

GET KWADUKUZA WORKING

KWADUKUZA LOCAL MANIFESTO 2026

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A local plan built on the DA 2026 Local Government Manifesto

A MESSAGE FROM PRIVI MAKHAN

KwaDukuza is not a case study to me. It is home. I am a third-generation daughter of this soil. These streets shaped me. These beaches were part of my childhood. The sugar-cane fields, the town centres, the villages, the suburbs and the people of this municipality are part of who I am. So when I say that KwaDukuza is not working as it should, I do not say it from a distance. I say it because I live the consequences with you. And when somewhere that you call home doesn't work, you don't have the luxury of looking away.

This manifesto is more than a document. It is a contract between our DA team that wants to govern this municipality and the people of KwaDukuza. It is about replacing a culture of excuses with a culture of work — and making sure that when residents pay rates, buy electricity, report a fault, open a business or ask for help, they deal with a municipality that is competent, responsive and accountable.

The DA's national promise in this election is simple: get municipalities working for all. Today we make that promise local. We say: Get KwaDukuza Working. Our plan takes that promise from Darnall to Ballito, from Groutville to Shakaskraal, from the KwaDukuza CBD to eTete, Blythedale, Stanger Manor, Ntshawini and every ward in between.

Our plan is built on six practical promises: professional government, reliable electricity, better basic services and water accountability, safer communities, a clean municipality, and a local economy that creates opportunity. These are not abstract themes. They are the everyday things that decide whether a family can live with dignity and whether a business can survive.

I am asking residents to judge us by a simple test: does this plan make KwaDukuza work better? If it does not, it does not belong in this manifesto.

OUR SIX PROMISES TO GET KWADUKUZA WORKING

- 1. A professional, corruption-free municipality that puts residents first.
- 2. Reliable electricity and a grid that supports homes and businesses.
- 3. Basic services that work — and firm accountability for water failures.
- 4. Safer streets, public spaces and neighbourhoods.
- 5. A cleaner KwaDukuza with dependable refuse removal and maintained public spaces.
- 6. A municipality that enables investment, small business, housing opportunity and jobs.

PROMISE 1: A MUNICIPALITY THAT WORKS FOR RESIDENTS

We will build a stable, professional and corruption-free KwaDukuza Municipality, appointing competent people on merit and enforcing consequences for failure and corruption.

1. THE DA PROMISE

We will build a stable, professional and corruption-free KwaDukuza Municipality where cadre deployment ends, competent people are appointed on merit and real consequences follow failure and corruption.

2. WHAT THE PROMISE MEANS

A working municipality begins with a working administration. Jobs in the municipality must go to competent people based on merit, not connected people based on the card of a political party. A tender must be won because a company can do the work, not because somebody knows somebody. When an official fails, there must be real consequences. And when you report a problem, the municipality must behave as though your time and your money matter.

3. WHAT IS WRONG IN KWADUKUZA

KwaDukuza has spent 2026 dealing with instability at the very top of the administration. The Municipal Manager remains suspended following a Section 106 process. We have had acting arrangements and public disputes around who is lawfully in charge. Two other senior managers have also been suspended, including an appointment the DA rejected from the onset. The same environment has had to confront the R35,7 million cyber-heist, procurement controversies and serious questions about project monitoring. The latest audit may be financially unqualified, but reporting on it still raised more than R100 million in irregular expenditure.

That is not the standard we should accept. Good government is not magic. It is management, discipline, competence and consequences — and it is also political stability.

Our EPWP and municipal opportunity programmes must be transparent and auditable. Public opportunities must not be controlled by political networks or patronage.

4. WHERE THE DA GOVERNS

The DA manifesto points to municipalities such as West Coast District with 14 consecutive clean audits and full capital-project expenditure, and to top-performing municipalities such as Swartland, Saldanha Bay, Hessequa, Kouga and Midvaal. These examples show what disciplined, professional government can deliver.

5. WHAT PRIVI AND THE TEAM WILL DO

A DA-led KwaDukuza will publish major contracts and project milestones and establish a public tracking dashboard for all capital projects. We will strengthen internal audit and implement consequence management. We will protect municipal payment systems against fraud and cybercrime, tackle ghost employees and make EPWP and municipal opportunity programmes transparent and auditable.

Public money will be for public good, not political patronage. Our government will be judged by what gets done, what gets reported and what happens when officials fail.

Our rule will be simple: public money must produce public work.

PROMISE 2: KEEP THE LIGHTS ON

We will get KwaDukuza's municipal electricity system working by protecting electricity revenue, fixing infrastructure, reducing losses and building a more resilient local energy system.

1. THE DA PROMISE

We will get KwaDukuza's municipal electricity system working by protecting electricity revenue, fixing infrastructure, reducing losses and building a more resilient local energy system.

2. WHAT THE PROMISE MEANS

Electricity is not just another service. It is the bloodstream of the local economy. An outage can cost a business stock and trading hours, damage household appliances and leave a learner trying to study in the dark.

3. WHAT IS WRONG IN KWADUKUZA

KwaDukuza has experienced a level of electricity instability that has become normalised. In 2025, Privi Makhan highlighted that 81 of the first 100 days of a mayoral term had included

outages. As at the end of June 2026, energy losses were reported at R441 million — more than R1,2 million a day. That is money disappearing while paying residents are asked to carry more of the burden.

The municipality has an Electricity Loss Reduction Plan, but the problem remains urgent. We need a grid that is maintained, monitored and managed properly, with the money collected from electricity going back into the system as far as the law and finances allow.

4. WHERE THE DA GOVERNS

The DA manifesto points to Cape Town's use of renewable-energy partnerships to protect city-supply customers from up to two stages of load-shedding, while DA governments invest in maintenance, private generation and better energy management.

5. WHAT PRIVI AND THE TEAM WILL DO

A DA-led KwaDukuza will ringfence electricity revenue for the grid as far as the law and finances allow. We will accelerate smart meters and power-user audits, target cable theft, illegal connections and large-scale electricity theft, and improve outage monitoring and response.

We will fast-track the integration of independent power producers into the energy supply environment and explore funding options to unlock the R240 million Dukuza substation. Stabilising the grid is central to unlocking investment and giving businesses confidence to grow. Our goal is simple: fewer outages, faster repairs, lower losses and a grid that business can trust.

PROMISE 3: BASIC SERVICES THAT WORK — AND WATER ACCOUNTABILITY

We will make basic services reliable and hold every sphere of government accountable for the services residents depend on, including water.

1. THE DA PROMISE

We will make basic services reliable and hold every sphere of government accountable for the services residents depend on, including water.

2. WHAT THE PROMISE MEANS

KwaDukuza Local Municipality is not the Water Services Authority — that responsibility belongs to iLembe District Municipality. I will not promise powers that the Mayor of KwaDukuza does not have. But we also cannot accept a system where a resident is sent from one government office to another while water runs down the street or sewage comes out of a manhole. Where a service belongs to another sphere, KwaDukuza must still fight for the resident.

3. WHAT IS WRONG IN KWADUKUZA

Residents have described the everyday consequences of unreliable water and municipal-side service failures. In Warren Road in Ward 17, an 81-year-old resident described receiving water from a tanker only once every two days during an outage. Millions of litres of clean water leaking into streets, slow response times, blocked manholes and sewage overflows are not acceptable. Residents do not care which logo is on the bakkie. They want the problem fixed.

KwaDukuza is also growing rapidly across Ballito, Shakaskraal, Groutville, KwaDukuza town and surrounding settlements. Infrastructure planning and maintenance must keep pace with that growth, while flood damage continues to put roads, bridges and stormwater systems under pressure.

4. WHERE THE DA GOVERNS

The DA manifesto records the Western Cape as having the highest level of basic water access, while Cape Town, Overstrand, Midvaal and Swartland all achieved No Drop scores of 90% or more in the 2023 report. These results show what disciplined infrastructure management can achieve.

5. WHAT PRIVI AND THE TEAM WILL DO

We will create a formal KwaDukuza–iLembe escalation protocol, publish response standards and show residents who owns each fault and what is being done. We will map recurring water and sewage hotspots and maintain a public service dashboard so residents can see progress.

For services KwaDukuza directly controls — roads, stormwater, streetlights, refuse and public facilities — we will have ward-based maintenance plans and public repair schedules. Preventative maintenance will be prioritised over crisis repairs.

Our promise is simple: if a service is ours, we will fix it. If it belongs to another sphere, we will fight for the resident until it is fixed.

PROMISE 4: SAFER COMMUNITIES

We will use every municipal power available to make KwaDukuza safer, with stronger law enforcement, better lighting, technology and partnerships with SAPS, CPFs, neighbourhood watches and private security.

1. THE DA PROMISE

We will use every municipal power available to make KwaDukuza safer, with stronger law enforcement, better lighting, technology and partnerships with SAPS, CPFs, neighbourhood watches and private security.

2. WHAT THE PROMISE MEANS

A municipality cannot replace SAPS. But a municipality can make crime harder. We can make sure streetlights work, maintain verges so criminals have less cover, use CCTV intelligently, enforce by-laws, support neighbourhood watches and CPFs, and coordinate municipal law enforcement, SAPS and private security instead of allowing everyone to work in separate silos.

3. WHAT IS WRONG IN KWADUKUZA

KwaDukuza's communities face crime and disorder in town centres, theft and vandalism of electricity infrastructure, unsafe dark routes, illegal dumping and overgrown verges. On Workers Day, Privi Makhan heard harrowing stories from commuters about young women walking in fear of being mugged or raped because public lighting had remained off in some areas for more than two years. We cannot allow this to become normal.

Safety failures are often maintenance failures too: broken streetlights, overgrown bushes, unsafe pedestrian routes and public spaces that become unusable after dark all create opportunities for crime.

4. WHERE THE DA GOVERNS

The DA manifesto highlights the LEAP programme in Cape Town, which has deployed around 1,400 officers to hotspots, and Kouga's 24-hour joint operations centre linking local services, SAPS and private security. Stellenbosch has also established a municipal court to deal with by-law transgressions.

5. WHAT PRIVI AND THE TEAM WILL DO

We will establish a KwaDukuza Safety Partnership Forum, install strategic CCTV monitoring, prioritise dark and danger routes, support community patrol structures and establish a 24-hour community safety unit. Crime does not sleep, and neither should our municipal safety response.

We will coordinate municipal law enforcement, traffic, SAPS, CPFs, neighbourhood watches and private security, and enforce municipal by-laws consistently — not selectively.

Safety will become part of how we design, maintain and manage every public space in KwaDukuza.

PROMISE 5: A CLEAN KWADUKUZA WE CAN BE PROUD OF

We will clean up KwaDukuza by making refuse collection dependable, stopping illegal dumping, maintaining public spaces and protecting beaches, parks and town centres.

1. THE DA PROMISE

We will clean up KwaDukuza by making refuse collection dependable, stopping illegal dumping, maintaining public spaces and protecting beaches, parks and town centres.

2. WHAT THE PROMISE MEANS

Cleanliness is not cosmetic. It is health. It is tourism. It is investment. It is dignity. Refuse collection must be dependable, municipal fleets must be maintained, illegal dumping must be dealt with quickly and public spaces must be managed as assets that belong to residents.

3. WHAT IS WRONG IN KWADUKUZA

KwaDukuza's own annual report identifies illegal dumping and littering as a major challenge along the R102 corridor, including Darnall and Zamani, Gledhow, Ntshawini, Groutville, Charlottedale, eThembeni, eTete, Shakaskraal and Shakashead.

We see the result in illegal dumps, dirty verges, polluted streams and public spaces that are cleaned for an event and then neglected again. KwaDukuza should never accept this as normal.

4. WHERE THE DA GOVERNS

The DA manifesto proposes proper refuse fleet maintenance, stronger environmental-health enforcement, recycling facilities and partnerships with communities. We will also formalise the Adopt a Facility model to support public-private partnerships and make the ownership of public spaces a whole-of-society approach.

5. WHAT PRIVI AND THE TEAM WILL DO

We will publish refuse collection schedules and missed-collection data; maintain and monitor refuse fleets; create a rapid illegal-dumping response and enforcement team; and expand recycling and buy-back partnerships.

We will maintain parks, beaches, sports facilities and verges to a schedule residents can see. Adopt a Facility partnerships will add value without replacing municipal responsibility.

KwaDukuza must look like a place that respects its people and welcomes those who invest and visit here.

PROMISE 6: JOBS, INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY

We will make KwaDukuza an investment-ready municipality that helps businesses start, grow and employ more people.

1. THE DA PROMISE

We will make KwaDukuza an investment-ready municipality that helps businesses start, grow and employ more people.

2. WHAT THE PROMISE MEANS

Local government cannot employ everyone. But local government can either open the door to opportunity or stand in the doorway. Reliable electricity, functioning roads, safe town centres, predictable approvals, fair trading rules and honest procurement all matter.

3. WHAT IS WRONG IN KWADUKUZA

KwaDukuza has extraordinary advantages: the N2 corridor, the R102, tourism, a growing Ballito economy, logistics access, agriculture, new development and communities hungry for opportunity. Yet we undermine those advantages when electricity fails, projects stall, approvals take too long and town centres decline.

KwaDukuza received R1.2 billion in disaster funding following the 2022 floods. That does not mean every rand was wasted, and we must be accurate about that. But with that level of funding, residents should have seen tangible improvements across all 30 wards. The Hulett Bridge, a R29 million project, has stood at a standstill three years later, with another R17 million reportedly needed to complete it. The Mnyundwini Bridge is another stalled symbol of the legacy of the floods. Every unfinished bridge means lost access to work, school, customers and investment.

Housing is also central to opportunity. We need transparent delivery, quality control and well-located development linked to services, transport and economic opportunity. Local private-sector initiatives such as Idladla demonstrate the potential for affordable housing delivered with dignity and close to economic opportunities. The private sector is not our enemy; it is a partner in building a growing local economy.

4. WHERE THE DA GOVERNS

The DA manifesto shows what an opportunity-focused municipality can do. Cape Town's 'Getting YOU to Work' initiative has helped more than 24,000 jobseekers travel to interviews and job opportunities, while its title-deed programme has delivered thousands of title deeds to residents.

5. WHAT PRIVI AND THE TEAM WILL DO

Our KwaDukuza team will establish a mayoral investment and red-tape unit with clear turnaround times, including a dedicated team within Economic Development to deal with catalytic projects. We will create a small-business and informal-trader service desk and work across all spheres of government to unlock well-located land, speed up housing opportunities and support transparent social housing.

We will prioritise the completion and recovery of stalled infrastructure projects, with public project dashboards showing budgets, contractors, milestones and progress. We will work with government and the private sector to create an enabling environment for investment, business growth and jobs.

We will measure growth not only by new buildings and property prices, but by whether the child growing up in Groutville, Shakaskraal, eTete, Darnall or KwaDukuza town has a better chance of finding work and building a life here.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS: GETTING TO WORK

1. Publish the state of the municipality through a governance and service-delivery recovery dashboard.
2. Launch a full electricity-loss and high-user metering recovery programme.
3. Explore funding options to unlock the R240 million Dukuza substation and strengthen the municipal grid.
4. Publish ward-level schedules for roads, stormwater, streetlights and public-space maintenance.
5. Create a formal KwaDukuza-iLembe water-fault escalation protocol with public response standards.
6. Publish major municipal contracts, capital-project milestones and consequence-management progress.
7. Introduce a missed-refuse-collection and illegal-dumping response dashboard and enforcement programme.
8. Establish the KwaDukuza Safety Partnership Forum and a 24-hour community safety unit with priority hotspot plans.
9. Launch the Mayor's Investment, Jobs and Red-Tape Unit, including a catalytic-projects function.
10. Review stalled capital projects and publish recovery, termination or completion decisions, then return to all 30 wards to report back.

THE STANDARD WE WILL GOVERN BY

I can't promise perfection. But I will promise that I'll be honest about the problems and I will show up for you. I promise a government that measures what it does, reports what it has not done and acts when people fail.

This is my home. This is my responsibility. And this is collectively our moment to choose a municipality that works. Let's get the lights working. Let us get the streets working. Let us get the finances working. Let us get our public spaces working. Let us get opportunity working. Let's Get KwaDukuza Working.