



PRESIDENTIAL
MANIFESTO LAUNCH
SPEECH

JOBS, WATER AND
SERVICE DELIVERY NOW!

TOTAL FREEDOM AND EMANCIPATION NOW!

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Tembisa, Ekurhuleni • Saturday, 26 September 2026

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MAYIBUYE iAFRIKA!

PROTOCOLS

Programme Director;

Members of the National Leadership of Afrika

Mayibuye Movement;

Members of the Politburo and the National Core Team;

Provincial, regional, sub-regional, branch and ward leadership of MAYIBUYE;

Our mayoral candidates and councillor candidates from municipalities across South Africa;

Traditional and royal leaders present here today;

Religious leaders and representatives of churches, mosques, temples, African indigenous faith institutions and all faith communities;

Representatives of the taxi industry, organised labour, business formations, civic organisations, student formations, youth organisations, women's organisations, organisations of people with disabilities and community-based organisations;

Veterans of the struggle for freedom and democracy;

Members of the media;

Volunteers and ground forces of Afrika Mayibuye Movement;

The courageous people of Tembisa and Ekurhuleni;

Fellow South Africans:

- [1] **Sanibonani! Dumelang! Avuxeni! Ndi matsheloni! Molweni! Goeie dag! Good day!**
- [2] **People of Tembisa!**
- [3] **People of Ekurhuleni!**
- [4] **People of South Africa!**
- [5] We have gathered here not merely to launch another election document. We have gathered to declare that the time of excuses is over. We have gathered to place before the people a covenant for local government. We have gathered to say that democracy must be felt where people live, where children learn, where workers travel, where families fetch water, where traders earn a living and where communities bury their loved ones.
- [6] Our message is direct: **JOBS, WATER AND SERVICE DELIVERY NOW!**
- [7] Our demand is urgent: **TOTAL FREEDOM AND EMANCIPATION NOW!**
- [8] Our conviction is unshakeable: **MAYIBUYE iAFRIKA!**

WHAT IS AFRIKA MAYIBUYE MOVEMENT

WHAT MAYIBUYE IS

- [9] Afrika Mayibuye Movement is a Pan-African movement for total freedom and emancipation, rooted in the restoration of land, economic power, culture, identity and human dignity.
- [10] MAYIBUYE is a people-centred movement that believes democracy must be felt in every village, township, informal settlement, suburb, farm, hostel and inner city.
- [11] MAYIBUYE is the political home of workers, young people, students, women, farmers, professionals, entrepreneurs, traditional communities, faith communities and all who seek an honest developmental state.
- [12] MAYIBUYE is a movement of practical action that converts political commitments into jobs, water, sanitation, roads, housing, safety, skills and accountable government.
- [13] MAYIBUYE is a movement of economic production that will industrialise townships and villages,

support agriculture, localise procurement and place public land at the service of development.

[14] MAYIBUYE is a movement that respects and works with traditional and royal leadership as indispensable partners in land administration, development, culture and social cohesion.

[15] MAYIBUYE is a movement that respects religious leadership and faith-based institutions as partners in social care, moral renewal, peace and community development.

[16] MAYIBUYE is a disciplined organisation whose leaders and councillors must be honest, respectful, hardworking, caring, knowledgeable, responsive, accountable and present among the people.

[17] MAYIBUYE is a national movement that unites South Africans across language, province, race, religion, gender and generation around a common programme of dignity and development.

[18] MAYIBUYE is the organised instrument through which the people will reclaim Africa's wealth, restore Africa's dignity and achieve total freedom and emancipation now.

WHAT MAYIBUYE IS NOT

- [19] MAYIBUYE is not a vehicle for personal ambition, positions, salaries, status, tenders or the enrichment of leaders and their friends.
- [20] MAYIBUYE is not an election-season project that appears before voting day and disappears when communities need representation.
- [21] MAYIBUYE is not a movement of corruption, bribery, nepotism, factionalism, patronage or the sale of public opportunities.
- [22] MAYIBUYE is not a movement of tribalism, regionalism, racism, sexism, xenophobia, religious intolerance or hatred between communities.
- [23] MAYIBUYE is not controlled by wrong forces, secret funders or private interests that expect public decisions in return for money.
- [24] MAYIBUYE is not a movement that treats traditional and royal leaders or religious institutions as decorations to be remembered only during elections.
- [25] MAYIBUYE is not a movement that speaks in the name of the poor while governing in the interests of the rich, connected and powerful.
- [26] MAYIBUYE is not a movement that hides behind constitutional powers, bureaucratic boundaries or

another sphere of government while communities suffer.

[27] MAYIBUYE is not a movement of empty slogans, reckless promises or manifestos that cannot be translated into budgets, workers, infrastructure and measurable results.

[28] MAYIBUYE is not a copy of the political organisations that have normalised unemployment, water shortages, corruption, municipal collapse and the abandonment of the people.

THE STATE OF TEMBISA: UNDERDEVELOPMENT, POVERTY AND MUNICIPAL NEGLECT

[29] Comrades and compatriots, we chose Tembisa for this historic launch because Tembisa is one of the clearest examples of both the power of our people and the failure of the local state.

[30] Tembisa is a community built by workers. It is a community built by families who travelled to factories, warehouses, airports, workshops, construction sites, hospitals, schools and offices across the industrial heartland of Ekurhuleni and Gauteng. The labour of Tembisa helped to build the wealth of this region. Yet the people whose labour built that wealth have repeatedly been made to live with unemployment, overcrowding, failing infrastructure and municipal indifference.

[31] From Rabasotho to Maokeng, from Makhulong to Phomolong, from Kopanong to Sethokga, from Endayini to Entshonalanga, from Emfihlweni to Umthambeka, from Hospital View to Vusimuzi, from

Kanana to Winnie Mandela, from Ivory Park to Duduza, from Chris Hani to Klipfontein View, and across the neighbouring communities of Clayville and Olifantsfontein, residents know the distance between political promises and daily life.

[32] The people know what it means to open a tap and find no water. They know what it means to wait for a tanker without knowing when it will arrive. They know what it means to live with low pressure, interrupted supply, leaking pipes and reservoirs that cannot reliably meet growing demand.

[33] The people know the humiliation of sewage overflowing into streets and yards. They know the danger of children walking past contaminated water. They know the smell of neglected sewer lines and the anger of reporting the same blockage again and again. Even the City has acknowledged multi-year bulk sewer upgrades in Tembisa that extend toward 2028. That is an admission that the backlog is serious, old and structural.

[34] The people know the pain of electricity disconnections, unstable supply, damaged transformers, illegal connections created by desperation, high tariffs, disputed bills and pre-termination notices. A municipality that cannot bill accurately, communicate honestly and protect

vulnerable households creates conflict instead of public confidence.

- [35] The people know the darkness of streets where lights do not work. That darkness is not only an inconvenience. It is a danger to women walking home, to learners returning from study, to workers coming from late shifts, to commuters waiting for transport and to small businesses trying to trade safely.
- [36] The people know roads damaged by potholes, stormwater drains blocked until rain becomes a disaster, pavements that disappear, bridges and crossings that are unsafe, and public spaces that are not maintained. When drainage is neglected, the poorest households pay the highest price because water enters shacks, homes and small businesses.
- [37] The people know irregular refuse collection and illegal dumping. They know that a pile of rubbish can remain until it becomes part of the landscape. They know that waste left uncollected becomes a health hazard, blocks drains and tells residents that their neighbourhood is considered less worthy than others.
- [38] The people of Winnie Mandela, Vusimuzi, Kanana, Duduza, Chris Hani and other informal communities

know the cruelty of permanent temporariness. Families are told to wait for formalisation, wait for land, wait for services, wait for electricity, wait for sanitation and wait for dignity. A child can be born in an informal settlement, grow up there and become an adult while government still calls the community temporary.

[39] The youth of Tembisa live close to one of Africa's most important industrial and logistics corridors, close to OR Tambo International Airport, warehouses, factories, transport routes and commercial centres. Yet too many young people wake up every morning without work, without paid experience, without affordable data and without a pathway from a qualification into employment. This is not a lack of talent. It is a failure of planning and political will.

[40] Informal traders, spaza shop owners, mechanics, hairdressers, street-food sellers, cooperatives and home-based businesses keep the township economy alive. Yet they are too often treated as a nuisance, harassed by inconsistent enforcement, denied decent trading spaces and excluded from municipal procurement.

[41] Taxi drivers, marshals, associations and commuters carry this city every day. Yet taxi ranks and

transport facilities do not consistently offer the dignity of clean toilets, water, lighting, shelter, safety, Wi-Fi, offices and properly planned trading spaces.

- [42] Young people need sports grounds, swimming pools, libraries, community halls, arts spaces and safe parks. Instead, many facilities are neglected, vandalised, locked, under-equipped or absent. Talent is lost because a municipality failed to maintain a field, fund a league, open a library or support an artist.
- [43] The poor and the working class also suffer from administrative neglect. People struggle to register as indigent, challenge an incorrect account, understand a tariff or obtain feedback on a complaint. Residents are sent from office to office while the problem remains unresolved.
- [44] This neglect exists in a municipality with immense economic capacity. Ekurhuleni is an industrial city. It has factories, logistics centres, airports, commercial property and a vast revenue base. Yet Parliament recorded that, in the 2024/25 audit process, critical information could not be verified, conditional grants were substantially underspent and national funding was withheld because projects moved too slowly. When grant money is not spent, it

is not an accounting footnote. It is a road not repaired, a sewer not upgraded, a settlement not serviced and a job not created.

[45] We therefore say to the people of Tembisa: your suffering is not natural. Poverty is not a municipal policy. Unemployment is not your destiny. A leaking pipe is not an act of God. A pothole is not an ideology. A dark street is not inevitable. A corrupt tender is not development. A councillor who disappears is not leadership.

[46] Tembisa does not need another season of sympathy. Tembisa needs a government that works.

[47] Ekurhuleni does not need leaders who explain collapse. Ekurhuleni needs leaders who repair, build, maintain, employ and account.

[48] MAYIBUYE is here to build that government.

TWENTY-ONE REASONS WHY MAYIBUYE IS CONTESTING ELECTIONS IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY

[49] Fellow South Africans, we are contesting local government elections in municipalities throughout the country because the crisis is national, even though it is experienced locally. The names of the communities differ, but the pain is connected. The demand from the people is the same: government must work.

[50] These are the twenty-one reasons why MAYIBUYE is contesting.

REASON 1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS CLOSEST TO THE PEOPLE

[51] We are contesting because the municipality is the sphere of government that enters the home every day through water, sanitation, electricity, refuse removal, roads and public safety. If the municipality fails, democracy fails at the front door.

REASON 2 SOUTH AFRICA NEEDS JOBS NOW

[52] We are contesting because millions of capable people, especially young people, are excluded from work. Municipalities must stop administering unemployment and start creating jobs directly, developing skills and building productive local economies.

REASON 3 WATER IS A RIGHT AND NOT A FAVOUR

[53] We are contesting because households in villages, townships and informal settlements still live with dry taps, tankers, leaks and unsafe water. From Tembisa to Giyani, Hammanskraal, Madibeng, Makhanda and uMkhanyakude, water insecurity destroys dignity and development.

REASON 4 SANITATION IS HUMAN DIGNITY

[54] We are contesting because no community should live with bucket toilets, overflowing sewers, broken pumps or untreated wastewater. A government that tolerates sewage in the streets has abandoned its most basic duty.

REASON 5 ROADS AND STORMWATER SYSTEMS ARE COLLAPSING

[55] We are contesting because potholes, impassable rural roads, damaged bridges and blocked drains isolate communities, damage vehicles, interrupt ambulances, raise the cost of food and turn rain into disaster.

REASON 6 ELECTRICITY MUST BE RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE

[56] We are contesting because communities cannot study, trade, manufacture or live safely when transformers fail, streetlights remain dark and billing systems punish the poor for municipal incompetence.

REASON 7 COMMUNITIES MUST BE CLEAN

[57] We are contesting because irregular refuse removal and illegal dumping have been normalised in too many townships and villages. Cleanliness is not cosmetic. It is a matter of health, safety, pride and economic development.

REASON 8 LAND AND HOUSING MUST SERVE THE PEOPLE

[58] We are contesting because municipal land is too often hidden, captured, speculated upon or left unused while families wait for housing, farmers need fields, churches need sites, learners need schools and entrepreneurs need productive space.

REASON 9 CORRUPTION AND TENDER DEPENDENCE MUST END

[59] We are contesting because municipalities have been converted into tender offices. Public money enriches networks while municipal machinery disappears, technical teams are hollowed out and communities wait for contractors who never arrive.

REASON 10 MUNICIPALITIES MUST REBUILD TECHNICAL CAPACITY

[60] We are contesting because a capable municipality must employ plumbers, electricians, engineers, artisans, mechanics, plant operators, road workers, waste teams and maintenance personnel. A state that cannot repair its own assets cannot lead development.

REASON 11 LOCAL ECONOMIES MUST PRODUCE

[61] We are contesting because townships and villages cannot remain places where people only consume goods produced elsewhere. Local government must support manufacturing, agriculture, repair industries, cooperatives, markets, tourism and technology.

REASON 12 YOUTH AND STUDENTS REQUIRE PRACTICAL SUPPORT

[62] We are contesting because a young person must not lose an opportunity because data is unaffordable, a library closes early, there is no study space or an internship is reserved for the connected. Municipal facilities must become ladders into education and work.

REASON 13 WOMEN VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MUST BE CENTRED

[63] We are contesting because development must reach women entrepreneurs, survivors of gender-based violence, child-headed households, pensioners, people with disabilities and families carrying the heaviest burden of poverty.

REASON 14 THE TAXI INDUSTRY AND COMMUTERS DESERVE RESPECT

[64] We are contesting because taxis carry the majority of working-class commuters, yet the industry is often engaged only through policing and punishment. It must be integrated into planning, infrastructure, economic opportunities and peace-building.

REASON 15 TRADITIONAL AND ROYAL LEADERSHIP MUST BE MEANINGFULLY INCLUDED

[65] We are contesting because municipalities cannot plan land, roads, water, agriculture and settlements in traditional communities while treating traditional and royal leaders as ceremonial guests.

REASON 16 RELIGIOUS AND FAITH BASED INSTITUTIONS ARE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

[66] We are contesting because churches, mosques, temples, synagogues and African indigenous faith institutions feed families, counsel the distressed, guide young people and mobilise communities. They must be engaged fairly and constitutionally in local development.

REASON 17 SPORT ARTS CULTURE AND RECREATION MUST RETURN TO COMMUNITY LIFE

[67] We are contesting because a municipality that abandons its fields, parks, pools, libraries, halls and cultural spaces abandons the development of its children. Local tournaments, leagues, artists and heritage programmes need regular support.

REASON 18 THE DIGITAL DIVIDE MUST BE CLOSED

[68] We are contesting because connectivity now determines access to education, applications, work, finance and government. Free municipal Wi-Fi and digital services must reach townships, villages and informal settlements.

REASON 19 NO COMMUNITY MUST BE TREATED AS SECOND CLASS

[69] We are contesting because people living in villages, informal settlements, hostels, farms and peripheral townships are municipal residents too. Geography must never decide who receives dignity.

REASON 20 MUNICIPALITIES MUST PREPARE FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISKS

[70] We are contesting because floods, fires, droughts and storms already destroy homes and livelihoods. Municipalities must protect rivers and wetlands, maintain stormwater systems and organise community disaster response before tragedy arrives.

REASON 21 THE PEOPLE MUST GOVERN EVERY DAY

[71] We are contesting because democracy cannot mean voting once and begging for four years. Councillors must report, budgets must be open, communities must set priorities and public representatives must be removable when they betray the mandate.

[72] Those are our reasons. They are not abstract. They come from the lived experience of our people. They are why MAYIBUYE is contesting across South Africa. They are why we are standing in metros, cities, towns, villages, mining communities, agricultural districts and coastal municipalities. They are why we are ready to govern.

THE SEVEN STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

[73] Our manifesto is organised around seven strategic focus areas. These are not seven slogans. They are seven programmes of government. Each programme has practical commitments, local meaning, measurable responsibilities and a clear political purpose.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 1 JOBS AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

[74] Our first focus is jobs and skills because unemployment is the greatest thief of dignity in democratic South Africa.

[75] **First**, MAYIBUYE municipalities will create jobs directly. We will convert public employment programmes from repetitive temporary work into accredited training and pathways toward stable employment. In Tembisa, Katlehong, Umlazi, Khayelitsha, Botshabelo and Mdantsane, public work must repair the community while building the worker.

- [76] **Second**, we will rebuild municipal technical teams. We will train and employ plumbers, electricians, bricklayers, welders, mechanics, road workers, plant operators, waste workers and artisans. A burst pipe in Phomolong must be an opportunity for a trained local team to respond, not another excuse to wait for an external contractor.
- [77] **Third**, we will establish apprenticeships, learnerships, internships and work placements linked to real municipal skills shortages. We will partner with TVET colleges, universities and accredited training institutions so that qualifications lead to experience and experience leads to work.
- [78] **Fourth**, we will use municipal land and infrastructure to develop industrial parks, repair hubs, logistics precincts and production centres. Ekurhuleni must manufacture. Rosslyn and Babelalegi must produce. Dimbaza must be revived. Newcastle, Emalahleni, Richards Bay and Gqeberha must build value chains that employ local people.
- [79] **Fifth**, we will turn agriculture into a municipal employment programme. In Vhembe, Mopani, Sekhukhune, Taung, OR Tambo, Harry Gwala and uMkhanyakude, municipalities must help provide land, water, fencing, mechanisation, storage, markets and offtake. Food grown by local farmers

must reach local schools, hospitals, markets and households.

[80] **Sixth**, we will establish youth and student support in every municipality. There will be free Wi-Fi zones at libraries, halls, offices and transport hubs; safe study spaces with computers and charging points; youth support desks for admissions, bursaries and apprenticeships; and paid municipal work experience. A student in Winnie Mandela, Bushbuckridge, Lusikisiki or Nongoma must not be disconnected from opportunity.

[81] **Seventh**, we will advance women's economic empowerment and the care economy. We will support women-owned businesses and cooperatives, improve access to markets and equipment, invest in childcare and eldercare, and create permanent work from services that society depends upon but too often refuses to value.

[82] **Eighth**, we will use sports, arts and culture to create work. Coaches, groundskeepers, artists, technicians, event organisers and cultural workers must become part of local economic development.

[83] Our message is simple: a municipality must not only collect revenue. It must create productive capacity. It must produce skills. It must create work.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 2 WATER

- [84] Our second focus is water because there can be no freedom without water.
- [85] **First**, MAYIBUYE municipalities will provide clean, reliable water to every community. Water plans will identify every backlog, every weak reservoir, every failing pipe and every settlement without secure supply.
- [86] **Second**, we will establish rapid-response teams for leaks, burst pipes and major water failures. Every fault will have a reference number, a responsible team and a restoration deadline. Residents of Tembisa, Mamelodi, Madibeng and Mangaung must know who is acting and when supply will return.
- [87] **Third**, we will expand and maintain bulk infrastructure, reservoirs, treatment capacity and distribution networks. Growing communities cannot be served forever by systems designed for a smaller population.
- [88] **Fourth**, where hydrogeology and water-quality rules permit, we will develop solar-powered boreholes and groundwater systems. Villages in Giyani, Sekhukhune, the North West and the Eastern Cape must not remain dependent on tankers when

sustainable local water sources can be developed and monitored.

- [89] **Fifth**, we will build rainwater-harvesting and emergency storage systems at schools, clinics, halls and suitable public buildings. Water resilience must be designed before a crisis.
- [90] **Sixth**, we will test water quality regularly and publish the results in language communities can understand. The people of Hammanskraal and every other community have a right to know whether their water is safe.
- [91] **Seventh**, we will rehabilitate wastewater plants, repair sewer networks, stop untreated sewage from entering streets and rivers, eradicate bucket toilets and reuse treated effluent where appropriate.
- [92] **Eighth**, we will support irrigation and water access for food production because water security and food security belong together.
- [93] We reject government by tanker. We reject government by apology. We want permanent water systems, maintained by capable workers and monitored by the people.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 3 SERVICE DELIVERY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

[94] Our third focus is reliable services and safe communities.

[95] **First**, every MAYIBUYE municipality will establish a 24-hour Service Delivery Command Centre. Residents will report water leaks, sewer spills, potholes, electricity faults, illegal dumping and broken streetlights through one accountable system. Every case will be tracked publicly.

[96] **Second**, we will set ward-level service targets and publish monthly results. Rabasotho must know its water repair time. Vusimuzi must know its sanitation plan. Soweto must know its streetlight programme. KwaMashu must know its refuse schedule. No community must disappear inside a city-wide average.

[97] **Third**, we will secure electricity and energy. We will maintain transformers and substations, reduce losses, repair distribution networks, improve street lighting and develop lawful municipal renewable energy, rooftop solar, storage and microgrids for critical facilities.

- [98] **Fourth**, we will build permanent roads and stormwater teams. From the gravel roads of villages in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape to potholes in Tembisa, Mahikeng, Mangaung and eThekweni, road maintenance must become continuous work, not an election-time event.
- [99] **Fifth**, we will guarantee regular refuse collection, fight illegal dumping and turn waste into jobs. Waste pickers will be integrated into recycling systems. Buy-back centres, cooperatives, composting and material-recovery facilities will create value from what is currently abandoned.
- [100] **Sixth**, we will accelerate serviced land, housing and informal-settlement upgrading. We will provide practical interim water, sanitation, electricity, roads and refuse services while permanent development proceeds. Enkanini, Marikana, Winnie Mandela, Quarry Road, Plastic View and thousands of other settlements must not be trapped in permanent temporariness.
- [101] **Seventh**, we will strengthen community safety through professional municipal policing, functioning streetlights, CCTV in crime hotspots, by-law enforcement, community partnerships and protection of public infrastructure. We will act

against drugs, extortion, building hijacking and cable theft within lawful municipal powers.

[102] **Eighth**, we will build healthy communities through mobile screening, environmental health, food-safety inspections, hygiene campaigns and partnerships that bring primary healthcare closer to villages and townships.

[103] **Ninth**, we will protect indigent households. Ward-based support desks will help eligible families access free basic services. Historical debt for indigent and child-headed households will be cancelled under lawful municipal processes.

[104] **Tenth**, we will work with the taxi industry as a development partner. Taxi ranks will become modern transport hubs with water, clean toilets, shelter, lighting, CCTV, Wi-Fi, association offices and trading spaces. We will repair taxi routes, establish support desks, create peace forums chaired by mayors, expand fair transport opportunities and modernise without destroying livelihoods.

[105] Service delivery is not a gift from a politician. It is the purpose of local government.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 4 LAND

[106] Our fourth focus is land for educational, industrial, cultural, religious, residential, recreational and agricultural use.

[107] **First**, every MAYIBUYE municipality will audit, map and publish a register of available municipal land. Hidden land creates corruption. Public land must be visible to the public.

[108] **Second**, we will release and service land for education. Communities need ECD centres, schools, libraries, TVET satellites, training centres and student accommodation. A child in Ivory Park, Lusikisiki or Bushbuckridge must not travel unreasonable distances because land for learning was never planned.

[109] **Third**, we will release land for industrial use. Ekurhuleni, Emalahleni, Rustenburg, Richards Bay and other productive corridors need industrial parks, manufacturing sites, artisan hubs and logistics facilities that employ local people.

[110] **Fourth**, we will release land for cultural and religious use through fair and transparent processes. Churches, mosques, temples, synagogues and African indigenous faith institutions must be able to

apply for suitable land and municipal facilities without political favouritism. Cultural precincts must preserve local history and creative life.

[111] Fifth, we will release well-located residential land and service it with water, sanitation, electricity, roads, stormwater and waste services. We will support integrated housing, self-build partnerships and transparent allocation.

[112] Sixth, we will release land for recreation. Every township and village needs fields, courts, parks, playgrounds, community halls, libraries and safe public spaces.

[113] Seventh, we will release productive agricultural land and bring neglected land back into use with water, seed, inputs, skills, storage, market access and agro-processing support.

[114] Eighth, we will protect public land from land grabs for private enrichment, speculation, corruption and elite capture. Every allocation, lease or transfer must be transparent and lawful.

[115] Land must become a platform for dignity and production. It must house people, feed people, teach people, employ people, unite people and develop communities.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 5 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[116] Our fifth focus is local economic development that creates jobs.

[117] **First**, every ward will have a Local Economic Development Plan identifying local skills, resources, enterprises, demand, markets and employment opportunities. A ward plan must be more than a list of service complaints. It must be an economic programme.

[118] **Second**, municipalities will establish professional development agencies or specialised development units where feasible. These institutions will build township precincts, industrial parks, fresh-produce markets, tourism routes, property developments, agro-processing facilities and investment packages. Local economic development must stop being an office that only organises workshops.

[119] **Third**, we will create dignified trading spaces, markets, affordable premises and infrastructure for informal traders, cooperatives and small businesses. Traders in Tembisa, Bara, Warwick Junction, Polokwane, Mthatha and Mbombela must have water, sanitation, storage, safety and fair rules.

- [120] **Fourth**, we will redirect municipal procurement toward local producers wherever the law permits. Municipal money spent on food, uniforms, furniture, maintenance, building materials and services must circulate in the local economy.
- [121] **Fifth**, we will implement the principle of One Village, One Product and One Municipality, a Productive Economy. Giyani can process agricultural produce. Butterworth can revive manufacturing. Taung can expand agriculture. Port St Johns can build tourism and fisheries. The Karoo can develop renewable energy and agro-processing. Each place must identify what it can produce competitively.
- [122] **Sixth**, we will help small businesses access finance information, shared equipment, supplier development, digital payment systems, permits and municipal opportunities. A young mechanic or seamstress must not fail because the state offered a motivational speech instead of productive assets.
- [123] **Seventh**, we will build local economic hubs connecting entrepreneurs to training, markets and investment. Townships, villages and rural communities will produce, buy, save, trade and invest together.

[124] **Eighth**, we will defend local industry through buy-local campaigns and clear local-content targets. South Africa cannot consume its way to freedom. We must produce our way to freedom.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 6 RESPONSIVE AND CORRUPTION-FREE GOVERNMENT

[125] Our sixth focus is responsive, professional and corruption-free municipal government.

[126] **First**, MAYIBUYE will take a zero-tolerance approach to corruption. Bribery, kickbacks, tender manipulation, selling jobs, selling houses, extortion and nepotism will be confronted without fear or favour.

[127] **Second**, we will conduct lifestyle audits of public representatives and senior officials. Those who cannot explain wealth accumulated through public office must face investigation and consequence.

[128] **Third**, we will end unnecessary tender dependence in critical services by rebuilding lawful municipal capacity. We will insource where direct public delivery is more efficient, sustainable and lawful, while specialised procurement will remain fair, transparent, competitive and accountable.

- [129] **Fourth**, all appointments will be based on merit, competence and lawful processes. Municipal administrations will not be employment agencies for factions. Engineers must be engineers. Financial officers must understand finance. Managers must manage.
- [130] **Fifth**, we will publish budgets, procurement information, project milestones, expenditure and service-performance dashboards in accessible formats. Residents must be able to see what was promised, what was spent, who was appointed and what was delivered.
- [131] **Sixth**, we will protect whistle-blowers, strengthen consequence management and recover money lost through corruption, irregular expenditure and non-payment.
- [132] **Seventh**, we will link budgets directly to measurable service outcomes, infrastructure-maintenance plans and ward priorities. Every rand must have a purpose, a timetable and an accountable official.
- [133] **Eighth**, we will improve billing accuracy, collect lawful revenue fairly, reduce water and electricity losses, recover debt owed by government and large

users, reduce unnecessary consultants and protect qualifying indigent households.

[134] **Ninth**, we will apply for, spend and account for every available infrastructure grant. Never again must funding be withheld while communities wait for projects.

[135] Every rand of public money belongs to the people. Every municipal building belongs to the people. Every vehicle, machine, pipe, transformer and piece of land belongs to the people. Public office is not a licence to eat. It is a duty to serve.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 7 PEOPLE CENTRED MUNICIPALITIES

[136] Our seventh focus is people-centred government.

[137] **First**, planning will take place village by village, section by section, zone by zone, voting district by voting district and settlement by settlement. Every community will have a visible development plan and a five-year programme.

[138] **Second**, traditional and royal leadership will be integrated meaningfully into municipal planning, land administration, infrastructure, agriculture, cultural heritage and community consultation. In Vhembe, Sekhukhune, Zululand, OR Tambo,

Bojanala and every traditional community, participation must be structured, continuous and respectful.

[139] Third, religious and faith-based institutions will be recognised as development partners. Municipalities will make suitable land and municipal infrastructure available for religious and community activities through fair processes, establish support desks and consult faith communities through inclusive forums.

[140] Fourth, youth and students will receive practical municipal support. Free Wi-Fi zones, safe study spaces, computers, charging points, bursary guidance, paid experience, youth enterprise support and quarterly youth forums will reach underserved communities.

[141] Fifth, sport, arts and recreation will receive funded, regular support. MAYIBUYE municipalities will sponsor local tournaments and leagues through annual calendars; repair grounds, courts, pools and halls; support coaches and artists; and create inclusive programmes for women, people with disabilities and older residents.

[142] Sixth, councillors will hold regular ward accountability meetings, publish contact details,

operate active ward offices and track every legitimate complaint. No councillor will disappear after elections.

[143] **Seventh**, ward committees will be representative and residents will participate in budgets, project monitoring and priority-setting. The people must govern between elections.

[144] **Eighth**, we will build digital municipalities that bring services closer through online systems, mobile units and community access points while ensuring that residents without smartphones are never excluded.

[145] **Ninth**, municipalities will protect rivers, wetlands and public spaces and prepare communities for floods, fires, storms and droughts.

[146] **Tenth**, people with disabilities, the elderly, women, youth and marginalised communities will be deliberately included in planning, facilities, transport, communication and economic opportunity.

[147] People-centred government means that government must listen before it decides, explain before it implements and report after it acts.

THE MAYIBUYE DIFFERENCE

[148] Fellow South Africans, many parties will present lists of promises. The MAYIBUYE manifesto goes further. It changes the very character of a municipality.

[149] **The MAYIBUYE difference begins with one principle: a municipality is responsible for the dignity, functionality and development of the entire geographic space within its boundaries.**

[150] We respect the constitutional division of powers, but we reject the use of those divisions as an excuse for neglect. When a clinic is broken, a school is collapsing, a road is impassable, a mine has failed its community or a village has no water, residents do not experience separate spheres of government. They experience one failure of government.

[151] **No MAYIBUYE municipality will say: THAT BROKEN FACILITY IS NOT OUR PROBLEM.**

[152] **The first distinctive mechanism is** the cancellation of historical municipal debt for indigent and child-headed households through lawful municipal processes, together with the maximum

lawful rebates and protections for pensioners and low-income households.

[153] The second is whole-municipality stewardship. We will keep a register of every school, clinic, hospital, police station, court, Home Affairs office and public facility. Where another sphere is responsible, we will report, coordinate, demand action and pursue lawful agreements that allow practical intervention.

[154] The third is One Road Network. We will map and monitor municipal, provincial and national roads passing through our municipalities. Bureaucratic classification will not become an excuse for a dangerous road.

[155] The fourth is settlement-level planning and budgeting. Every village, township, informal settlement and neighbourhood will identify its water, roads, sanitation, electricity, housing, transport, economic, agricultural, educational, health, sports and recreational priorities.

[156] The fifth is meaningful inclusion of traditional and royal leadership. Development affecting traditional communities will not be designed in isolation from recognised leadership and the people.

[157] The sixth is constitutional inclusion of religious and faith-based institutions. They will participate in

development, social care, disaster response, moral regeneration and public consultation without favouritism or interference in belief.

[158] The seventh is the principle that mineral wealth must produce visible development in mining communities. Mines must pay lawful rates and service charges, align Social and Labour Plans with local priorities, support local suppliers and leave infrastructure, skills and enterprises behind.

[159] The eighth is permanent municipal road-construction and maintenance capacity. Engineers, technicians, graders, rollers, excavators, trucks and road teams must exist inside the municipality.

[160] The ninth is municipal monitoring of every mining Social and Labour Plan. Commitments, budgets, dates and progress will be public. No Social and Labour Plan will remain hidden in a filing cabinet.

[161] The tenth is a professional municipal development agency or equivalent specialised unit that actively builds industrial parks, township precincts, fresh-produce markets, tourism initiatives, agro-processing and investment projects.

[162] The eleventh is water resilience. We will combine maintained bulk systems with leak reduction, reservoirs, scientifically managed groundwater,

rainwater harvesting, storage and reuse where appropriate.

[163] The twelfth is municipal agricultural production and food security. Municipalities will connect land, water, farmers, markets, storage, cold chains, processing and institutional buyers.

[164] The thirteenth is community and primary healthcare that reaches every village. Through lawful cooperation, mobile clinics, outreach, medicine points, screening and municipal support for facilities will bring care closer.

[165] The fourteenth is full municipal service delivery in areas under traditional authorities. Communal land must never mean second-class citizenship.

[166] The fifteenth is Traditional Authority Development Compacts linking land, infrastructure, investment, servitudes, settlement planning and budgets in one practical annual programme.

[167] The sixteenth is local labour-absorptive capacity. Municipalities will train and employ the people needed to deliver services directly.

[168] The seventeenth is the 24-hour Service Delivery Command Centre with public response times and transparent fault tracking.

- [169] The eighteenth is municipal energy security through maintenance, loss reduction, renewable generation, storage, microgrids and resilient power for critical services.
- [170] The nineteenth is turning waste into jobs, enterprises and resources through recycling, buy-back centres, composting, cooperatives and material recovery.
- [171] The twentieth is township and rural industrialisation. Municipal land and infrastructure will support production of food, clothing, furniture, building materials, engineering goods, recycled products and machinery components.
- [172] These mechanisms produce fourteen defining differences.
- [173] **One:** MAYIBUYE plans village by village and settlement by settlement.
- [174] **Two:** MAYIBUYE builds its own institutional and technical capacity.
- [175] **Three:** MAYIBUYE protects residents from unnecessary financial burdens.
- [176] **Four:** MAYIBUYE takes responsibility for the entire geographic space.

- [177] **Five:** MAYIBUYE meaningfully includes traditional and royal leadership.
- [178] **Six:** MAYIBUYE institutionalises inclusive participation by religious and faith institutions.
- [179] **Seven:** MAYIBUYE fights for mineral wealth to develop mining communities.
- [180] **Eight:** MAYIBUYE builds productive local economies.
- [181] **Nine:** MAYIBUYE localises procurement.
- [182] **Ten:** MAYIBUYE secures water and energy.
- [183] **Eleven:** MAYIBUYE supports agriculture and industrialisation.
- [184] **Twelve:** MAYIBUYE maintains infrastructure before it collapses.
- [185] **Thirteen:** MAYIBUYE takes services directly to communities.
- [186] **Fourteen:** MAYIBUYE continuously accounts to the people.
- [187] That is the MAYIBUYE difference. We do not promise to manage decline more politely. We promise to build a capable, developmental, productive and accountable local state.

THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF A MAYIBUYE COUNCILLOR

[188] The success of this manifesto will depend on the character of the people who carry it into council.

[189] A MAYIBUYE councillor is not a celebrity. A councillor is a servant.

[190] A MAYIBUYE councillor is not elected to become important. A councillor is elected to make the community important.

[191] These are the twenty-one features that define a MAYIBUYE councillor.

[192] 1. A MAYIBUYE councillor is honest and tells residents the truth about what the municipality can do, what has been done and what still requires work.

[193] 2. A MAYIBUYE councillor is respectful and treats every resident with dignity, including those who disagree with us and those who did not vote for us.

[194] 3. A MAYIBUYE councillor is hardworking and addresses community problems with discipline, urgency and visible effort.

- [195] **4.** A MAYIBUYE councillor is caring and gives serious attention to the poor, the elderly, people with disabilities, women, children and vulnerable households.
- [196] **5.** A MAYIBUYE councillor is loving toward the community and serves with warmth, patience and compassion.
- [197] **6.** A MAYIBUYE councillor is knowledgeable about municipal powers, budgets, by-laws, service processes and the practical needs of the ward.
- [198] **7.** A MAYIBUYE councillor is responsive and gives residents feedback within reasonable timeframes instead of allowing complaints to disappear.
- [199] **8.** A MAYIBUYE councillor is accountable and reports regularly on council decisions, budgets, projects, delays and commitments made to the people.
- [200] **9.** A MAYIBUYE councillor is genuine and never pretends to serve while pursuing personal enrichment, status or factional interests.
- [201] **10.** A MAYIBUYE councillor is present and visible in villages, townships, informal settlements, suburbs, farms and inner-city communities.
- [202] **11.** A MAYIBUYE councillor listens before speaking and consults the community before taking positions that affect people's lives.

- [203] **12.** A MAYIBUYE councillor explains municipal processes in clear language so that residents understand their rights, responsibilities and remedies.
- [204] **13.** A MAYIBUYE councillor keeps proper records of complaints, commitments and follow-up actions so that no resident is forgotten.
- [205] **14.** A MAYIBUYE councillor protects public resources and treats municipal money, land, vehicles, buildings and equipment as property of the people.
- [206] **15.** A MAYIBUYE councillor rejects corruption, nepotism, bribery, extortion, tender manipulation and every abuse of public office.
- [207] **16.** A MAYIBUYE councillor serves all residents fairly and never makes access to services depend on political support, personal loyalty or private payment.
- [208] **17.** A MAYIBUYE councillor works lawfully and respectfully with traditional leaders, religious institutions, civil society, youth structures, businesses and community formations.
- [209] **18.** A MAYIBUYE councillor is disciplined, punctual and prepared for council meetings, committee work, community meetings and oversight visits.

- [210] **19.** A MAYIBUYE councillor follows up with municipal officials and other spheres of government until a lawful service problem receives practical attention.
- [211] **20.** A MAYIBUYE councillor communicates regularly through public meetings, ward offices, written notices, digital platforms and direct engagement.
- [212] **21.** A MAYIBUYE councillor leads by example and lives in a manner that strengthens confidence in MAYIBUYE and in democratic local government.
- [213] We say to every MAYIBUYE candidate: if you want a title, do not become a councillor. If you want a salary without service, do not become a councillor. If you want tenders for your friends, do not become a councillor. If you plan to disappear after election day, do not become a councillor.
- [214] But if you are ready to listen, to learn, to work, to report, to defend the poor, to confront corruption and to serve every resident, then stand with MAYIBUYE.

[215] Our principle is: NO REPRESENTATION WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY.

WE ARE GOING TO WIN

[216] Volunteers and ground forces of Afrika Mayibuye Movement, this manifesto will not walk into communities by itself. It needs your feet. It needs your voices. It needs your courage. It needs your discipline.

[217] **We are going to win because our message comes from the lived experience of the people.**

[218] **We are going to win because a mother carrying a bucket understands water.**

[219] **We are going to win because an unemployed graduate understands jobs.**

[220] **We are going to win because a taxi driver understands roads and transport.**

[221] **We are going to win because an informal trader understands the need for a local economy.**

[222] **We are going to win because a farmer understands land, water and markets.**

[223] **We are going to win because a student understands Wi-Fi, study spaces and work experience.**

[224] We are going to win because a pensioner understands the injustice of an incorrect municipal bill.

[225] We are going to win because every community understands the difference between a councillor who reports and a councillor who disappears.

[226] But victory will not fall from the sky. Victory is organised.

[227] Every province must organise.

[228] Every region must organise.

[229] Every ward must organise.

[230] Every voting district must organise.

[231] Every street, village, section, zone, hostel, farm, informal settlement and block must organise.

[232] Our volunteers must know the manifesto. Do not carry slogans without understanding the programme. Be able to explain the seven strategic focus areas. Be able to explain what we will do about water, jobs, land, roads, housing, corruption, taxis, youth, faith institutions, sport and councillor accountability.

- [233] Our volunteers must listen. Do not enter a community only to speak. Ask the people what is broken, what is missing, what must be protected and what opportunity can be built. Record it. Turn it into a ward manifesto. Return to the people with a plan.
- [234] Our volunteers must be disciplined. We reject insults, intimidation, violence, factionalism, sexism, tribalism, regionalism, xenophobia and political arrogance. We will defeat opponents through superior organisation, superior ideas, superior candidates and superior service.
- [235] Our volunteers must respect every household. Knock on the door with humility. Greet the elderly. Listen to women. Engage young people. Make campaign material accessible to people with disabilities. Speak in the languages of the community. Never behave as though support is owed to us.
- [236] Our volunteers must protect the name and image of MAYIBUYE. Stay away from alcohol while carrying organisational responsibilities. Do not misuse campaign resources. Do not sell promises. Do not create factions. Do not turn the organisation into a vehicle for personal ambition.

- [237] Our candidates must remain among the people. A candidate who is inaccessible during the campaign will be inaccessible after the election. A candidate who cannot account for campaign resources cannot be trusted with a municipal budget. A candidate who divides volunteers cannot unite a community.
- [238] Our structures must prepare for every voting station. Recruit agents. Train them. Know the voters' roll. Know the boundaries. Assist citizens to understand the process. Protect every lawful vote. Report every irregularity through disciplined legal and organisational channels.
- [239] Our campaign must continue after the posters are printed and after the rallies have ended. The real campaign is the conversation at the gate, the meeting in the church hall, the discussion at the taxi rank, the visit to the market, the gathering under a tree and the report-back in the community.
- [240] We do not seek seats merely to occupy council benches. We seek a mandate to transform municipalities.
- [241] We do not want councillors who celebrate election and forget the voter. We want councillors who report from the first month to the last.

[242] We do not want municipalities that distribute poverty. We want municipalities that build prosperity.

[243] We do not want a government that arrives only when there is a camera. We want a government that arrives when there is a leak, a fire, a blocked sewer, a broken light, a hungry family and an unemployed young person.

[244] Today, from Tembisa, we send a message to every municipality in South Africa.

[245] **To Johannesburg: MAYIBUYE is coming.**

[246] **To Tshwane: MAYIBUYE is coming.**

[247] **To Ekurhuleni: MAYIBUYE is coming.**

[248] **To eThekweni, Cape Town, Mangaung, Nelson Mandela Bay, Buffalo City and Msunduzi: MAYIBUYE is coming.**

[249] **To Polokwane, Mbombela, Rustenburg, Mahikeng, Kimberley and Bloemfontein: MAYIBUYE is coming.**

[250] **To the villages of Vhembe, Mopani, Sekhukhune, OR Tambo, Alfred Nzo, Harry Gwala, uMkhanyakude and Bojanala: MAYIBUYE is coming.**

[251] To the mining communities of Rustenburg, Marikana, Steelpoort, Burgersfort, Emalahleni and Lephalale: MAYIBUYE is coming.

[252] To the farms, small towns, coastal communities and forgotten settlements: MAYIBUYE is coming.

[253] And to the people of Tembisa, we say: Ekurhuleni can be won. Ekurhuleni must be won. Ekurhuleni will be won by disciplined organisation, honest leadership and a programme that speaks to the people.

OUR COVENANT WITH THE PEOPLE

[254] We will not govern from air-conditioned offices while people fetch water from distant taps.

[255] We will not make excuses when services collapse.

[256] We will not enrich ourselves while our people suffer.

[257] We will not hide budgets from the people.

[258] We will not allow public land to become private loot.

[259] We will not allow councillors to disappear.

[260] We will not abandon villages because they fall under traditional leadership.

[261] We will not abandon informal settlements because government calls them temporary.

[262] We will not abandon townships while wealth moves through their roads and labour leaves their homes every morning.

[263] We will not allow mines, factories and large businesses to prosper while surrounding communities remain without roads, water, skills and opportunities.

[264] **We will build developmental municipalities.**

[265] **We will build productive municipalities.**

[266] **We will build accountable municipalities.**

[267] **We will build capable municipalities.**

[268] **Every ward must experience development.**

[269] **Every community must receive services.**

[270] **Every municipality must create economic opportunities.**

[271] **Every councillor must be accountable.**

[272] **Every available public resource must serve the people.**

[273] **People of Tembisa, are you ready?**

[274] **People of Ekurhuleni, are you ready?**

[275] **Ground forces of MAYIBUYE, are you ready?**

[276] **Then let us go to every street.**

[277] **Let us go to every ward.**

[278] **Let us go to every voting district.**

[279] **Let us carry the message of jobs.**

[280] **Let us carry the message of water.**

[281] **Let us carry the message of service delivery.**

[282] **Let us organise with discipline.**

[283] Let us persuade with humility.

[284] Let us defend the people with courage.

[285] Let us win and govern with integrity.

[286] **JOBS, WATER AND SERVICE DELIVERY
NOW!**

[287] **TOTAL FREEDOM AND
EMANCIPATION NOW!**

[288] **MAYIBUYE iAFRIKA!**

[289] I thank you.

AFRIKA MAYIBUYE MOVEMENT
