

Local Government Manifesto – Elections 2021 Media Launch

Greetings and welcome.

Introduction

- Spectrum National Party is a new Party that was registered by the Independent Electoral Commission in November 2019.
- Our party has a national footprint and has established political structures in approximately 125 municipalities across 6 provinces. We are growing at an astronomical pace and will soon have a presence in the remaining provinces and municipalities.
- We are self-funded and do not receive any form of financial support from businesses, donors, or the government.
- We stand for equal representation and equal opportunities for all. We reject the dominance of one race over another with the contempt it deserves.
- Our vision is for unity and equality for all in a safe and prosperous South Africa where all can develop to their full potential.
- The youth and people with disabilities are included in all our plans for a better society.

As we approach the much-anticipated municipal elections on the 1st of November 2021, we must articulate our pledges.

SPECTRUM NATIONAL PARTY PLEDGES

1. Real Institutional Transformation

We pledge to,

- 1.1 Challenge the negative stereotypes of poor service delivery by instilling high service standards and a work ethos that is responsive and caring,
- 1.2 Ensure that all population groups are represented in the administrations,
- 1.3 Change the culture of administrative secrecy and mistrust, to that of openness and transparency where public scrutiny is welcomed,
- 1.4 Be an equal governance partner in the governing of municipal affairs,
- 1.5 Instill high levels of professionalism, enthusiasm and deal with community issues with urgency,
- 1.6 Work at changing negative attitudes and refocusing our energies to serve communities with pride.

What have those in power done?

- They have employed and deployed ONLY their own and have excluded others,
- They have neglected to transform municipal administrations from being self-serving to institutions that serve people,
- They have spectacularly transformed municipal administrations to be the dens of corruption, nepotism, and malfeasance,
- They have transformed municipal administrations to being organizations of secret agendas and organizations for their few,
- They have failed to prioritize the delivery of basic services to all,
- They have failed to be institutions of the public, for the public.

2. Oversight and Accountability

We pledge to,

- 2.1 Exercise our responsibility of political oversight and management accountability by defining clear goals, processes, and objectives for municipalities,
- 2.2 Admit and take responsibility for service delivery failures and will rectify these with urgency,
- 2.3 Execute our responsibilities in terms of the laws of the country and wishes of the people,
- 2.4 Deal with issues of poor and non-performance decisively,
- 2.5 Be proactive and will work to better the lives of communities,
- 2.6 To take swift action when poor governance occurs,
- 2.7 NOT get involved in who gets contracts,
- 2.8 Introduce tough measures to control income and expenditure,
- 2.9 Make wise financial decisions on behalf of communities,
- 2.10 Appoint only well qualified and experienced professionals in critical areas such as Finance, Human Resources, Engineering, Labour, and others,

What have those in power done?

- They have neglected their oversight and management functions to the extent that services have collapsed,
- They have refused to be accountable for their ill-conceived actions and non-performance,
- They have failed to supervise and manage municipal assets and finances for the benefit of communities,
- They have by-passed laws to ensure that they and their connections can benefit from unlawful financial gain,
- They have commandeered municipal tenders and contracts for their benefit,
- They have abdicated their responsibilities of working for social justice and economic development of communities,
- They have entrenched corruption, nepotism, and malfeasance in municipalities,
- They have become a law unto themselves at the expense of communities.

3. Community Participation in Municipal Affairs

We pledge to,

- 3.1 Promote and encourage the participation of communities in the affairs of municipalities
- 3.2 Listen, learn, and be responsive to the community's needs for services,
- 3.3 Build strong and healthy relations with communities,
- 3.4 Avail ourselves unhesitatingly for interactions with communities,
- 3.5 Keep communities informed on matters of community and public concern,
- 3.6 Involve communities in the formulation of the municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDPs), Spatial Planning and matters that affect communities,
- 3.7 Ensure that our Councillors play a very important role in fostering good relations and creating understanding in communities.

What have those in power done?

- They have excluded us from meaningful participation in the affairs of communities,
- They have refused to listen to the cries of communities,
- They became arrogant narcissists,
- They run municipalities as though they own these institutions,

- The journey that they have taken, has resulted in more protests and destruction of property than ever before in the history of South Africa,

4. Municipal Staffing Components

We pledge to,

- 4.1 Follow best practices in human resource practice, being fair and consistent in its application,
- 4.2 Eliminate favoritism and nepotism in our quest for higher standards and skills,
- 4.3 Recruit locally depending on the availability of skills, qualifications, experience, and other criteria,
- 4.4 Work progressively in our quest to strike a healthy employee balance of race representation at all levels in administrations,
- 4.5 Promote and practice the engagement for service of the physically challenged,
- 4.6 Employ appropriately qualified and well-experienced experts and practitioners to be able to transform municipalities from a position of non-delivery of services to efficiency and responsiveness,
- 4.7 Demand non-negotiable and exceptionally high levels of quality work and efficiency,
- 4.8 Comply and improve health and safety standards to demonstrate our value for staff,
- 4.9 Work to establish sound relations with employee unions,
- 4.10 Ensure that municipalities are appropriately staffed, are caring and responsive,
- 4.11 Introduce ongoing appropriate staff development training programs to meet the needs of an ever-changing society.
- 4.12 Grant employment opportunities to the youth.

What have those in power done?

- Their inactions and self-centredness have resulted in the abuse of municipal staff,
- They have ignored lawful processes and instituted their ill-conceived processes,
- They have ignored the advisories of municipal professionals and staff,
- They have demotivated municipal staff,
- Municipal staff have had to take the blame for political decisions resulting in the loss of their jobs,
- They have filled all the top jobs with family and friends,
- They have created unhealthy alliances and factions in municipal administrations to the detriment of communities,
- They have tied the hands of municipal administrators with their ongoing internal political struggles.
- They have ignored corruption, incompetence, and malfeasance and failed to take decisive action.

5. Finance, Audit, and Management

Finance, Auditing, and Directing the affairs of municipalities are an integral part of the work of municipal administrations. Good management in all disciplines must ensure that the principles of integrity, independence, objectivity, professional behavior, confidentiality, and transparency are always carried through.

We pledge to,

- 5.1 Introduce stringent auditing and management processes at every level of the municipal administrations,

- 5.2 Appoint appropriately qualified and well-experienced persons to execute management functions and most importantly, to deliver to communities what we promise,
- 5.3 Create "safety nets" through the implementation of sustainable, effective checks and balances for the early detection of suspected criminal behavior and attempts at corruption and underhandedness,
- 5.4 Establish administrative shortcomings and work to improve systems and methods to safeguard municipal and administrative integrity,
- 5.5 Ensure that every cent of public money is expended as approved and intended,
- 5.6 Follow and apply all laws that are central to the efficient management of municipal administrations,
- 5.7 Be transparent by considering the inputs of communities in the formulation of budgets and other community matters,
- 5.8 Introduce tough Austerity Measures to eliminate unnecessary and wasteful expenditure, such as travel, nonsensical functions, false monetary claims, municipal credit cards, and the like,
- 5.9 Limit the use of unnecessary Consulting Services for simple, straightforward matters.

What have those in power done?

- Despite repeated calls from society and Auditor General's Office, they have continued without fear of repercussions,
- They have ducked and dived and changed their colors to suit their actions,
- They have been silent in their responsibility to communities,
- They have engineered a culture of non-responsiveness and unaccountability,
- They have designed their dirty underground systems to benefit themselves, their families, and friends.
- They have been riding on ALL our backs for far too long!

6. Re-Engineering Municipalities to the Benefit of the Communities

Municipalities are very often overburdened with unnecessary expenditure associated with "top-heavy management structures", whilst at the operational levels, they are often inappropriately staffed. These unnecessary and wasteful costs burden taxpayers in terms of having to pay more for services that are not rendered in any case!

We pledge to,

- 6.1 Conduct a Needs and Operational Assessment and, where necessary, realign resources to improve municipal effectiveness and responsiveness in our quest to improve service delivery,
- 6.2 Conduct audits of all fixed and moveable municipal assets and determine true values,
- 6.3 Conduct a staff audit(s) and costs associated therewith,
- 6.4 Examine current and future liabilities of municipalities including operational and capital costs to obtain a true picture of the real situation in municipalities,
- 6.5 Ensure that municipalities have the requisite capacities and capabilities to execute their constitutional obligations of social and economic development,
- 6.6 Ensure that municipalities put communities at the center of their objectives,

7. Finance Recovery Action Plans

Public money is very often lost for good through corrupt practices, poor and non-delivery and non-completion of projects and contracts, and overpricing practices. Public money cannot be spent without having proper control measures and accountability in place. We are dealing with the hard-earned money of taxpayers and must be accountable in all respects.

We commit ourselves to work at recovering the last cent lost through corrupt activities in all municipalities.

We pledge to,

- 7.1 Introduce Finance Recovery Action Plans to recover public monies lost through corrupt and underhanded practices,
- 7.2 Strengthen municipal revenue collection systems and methods.
- 7.3 Follow and investigate every cent lost through corruption, and where there is prima facie evidence, charges and prosecution will follow,
- 7.4 Reserve our right to institute a civil action in the recovery of public monies lost through intentional negligence, corruption, and inaction,
- 7.5 Employ the best possible qualified and experienced Financial Managers.

What have those in power done?

- They have encouraged corruption through their inactions to deal decisively with corruption,
- They have unlawfully benefitted from these corrupt practices,
- They have deviated from the correct and proper practices of municipal finance management,
- Their corrupt practices have led to the total collapse of municipalities,
- They have ignored the cries from communities for service delivery.

8. Municipal Tariffs

Many communities are poor, unemployed, and need services like everyone else. Our problem is that poor communities of all colors and races have been relegated to the fringes of society simply because of them being poor. We are steadfast in our belief, that poverty can never be an excuse not to render services to poor people and communities. The price of bread and milk is the same for everyone. We believe, we must work to find sustainable ways that make life a little easier for poor people. After all, there will always be poor people amongst us and, the quicker we accept and introduce sustainable alternatives, the better.

We pledge to,

- 8.1 Investigate and establish how the current tariff models for services, and bulk supplies, such as electricity and water, are arrived at? This work is already in progress.
- 8.2 Compare possible new tariff models against those currently in place to determine viability and affordability and whether these models facilitate social and economic development as contained in our country's constitution?
- 8.3 Engage SOE's that supply bulk services such as electricity and water to reduce bulk costs and make these more affordable to poor communities and society in general. Everybody is feeling the pinch!
- 8.4 Keep municipal tariffs at an affordable level for all,
- 8.5 Introduce meaningful subsidies to those who live below the poverty line,
- 8.6 Engage higher spheres of government to assist with the subsidization of poor households,
- 8.7 Develop and put in place Indigent policies that consider and appreciate the current high unemployment rate and the extreme difficulties faced by communities of putting food on their tables,
- 8.8 Work to ensure a healthy balance between subsidization of services for the poor and unemployed, social, and economic development imperatives, and the sustainability of municipalities.

What have those in power done?

- They have done absolutely nothing tangible and realizable for communities,
- Access to water, electricity, sewage, proper roads, other infrastructure, and services remains a serious challenge for all,
- How can communities that do not have fresh water keep themselves hygienic and clean during this COVID pandemic when they have no access to water?
- How is this possible in South Africa and Africa's most developed economy in 2021?

9. Social and Economic Development

Social and Economic development is a constitutional obligation of all municipalities in the quest to improve the lives of all people. In terms of our constitutional obligations, municipalities **MUST** be at the forefront of the social and economic development of our communities.

The sustainable development of communities, in all respects, cannot be achieved without forwarding progressive thinking, innovation, and the establishment of realistic objectives, and the implementation of people-centered policies. We need inclusionary and workable social and economic legislation and policies that strive to achieve better conditions for all.

To achieve this, we must begin to move away from state dependency to self-sustainability. Meaningful self-sustainability increases the spread of possibilities and reduces levels of dependency on the state. Self-sustainability restores dignity.

We pledge to,

- 9.1 Critically examine and work to strengthen social and economic imperatives such as political stability and policy certainty. There can be no meaningful development without these two factors.
- 9.2 Work and drastically improve municipal service delivery and establish conducive environments to attract investment and opportunities,
- 9.3 Be proactive, and with other stakeholders, identify economic opportunities for communities. Municipalities must be the driving force!
- 9.4 Work extremely diligently to attract investment through our engagements with various stakeholders including big business, agriculture, multi-nationals, community organizations, and influential businesspeople,
- 9.5 Initiate municipal infrastructure maintenance and development programs, and fast-track development applications and processes to kickstart local economies,
- 9.6 Establish Small Business Information Centre(s) to ease the processes of Small Business licensing and to render free advice to aspirant traders,
- 9.7 Create sustainable safe environments through collaborative efforts with the police, big business, crime prevention organizations and companies, community organizations, and the religious fraternity,
- 9.8 We will work with other spheres of government and specialist organizations to establish new facilities for the aged, women and children, the physically - and mentally challenged and strive to assist these facilities and organizations with funding,
- 9.9 Carry out educational programs that encourage children to complete and improve their education and skills,
- 9.10 Collaborate with businesses to create opportunities for the youth through innovative learning and skills development programs, provide internships and facilitate coaching clinics,

What have those in power done?

- They have ignored all the constitutional obligations to work to improve the lives of communities,
- They have siphoned off monies that were earmarked for community development for their interests,
- They have turned a blind eye to the plight of the poor, the elderly, children, and vulnerable groups,
- They have allowed community facilities and infrastructure to go into a state of disrepair,
- They have failed to build and maintain infrastructure resulting in sewage spills, pipe bursts, and blackouts,
- They have ignored the informal business sector, the tourism sector, the environment, and other developmental imperatives.
- Many communities still do not have water 27 years into democracy.

10. Municipal Infrastructure Development Programmes

Current infrastructure is in a state of decay and collapse. It is unserviceable or does not meet the required standards of serviceability, it falls short of the pressing service demands and needs of communities and the impact of high urbanization. Poor planning, lack of maintenance, and corruption are the real causes of infrastructure collapse.

We pledge to,

- 10.1 Upgrade unserviceable and moribund infrastructure and embark on developing infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the local population. This includes water, sewage, electricity, roads, libraries, cemeteries, playparks, and sports facilities,
- 10.2 Develop and introduce sustainable infrastructure maintenance plans to always ensure infrastructure functionality, save for unforeseen breakdowns,
- 10.3 Ensure quality contract delivery standards by ensuring compliance with Service Delivery Agreements (SLA's),
- 10.4 Support local contractors who qualify and are approved to undertake municipal projects,
- 10.5 Be one step ahead of urbanization and population growth infrastructure needs,
- 10.6 Ensure that contractors are paid on time and as agreed,

What have those in power done?

- Through incompetence and corrupt practices, they have practically run municipalities into the ground,
- They have had no maintenance plans in place to ensure the serviceability of infrastructure,
- They have paid out billions of rands for substandard work and many projects have been abandoned and left incomplete,
- They have failed to plan for the needs of a growing population,
- They have ignored the conditions in poor communities and informal settlements,
- They have failed to create conducive environments for economic growth and investment,
- To balance budgets, they continue to increase service charges without any tangible improvement in the way they do business and run municipalities.
- They have appointed companies belonging to their families and friends to do business with municipalities,

11. Housing and Land

Housing and land acquisition has evaded many of our communities over the years. This has been due to the inabilities of the state to fast-track housing, and largely, because of corruption. Many communities live in very poor conditions in backyards and informal settlements. Many communities have occupied land unlawfully out of pure desperation.

We pledge to,

- 11.1 Collaborate with higher levels of government in the identification and development of suitable land for housing purposes and other facilities,
- 11.2 Work progressively to improve the living conditions of poor people through the installation of proper municipal services in informal settlements,
- 11.3 Make suitable land available, free of charge, for the poor and the homeless in an organized fashion to restore dignity,
- 11.4 Collaborate with specialist organizations and bodies in the field of housing delivery in our quest to house communities,
- 11.5 Ensure that the aged, the sick, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups receive priority for housing,
- 11.6 Enforce the principle of “one house one family” to counter housing corruption and self-enrichment,
- 11.7 All rented municipal housing stock will be transferred, free of charge, to leaseholders, subject to stringent conditions, checks, and balances,
- 11.8 Work to ensure food security for communities by releasing suitable land for communal agricultural purposes will work to empower small scale farmers and support agricultural initiatives,
- 11.9 Eliminate the unfairness in housing allocations,
- 11.10 Establish and introduce fair housing allocation systems and processes,
- 11.11 Work to ensure that ALL people are housed and that service charges are affordable.

What have those in power done?

- They have failed to house poor people by stealing the money allocated for housing,
- Family and friends have been awarded the contracts,
- The few houses that they have built are shoddy and falling apart,
- They have increased rentals and charge substantially,
- They have not delivered services to these communities,
- They have left communities to fight their service delivery battles,
- They have been unresponsive to the plight of homelessness.

12. Health, Water, and Sanitation

These are imperatives that must be elevated to the highest priority of municipalities. How can communities be healthy when they do not have these basic services?

We pledge to,

- 12.1 Make water and sanitation a “priority one” matter and work to restore water and sanitation to every home within the first three months,
- 12.2 Fast track the building of water and sanitation infrastructure for communities that do not have water,
- 12.3 Ensure that piped water is safe for communities to use,
- 12.4 Put in place back-up mechanical water pumping systems to ensure that communities have uninterrupted piped water supply,

- 12.5 Put in place backup sewage pumping systems and increase storage and handling capacities to prevent overflows,
- 12.6 Put in place ongoing maintenance programs that are carried out by suitably qualified and experienced engineers,
- 12.7 Establish and put in place experienced and qualified “response teams” that will handle and resolve water and sanitation issues on a 24/7 basis,
- 12.8 Train and develop staff to handle maintenance, servicing, and emergency issues,
- 12.9 To guarantee supply, only appropriately qualified and experienced managers will be appointed to oversee these complex engineering tasks and challenges,
- 12.10 Collaborate with higher levels of government to ensure future adequate supply of water to communities by increasing storage capacities.
- 12.11 Build new municipal clinics, upgrade existing ones, and employ sufficient staff to reduce long waiting times. Long waiting times will be a thing of the past.
- 12.12 Introduce a Municipal Ambulance Service with “Rapid Response” capabilities to deal with life-threatening emergencies,
- 12.13 Introduce “**Mess** Action Campaigns” that will involve the sustained cleaning of neighborhoods, business districts, and parks. Employment possibilities for local communities will be created.

What have those in power done?

- They have not upgraded and maintained infrastructure,
- They have rechannelled financial resources to less important prerogatives like travel and lunches,
- They have allowed sewage to overflow into streets, into our homes, into our rivers, into the ocean,
- Our communities suffer daily the stench of sewage on their doorsteps,
- Leaking sewage pipes and freshwater pipe-bursts go unrepaired for long periods,
- Our towns and cities resemble a cesspool of hell as we witness the total collapse of services,
- They have ducked and dived responsibility and accountability,
- They do not care about our well-being as they are occupied by their narcissistic (self-centered) ways of life. They only care about themselves.

13. Safety & Security

Municipalities must work to better the living conditions of communities by doing their bit to ensure safer areas for communities to live in. They must collaborate and partner with businesses, the crime-fighting agencies of the state, agriculture, traditional leadership, and with communities as well. It must be a collective effort led by the municipality. Investors only invest in areas that are safe for their employees and where their operations will not be disrupted by high crime rates.

We pledge to,

- 13.1 Introduce Social Crime prevention initiatives that are community-specific, and which begin to address the social challenges in communities,
- 13.2 Consult communities, community safety experts, and various interest groups to develop implementable and sustainable “Municipal Safety Plans” for municipalities,
- 13.3 Reduce criminal behaviour and lawlessness by identifying and implementing economic opportunities that will provide income streams for the unemployed,
- 13.4 Work with our law enforcement agencies, the private security sector, non-governmental organizations, crime watch organizations, and the clergy to find sustainable solutions,
- 13.5 Prioritize workable interventions for the safety and security of children, women, and other vulnerable groups,

- 13.6 Recruit, train and deploy law enforcement officers to enforce municipal by-laws, and strengthen traffic enforcement,
- 13.7 Roll-out "state of the art" camera surveillance system in municipalities with a response and intervention capabilities,
- 13.8 Put in place protection measures designed to protect and safeguard municipal infrastructure,
- 13.9 Communities will play an integral role in ensuring the safety of infrastructure and municipal assets,
- 13.10 Work with communities, experts, and the state machinery in matters concerning gangsterism.
- 13.11 Establish, equip, and staff municipal courts to handle municipal by-law infringements,
- 13.12 Erect facilities for the temporary refuge of women and children experiencing violence at their homes,
- 13.13 Employ and deploy municipal social workers in communities.

What have those in power done?

- Nothing.

14. Our Councillors

We pledge,

- 14.1 That our councillors will be visible and proactive in communities,
- 14.2 That they will take up issues and do all in their power to resolve them,
- 14.3 That they will be responsive to calls from communities,
- 14.4 That they will avail themselves for public meetings when called upon,
- 14.5 That high behavioural standards and levels of professionalism will be displayed,
- 14.6 They will be the active link with municipalities,
- 14.7 Complaints against councillors will be investigated and dealt with timeously,
- 14.8 Councillors will sign a performance agreement with our Executive Mayors, and in turn, our Executive Mayors will sign an agreement with Spectrum National Party.
- 14.9 Our councillors pledge to support at least one poor child with school necessities for every year in office at their own cost.

THE END

Keynote Address

Programme Director
Leadership of Spectrum National Party
Executive Members Across the Country
Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen

- I take this opportunity to remind ourselves of the struggles and steadfastness of our forebearers in the battles against colonialism and apartheid.
- We also remember those who have gone before us in defense of unity and non-racialism.
- These humble men and women set the foundations for a free, prosperous, and democratic society for us all.
- After 27 years of our much cherished and valued democratic society, we have witnessed the distasteful regress and abandonment of the values and principles we fought for, for so long.
- South Africa has become nothing more than a cesspool of hell because of the inability and careless attitude of the government.
- Government, on all levels, has the constitutional responsibility of making life a little easier for its citizens.
- The freedoms contained in the Freedom Charter have become a pipedream for many of our people.
- The service delivery record of this government has plunged many of our people into a bottomless poverty pit.
- Many of us still do not have piped water and are forced into sharing water resources with livestock in 2021.
- Many are homeless and have no place that they can call home! How is it possible that people are still homeless and landless in their country of birth?
- Many young people are unemployed, and finding a job is only just another pipedream. If you want to see what I am talking about, go into any township in South Africa and see for yourself. Why do you think we have such a high crime rate? We need sustainable social and economic development solutions. Through non-action, the state has turned many of our people into beggars. We advocate self-sufficiency as this restores pride, dignity, and self-worth.
- Our young people are hungry for education, but the system denies them that right. Why must students flex their muscles to gain access to educational institutions in their own country?
- The local government is the government closest to the people. It is here where social and economic development must happen. It is a constitutional imperative!

- When local government is weak, ineffective, and corrupt, communities and society in general suffer.
- Corruption affects economic development, and it affects the equitable distribution of resources across our population; It further increases income inequalities and undermines social welfare programs; It further erodes the trust we have in the public sector. It also prevents our much-needed community projects and infrastructure.
- The time has come for a paradigm shift in the ways government and municipalities go about doing their business. We will manage the councils of our municipalities as transparent entities, and we will spend the financial resources mainly to benefit the communities they serve.
- We are exhausted, and we say enough is enough. It's time for a change.
- One of the world's greatest statesmen, our first democratically elected President, Nelson Mandela, once said, "it is now in your hands."

I thank you.