

5 NMB Pledges Speech

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Good Morning. Goeie More. Molweni.

It's a good day to be here with you in Nelson Mandela Bay. Since the launch of our campaign in October last year, we have been crisscrossing the City visiting communities in Colchester, Motherwell, Lapland, Bloemendal, Summerstrand, Newton Park, Missionvale, Uitenhage/Kariega and everywhere in between.

Let me tell you that people are tired. They are frustrated.

They are gatvol of this ANC/EFF coalition of dysfunction that is destroying our City, our jobs, and our future.

That is why it is such a privilege to spread our DA message of hope that broken and corrupt governments can be voted out and be replaced by hard-working, God-fearing, and competent leaders who want to work for the people of this City.

Is it too much to expect safe streets?

Is it too much to expect working streetlights?

Is it too much to expect water in your taps and electricity in your homes?

Nelson Mandela-baai het die afgelope paar weke in groot dele geen krag gehad nie.

Dit is hoekom wanneer die verkiesing kom ons ook nie krag gaan he om vir 'n ANC/EFF deurmekaarspul te stem nie.

Genoeg is genoeg. Kwanela Kwanela. Enough is Enough. They've had their chance.

When we last met, I gave you our plan to fix this mess and to get Nelson Mandela Bay working again. A basic plan that will get our administration working again, our streets safe, and our economy growing again. A strong DA will end the coalition chaos caused by the ANC and their cronies.

That is why, today, I am here to build on that plan and will give you five pledges that will form the basis of my government when the DA is elected to lead this municipality and fix this mess.

We are making five clear pledges to you.

Not fifty promises. Not vague commitments.

Five pledges.

Five promises that you can remember.

Five promises that you can hold me accountable for.

One: We will make Nelson Mandela Bay safer and cleaner.

No matter where you go in NMB, people are scared and no longer feel safe in our City. Crime is out of control. Lawlessness is spreading. And too many public spaces have been neglected.

We will change that.

We will increase the number of metro police officers by implementing new crime-fighting technologies, appointing more town rangers and establishing a CCTV network to detect and deter crimes.

We will restore and expand a fully operational CCTV network, bringing SAPS, metro police, and private security together to respond to crime in real time.

We will shut down illegal scrapyards and take decisive action against vandalism.

And we will enforce a zero-tolerance approach to illegal dumping, while investing in cleaning services and working with community organisations to restore pride in our city.

Two: We will restore reliable water and electricity.

In Nelson Mandela Bay, certain communities sit without water every day.

Like the community of Lapland, which had no water for the last two months. The DA had to install a tank just last week in this community so we could help alleviate the water crisis. We can't live in a metropolitan City that can't deliver water to residents.

No city can function without basic services.

Right now, this City cannot account for 60% of the water entering the City. Equally, large areas of NMB have been without electricity since pylons began collapsing earlier this year.

This will end under a DA administration.

We will ring-fence water and electricity revenue for large-scale infrastructure maintenance to reverse the decline of our water and electricity network. My administration will invest billions of Rands in infrastructure refurbishment.

We will implement strict turnaround times for fixing service failures, regardless of where you live in the Metro. Every day in townships, I meet people who have had no electricity for weeks on end. This is not acceptable.

We will ensure that the Water, Sanitation and Electricity Services Master Plans will be developed so that we know which infrastructure needs to be replaced or refurbished at what time

And we will rebuild a professional administration by bringing back skilled engineers, electricians, planners, and artisans to get the job done.

Because without competent people, nothing works.

Three: We will attract investment and create jobs

JOBS, JOBS AND MORE JOBS

Our biggest challenge remains unemployment and the need for job creation. To create more jobs, we need more businesses to invest in NMB. But nobody wants to invest in a city with no water or a non-sustainable water supply.

That is why fixing the basics comes first.

We will remove red tape that holds businesses back by cutting unnecessary fees, speeding up approvals, streamlining compliance requirements and clearing backlogs.

We will actively promote Nelson Mandela Bay as an investment destination through a focused mayoral investment drive. Instead of shopping in Walmer Park every second day like our current Mayor, I will be shopping for investment in our great city!

And we will grow tourism by positioning our city as an affordable and attractive destination for both local and international visitors.

Because when businesses grow, jobs follow.

Four: We will stop corruption.

We will adopt a zero-tolerance stance on corruption and incompetence by overhauling our supply chain system and protecting whistleblowers.

We will clamp down on syndicates that are targeting and extorting ordinary people for protection fees.

These syndicates are little more than thugs. They don't care about you; they care about extorting money out of good, ordinary people.

We will also clamp down on the corruption with EPWP appointments

We will implement lifestyle audits for senior officials and politicians.

Ons wil weet waar kom die blink karre en fancy klere vandaan!

And we will act against criminal syndicates that are extorting residents and businesses in our communities.

Lawlessness, whether in the streets or in City Hall, will not be tolerated.

And lastly

Five: We will expand housing and infrastructure opportunities.

A growing city must provide real opportunities for people to build better lives.

We will release well-located municipal land for development, unlocking housing and economic opportunities.

In 2023, the DA identified a number of strategic parcels of land, amongst others, the first industrial piece of land to be developed in the Northern areas over the past 20 years. The EFF stopped that process after the DA was ousted, and today that piece of land still lies there, no development and no jobs being created.

We can't just build RDP houses. We need more housing solutions, such as social/rental housing projects. GAP housing where people can use FLISP to purchase cheaper housing when they can't qualify for RDP houses

We will make serviced sites available for residents to build their own homes.

And we will invest in complete communities, with roads, facilities, and social infrastructure, not just houses placed far from opportunity.

We will not simply dump people into areas far from their communities. When we consider housing developments, we must also build the social infrastructure, including community halls and sporting facilities.

We will also leverage public-private partnerships to accelerate infrastructure development.

So, in conclusion, my fellow residents

Fellow residents,

Nelson Mandela Bay does not have to be like this.

We do not have to accept failing services.

We do not have to accept corruption.

We do not have to accept a city that is falling apart.

We can choose a different path.

A path of competent government.

A path of accountability.

A path of rebuilding this city, together.

Let's reclaim our City from thugs and criminals, not just those on the streets, but those in City Hall.

What we need are leaders with a heart for the people.

Leaders who lead a government with officials who care about getting NMB working again.

That is why, this year, we need to take our own future and our lives into our own hands by uniting behind the DA so we can fix this mess.

Stand with me and my blue army, and let's get NMB working again!