

NOW OR NEVER: DON'T WASTE JOBURG'S LAST CHANCE

JOBURG FINAL RALLY

Speech by Helen Zille, DA Mayoral Candidate for Johannesburg

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NOT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fellow Joburgers,

On 4 November, you will decide the future of this great city.

And make no mistake. **This is our last chance to save Johannesburg.**

Are you ready to save Joburg?

We better be ready because Joburg is depending on us.

Another five years of corruption and collapsing infrastructure will push our city beyond recovery.

But it does not have to end this way. This election means we get to choose Joburg's future.

Try to imagine waking up in a Joburg that works.

You turn on the tap. There is clean water.

You switch on the kettle. There is electricity.

The rubbish has been collected. The traffic lights work.

Businesses open their doors, and employ more people.

All across the city, there are young people waking up to go to work.

That is the Joburg I believe in. A city where our children can build a future, instead of planning to leave.

We can build that city.

But we must make the right choice. And we must make it Now. Ixesha lifikile. Manje Yisikathi!

For more than a year, we have been to every corner of Joburg to listen.

Some people are angry. Others are exhausted. But they refuse to give up.

They are still fighting for their communities. Still finding solutions.

Residents are doing the work their municipality should be doing.

Business owners are buying generators and drilling boreholes to stay open.

Neighbourhood watches and private security are protecting communities where the police have failed.

You are the people who are keeping Joburg alive.

You have the talent, the determination and the courage. Ninesibindi.

You deserve a government that works as hard as you do. And this election the people of Joburg can vote for that.

Look at the people this campaign has brought together. The Blue People. Different cultures and religions, 11 languages, every community. At a time when the world is dividing along these lines, the Blue People of Joburg are choosing a different way. In fact, you are leading the way.

We are proud of our diversity. We will never go backwards to the racial divisions of the past that caused so much damage.

iDA iyadibanisa. iANC iyahlukanisa.

Friends, something remarkable has happened in this campaign.

Just listen to our opponents. They are copying our campaign.

Suddenly, everyone is promising to replace pipes, fix the roads, stop corruption, enforce the law and get the finances under control. They haven't done any of this for 30 years, but now suddenly they are waking up. They see the Blue Tsunami coming.

That makes the choice on 4 November very simple.

The question is no longer WHAT must be done. The question is WHO CAN DO IT?

The people who created this mess obviously can't fix it. The ANC/EFF/PA/ActionSA/AI Jama-ah have had their time and they have failed.

The tiny parties that promise to fix everything, have delivered nothing but chaos.

Let me tell you something you already know. The only party that can turn words into action is the DA. We are the only party with the experience, the track record, the policies and the people to get things done.

Anyone can announce a plan.

The test is whether you can implement it.

This election is a choice between promises and proof.

Between the talkers and the doers.

Between those who want power for themselves, and those who will work for you.

20 years ago, the blue team won a Metro from the ANC and turned it into the world's best City. Three years later we did the same in a province.

We know the difference between making speeches and making government work.

In Cape Town, old water and sewer pipes are being replaced at five times the rate of Joburg.

When Eskom cuts the power, Cape Town has systems to keep the lights on.

There are more working streetlights in Khayelitsha than in Sandton!

And right here in Gauteng, DA-run Midvaal has achieved twelve consecutive clean audits.

That is what happens when public money is used for the public good.

But the biggest test of all is jobs.

Since 2016, Cape Town has added more jobs than all the other seven other metros combined — in fact, 120,000 more than Joburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Ethekeeni, Nelson Mandela Bay, Buffalo City and Mangaung PUT TOGETHER.

That is the best proof that the DA is the party that offers hope and opportunity to all, especially the poor.

Government's job is to create the conditions in which businesses invest, grow and employ people.

A factory needs electricity. A restaurant needs water. A trader needs clean, safe streets.

And every business needs a municipality that answers its phones, processes its permits and gets out of the way of people who want to work.

Joburgers built this city into the economic powerhouse of Africa.

You are world-class people. Now you deserve a world-class government.

So what will we do when we win?

In our first year, we will start rebuilding the foundations of this city.

First: Fix the finances.

Cut waste. Fix the billing system. Fund essential services.

The money you pay for water must go towards water.

The money you pay for electricity must fix electricity.

We will replace pipes, fix substations and maintain roads.

Second: Put honest, capable people in charge.

Engineers who understand engineering. Financial managers who understand finance. Officials who actually serve the public.

I do not care what colour you are.

I do not care which WhatsApp groups you are on.

I care whether you can do the job. And whether you are honest.

Good officials will have our full support.

Corrupt officials will face consequences.

And those who consistently fail to perform will have to find work somewhere else.

Third: Declare war on corruption.

Joburg needs its own Madlanga moment.

We will initiate an independent investigation into the corruption that has crippled this city, with public hearings and published findings.

We will act on the evidence from the Auditor-General, whistle-blowers, the Zondo Commission and others.

We will rebuild the city's anti-corruption capacity, shield it from political interference and protect whistle-blowers.

And we will scrutinise city contracts, starting with the biggest and most suspicious.

We will open up procurement to public scrutiny.

Who got the contract? Why? What were they paid? And what did they deliver?

No more secret deals. No favours for connected friends. No work, no pay.

Fourth: Make the municipality work for YOU.

We will make sure the phones are answered and your queries addressed.

We will resolve disputes and track faults until they are fixed.

We will cut unnecessary delays in approving building plans and business permits.

We will make it easier to start a business, grow a business and create jobs.

Fifth: Restore law and order.

We will support honest metro cops and remove corrupt ones.

We will target cable theft, illegal dumping, hijacked buildings, the criminal syndicates destroying our infrastructure, and the scrap dealers who pay them for what they have stolen.

We will repair streetlights, deal with dangerous municipal properties and make public spaces safer.

Friends, none of this will be easy.

We will inherit a city in deep trouble.

There will be setbacks. There will be difficult decisions. Those who benefit from corruption will try to stop us.

But we know what must be done. We have the plan. We have the people. And we have the experience.

We cannot fix Joburg in a day. But every day, we will fix Joburg.

That is the commitment I make to you.

Now I want to speak about the choice that lies ahead.

Our polling shows we are now the biggest party in Joburg. By Far.

Think about that!

A year ago, who would have believed that we could become the biggest party in Joburg, and within reach of a DA majority?

You have made that possible.

But I must tell you plainly.

We could win the most votes, and still end up in opposition.

The ANC, EFF, PA and ActionSA could put together another chaotic coalition. Gayton has told us this is what they are planning.

Protecting their positions not the people.

Another five years of looting and instability. Another five years of excuses. Another five years of collapse

Joburg cannot afford that.

The DA needs a mandate strong enough to govern; to appoint capable people; to make difficult decisions.

And strong enough to keep a government stable long enough to finish the job.

That is why every vote matters.

And that is why I am asking you to do more than vote.

I am asking you to bring someone with you.

Bring your family. Bring your friends. Bring your neighbours. One plus one equals WIN.

Speak to people who have given up on voting. Tell them why this election is different.

On 4 November, you are in charge.

And you only have to do one thing: go to the voting station and put your cross next to the DA logo, on BOTH ballots. Make sure your friends do too.

Then you can go home and have your braai.

And remember this.

The most important reason to Vote DA is yourself and your family.

Vote for the future you want to live in. The business you want to open.

The job you want to find.

The home you are working for.

Vote for the services you need.

Vote so that your children have a reason to stay in Joburg.

We have become so used to failure that we have started treating it as normal.

We plan our days around power cuts. We store water. We dodge potholes. We pay twice for services we should receive the first time, from the Council.

This is not normal. And we can change it.

And on 4 November, you have the power to demand better.

Fellow Joburgers,

I began by asking you to imagine a different city.

The water is running. The lights are on. The streets are clean. The traffic lights work.

Your business is growing.

Someone you love wakes up for a job they once thought they would never find.

And for the first time in years, you feel proud of your city again.

That future is worth fighting for.

And on the 4th of November it will be worth standing in a queue for.

Worth voting for.

It is no longer an impossible dream.

Reach out. We can almost touch victory.

We have one last chance to turn this city around before it is too late.

Don't just hope for change. VOTE for it!

It is now or never, Joburg.

LET'S MAKE IT NOW!

LET'S GET JOBURG WORKING!

Thank you

[ENDS.]