

Democrats,
we have chosen Mamelodi —
this community hall,
and *this* public holiday —
to deliver an important message
to the people of the nation's capital.

Today we celebrate Workers' Day.
But uppermost in our minds
are the millions of South Africans —
including the people of our own city —
who don't have work.

Young people full of promise,
held back by decades of failed leadership.
Graduates who did everything right,
but cannot find a job in this stagnating economy.
The children and grandchildren
of people who *used to work*
in the factories and warehouses
of Roslyn, Pretoria West, Silverton, and Waltloo.
But today those businesses aren't scaling up:
Many of them have shut down.

We are here to mark Workers' Day 2026 —
not as trade union event —
but to proclaim a mission:
to get Tshwane working.

Because if the city works —
if we have a steady supply of services,
if the streets are safe,
if there is value for *what* you pay
in rates, tariffs and charges —
then investors will come,
and the work will follow.

*Hierdie is nie enige stad nie;
dis ons hoofstad.
Dit verteenwoordig die siel van ons Republiek.*

If we can get Tshwane working,
we can restore confidence
in the future of South Africa.
And I know that we can do it.

Through the coalition chaos,
the changing mayors,
and the shameless power grabs,
of the past few years,
the DA *never* lost faith
in this city
and in the power of vote.

We can get Tshwane working.
But first we need to take back your city.
Because Tshwane has been hijacked —
hijacked by the water tanker mafia,
by networks of cadres and tenderpreneurs,
by the waBonzos
who profit from the failure
of the very city
they have taken an oath to serve.

The people now in charge
at Tshwane House
do not care about your future —
but we do.

And if the townships,
the suburbs
and the villages of this city
can take hands —
if we can act on our shared values
and our common purpose —
we can build something new.
We can secure a future
for all of our children.

Today I outline the DA's plan
for government —
to end coalition chaos,
to take back our city,
and to get Tshwane working —
not just for some,
but for *all of its people*.

Look at this community hall.
Imagine *when* it was first built.
Compare *that* picture
to what it *be-came*.
And then look again *today* —

because *today* it is bright,
brilliant,
and blue.

The blue isn't just a colour:
It's a statement
of what is possible
for our city.

I served as your mayor for 18 months.
I led a diverse team,
including leaders of other political parties.

On the DA side
I was supported by Themba Fosi,
Kingsley Wakelin, Ofentse Madzabatela,
Jacqui Uys, Dana Wannenburg, and
Katlego Mathebe.

They *come* from every corner of this city.
They *speak* all of its languages.
And they *stand* head and shoulders
above the people who now hold
positions of power in
Tshwane House.

We weren't perfect.
But we set an example.
And we made progress.
In doing so,
we become a threat
to people who profit
from Tshwane's failure
and the suffering of its people.

They said to us: drop your standards.
We said: no we won't.
They said to us: if you don't,
we'll bring a motion of no confidence.
We said: do your worst,
and we will do our best.

And so,
we were removed from office
not by voters,
but by politicians,

because we refused to tolerate poor-performing contractors,
because we insisted that taxpayers' money must serve the public.

But on 4 November this year,
the politicians will be silent,
and the people will have their say.
Thee DA will come back stronger.

And this time,
we will come back wiser,
more deliberate,
and more determined
to change the system itself,
not just manage its failures.

Make no mistake,
our society is at war.
Criminals are attacking us
on the streets.
They've infiltrated law enforcement.
And they control how this municipality
spends the money it collects from you.

We are at war,
and people are dying.
In Joburg, Babita Deokaran.
In Ekurhuleni, Mpho Mafole.
In Emfuleni, Martha Mani.
In Tshwane, we have to prevent that
from happening at all costs:
we have to protect honest, hardworking people
who speak the truth.

If you are worried about crime,
let me tell you:
there's no difference
between corruption and crime.
They are one and the same.
South Africa has lawless streets,
because we have lawless leaders.
If you have any doubt about that,
please go watch
what's happening at the Madlanga Commission.
Look where taxpayers money is going.

There's a reason
why Tshwane spends R777 million
on water tankers
to formalised areas,
while 41% of our water
is left to leak away.

We are at war.
And the DA will fight
on the side of honest, hardworking people.
We will take on those cadres and tenderpreneurs
who think themselves untouchable.

Of course,
even if we win,
those who profit from failure and suffering
will try to sabotage us
from inside Tshwane House.
But we will be ready.
And we will be ruthless.

Today we make a deliberate shift
in this campaign:
from doing the work of an opposition,
to setting out our plan for government.

Our prospectus
is based on our own experience;
on discussions with experts;
but most importantly
from what ordinary people
have shown us.

From that,
we offer the people of Tshwane
five pledges.
Give us 50%
and give us five years,
and we will take back your city,
and get it working.

**Our first pledge –
we will fire corrupt officials
and tenderpreneurs**

**and replace them
with honest professionals.**

Corruption in Tshwane
is not accidental.
It is systemic.
And it survives
because the system enables it.

So we will change the system,
including those who currently control it —
whether they are in management positions,
or service providers.

A DA-led Tshwane
will restructure municipal management
to create clear lines of accountability
between Tshwane House
and what is happening on the ground.
Unnecessary layers of bureaucracy
will be removed.

Everyone who serves
in a management position
will be responsible
for clearly defined outcomes.

We will create
an Anti-Corruption Hit Squad
that will put the fear of God
into the tsotsis
in and around
Tshwane House.

These investigators
will work with business
and civil society,
reporting directly
to the Executive Mayor
and the City Manager.

They will operate independently
of the very internal systems
that have been compromised,
so that investigations
cannot be buried,

delayed,
or manipulated.

We will fast-track disciplinary processes,
using the findings of the SIU,
forensic investigations,
and the Madlanga Commission.

And we will fire those
who are profiting
at the expense of ratepayers.

Think of the Rooiwal Five —
Sodi's blessers —
enjoying long leave
at taxpayers' expense.
Tshwane *just* can't seem
to get rid of those people.
They must go.

And they must take with them
their comrades
whose names we have been cited
at the Madlanga Commission.

We will introduce
mandatory lifestyle audits
for senior officials
and supply chain personnel,
conducted by independent providers.
As we've learnt:
unexplained wealth
is one of the clearest indicators
of corruption.

And we will act
on those findings
without fear or favour.

We will *digitise* tender
processes,
using SAP-integrated workflows,
so that every decision is recorded,
every deviation is flagged,
and every official
who works on a tender

can be held accountable
in real time.

No more Croxley books
and Excel spreadsheets.
We would rather spend money upfront
on ICT systems
than lose money to theft.

Lastly,
we will review Tshwane's tender policy
to give preference
to experienced contractors,
and to create support systems
for emerging businesses,
so that we do not set *them* —
or the city —
up for failure.

**Our second pledge –
we will restore law and order
by deploying crime-fighting technology,
including drones,
CCTV cameras,
and a metro police control room.**

A DA-led Tshwane
will establish a centralised command-and-control centre,
supported by a computer-aided dispatch system,
which will track officers
and incidents in real time,
enabling faster responses
and better use of resources.

If you can open your phone now
and see where Uber drivers are,
surely the metro police
must be able to track
where their officers are.

Crime-fighting technology
will be used
to implement a new crime-fighting doctrine.

We will introduce zone-based policing,
assigning officers to defined areas,
so that communities know
who their TMPD patrollers are,
and so that we can set
clear law-enforcement priorities.

In one community,
the priority might be drug enforcement.
In another,
illegal dumping
or planning violations.
By-laws that haven't been scrapped
must be enforced:
for too long we have become conditioned to disorder,
tolerant of bad behaviour,
and so squalor and decay is spreading
across the city.

To arrest crime and disorder,
we need to make the best use of
Tshwane's more than 4000 TMPD officers:
And to do that,
we need real-time information,
and we need clear enforcement targets.

Once we restore command and control
in the metro police,
we can give them an edge
over the scofflaws and the criminals.

As the city's finances improves,
we will equip officers
with bodycams
and digital evidence tools,
to improve prosecutions
and to protect the public
and officers alike.

We will deploy drones
and surveillance technology
to prevent land grabs,
infrastructure theft,
and planning violations,
because the best enforcement happens proactively.

Instead of allowing city officials
to live off bribes and protection money,
we will actually take hands with Home Affairs,
and help border and custom officials
to detain and deport illegal immigrants.

To ensure that all of this gets done,
we will establish
a new Safety and Security Directorate,
with civilian control over the TMPD
and the Emergency Services Department.

Part of that Directorate
will be an investigation unit
to ensure that we do not have criminals
wearing police uniforms.

**Our third pledge –
we will upgrade electricity,
water,
roads
and public lighting
through private partnerships.**

If we are going to improve basic services,
we must forget about relaying only
on municipal officials and municipal budgets alone.
This city is broken,
and we don't have decades to repair it.
We need outside help.

What we have in mind is an Operation Vulendla.
Just like national government has admitted
that they cannot run ports and railways
without private partners,
we have come to the same realisation
about water, electricity and waste collection.

A DA-led Tshwane
will commission independent engineering assessments
of the electricity
and water networks,
and implement a funded stabilisation programme
to fix substations,

repair reticulation,
and restore backup systems.

We will ring-fence revenue
from electricity, water and waste,
so that it is used
for maintenance and upgrades.

We will bring in private-sector partners,
not just as funders,
but as operators,
through performance-based contracts
where payment is tied to results:
In electricity, water and waste collection,
we will implement private management
contracts with targets to
improve collection
stop distribution losses
and extend the life of landfill sites.

Imagine if – instead of paying service providers
to fix broken street lights –
the same ones over and over again –
we only pay service providers for street lights that work.
If we do that,
if we reward what works,
instead of what doesn't,
we will light up our streets
like a massive capital city Christmas tree.

We will finish the project to connect
the taps of the people of Hammanskraal to a clean water source.
We want *metsi dipompong*,
not *metsi ditankeng*.

We will review the work being done —
or more accurately,
not being done —
at the Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment Plant.
By itself,
the city does not have the money
to complete the upgrade project.

But there is no reason
why we cannot do it

in partnership with national government,
or even with a private operator.

Unlike the current mayor
we don't need permission from
the water tanker mafia.
They hate us,
because we owe them *nothing*.
And that is exactly why
the DA is the only party that
can break their hold on Tshwane.

To ensure that we can deliver
on these reforms,
we will establish
a Trading Services Directorate
to drive change from the centre —
Operation Vulindlela, Tshwane-style.

**Our fourth pledge –
we will utilise municipal assets
like power stations,
the Fresh Produce Market,
and Wonderboom Airport
to draw investment
and create jobs.**

The city owns valuable assets
that are underperforming,
mismanaged,
or neglected.

We will place these assets
under professional management,
with a mandate
to maximise investment
and job creation.

We will finish the project
to put the Rooiwal
and Pretoria West power stations
in the hands of independent power producers,
because *they* have the potential
to increase the supply of electricity

to our industries
and to drive down the price of electricity
in years to come.

We will exit the business
of running airports.
A near-bankrupt municipality
cannot afford to subsidise
loss-making operations
that are not core
to our service delivery mandate.

We will lease Wonderboom National Airport
to an experienced private operator
who can do upgrades
and expansions.

We will do the same
at the Fresh Produce Market:
bring in an experienced private operator,
using the same model as Cape Town.

The Market is essential
to food security in our city
and to the livelihoods
of tens of thousands
of informal traders.
We dare not continue
with the current failed operating model.

We will do the same
at the Bon Accord Quarry:
bring in an experienced private operator
and secure a favourable supply agreement.

That facility needs tens of millions of rand
in upgrades
to produce the material needed
for road repairs
and resurfacing.

If we get the right private partner,
we can get that place working again.

The city is a major owner of real estate
which now lies dormant

and vulnerable
to vandalism
and criminality.

But imagine if we could put these assets
to their full economic use,
and attract *not investment pledges*,
but real investments
that rejuvenate our economy
and create business
and job opportunities.

**Our fifth pledge –
we will partner
with organised communities
to keep neighbourhoods safe
and clean.**

This city is filled with people
who love their communities,
who want to help their neighbours,
and a DA-led government
will do everything we can
to take up that offer.

We did it
with community upliftment precincts.
The so-called CUPs.
But now we are ready
to go to the next level.

To roll back the frontiers
of urban decay and disorder,
a DA-led government
proactively establish
City Improvement Districts in
critical nodes across Tshwane.

Because we understand
that people already pay too much
in rates and taxes,
we will enable these CIDs
to generate some of their own money,
using parking bays,

advertising space,
and, where appropriate,
trading stalls.

If you want to see
what CIDs can do
if they are well-run,
look at Hatfield,
where the University of Pretoria,
as anchor tenant,
is helping to keep
a bustling urban centre
safe and clean.

There is no reason *why*,
with the right support
and strong governance structures,
we cannot replicate this model
in Sunnyside,
the Pretoria CBD,
the Centurion CBD
Solomon Mahlangu Square,
Mabopane station,
and other critical nodes.

We will take hands with Public Works
as the biggest property owner in the
Pretoria CBD,
to complete the long-awaited
government corridor,
and make sure that
busses and taxis have proper ranks:
like we did in Menlyn.

We will take hands
with reputable NGOs
to build safe spaces
for homeless
and displaced people.

I've spoken to officials
in the City of Cape Town,
and what they are spending
on these facilities
is worth every cent.

Safe spaces
will also provide the city
with emergency shelter,
so that we can clear land
and buildings
that have been unlawfully occupied.

If we can start
on these pledges,
we can significantly improve
the finances of the city.

That will allow us
to finish the projects
that have long been neglected —
including repairing the sinkholes
in Centurion
and Laudium,
upgrading roads
such as Buitekant
in Soshanguve,
and fixing the broken sewerage systems
of Mabopane.
We will even be able to restore our
historical Pretoria City Hall
to its former glory.

To recap our programme of action:

Management changes
will get the right people in Tshwane House.
Technology,
and an aggressive programme
to digitise government,
will boost the productivity
of the workforce
and help prevent fight crime,
corruption, and the misspending
of taxpayers' money.

Private partnerships
will help us source
new funding and new expertise,
so that we can deliver

infrastructure upgrades
and improve services delivery
in a matter of years
instead of decades.

You will notice
that none of our pledges
will reduce free basic services
to the poor —
the lie
which other parties tell
about the DA
at every election.

In fact,
in yesterday's council meeting
in Tshwane House,
those same parties,
the ones that now govern Tshwane,
voted down a DA proposal
to give relief
to care homes
and other NGOs
that serve indigent residents.

So when they come knocking
at your door,
telling lies
about the DA,
you already know the truth.
They've had their time
to govern South Africa
and Tshwane.

And even after their time was up,
they did everything they could
to make our city ungovernable.
Thank you Comrades,
but we will take it from here.

Ek wil die punt
in my eie taal maak.
Die DA is 'n party
vir al die mense.

Ons glo dat daar iets is soos 'n
gemeenskaplike belang
tussen die mense van Suid-Afrika.
En ons is vasbeslote
om daardie belang te dien.

We know
that this city
will not be a good place
for any of us
to live in,
unless it is a good place
for all of us
to live in.

I am ready.
My team is ready.
But we cannot do this lone.
You must help us.
You must register,
volunteer,
and vote.

You must take back your city.
And together,
we will get Tshwane working.