

This speech was delivered by DA Mangaung Mayoral Candidate, Werner Pretorius on 24 July 2026 in Bloemfontein

DUMELANG BO ME LE BO NTATE.

MANGAUNG CAN WORK

MANGAUNG KAN WERK

MANGAUNG E KA SEBETSA

Ek is lief vir my Stad, and I know you love our City too. RE RATA Mangaung!

And that is why we are here today, because of that love and passion. We are here today to tell residents of Mangaung how the DA in government will get Mangaung WORKING FOR ALL. VIR ELKE INWONER. BA AHI BOHLE

The pledges delivered today set out a clear DA plan for getting Mangaung working for each and every resident. We have taken time to compile a comprehensive suite of pledges to get Mangaung working. The pledges are informed by evidence and the wants and needs of the people of Mangaung. Over the past months, I have travelled across our City and spoken to communities of Ashbury, Wepener, of Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo, of Phase 6, Phahameng, Bloemspruit and of Dan Pienaar to name a few.

We have listened to communities across Mangaung, spoken to civil society, to community and faith-based leaders, to neighbourhood associations, to the private sector and business community and also carefully considered the reports of the Auditor General on the status of our Municipality

The message from all stakeholders was clear – the ANC-led administration DOES NOT CARE. And that the city is in ICU. Residents, businesses, and stakeholders are struggling to survive due to failing infrastructure, lack of basic services, and a metro falling apart. That is the lived reality of residents of Mangaung.

BUT as it is with Free Staters, we have GEES, a spirit that cannot be broken, unwavering optimism and pride in who we are and what we can achieve, and that is why every person I have encountered during these past few months all agree that they want to see our city thrive, and share our commitment to getting Mangaung working and making it a city of opportunity for all.

We are fortunate today to be joined by many of our hard-working potential candidates, activists and staff from across Mangaung who share the gees of getting Mangaung working! Please let's give them a round of applause.

The only way for us to get Mangaung working is by taking hands and working together. The DA is committed to working with all stakeholders who are builders, who want to see a city that works for all residents, not just the connected few. I call today on all residents of our city to unite behind the vision of the DA for Mangaung.

Unfortunately, many political parties seek to divide our communities along lines of race, language, or religion. Their sole objective is to secure votes by exploiting these divisions, rather than uniting people around a shared vision for a better future. My call to residents is to reject this in the strongest form. Let us unite behind shared values, principles and a program of action to get Mangaung work for each and every resident. Kom ons verenig en wen. **RE LE MMOHO, RE KA TSWELA PELE**

Let us choose ONE MANGAUNG. WITH ONE FUTURE. WORKING FOR ALL.

Our pledges are furthermore backed by the success of DA-led local governments across South Africa. From the best run Metropolitan Municipality in South Africa, the DA-governed City of Cape Town, to the best run municipality in Gauteng, the DA-run Midvaal, the best run municipality in the Eastern Cape, the DA-run Kouga, to several award-winning municipalities across the Western Cape, UmnGeni in KwaZulu-Natal, and the best-run Provincial Government in South Africa, the DA-run Western Cape.

We have taken the best practices from these DA-run municipalities. Practices that deliver working local governments, that get services to residents, and that ensure economic growth, job creation, and social development for all.

Practices from DA Mayors across South Africa who have, through their leadership, hard work, passion and love for their communities, transformed failing local governments into beacons of hope, of growth and prosperity for all residents.

In the coming November 2026 elections, residents of Mangaung have the opportunity to bring that leadership to the City, to the Free State.

Our first and most important pledge: #1 FIX CITY FINANCES

Corruption is at the core of Mangaung's troubles.

Mangaung is a textbook case of a failed municipality, and the only Metro in the country under administration. . The severity of the mismanagement is staggering.

- A metro that spends 113% of its budget, yet only achieves 50% its service delivery targets;
- Water losses at 48%, close to R500 million being lost in revenue.
- Electricity losses by Centlec at R274 million;
- 46% of next year's budget will go to expenditure of the previous year;
- Only 41% of indigent households are registered;
- A massive underspending of conditional grants

Our top priority will be to restore financial discipline in the administration of the City. There must be consequences for mismanagement of public funds. Every rand must be accounted for by the administration. We must fix the billing crisis, the water

estimates, cut wasteful expenditure, and fully implement the Financial Recovery Plan to stabilize the finances and service delivery.

Sound financial management is not new to the DA. The DA-run West Coast Local Municipality has 15 years of clean audits, the DA-run Overstrand has 13 years of clean audits. Midvaal in Gauteng has 12 years of clean audits. Die bes bestuurde Metro in Suid-Afrika? Die DA-beheerde Stad Kaapstad.

Without sound financial discipline, the City will not WORK! The DA can fix our city's finances.

Our Second Pledge to the residents of Mangaung is #2 RELIABLE WATER AND ELECTRICITY

Currently, the City is only spending around 3-4% of the capital budget on critical service delivery maintenance, while the norm set by National Treasury is 8%. This underinvestment in bulk services are clearly seen and felt in every street of our Metro.

Water outages, power failures and leaking sewage has become a norm in the Metro.

A DA led administration will heavily invest in getting the basics right – repairing leaks, upgrading bulk water, sanitation and electricity infrastructure, and protecting utility revenues for maintenance.

Local governments that invest in bulk infrastructure see the return on investment in increased service delivery, economic growth, jobs and social development.

Local governments are the engine rooms of the economy, but without reliable water and a stable electricity grid no business can flourish.

Failing to invest in bulk infrastructure is failing to invest in jobs, growth and progress.

The DA will ensure water in your taps and a stable electricity grid to ensure the economy grows and jobs are created, and that residents can live a dignified life.

Our Third Pledge is #3 A CLEAN, SAFE AND CORRUPTION FREE CITY

Residents of Mangaung deserve a clean, safe and corruption free City. We will work tirelessly to ensure the city administration is improved, fix refuse collection, maintain public spaces and enforce a zero-tolerance approach to corruption.

Dit is 'n skande om deur die strate van Mangaung te ry. Vullis word gereeld nie verwyder nie, paaie val uitmekaar en parke en publieke areas word oorgoei deur onkruid. Die Metro Polisie is nie sigbaar nie, en ons infrastruktuur word regoor die Metro stuk-stuk weggedra. 'n DA regering sal 'n skoon, veilige en korrupsie vrye Metro verseker.

Elke straat, elke woonbuurt, elke dorp, moet skoon en netjies wees. Ons sal hande neem met die privaat sektor, met burgerlike organisasies, met woonbuurtverenigings

en ander belanghebbendes om seker te maak ons buurte is skoon, netjies en veilig. 'n Stad waarop elke inwoner trots kan wees.

During my listening tour across Mangaung, I have found pockets of excellence where communities have come together to clean their streets and keep their neighbourhoods safe. Neighborhood associations, business and civil society groups have intervened where the municipality has failed. And they have achieved massive successes. I salute communities, their leaders and organisations who have achieved so much in the face of so much adversity. The DA will work together with our communities, learning from them, and implementing best practices across Mangaung. With our whole-of-society approach, we can achieve a lot more, a lot sooner.

Let me be clear – a zero-tolerance approach to corruption, maladministration and waste. Consequences will follow actions in Mangaung under a DA administration. Our Law Enforcement Unit must be equipped with the necessary tools of trade and vehicles to do their work. To enforce law and order, and to protect critical infrastructure of the Metro – valves and pipelines, electrical substations and transformers.

We want to build a Mangaung that cares for the weak, the marginalised, and the poor. A Metro that has a pro-poor budget, expands the indigent register to align with that recorded by National Treasury that cares for the homeless and gets individuals off the street. RE FE BATHO MATLO LE SERETHI MO Mangaung.

Our Fourth Pledge: #4 Roads that WORK:

There is no excuse for the terrible and unsafe condition of the roads across Mangaung. Some areas of Thaba Nchu have become totally inaccessible due to the poor condition of roads. Residents spend thousands of rands on the replacement of tyres and repairs to their vehicles, not to mention the extreme danger it poses to our people.

Let us be clear. Poor roads destroy jobs and opportunities.

Our pledge on road infrastructure is clear. We need quality roads for all. Potholes must be fixed daily across our Metro. Preventive maintenance must be done throughout. And contractors must be held accountable for their work. Roads that work extend further than the road surface. Traffic lights must work, road signage and markings must be visible, and law enforcement on our roads will become the norm.

OUR ROADS MUST WORK FOR MANGAUNG TO WORK. Finish and klaar.

Our Fifth Pledge: #5 Building a City of Opportunity for All!

If we get the basics right of local government: fixing the finances, ensuring water in our taps and a stable electricity grid, fighting corruption and getting our Metro clean and safe, and having good quality roads, then Opportunity will follow.

In addition to getting the basics right, we will work tirelessly to cut red tape and improve systems in the Metro to make it easier for businesses to do business, to drive investment and to create jobs.

And when we think of a City of Opportunity, we must think JOBS, JOBS, JOBS. The DA has done this with great success, where we govern across South Africa. Over the last 5 years, 9 out of 10 jobs were created in areas governed by the DA. It is time to bring that success to Mangaung.

A city that gets the basics right will attract investment, will allow businesses to expand their operations, and will inevitably create an environment for growth, jobs and opportunities to flourish. We must tackle the massive youth unemployment in MANGAUNG.

One such way is to attract and host world-class events in our city. Mangaung must become a prime destination for events, from sports to arts and culture and tourism. We must host South Africa. Residents will know the DA, and I have been fighting the fight to get our stadiums refurbished and back to world-class status so that we can host Bafana, the Springboks and athletics. I have started that fight, and I will continue that fight in local government.

Our message today is CLEAR. With our pledges as a guiding tool, I am confident that Mangaung can WORK for every Resident. Mangaung can work for its Businesses. Mangaung can work for its Entrepreneurs. It can work for the township economy. For Investors. Mangaung can work for our rural communities. AND Mangaung can work for the thousands of unemployed residents. Mangaung can work for our children and grandchildren, and for our Gogos, our oumas and oupas.

We want residents of Mangaung to join us in getting Mangaung working.

Politics make or break a City. We need each and every resident to now rally behind the DA.

The choice in the upcoming local government election is binary – a vote for continued decline under an ANC-led government, which has led to a metro that is in ICU, poor services, poor economic growth, and low public and investor trust in government,

OR

A vote for the DA with a proven track record of getting local governments working for all, a blueprint of clean effective local government that gets towns and cities working across South Africa, that restores dignity to residents and that gets our town working to create jobs and opportunities.

Only one of two parties can be the biggest in Mangaung after 4 November.
The ANC or the DA. WE MUST ensure it is the DA. Resident must unite and win.

How do you get behind our Working for All campaign in Mangaung?

The best way to do so is FIRSTLY by ensuring that you are correctly registered to vote.

And if you are correctly registered, then check your partner, check your neighbour, your colleagues and friends, and your family. For the next three weeks, that is all that you must be focused on – ensuring DA voters are correctly registered to vote.

Then, once the voters' roll is closed, I call on every DA voter in Mangaung to VOTE DA ON BOTH BALLOTS. Ensure your VOTE counts by BACKING A STRONG DA in Mangaung.

If you love our city,

if you want to see our city working for all,

and want to see the Free State work, then we must get Mangaung working!

AND THE DA WILL GET MANGAUNG WORKING FOR ALL.

MANGAUNG CAN WORK!

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