



Gauteng Provincial Head Office

Tel: +27 10 593 3020

Email: gauteng@da.org.za

www.da.org.za

21 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, Johannesburg, 2026

Provincial Leader, Mr Solly Msimanga

Provincial Chair, Mr Fred Nel

Members of the DA Provincial Executive,

Regional Chairperson of the Vaal Region, Ms Prudence Hlanyane

Lesedi Political Head Hon Ms Wendy Alexandra

Honourable Executive Mayor and Political Head of Midvaal, Ald Peter Teixeira

All Leaders present,

Chairpersons and leaders of our various DA structures,

All DA public representatives,

The broader community of Lesedi Local Municipality,

Ladies and gentlemen, Dumelang!

Thank you for being here this morning.

I stand before you deeply humbled by the confidence placed in me by the Democratic Alliance to lead this campaign for change in Lesedi. I do not take this responsibility lightly. I accept it with humility, with determination, and with a deep sense of duty to the people of this municipality.

Over the past year, I have spent time on the ground, listening to residents, walking the streets, and engaging directly with communities across Lesedi. I have not come to you today with theory or political slogans. I come to you with lived experience and real conversations.

In the greater Heidelberg town, Overkruin and Jordaan Park, residents spoke to me about constant water interruptions and the daily uncertainty of whether there will be water at all. Families and businesses are forced to plan their lives around outages. This is not how people should have to live. This is not acceptable. Access to reliable water is a basic service and a basic right, and as your soon to be mayor, stabilising water supply and fixing our water infrastructure will be a clear priority, so that residents in Heidelberg, Overkruin and Jordaan Park, and other communities across Lesedi, no longer have to live with daily uncertainty.

But water is not the only challenge our communities face. In Ratanda, residents raised serious concerns about infrastructure constraints and ageing networks that are no longer coping with demand. In Viskuil, families spoke about crime and repeated home robberies that leave people feeling unsafe in their own homes. In KwaZenzele, I met residents who still live without proper roads, without reliable running water and without adequate housing. And in Devon, many residents told me that they feel forgotten, distant from decision-making and neglected in service delivery.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.



Gauteng Provincial Head Office

Tel: +27 10 593 3020

Email: gauteng@da.org.za

www.da.org.za

21 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, Johannesburg, 2026

These are not isolated complaints. They are the daily realities of our people.

I am heeding the call to avail myself as the Mayoral Candidate because I believe that Lesedi deserves better. I believe Lesedi can be a municipality that works, not only for a few political connected, but for everyone.

For 9 years, democrats, I have served as a member of the Mayoral Committee in Midvaal. That experience has shaped me. It has taught me that real leadership is not about titles. It is about responsibility, discipline and delivery. It is about making sure that systems work, that budgets speak to real needs, and that communities can see the results of their contributions.

Lesedi deserves the same opportunity for stability, professionalism and progress.

With the Democratic Alliance in the driving seat, change is not just promised, it is possible.

This morning, I want to share clear priorities that will guide my leadership should you entrust me with this responsibility.

First, service delivery excellence.

For far too long, Lesedi has suffered from poor planning and short-term decision-making. Our sewer systems are under strain. In some areas, sewerage runs into streets. Roads are falling apart at an alarming rate. Basic services are unreliable and maintenance is often reactive instead of planned.

I have visited sites across Lesedi and spoken directly to residents about these challenges. Infrastructure is not something we can postpone. It is the backbone of dignity, health, safety and economic growth.

As your mayor, my focus will be on restoring planning, prioritising maintenance, and investing in infrastructure capacity for the long-term needs of our communities and our local economy. We must spend smarter, eliminate waste and ensure that every rand works harder for our people.

Second, local economic development and job creation.

Lesedi is at a critical economic point. The decline in economic activity and the closure of major employers such as British American Tobacco in Heidelberg remind us how fragile our local economy has become.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.



Gauteng Provincial Head Office

Tel: +27 10 593 3020

Email: gauteng@da.org.za

www.da.org.za

21 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, Johannesburg, 2026

Behind every closure are families who lose income, young people who lose hope and communities that struggle to survive.

Over the past year, I have spoken to many young people in Heidelberg, Jamerson Park, Ratanda, KwaZenzele, Devon and various other communities. Unemployment and the absence of real opportunities remain the biggest challenge they face.

This must change.

My vision for Lesedi is an economy that grows because the municipality becomes a reliable partner to investors, small businesses and entrepreneurs. We must position Lesedi as a logistics, manufacturing and small-business hub along our strategic transport routes. We must actively support township economies, local suppliers and emerging businesses. We must unlock the tourism potential of Lesedi, rooted in our history, heritage and natural environment.

Economic growth is not separate from service delivery. Poor roads, unreliable water and failing infrastructure drive investors away. Good services attract jobs.

Third, governance and accountability.

For too long, residents have lost confidence in the ability of the municipality to manage itself effectively. Weak oversight, poor performance management and inadequate accountability have weakened public trust.

The Democratic Alliance stands for clean administration, transparency and responsible leadership.

I speak from experience when I say that good governance is not an abstract idea. It is built through strong systems, ethical leadership, professional administration and consistent oversight. I am committed to restoring a culture of accountability in Lesedi, not through rhetoric, but through daily leadership, clear standards and visible consequences when those standards are not met.

Fourth, sound financial management.

No municipality can deliver services or drive development without stable finances.



Gauteng Provincial Head Office

Tel: +27 10 593 3020

Email: gauteng@da.org.za

www.da.org.za

21 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, Johannesburg, 2026

Revenue collection must be fair, honest and efficient. Those who can afford to pay must pay, but residents must also be able to see that their money is being used responsibly and in their communities.

We will prioritise budgets based on real community needs. We will strengthen financial controls. We will ensure that procurement processes support local businesses while remaining fair, transparent and competitive.

We will take firm action against wasteful, irregular and unauthorised expenditure. Corruption and abuse of public funds will not be tolerated. At the same time, I commit to regular reporting to communities on how public money is spent and what progress is being made.

Fifth, organisational development and professional administration.

One of the biggest obstacles to service delivery in many municipalities is the continued practice of appointing people based on political connections instead of competence.

My administration will be guided by a simple principle: the right people must be in the right jobs, no cadre deployment, no favouritism and no nepotism. We will create an equal opportunity Lesedi for all.

Appointments must be based on qualifications, experience and performance. From general workers to senior management, professionalism will be non-negotiable. We will strengthen supervision, enforce performance management and apply consequence management fairly and consistently.

But we will also invest in our workforce. We will build skills, introduce modern systems and ensure that our staff are supported to perform at their best in a rapidly changing environment.

Lesedi needs a capable, ethical and professional municipality if we are serious about change.

As I conclude, I want to speak directly to every resident of Lesedi.

In the last local government elections, voter turnout was disappointingly low. Too many people stayed at home because they felt that their vote would not make a difference.

But democracy only works when people participate.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.



Gauteng Provincial Head Office

Tel: +27 10 593 3020

Email: gauteng@da.org.za

www.da.org.za

21 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma, Johannesburg, 2026

I call on every Democrat, every activist, every candidate and every supporter to go back into our communities. Visit homes. Walk the streets. Listen to people. Hear their frustrations and their hopes. And invite them to vote.

Change will not come from posters or social media.

Change will come from people standing up and choosing a better future.

Today, I accept this nomination with humility and with courage.

Together, we can **build** a Lesedi that works.

Together, we can **restore** dignity to our communities.

Together, we can create **opportunity** for our young people.

Together, we can lead **real change** in Lesedi.

Lets do this!

I Thank you.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.