



DA
uMngeni

THE NEXT CHAPTER



PROTECT OUR GAINS. • KEEP MAKING PROGRESS.



**DA uMngeni
2026 Manifesto**

THE **NEXT** CHAPTER

PROTECT OUR GAINS. • KEEP MAKING PROGRESS.

DA uMngeni 2026 Manifesto

CONTENTS

1

A message from the Mayoral Candidate

2

2

A message from the Mooi-uMngeni Political heads

3

3

Recognising excellence

4

4

Our 6 key priorities

5

5

Our 10 pledges

6

6

Five Game Changers

7

7

Our Commitments to the people of uMngeni

8

MESSAGE FROM THE **uMNGENI** MAYORAL CANDIDATE

Five years ago, we inherited a municipality that was broken. Years of neglect, poor financial management, failing infrastructure and declining services had eroded confidence in local government and left many residents wondering whether uMngeni could ever be turned around.

We were determined to prove that decline is not inevitable. We set out to show that, with capable leadership, responsible financial management and a relentless focus on delivery, a local municipality can be fixed.

In five short years, we have made significant progress. We have stabilised our finances, strengthened our administration, invested in infrastructure, improved basic services and restored pride in our towns and communities. Most importantly, we have rebuilt a foundation from which uMngeni can continue to grow and prosper.

We know that our work is not finished. There are still roads to repair, infrastructure to upgrade, communities that need better services and opportunities that must be created. But today, we face these challenges from a position of strength rather than crisis.

That is why the **NEXT CHAPTER** of uMngeni is even more exciting than the last. We now have the opportunity to build on the progress we have made, protect the gains we have achieved and take our municipality to the next level.

In 2021, we asked you to trust our promises. In 2026, we ask you to trust something far more powerful: **our record of delivery.**

Together, we can protect our gains and keep making progress.

Chris Pappas
uMngeni Mayoral Candidate

PROTECT OUR GAINS. | KEEP MAKING PROGRESS.



MESSAGE

FROM THE

MOOI-uMNGENI POLITICAL HEADS



Edwin Macrae Bath (MP)



Mmabatho Tembe (MPL)



The 2026 Local Government Elections are a defining moment for the people of uMngeni. This election is not simply about choosing political parties, it is about deciding who will govern our municipality, manage public money, maintain infrastructure and deliver essential services. Delivery being the absolute key component.



uMngeni has experienced significant political change since 2021, making the choice particularly important. The risk is that voters may choose based on slogans, personalities or political promises rather than proven leadership and delivery. Every vote carries real consequences: it determines the direction of uMngeni, the quality of governance, economic opportunities and the future we leave our children.



This then becomes apparent that it's only the Democratic Alliance that will continue to bring about that consistent change and continue to deliver services to All its residents. We breathe life into our manifestos and turn spoken words into action. Let us continue making progress because this is about all of us.

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE



**Recognised UNESCO
City for Folk Art and Craft**
(United Nations)



**Decline in Youth
Unemployment by 7%**
(HSRC)



**15% growth
in earnings**
(SARS)



**6% growth in
businesses/firms**
(SARS)



**More than 10% decline
in Gini Coefficient**
(National Treasury)



**7th best run municipality
in South Africa**
(FW de Klerk Foundation,
Status of Local Government
Report 2026)



**Best municipality for access
to services and opportunities
in KZN**
(CoGTA)



**2200 net permanent
jobs created**
(HSRC)

OUR **6** KEY PRIORITIES

PROTECT OUR GAINS. • KEEP MAKING PROGRESS.

5



1



**A growing economy
that creates jobs**

2



**Infrastructure maintenance
and investment**

3



**Waste and
the Environment**

4



**A transparent and
responsive government**

5



**Building
safer communities**

6



**Financial
sustainability**

OUR 10 PLEDGES

PROTECT OUR GAINS. • KEEP MAKING PROGRESS.

6



1



Eradicate **95%** of **potholes** on municipal roads.

2



Achieve an average **72-hour turnaround time** for streetlight repairs.

3



Provide accredited **NQF-level training** to at least **1,000 people**.

4



Expand **refuse collection** to reach at least **85%** of uMngeni households.

5



Triple support for sport, arts and culture programmes.

6



Establish a stand-alone **Municipal Planning Tribunal**.

7



Maintain the **most comprehensive basket of support** for poor and vulnerable households in KwaZulu-Natal.

8



Use **strategic litigation** to hold Eskom, Transnet, uMgungundlovu District Municipality and the Department of Transport accountable for delivering the services our residents deserve.

9



Establish a dedicated unit to **tackle problem properties** and clear **invasive alien vegetation**.

10



Double support for **non-profit organisations**.

FIVE GAME CHANGERS

PROTECT OUR GAINS. • KEEP MAKING PROGRESS.



1



Deliver Wi-Fi coverage to
60% of farming villages.

2



Complete and win the **Hilton**
electricity court challenge.

3



Establish a dedicated municipal
Law Enforcement Department.

4



Create at least **2,000** net
new jobs.

5



Launch a **Day Mothers Programme**
to support registered early childhood
development centres.

Our Commitments to the People of uMngeni

- 1** Continue the **mud-house eradication** programme.
- 2** Expand **mast lighting** and **rural lighting** across uMngeni.
- 3** Invest in **safer streets** and infrastructure for pedestrians.
- 4** Build more **bus shelters** and improve public transport parking facilities.
- 5** Transform the old **Hilton railway line** into a community-friendly public park.
- 6** Deliver more **solar packs** to rural villages and informal settlements.
- 7** Protect **property values** while keeping municipal rates among the lowest of KZN's major towns.
- 8** Bring more of our **parks** back to life by expanding the capacity of our Parks Department.
- 9** Maintain **zero tolerance** for **corruption**.
- 10** **Reduce waste** going to landfill by expanding recycling operations.
- 11** Complete the establishment of the uMngeni **Fire Department**.
- 12** Establish dedicated support for South African-owned **spaza shops**.
- 13** Increase support for catalytic events such as the **Hilton Arts Festival**, **Midmar Mile** and **Symphony by the Water**, while strengthening our community tourism organisations.
- 14** Protect the **rural landowner rebate** for qualifying property owners.
- 15** Strategically resource **municipal security personnel**.
- 16** Introduce a **resident satisfaction survey** to measure our performance and hold us accountable.
- 17** Increase the **household income threshold** to **R15 000** for the pensioners' rebate.
- 18** Expand programmes supporting **people with disabilities** and promote fair representation within the municipality.
- 19** Zero-rate qualifying **public schools**.
- 20** Invest in **sporting facilities** across all our communities.
- 21** Ensure **municipal employees** have access to proper facilities, offices and professional development opportunities.
- 22** Increase financial support for **Community Policing Forums**.
- 23** Plant at least **500 new trees**.
- 24** Provide at least **R1 million** in annual support for **SMMEs**.
- 25** Achieve a maximum **30-day turnaround time** for building plan approvals.
- 26** **Go digital**: move all **municipal vacancy** applications online.
- 27** Complete the **next valuation roll** while protecting property owners from excessive increases.
- 28** Roll out more **boreholes** to improve access to reliable water in rural communities.
- 29** Expand **free public Wi-Fi** across uMngeni.
- 30** Double the **CCTV camera network** to help make our communities safer.
- 31** Launch a **driver's licence training programme**.
- 32** Expand the **SMME grass-cutting programme**.

A RECORD OF DELIVERY AND A PROMISE TO DO MORE

