



Cleaning neglected areas: We will prioritise areas where illegal dumping, litter and neglect have made public spaces unhealthy or unusable.



Enforcing waste by-laws: We will ensure that businesses and residents comply with municipal waste requirements and act against repeat offenders.



Working together to keep communities clean: Municipalities will remain responsible for cleaning public spaces, while working with residents, businesses and civil society on clean-ups and other initiatives that improve and protect shared spaces.

Reducing waste and recycling more

Municipalities must manage waste more sustainably while recognising that different communities require different solutions.



Reducing waste going to landfill: We will pursue practical opportunities to increase recycling, reuse and waste diversion and extend the useful life of landfill sites.



Supporting locally appropriate recycling: Recycling systems will reflect local conditions and available infrastructure rather than imposing a single model on every municipality.



Recognising waste pickers: We will recognise the contribution waste pickers make to recycling and progressively integrate them into appropriate municipal waste diversion systems.



Planning for future waste needs: Municipalities will plan for population growth, landfill capacity and changing waste volumes so that waste management systems remain sustainable.

Creating better public and green spaces

Well-maintained public spaces make communities healthier, safer and more liveable.



Maintaining our public spaces: We will properly maintain municipal parks, recreational areas and other public spaces so residents can use and enjoy them.



Greening our communities: We will support appropriate tree planting, landscaping and municipal greening to improve public spaces and strengthen environmental resilience.



Protecting what we improve: Municipalities will work with communities, businesses and other partners to protect public spaces from vandalism, dumping and neglect.



Investing fairly: Public space investment will progressively address neglected areas and ensure that communities historically denied quality public amenities are not left behind.





Protecting our local environment

Municipalities have an important responsibility to protect the local environment on which communities depend.



Protecting our natural environment: We will protect municipal natural assets, biodiversity, coastal and marine environments, beaches, waterways and environmentally sensitive areas through appropriate planning, management and enforcement.



Protecting our coastline: In coastal municipalities, we will protect beaches, estuaries and coastal ecosystems, tackle pollution and illegal dumping, and maintain public access to safe and well-managed coastal areas.



Protecting environmental health: We will enforce municipal environmental health standards and address local environmental risks that threaten communities.



Improving air quality: Where municipalities have responsibilities for air quality management, we will monitor pollution, enforce applicable standards and work with other authorities to address significant sources of harmful emissions.



Preventing pollution: We will act against unlawful pollution of rivers, waterways, public land and other parts of the municipal environment. public amenities are not left behind.

Building resilient communities

Climate change is increasing the pressure on municipal infrastructure and exposing communities to greater risks from droughts, floods, extreme heat and other severe weather events.



Planning for changing risks: Municipal planning and infrastructure investment will consider changing rainfall patterns, flooding, water scarcity, extreme heat and other local climate risks.



Strengthening infrastructure resilience: We will progressively improve the ability of municipal infrastructure to withstand foreseeable environmental risks and recover more quickly when failures occur.



Reducing flood risks: We will maintain stormwater systems, protect appropriate drainage areas and use land-use planning to reduce avoidable development in areas of serious flood risk.



Protecting vulnerable communities: Resilience planning will identify communities most exposed to environmental hazards and prioritise practical measures to reduce those risks.

Preparing for disasters

Municipalities must be ready to respond when emergencies and disasters occur.



Planning before disasters happen: We will maintain credible disaster management plans based on the actual risks facing each municipality.



Coordinating the response: Municipal departments, emergency services, other spheres of government and appropriate partners must be able to work together when major incidents occur.



Learning from emergencies: We will review major incidents and disasters to identify weaknesses and improve future preparedness and response.

ActionSA will build communities that are cleaner, healthier and better prepared for the future. Government will do the work it is responsible for, while giving residents, businesses and civil society opportunities to work with us to improve and protect the places we all call home.

GOVERNING TOGETHER WHEN VOTERS DECIDE IT

South Africa has entered an era of coalition government. In many municipalities, no single political party will receive an outright majority.

Where voters divide political power between parties, those parties have a responsibility to find ways to provide stable, ethical and effective government. But coalitions cannot become an excuse for instability, political horse-trading or putting positions ahead of residents.

For ActionSA, coalition government must always be about making government work.



Voters must speak first



We will not enter pre-election coalitions: ActionSA will contest elections on our own values, policies and record and ask voters for the strongest possible mandate.



We will respect the mandate voters give us: Coalition negotiations will only begin once voters have determined the balance of power.



We will use every vote to advance our commitments: Where no party receives a majority, we will use the mandate voters give us to secure the greatest possible expression of the commitments they supported when voting for ActionSA.

Values Before Parties



We will seek sufficient common ground: We will judge potential coalition partners by whether there is sufficient common ground to form a stable government that can advance our values and commitments.



We will protect our core principles: Coalition government requires compromise, but ActionSA will not trade away its fundamental principles simply to obtain or retain political office.

Programme Before Positions



Residents must come first: Coalition negotiations should begin with what a government will do, not which politicians will receive which positions.



Agree on a programme of government: We will seek clear agreement on the priorities, commitments and standards that coalition partners will collectively implement.



Turn agreements into delivery: Coalition commitments must be reflected in municipal budgets, plans and measurable performance targets if they are to mean anything to residents.

Transparent and accountable coalitions



Put coalition agreements in writing: The responsibilities and commitments of coalition partners should be clearly documented and accessible to residents.



Measure performance: Coalition partners and their political office bearers must be accountable for the responsibilities they accept in government.



Resolve disagreements responsibly: Coalition agreements should establish clear mechanisms for managing disputes before political disagreements become crises of government.

Stability must serve residents



Protect services from political instability: Disagreements between parties must not be allowed to unnecessarily interrupt municipal services.



Protect the professional administration: Municipal officials must serve residents and the institution, not whichever political party controls a particular portfolio.



Put good government ahead of political survival: ActionSA will work to build stable coalitions, but stability will never justify tolerating corruption, incompetence or conduct that violates the principles on which the coalition was formed.

Coalitions are not an end in themselves. Where voters require parties to govern together, ActionSA will use the mandate they give us to secure as much of our programme as possible and build stable government that delivers for residents.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM AN ACTIONSA COUNCILLOR

Public representatives are the most direct link between residents and their government. Being elected is not a reward or a title. It is a responsibility to represent communities, solve problems and hold government accountable.

Every ActionSA councillor must earn the trust voters have placed in them through the work they do for residents.



Be present and accountable to your community



Be visible and accessible: Our councillors will spend time in the communities they represent and maintain practical channels through which residents can raise concerns and seek assistance.



Listen to residents: We will engage residents, community organisations, businesses and other stakeholders to understand local priorities and the problems communities experience.



Report back: Residents deserve to know what their representatives are doing. Our councillors will communicate regularly about issues raised, actions taken and progress achieved.

Fight for Solutions



Focus on what matters: Water, electricity, roads, refuse removal, safety, jobs and other everyday concerns will remain at the centre of our councillors' work.



Escalate service failures: Our councillors will use appropriate municipal processes to bring unresolved problems to the attention of those responsible and demand action.



Follow through: Raising a problem is not enough. Our representatives will pursue issues and provide feedback rather than allowing complaints to disappear into municipal bureaucracy.



Work with communities: We will work with community organisations and other stakeholders where collaboration can help solve local problems.



Use the powers voters give us

Councillors have important powers to scrutinise municipal government and fight for their communities. ActionSA expects our representatives to use them.



Hold government accountable: Our councillors will scrutinise municipal decisions, budgets, expenditure, service delivery and performance.



Use council effectively: We will use questions, motions, petitions, committees and other available mechanisms to raise community concerns, propose solutions and demand action.



Expose wrongdoing: Where our councillors uncover corruption, maladministration or abuse of public resources, they will pursue the appropriate oversight and investigative processes to hold those responsible accountable.

Uphold the standards we expect from government

The standards ActionSA demands from government must start with our own representatives.



Act with integrity: Our councillors will be expected to conduct themselves ethically and protect the interests of residents.



Show up and do the work: Elected representatives must attend and participate meaningfully in council and committee proceedings and fulfil the responsibilities voters elected them to perform.



Put residents before political interests: Our representatives must be guided by the interests of the communities they serve and the values voters supported when they voted for ActionSA.



Accept accountability: ActionSA will hold its own representatives accountable for their conduct and performance. Accountability cannot be something we demand only from other parties.



Our councillors will be held to a higher standard

ActionSA councillors will be accountable not only to the party, but directly to the residents they represent. We will establish minimum performance standards covering:



Attendance: Councillors will consistently attend council and committee meetings, subject to legitimate reasons for absence.



Community engagement: Councillors will engage regularly with residents and communities in their wards.



Responsiveness and follow-through: Councillors will follow up on legitimate resident complaints and service delivery issues and provide feedback until they are resolved or appropriately escalated.



Reporting back: Councillors will regularly report to residents on council decisions, service delivery and the work they have undertaken.



Integrity: Councillors will comply with applicable ethical and disclosure requirements and ActionSA's internal accountability mechanisms.

Work for you wherever voters place us

An ActionSA councillor's responsibility to residents does not depend on whether ActionSA controls the municipality.



Where we govern: Our representatives will help implement the commitments in this manifesto and hold the administration accountable for delivering them.



Where we govern in coalition: Our representatives will advance the commitments ActionSA secured through the coalition's agreed programme while upholding our values and standards.



Where we are in opposition: Our councillors will expose failures, demand accountability, propose solutions and fight for the communities they represent.



Use every vote effectively: Whatever mandate voters give ActionSA, we will use that representation to advance better local government.

Being in opposition is never an excuse for doing nothing, just as being in government is never an excuse for avoiding accountability. Wherever voters elect ActionSA councillors, they should expect representatives who are present, active, ethical and focused on getting things done.

OUR COMPACT WITH YOU

Fixing local government is first and foremost the responsibility of government. Residents have every right to expect their municipality to provide reliable services, spend public money responsibly, maintain infrastructure and treat every community fairly.

When a municipality charges residents for a service, it has a responsibility to deliver that service reliably and charge for it accurately. But building municipalities that work also requires all of us to play our part.



ActionSA will do its job. We will ask residents and businesses to do theirs:



We will deliver services. Those who can pay must pay: We will protect households that genuinely cannot afford basic services while expecting those who can afford to do so to pay what they owe.



We will keep communities clean. Help us keep them that way: We ask residents and businesses to dispose of waste responsibly, reject illegal dumping and help protect shared public spaces.



We will maintain public infrastructure. Help us protect it: We ask communities to reject illegal connections and report theft, vandalism and deliberate damage to the infrastructure we all depend on.



We will enforce the law fairly. Respect it: Every resident and business must respect municipal by-laws and the rule of law. No one should receive special treatment because of wealth, status, political connections or influence.



We will fight corruption. Reject it: We ask residents and businesses to reject bribery, tender manipulation and other forms of corruption and report wrongdoing when they encounter it.



We will listen. Make your voice heard: We will create meaningful opportunities for residents to participate, and ask communities to raise problems constructively and hold their councillors and municipal government accountable.



We will build and maintain public spaces for everyone. Help us look after them: We ask residents to use and protect parks, libraries, sports facilities, community halls and other public assets responsibly.



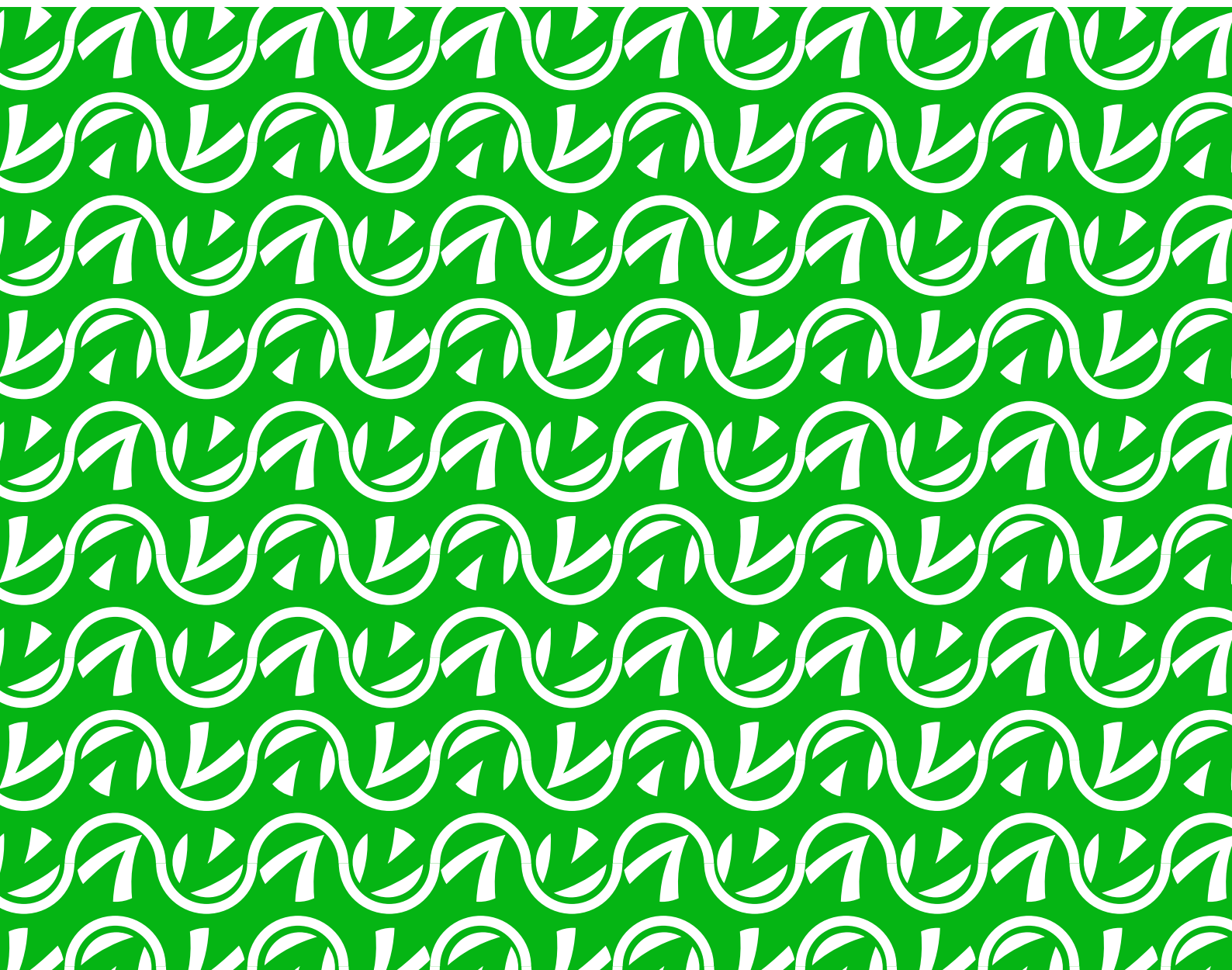
We will build one municipality for all. Help us build stronger communities: We ask residents to embrace mutual respect, shared responsibility and the principle that every person deserves dignity and belonging.

Government cannot ask residents to fulfil their responsibilities while failing to fulfil its own. ActionSA will lead by doing the work government is elected to do.

In return, we ask residents to work with us to protect what we rebuild, strengthen their communities and hold us accountable for the commitments we make.

That is what we mean when we say: Gatvol? Let us fix it.

**Government doing its job. Residents playing their part.
Communities working together to fix the places we call home.**





ACTIONS