



Gauteng's Rescue Plan

Provincial Election
Manifesto 2024

Table of Contents

Premier Candidate's foreword	3
Our offers to the residents of Gauteng	6
Introduction	5
The DA will bring an end to the extensive electricity outages that disrupt your lives	7
The DA will rescue you from water outages, potholed roads, and deteriorating infrastructure	9
The DA will punish crime and bring freedom from fear of violence	11
The DA will enable an economy that creates jobs and opportunities for your business	14
The DA will rescue you from being robbed by corruption, introduce an accountable, accessible, and transparent government	16
The DA will provide quality and relevant education that will shape and prepare your children for a successful future	18
The DA will rescue you from failing healthcare	20
Conclusion	22

Premier Candidate's foreword

Gauteng is on the brink of imminent change. We are preparing for an election the likes of which South Africa has not seen in the last 30 years. Come the 29th of May 2024, Gauteng has a real chance of electing a new government.

However, delivering that change through the ballot box is up to you.

Gauteng has crumbled over the last 5 years, should we wish to turn this ship around, we must act fast. Our proposition is focused, implementable, and one that will enable us to rescue Gauteng together.

While we can commit to implementing our manifesto should we be elected, we cannot get into government on our own. You must vote to make it happen. In 1994 we all saw the immense power of the vote - in 2024 we must harness that power again.

The truth is that we are at the beginning of a new era of governance, one where a single party no longer holds all the power. Coalitions are the future of both provincial and national governments. Recent history in metropolitan municipalities across the province has taught us that if not based on sound principles and dedication to serving the residents first, coalitions will not hold and ultimately fail.

Gauteng residents have the power to ensure that we can have a stable government that delivers for all. The opportunity to make the DA the anchor tenant in governments across the National and Provincial spheres is within reach, and together, we need to make it a reality.

Our priorities in Gauteng are outlined in the following pages of this document. They are, however, not simply promises. They are the future of a prosperous Gauteng.

The DA has a proven track record of effective governance. We have shown we have what it takes to turn around municipalities and a province. Gauteng's time to be turned around has arrived, and I, alongside my team, am ready for the challenge.

While we acknowledge that it will be a huge task, there is no such thing as an insurmountable one. Our priority, above all else, is to Rescue

Gauteng, and we are the only party who can make that promise; it is one we make solemnly to the residents of Gauteng.

Gauteng is desperate for change. For ourselves, for our children, and for those who will come after us.

If you want to ensure that Gauteng is rescued, your choice is simple - Vote DA!

Solly Msimanga

DA Premier Candidate





Introduction

On the eve of a watershed election, Gauteng is on the brink of change. For the first time in 30 years, an inept government can be voted out. The very same government that has taken Gauteng from being the first choice for a new and emerging business to being an obligatory stop to a province with leadership that aims to create favourable business conditions – the DA-Led Western Cape.

The truth of the matter is that Gauteng is struggling. More than 600,000 job seekers have given up looking for employment, our unemployment rate is at a staggering 33.7%, and all this contributes to eye-watering crime statistics. The government has not created an environment where being free, or prosperous comes easily. Instead, decision-making seems to align with making life more difficult for anyone trying to make something of themselves.

The more you zoom in, the more desperate the situation becomes. The government's failure has become the people's problem. Whether the focus is on electricity, water, housing projects, education, or general infrastructure maintenance, the reality remains the same across the board – ineptitude and inaction are the order of the day. Only the DA has the solution to these problems.

Our 7 priorities when we enter government in May 2024 are simple. They offer immediate change, feasible results, and most importantly, a change to a deeply flawed status quo. Not only do we envision large-scale improvement across all spheres of government, but we can bring them to every single person in Gauteng.

The collapse of service delivery, and deeply entrenched cadres who are unfit for their roles and to blame for the aforementioned collapse will be the first to go. Realistically, by changing the people who administer the implementation of government programmes, a change will be felt in the lived realities of Gauteng.

While this manifesto is not a document that outlines plans to introduce panic buttons in every household and drones flying overhead – it is beyond anything else, achievable.

We can offer you, the residents of Gauteng the following tangible solutions:

1. An end to electricity outages and blackouts with our Energy Security Plan
2. A comprehensive Infrastructure Master plan that will tackle water outages and decrepit infrastructure head-on.
3. By overhauling our police force, empowering the justice system, and combatting crime effectively we will bring an end to the fear of violent crimes.
4. Our Economy Development Strategy is proven to attract business and open the economy up to growth.
5. A DA government is transparent, accessible, and most importantly – transparent. Every citizen will be able to hold us to account. Finally, your voice will be heard.
6. Successful futures are crafted early on in life, our transformative education policies, and commitment to invest in quality education ensure that children's rights are protected.
7. Our Healthcare turnaround plan makes it possible to ensure that you can have access to quality healthcare, everywhere.

A capable state is the answer to most of the problems mentioned here. We will be more than that though, we will ensure an accountable state. Without accountability, no government can function properly – that much everyone has come to know as the truth.

Our commitments are tangible, and their impact will be felt for generations to come.



OUR
KEY
PRIORITIES

Our key priorities in government:

1. End load-shedding and ensure energy security.
2. Fix infrastructure and end water-shedding.
3. Fight crime and build a safer Gauteng by halving the rate of violent crime - including murder, attempted murder, and gender-based violence.
4. Empower businesses to create jobs and grow the economy.
5. A clean government where we will abolish cadre deployment and replace it with merit-based appointments for a capable state and protect public funds.
6. Invest in quality education, where we can triple the number of learners who can read for meaning and reduce learner dropout rates.
7. Improve access to quality healthcare for all, irrespective of economic status.



The DA will bring an end to the extensive electricity outages that disrupt your life

Load-shedding has not just become an inconvenience to the people of Gauteng, it is causing an economic crisis in our province. Load-shedding increases the cost of running a business and has led to foreign and domestic direct investment in new projects drying up. If new energy sources are not brought online as a matter of urgency it will lead to major job losses in the province. The current Gauteng government is not addressing this crisis, but the DA will, as it is doing in the Western Cape.

End the endless blackouts with the DA's Energy Security Plan

To turn this situation around we need to start by reducing the impact of load-shedding by at least four stages and ultimately guarantee a consistent supply of electricity to households and businesses in Gauteng. To achieve this objective the DA government in Gauteng will implement the following actions as part of our Energy Security Plan:

- End the cycle of Eskom chaos: Generate additional power through partnerships with independent power producers and promote renewable energy sources.
- Incentivise solar panel installation for consumers through tax breaks negotiated with SARS.
- Buy back excess electricity generated by consumers and feed it back into the grid this has already been proven to be a success in DA-run Cape Town.
- Utilise smart technology to reduce tampering with electricity meters.
- Increase the budget allocation for maintaining existing electricity infrastructure across municipalities by cutting expenditure on non-essential expenditure items and reallocating funding from delayed infrastructure projects.
- Reduce the cost of electricity:
 - Achieve at least 5% lower costs through waste reduction and cost-containment measures.
 - Secure infrastructure and reduce cable theft using improved crime prevention strategies, which will also benefit communities by decreasing other crime rates.

Only the DA can rescue you, the citizens of Gauteng, from the curse of load-shedding.





**The DA will rescue
you from water
outages, potholed
roads, and
deteriorating
infrastructure**

Gauteng is experiencing an increasing occurrence of prolonged water outages due to load-shedding, pipe bursts due to a lack of maintenance, illegal connections and infrastructure vandalism and theft. Like electricity, the absence of a consistent supply of water has an economic impact on the province that grows daily. Potholed roads contribute to road accidents and deaths that impact the Gauteng economy and motorists. It is estimated that potholes alone cause damage of R50 billion a year due to vehicle repairs and injuries in South Africa. Deteriorating infrastructure endangers lives and has a major economic impact on our province. The current Gauteng government is ignoring this looming disaster. However, the DA has a plan to arrest infrastructure deterioration.

End infrastructure deterioration with the DA's Infrastructure Rescue Plan

The DA's Infrastructure Rescue Plan will reallocate budgets and promote the formation of partnerships to pool expertise and resources in a systematic programme of infrastructure restoration. The DA will address water outages, potholes, and the collapse of service delivery through an Infrastructure Rescue Plan that will:

- Establish a multi-stakeholder Integrated Infrastructure Management Unit to radically overhaul all planning, monitoring, implementation activities, and infrastructure maintenance.
- Utilise legislative and financial tools to improve municipal services by entering partnerships with municipalities to assist with maintenance backlogs.
- Balance resource allocation between creating new infrastructure and maintaining/refurbishing existing infrastructure.
- Forge partnerships with the private sector, universities, and civil society to pool resources in repairing and maintaining infrastructure.
- Allocate resources and expertise to manage the provincial government's property portfolio.
- Cost-effectively leverage technology to improve understanding and resolution of constraints that may arise in project management or delay completion.
- Set up an Open Portal for all to view the progress and details of all infrastructure-related activities to ensure efficiency and value for money.

Improved infrastructure benefits our province in many ways. It's not just about improved services; it's also an engine for job creation.

Only the DA can rescue you, the citizens of Gauteng from life-threatening service failures arising from collapsing infrastructure.





**The DA will punish
crime and bring
freedom from the
fear of violence**

Despite numerous promises from the current Gauteng government, the province has suffered a consistent increase in violent crime. The current government has failed to fight crime and put violent criminals behind bars. Gauteng currently only has 143 police stations responsible for the safety of more than 16 million people with an average of 23% to 45% vacancy rate within critical positions such as crime intelligence, detectives and visible policing. Police stations close at night and many of them are badly maintained, understaffed and under-resourced. Crime makes Gauteng an unattractive destination for investors and potential residents. The current government is weak in tackling crime, but the DA has the will to apply strong measures in the fight to make you safe.

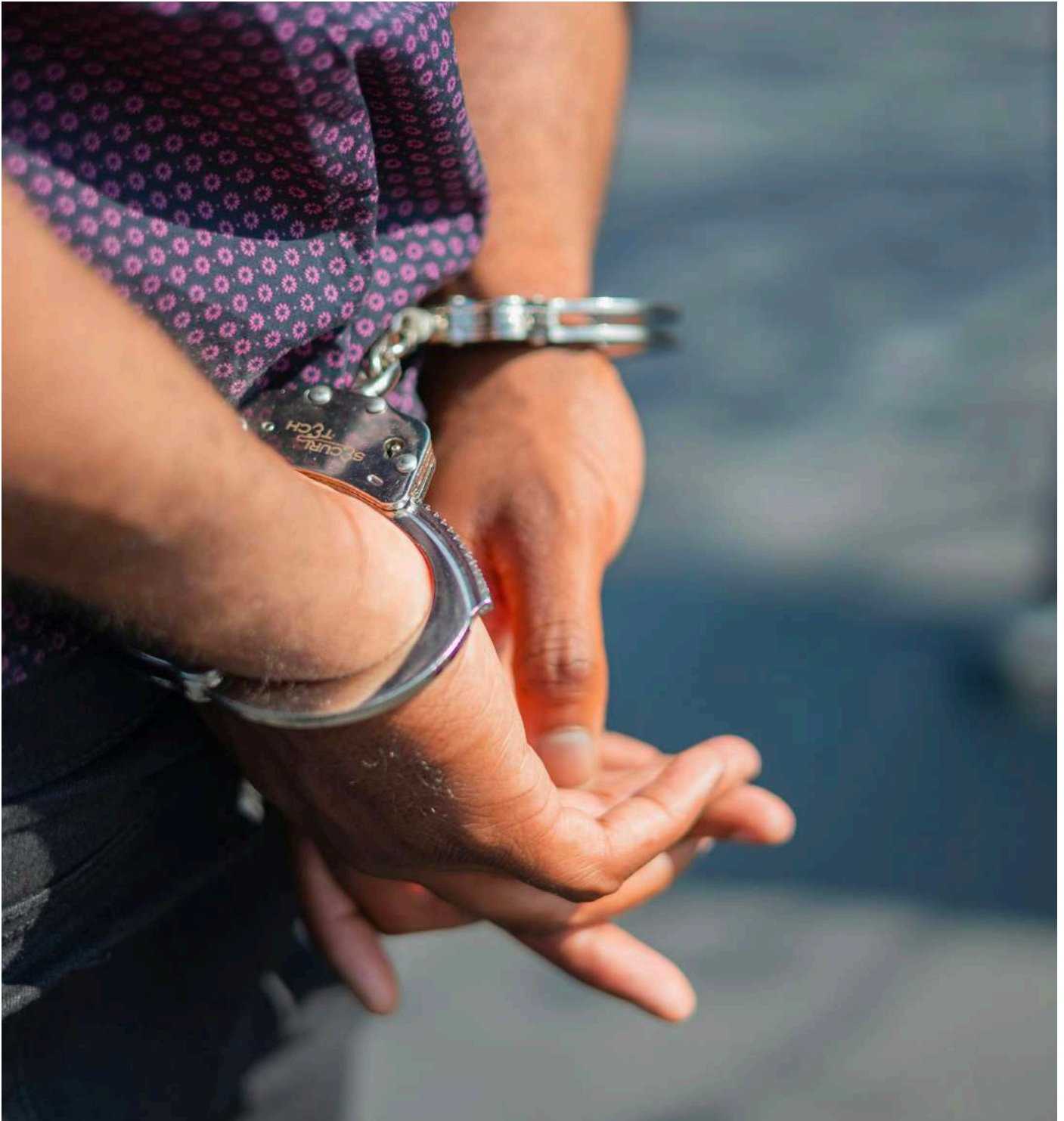
Reduce violent crime with the DA's plan to rescue you from criminals

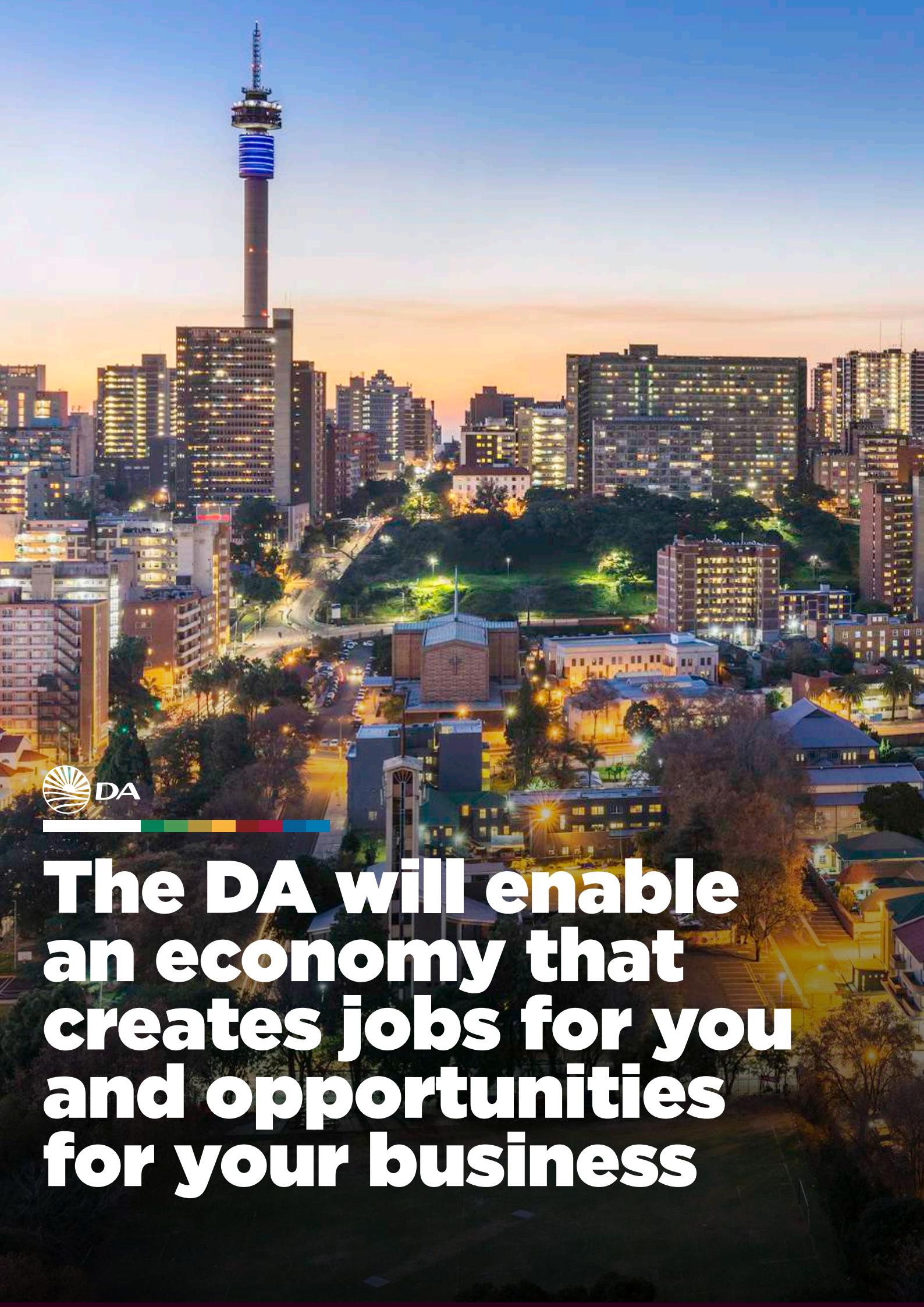
The DA's plan to reduce violent crime is based on improving policing in the province through various initiatives to improve our police force and their working conditions, effectively allocate and use police resources, introduce technology in fighting crime and form partnerships. We will rescue you from the fear of crime, provide a working police force to fight for an effective justice system and create a safer community for you through the following initiatives contained in our plan:

- Enhancing effective and efficient policing:
 - Pressure the National Government to devolve authority over the South African Police Service (SAPS) from national to provincial level, ensuring better and faster recruitment, selection, training, placement, and performance management.
 - Fill critical vacancies such as Crime Intelligence to utilise evidence-based data within the province to identify hotspots and allocate effective resources to these areas to fight crime.
 - Introduce and equip specialised units to fight specific types of crime, such as:
 - Illegal mining
 - Infrastructure destruction and building hijackings
 - Gangsterism and drugs
 - Rural safety
 - Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Forging stronger relationships:
 - Between law enforcement agencies such as the SAPS, metro police departments and specialised crime-fighting units.
 - With community policing forums and the entire private security sector.
 - Utilising partnerships to ensure success in preventing and fighting crime.
- Partnering with municipalities:
 - Implement a programme similar to the Western Cape LEAP programme to increase police presence (“boots on the ground”) and reduce crime in Gauteng.
- Working with National Government:
 - To strengthen the criminal justice system.
 - To implement court-watching briefs.
 - To ensure criminals are apprehended and jailed.
- Leveraging technology and data for safety:
 - Work smartly to make more arrests and improve the quality of arrests by improving detective skills, reducing caseloads, accelerating the speed with which forensic tests are done and forging a closer relationship with prosecutors.
 - Utilise technology like CCTV cameras, gunshot detectors, drones and more to strategically deter crime and make arrests before incidents occur.

- Promoting good governance and accountability:
 - Appoint an ombud within the province to tackle cases of corruption within the police and this will lead to effective action against implicated members.
 - We will compile a list of our needs and priorities for all police stations to guide the National Police Ministry on where to effectively allocate resources within the province and formally request additional police stations.
- Reducing road fatalities by:
 - Improving pedestrian safety.
 - Enforcing traffic laws.
 - Implementing road safety education.

Only the DA can rescue you, the citizens of Gauteng, from the fear of violent crime.





**The DA will enable
an economy that
creates jobs for you
and opportunities
for your business**

Gauteng is a growing province with more and more job seekers settling in the province. However, due to low economic growth and a lack of direct investment, unemployment is increasing daily and more job seekers are becoming discouraged. The current Gauteng government tried various job creation schemes which have failed or were beset by corruption. But the DA has shown how jobs are created in the places where it governs.

Reduce unemployment with the DA's plan to rescue the Gauteng economy

A clean government and a safe community, with working infrastructure, will make it easy for businesses to flourish – contributing and enabling economic growth in Gauteng. The DA wants to turn Gauteng into the Province of Opportunity for job seekers, entrepreneurs, and businesses. We have a plan to rescue you from the indignity of unemployment and erosion of wealth.

The DA's plan to address unemployment and lost business opportunities is based on the following initiatives:

- Boost economic confidence through better provincial governance, attracting investment. This will lead to more jobs and opportunities for businesses, especially small businesses. We have proven this success in the Western Cape and DA-run Midvaal where, collectively, hundreds of thousands of jobs have been created in the past five years.
- Combat the corruption that has plagued the government.
- Streamline business operations by reducing red tape. Rationalise government touchpoints that current and future businesses have to deal with. This includes closing down unnecessary entities, modernising application systems and compliance processes, and holding public servants to high ethical standards. The Western Cape serves as an example of how assisting small businesses by reducing red tape can lead to increased job creation.
- Savings generated through the rationalisation of government economic entities will be used to establish a venture capital fund to finance qualified small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Forge stronger partnerships between the provincial government and the private sector. This collaboration will stimulate economic growth, attract investment, and ultimately create more jobs, alleviate poverty, and reduce dependence on state grants.
- Identify high-growth economic sectors with significant job creation potential and establish partnerships to develop them.
- Foster a new economy by equipping individuals with new skills. Investors require the local workforce to have the skills their businesses require. If Gauteng offers these skills, it will become more attractive as an investment destination. A DA government will ensure that the school curriculum offers subjects that will produce the skills for a changing economic environment with an increased dependency on technology. This will enable school leavers to be better prepared for employment opportunities and further studies. We will also partner with tertiary institutions to ensure that the skills our changing economy requires are provided for by them. This will also involve offering mentorship programmes in partnership with the private sector, similar to the Western Cape's Red Door initiative.

Only the DA can rescue you, the citizens of Gauteng, from losing jobs and business opportunities.





The DA will rescue you from being robbed by corruption and cadre deployment, and introduce an accountable, accessible, and transparent government

Corruption in government has led to money destined for service delivery to be stolen by greedy civil servants. This was made possible due to the practice of cadre deployment that offered protection for the corrupt. In the past five years, the current Gauteng government has not successfully prosecuted one case of corruption committed by a civil servant or a politician. Instead, we have seen a war on whistle-blowers, some of whom have even been killed to protect the politically connected. Eradicating this corruption will make money available for service delivery. The current government enables failure and corruption, while the DA creates capable administrations.

Eradicate cadre deployment and corruption with an accountable DA government

The DA will stop the scourge of cadre deployment and ensure that merit is used in the appointment of civil servants instead of political connections. We will restore honesty and pride in the civil service and reward those civil servants who want to serve the people of our province. We will use smart means to stamp out corruption, protect whistle-blowers, and swiftly punish those who steal the public's money. We offer you a Gauteng government that you can connect with, that will respond to you, and deliver. The DA's plan to rescue the civil service and restore service delivery is as follows.

- Ensure swift disciplinary action against corrupt officials: No more long suspensions on full pay.
- Employing lifestyle audits: To identify those who steal your money and live in luxury.
- Protecting whistle-blowers: From intimidation and retaliation, including threats of assassination by providing personal security and safe house accommodation and by ensuring that cases are prosecuted as quickly as possible.
- Utilising the best forensic investigators: To uncover corruption at all levels, catching both the corruptors and the corrupted.
- Following international best practices: By partnering with other agencies like SARS to share information and cooperate in exposing and prosecuting corrupt individuals and organisations.
- Enforcing open and fair tender processes: To eliminate "tenderpreneurs" and ensure that contracts are awarded based on merit and cost-effectiveness for genuine service delivery.
- Leveraging smart technologies: To detect and prevent fraud as part of a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy.
- Partner with prosecutors to pursue convictions against the corrupt: Those found guilty will face jail time.
- Blacklisting companies: Involved in corruption or failing to deliver on contracts.

Only the DA can rescue you, the citizens of Gauteng, from being robbed by corruption and provide a government that hears and serves you by being responsive to your needs.





**The DA will provide
a quality education
that will shape
and prepare your
children for a
successful future**

Gauteng is a growing province with growing demands for more education opportunities, and improved curricula, to provide modern skills required by the economy and provide access to the economy for more matriculants. The current Gauteng government has fallen behind in its school building programme, and where they build schools, these fall apart due to corruption. Over 200 000 learners drop out of school annually in Gauteng, depriving them of future opportunities. Education in Gauteng schools must increase opportunities for learners, not reduce them.

Ensure your child's future with the DA's plan for quality education in Gauteng

We will end inferior public education and make our learning environments the schools of choice, providing quality education for every child. The DA will secure your children's future by:

- Improving the quality of teaching and learning in the province. Our places of learning will become institutions of choice that learners and students are eager to attend. This includes enhancing education, training, and innovation within the province.
- Dedicating classroom time every day to reading, writing and numeracy skills.
- Ensuring that each child gets 210 full teaching days per year. This will require a culture of being "present, punctual and prepared" for every task at every level of the education system.
- Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) education by early identification of learners with a strong aptitude for these subjects and accommodating them in specialist schools devoted to developing these skills.
- Establishing School Evaluation Authorities (SEA) in every province based on the Western Cape model. The SEA will independently evaluate schools and publish school evaluation reports so parents in each community can access information on their school's performance and the core reasons for under-performance.
- Constructing, upgrading, and maintaining new and existing infrastructure in all the province's public schools and places of learning. This means eliminating schools built with asbestos or other inferior materials. All facilities will meet minimum uniform standards.
- Creating a safe and supportive environment free from the threat of violence, crime, or bullying.
- Allocating adequate financial and administrative support to schools requiring assistance, while also providing social interventions for disadvantaged learners.
- Prioritising provincial literacy and numeracy learner assessments and providing the necessary assistance to learners who require it to pass their matriculation exams.
- Ensuring that curricula incorporate entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Implementing a strategy to reduce learner dropout rates. By introducing greater curriculum diversification from Grade 9 onwards so that learners can pursue vocational, technical, and academic education depending on their aptitudes and needs. Through appropriate educational interventions and support.

Only the DA can rescue your children from inferior education and provide a more promising future.





**The DA will
rescue you from a
corrupt and failing
healthcare system**

The health department in Gauteng is notorious for corruption and bad service to patients. The assassination of Babita Deokoran, a whistle-blower in the health department, was a stark reminder of how endemic corruption has become in this department. Fragmented management of hospitals and their infrastructure is making the delivery of healthcare services inefficient and although electronic record management systems have been promised for over 20 years, no modernisation in the management of patient records has occurred. The difference in healthcare in the Western Cape and Gauteng is the difference between life and death.

Rescue Gauteng's hospitals with the DA's plan for improved healthcare

The DA's plan to rescue Gauteng's healthcare is based on getting the basics right first, improving the management of hospitals, introducing technology, and putting patients at the centre of the healthcare system in the province. Taking a zero-tolerance stance on corruption is non-negotiable for the DA and we will ensure that all cases of corruption are vigorously and speedily pursued.

The DA will help you navigate Gauteng's healthcare system by:

- Empowering hospital CEOs to unblock delays in maintenance and operational support so that our health infrastructure is maintained, and stock levels are maintained so that you will receive healthcare in a safe and proper environment. This, together with the use of technology will help in reducing waste thereby creating savings that can treat more patients and employ more doctors.
- Ensuring efficient hospital and clinic operations by empowering staff and all officials to be patient-oriented so you can receive healthcare of high quality.
- Reducing patient waiting times to be in line with international best practices so you should receive healthcare in real-time.
- Resolving complaints promptly and implementing feedback systems for patients and families
- Expanding public-private partnerships through agreements with non-governmental and private healthcare and wellness providers who can offer a more efficient healthcare service to patients to ensure that families have access to a wider range of healthcare solutions that match their unique needs and resources
- Ensuring ambulances meet international response times to prevent unnecessary delays in providing emergency healthcare.
- Leveraging technology to reduce costs and improve patient care by optimising electronic record keeping and accuracy.
- Eliminating corruption by taking a zero-tolerance stance against all forms of corruption and prosecuting those who involve themselves in corrupt activities Accelerate disciplinary hearings and avoid long suspensions on full pay.

Only the DA can rescue you from Gauteng's failing healthcare system.



Conclusion

Gauteng is at a crossroads, and residents will need to make a serious choice in the upcoming election. We can either keep the status quo of corrupt officials, where the taxpayers' money will continue to line the pockets of a few, while our province crumbles. Or, we can choose to rescue Gauteng.

The choice is simple: rescue or decay. The DA has never said it is perfect, but the evidence is overwhelming: we govern better.

If we don't act now, crime will spiral further out of control, the lights will stay off, our taps will run dry, jobs will vanish, our children's future will crumble with further deterioration of schools, and another generation will be left behind and corruption will remain the norm.

This is not fearmongering, but the stark reality of the consequences of inaction. Gauteng deserves better! We deserve safer streets, educated children, reliable services and a thriving economy.

The current government in Gauteng has only provided us with lies and empty promises.

An effective plan to rescue Gauteng is what is needed, and this is exactly what we offer to you.

Our practical solutions address the issues that matter the most to you. We have a clear plan to rescue Gauteng. We have the experience and the commitment to make a real difference.

Gauteng is in a crisis and only the DA is ready to govern. Gauteng is on the brink, but there is still hope. Vote DA this election and be part of the solution.





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