

A PLAN OF ACTION TO FIX NELSON MANDELA BAY UNDER A DA MAJORITY GOVERNMENT

Only a DA majority government can fix Nelson Mandela Bay.

Healthy Metro

The Democratic Alliance understands that every resident has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing. This right is enshrined in our Constitution and one which a Democratic Alliance majority government in NMB will defend at all cost.

To protect the environment and ensure that our communities are clean and safe, a Democratic Alliance majority government in Nelson Mandela Bay will:

1. Make the results of monthly water samples available to the public via the municipal dashboard;
2. Complete the eradication of the 6000 bucket toilets that remain in use in Nelson Mandela Bay;
3. Ensure a 24-hour turnaround time insofar a sewerage spill or blockage is concerned;
4. Re-establish the Illegal Dumping Task Team and ensure that this team is well resourced to stop the scourge of illegal dumping destroying our environment.
5. Update bylaws and increase fines to act as a deterrent insofar as illegal dumping is concerned;
6. Ensure that each household in the metro, whether informal or formal, receives a solid waste removal service at least once a week;
7. Ensure that there are sufficient and safe transfer sites available to all communities to assist the fight against illegal dumping;
8. Upgrade and ensure increased safety at our landfill sites at Arlington and Koedoeskloof;
9. Establish a recycling program by putting out a “no-cost” tender to the public to facilitate recycling;
10. Establish, equip and beautify parks for recreational facilities in all communities.

Safe Metro

The Democratic Alliance values the importance of community safety. Every resident in Nelson Mandela Bay deserves the right to live in a community where they feel safe and where they are not intimidated by criminal elements.

To improve the safety of our residents, a DA majority government in Nelson Mandela Bay will:

1. Establish additional Metro Police precincts in NMB and provide Metro Police Officers with adequate training so that they become far more efficient in preventing petty crimes and enforcing municipal bylaws;
2. Establish a Metro Police precinct in the CBD so that we can tackle lawlessness and crime in our CBD, as well as the broader Central Gqeberha;
3. Establish a Metro Police precinct in our beachfront node to ensure that crime is significantly reduced and that residents and tourists can enjoy our beautiful beachfront without the fear of becoming a victim of crime;
4. Ensure that the Metro Police support our local Neighbourhood Watches and that they provide support during patrols;

5. Capacitate and train members of our Neighbourhood Watches to ensure optimal efficiency of these units;
6. Ensure that the Metro Police not only supports SAPS but that they also act as a critical link between our communities and SAPS;
7. Role out "Shot Spotter" technology to all areas that are affected by gangsterism. This early warning system has already proven very effective in the community of Helenvale;
8. Upgrade fire stations where necessary and ensure that these units are well equipped and resourced;
9. Ensure daily roadblocks across the metro to address the lawlessness on our roads;
10. Establish and capacitate an anti-vandalism unit to protect municipal and community assets;
11. Roll out a comprehensive CCTV-camera system across the metro to assist SAPS and Neighbourhood Watches to prevent and fight crime.

Efficient Metro

To take Nelson Mandela Bay forward again, we have to get the basics right. Basic service delivery in Nelson Mandela Bay is not yet up to standard. Ensuring that our metro becomes more efficient in delivering services is the top priority for a DA majority government.

To ensure that we fix Nelson Mandela Bay and improve our service delivery, a Democratic Alliance government will:

1. Headhunt professional administrators to fix our broken administration. This includes a competent City Manager, Executive Directors, Engineers and Town Planners;
2. Establish ten Sub-councils so that governance can be taken closer to the people. Sub-Councils will have the authority to make decisions on a broad range of municipal matters and will also play a planning role with regards to future development in the respective geographical areas;
3. Invest in our water infrastructure as well as the human resources in our water services department so that the metro achieve a 48 hour turnaround time for fixing leaks;
4. Implement a turnaround strategy to fix our Electricity Department and to make it financially viable again. The NMB Electricity Department runs at a considerable loss and is no longer an income generator for the metro. The main reasons for same are:
 - I) An estimated 20000 formal households have tampered with their electricity metres or have direct supply from the metro. An audit must be done to inspect and verify each electricity metre in Nelson Mandela Bay, and a zero-tolerance stance should be taken against those defrauding the institution;
 - II) There are thousands of illegal electricity connections by indigent households in informal settlements. These informal and unsafe connections need to be formalised by the Municipality. National Government makes grant funding available through its equitable share specifically for this purpose so that indigent families can receive a free, basic allocation of electricity paid for by the government.
 - III) A lack of investment into the electricity infrastructure has, over the years, eroded the efficiency of our grid. Ageing infrastructure needs to be replaced so that there are fewer technical losses by the department;
4. Identify ways to acquire at least 50% of all electricity from alternative sources by 2026 so that Nelson Mandela Bay can become less reliant on ESKOM;
5. The Roads and Stormwater Directorate will be capacitated and resourced so that it can have a 72 hour turnaround time to fix potholes;

6. The Electricity and Energy Directorate will be capacitated and resourced so that it can have a seven day turnaround time to fix streetlights;
7. Ensure an optimal 7-day turnaround time for building plan approval;
8. Capacitate its town planning department so that there is a 90-day turnaround time for town planning amendments from date of submission until the date of approval by Council;
9. Table a five-year budget (MTREF) within the first budget year cycle which will identify and fund (as far as possible) all future infrastructure projects by the metro over its term of office. Included in this budget must be credible budget assumptions as to proposed tariff increases over the five years;
10. Ensure that all Bid Adjudication Committees (BAC) are open to the public and is held at Council Chambers, City Hall. Minutes of BAC meetings will be made available to the public within seven days of a meeting;
11. Internal Audit will be capacitated so that investigations into impropriety can be completed more speedily.

Resilient Metro

Nelson Mandela Bay must develop the ability to respond to the challenges of an ever-changing world and environment. A resilient Nelson Mandela Bay will put plans in place to address the effects of climate change, become more energy-efficient and identify alternative revenue resources as consumer behaviour continues to change.

To ensure that Nelson Mandela Bay adapts to changing times to become more resilient, a Democratic Alliance majority government will:

1. Prioritise water security by:
 - increase spending on the maintenance of our existing water infrastructure to reduce water losses;
 - Draft a new NMB Water Masterplan to provide solutions to reduce demand and augment supply;
 - Identify alternative water resources such as sustainable groundwater extraction and affordable desalination plants;
 - Ensure that all new building plans for residential and commercial developments be approved subject to a specified minimum water storage facility being built;
 - Partner with the Department of Water Affairs to further develop capacity via the Nooitgedacht low-level scheme;
 - Lobby National Government to commit to long term developments of bulk water infrastructure, which is a national competency;
 - Institute a program to facilitate the eradication of alien vegetation in the catchment areas of Nelson Mandela Bay storage dams;
2. Investigate the viability of becoming a fibre internet supplier. Nelson Mandela Bay needs additional revenue streams, and data can become a fifth utility for the administration;
3. Ensure that free WIFI is available at all municipal libraries, customer care centres and tourism nodes such as the Beachfront;
4. Ensure that all municipal buildings and streetlights are energy efficient where possible;
5. Ensure that residents that choose to go off-grid can feed excess electricity efficiently into the grid and be paid for same;
6. Identify alternative energy resources and producers, to ensure that at least 50% of all electricity that is purchased and/or acquired by Nelson Mandela Bay comes from sources other than ESKOM by 2026;

7. Further develop the Nelson Mandela Bay Service Delivery App so that the majority of municipal queries, complaints and purchases can be made electronically;
8. Fund and develop a Master Operating System for Nelson Mandela Bay so that all internal systems are integrated and compliant with both private and public IT systems and programmes.

Opportunity Metro

Nelson Mandela Bay is the economic powerhouse of the Eastern Cape. Unfortunately, our GDP per capita remains the lowest of all the metropolitan municipalities in South Africa. Through a stable municipal administration, Nelson Mandela Bay can offer more opportunities to its people so that we can grow the economy and start to address the scourge of unemployment our residents face daily.

To ensure that we grow the economy of Nelson Mandela Bay, a Democratic Alliance majority government will:

1. Create policy certainty by reviewing all municipal bylaws and municipal policies to ensure that the municipal administration is responsive to the changing needs of business;
2. Table and adopt a long-term development model for the metro, which will seek to form the basis of all future planning documents such as Integrated Development Plans;
3. Remove or address all red tape and bureaucracy that act as barriers to investment in the metro;
4. Ensure that all new private or public sector developments that are valued in excess of R50 million be handled/facilitated by a newly formed Investment Team which will consist of officials directly reporting to the offices of the Executive Mayor and City Manager;
5. Identify and structure costed incentive packages to attract new investment by both the private and public sector into Nelson Mandela Bay
6. Ensure that housing delivery in Nelson Mandela Bay gets back on track. This will be done by amongst others:
 - i) Ensuring that the Housing Competency to construct RDP-housing is returned to Nelson Mandela Bay;
 - ii) Update the Housing Beneficiary list and ensure that it's available electronically to the public;
 - iii) Facilitate the building of more Social Housing Developments;
 - iv) Making serviced land available to low-cost housing developments in a public private partnership to endeavour to address the growing "gap" housing market;
 - v) Making serviced erven available to individuals on the Housing Beneficiary list so that those who are able to construct their own top structures are allowed to do so;
 - vi) Facilitate new housing developments from decaying high rise buildings in the CBD.
7. Ensure that all housing developments coincide with the development of community facilities, recreational facilities and supporting infrastructure such as roads and streetlights;
8. Further Develop the IPTS-system and ensure that it addresses the growing transport needs of our communities and that unpopular/unsustainable routes are discontinued;
9. Further rollout the EPWP-program but ensure that a database of all applicants be available electronically on the municipal website;
10. Ensure that there is a progressive Municipal Internship Program in place so that as many graduates as possible may have the opportunity to partake in internship programmes within the administration