



NATIONAL COLOURED CONGRESS

NATIONAL MANIFESTO 2026-2031

Inclusion now. Equality in every sphere. Education, health and safety first.

By our own. For our own. First.

DEUR ONSE EIE. VI ONSE EIE. EERSTE.

EDUCATION • HEALTH • SAFETY • INCLUSION • EQUALITY



FADIEL ADAMS, PRESIDENT • LARRY VARRIE, DEPUTY PRESIDENT • SAKEENA FRENCHMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL



FOREWORD

Foreword

Counted last, served last, and expected to say thank you. From Mitchells Plain to Eldorado Park, from Gelvandale to Heidedal, from Wentworth to Upington, the story of Coloured, Brown, Khoi, San, Nama, Griqua, Korana and Cape Malay people in South Africa has been the same. We were here first. We helped build this country. And when the doors of democracy opened in 1994, we were told to wait our turn. More than three decades later, we are still waiting.

The National Coloured Congress was founded on the Cape Flats in August 2020 by people who still live there. In 2021 we contested our first municipal election and walked straight into the City of Cape Town Council. Since 2024 we have sat in the National Assembly and the Western Cape Provincial Legislature. We were not created by a head office, a breakaway or a rebrand. We were created by a people who decided that nobody would speak for us again without speaking to us.

This manifesto is our national promise. It sets out, plainly, how our communities have been excluded, what inclusion must look like, and what we will do about it. It puts three things first: the education of our children, the health of our families, and the safety of our streets. Without those three, nothing else in this document will be believed, and nothing else will last.

Putting our people first does not mean putting anyone else last. It means correcting what was deliberately done wrong, lawfully and in the open, so that no Coloured child has to leave home to get ahead, and no Coloured child is left behind because they could not.

By our own. For our own. First. Not some of us. All of us.

FADIEL ADAMS, PRESIDENT · LARRY VARRIE, DEPUTY PRESIDENT · SAKREENA FRENCHMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL



NATIONAL COLOURED CONGRESS

Part One: Who We Are and Why We Speak Now





One people, nine provinces

Census 2022 counted 5 052 349 Coloured South Africans, 8,2% of the national population. We are the largest population group in two provinces: 42,1% of the Western Cape and 41,6% of the Northern Cape. In Gauteng, the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State we live in older, settled communities that are too small to register in a national target and too large to be ignored in a queue for a house, a job or a school place.

Our names are many: Coloured, Brown, Khoi, San, Nama, Griqua, Korana, Cape Malay. Many of our families carry two names at the same table. We will not force anyone to choose one name to be counted, and we will not allow anyone to erase the First Peoples' heritage that most of our families descend from. Many names. One people. One claim.

Whether the address says Mitchells Plain, Gelvandale, Eldorado Park, Heidedal, Wentworth, Riverlea, Eersterust, Kimberley or Springbok, the same three sentences describe us: built on the edge of town, serviced last, counted wrong.

Why now

South Africa votes for its municipalities on 4 November 2026, and for its provinces and Parliament in 2029. Local government is where our lives are actually decided: who gets water, who gets a streetlight, whose land is sold, whose ward gets the budget, whose child walks to school in the dark. Councils in 2026 are the foundation. Provinces and Parliament in 2029 are the next step. A party with councillors has budgets, minutes, records and a track record. A party without them has a press statement.

Why the National Coloured Congress

BECAUSE WE WERE BUILT FOR THIS.	Founded on the Flats, in Council since 2021 and in Parliament since 2024.
BECAUSE THE BIG PARTIES NEED US ONLY EVERY FIVE YEARS.	One has governed the Western Cape and Cape Town while serving our areas last for a generation. The other writes the national targets that lock us out. Neither will fix a system it built.
BECAUSE SMALL PARTIES SPLIT US.	Splintered, our vote is a rounding error. Organised, we decide who governs metros and, in two provinces, who governs the province.
BECAUSE WE ALREADY DO THE LEGAL WORK.	Recognition of the First Peoples, the Employment Equity Act and the disposal of public land are already before the courts, with our Deputy President's name on the papers.
BECAUSE A PEOPLE MUST SPEAK FOR ITSELF.	Nobody has ever fixed our position on our behalf. The only representation we have never tried is our own.



NATIONAL COLOURED CONGRESS

Part Two: The Record of Exclusion





Excluded by history

For more than three hundred years, other people decided who we are, where we could live and what our land was worth. Our First Peoples were dispossessed. Our families were classified, ranked and removed under the Population Registration Act and the Group Areas Act. District Six in Cape Town and South End in Gqeberha were emptied and flattened. Our neighbourhoods were deliberately built on the edge of town, far from work, serviced last, and then described as places nobody should invest in.

That history did not end in 1994. It changed its form. District Six alone shows the scale of what remains undone: 2 760 restitution claims lodged before the 1998 deadline, and only 247 units built in 31 years.

Excluded by law

In law, we are black. In the count, we disappear. The Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998 defines "black people" as Africans, Coloureds and Indians, and then measures representation against national figures. Nationally we are roughly one in ten of the workforce. In the Western Cape we are about half, and in the Northern Cape more than that. When national figures are applied in those provinces, our people are shut out of work in the very places where they are the majority. In Gauteng, Gqeberha or Durban, our young people are squeezed from the other side: too few to register in a national target, too many to ignore. The amendments that empower the Minister to set sector-wide targets carry the same error across entire industries. That is precisely what our High Court challenge contests.

The Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act 53 of 2003 uses the same definition with the same outcome. On paper, a Brown-owned business is inside the word "black". In practice, it finds itself second in line for the contract, the partnership and the procurement spend that the Act was meant to open up. Government policy speaks of black people in general and Africans in particular. Brown people are never named in particular. We were written into the word and left out of the benefit.

Excluded by distance

Exclusion is also physical. Cape Town produces about 72% of the Western Cape's output, yet one in four of its working-age people is unemployed. The work sits in the centre; our people sit on the edge. Taxi fare is one of the first deductions from a Flats household's income, before food, school or rent. Four hours a day belong to the road. The wage is earned in town and spent in town, and the neighbourhood that sent the worker sees a crumb of it.

The City's own bus network tells the story of who comes first. The first MyCiTi buses ran in Table View and the CBD in 2010. By 2015 the West Coast, Century City, the City Bowl, the Atlantic Seaboard and Hout Bay had routes. Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha received two express routes. The real network through our areas, Phase 2A, was promised for 2023. It is still being built. That is not an accident. It is a hierarchy, and the same order shows in roads, streetlights, parks and stormwater.



Excluded everywhere: province by province

WESTERN CAPE:	the largest Coloured population in the country, and the place where the gap between the best-served and worst-served suburbs is widest. On the Garden Route and in the Karoo, in George, Oudtshoorn, Knysna, Beaufort West and Laingsburg, our people are the majority, the municipality is broke and the young leave as soon as they can. On the farms, families still live without secure tenure.
NORTHERN CAPE:	diamonds, manganese, grapes and solar power leave Kimberley, Upington, Springbok, De Aar, Calvinia and Prieska every day, while the towns stay poor and export their graduates.
EASTERN CAPE:	Gqeberha's Northern Areas, Gelvandale, Helenvale, Schauderville, Bethelsdorp, Korsten, Arcadia and Salt Lake, carry some of the worst gang and murder statistics in the country while being policed as an afterthought, in a metro facing financial and water distress.
GAUTENG:	Eldorado Park, Ennerdale, Riverlea, Westbury, Newclare, Noordgesig, Coronationville, Eersterust, Reiger Park, Eden Park and Leachville. Old council houses never transferred to the families living in them, backyard dwellings without tenure, and drug economies filling the gap left by closed factories.
FREE STATE:	Heidedal and the Goldfields towns, where the mines closed and the young professionals left with them.
KWAZULU-NATAL:	Wentworth, Austerville, Sydenham, Newlands East and Marianridge. In south Durban our people breathe refinery air and carry the health cost while the plants pay their rates elsewhere.

The cost of exclusion: the children who leave

The moment one of our children qualifies, lands a proper job or builds a business that works, they pack up and leave. Nobody can blame them. They leave because of safety, because of schools they would not choose for their own children, because there is no house worth trading up into, because the street is unmanaged, and because banks and insurers treat the postcode itself as a risk. Not one of those reasons is our people. Every one of them is a service, a standard or a decision, and every one of them can be changed.

The street that keeps the poor poor is the same street the successful leave. Fix the street, and all of us can stay.



NATIONAL COLOURED CONGRESS

Part Three: Our First Priority, Education





The problem

Our communities have produced teachers, nurses, engineers, attorneys and artists against every odd. Yet too many of our children still sit in overcrowded classrooms, walk dangerous routes to school, lose friends to gangs before they finish Grade 12, and leave school without the skills to compete for work or a university place. Parents who went to school on the Flats will not send their own children there. They pay for a lift club to a suburb school, and sooner or later they move to be near it. Every family that leaves takes its buying power, its skills and its example with it.

Education is the single most powerful tool to break the cycle of exclusion. It is also where the cycle starts. A child who cannot read for meaning by the age of ten, who has no library open in the evening, no safe place to study and no mentor who looks like them, is being set up to inherit the struggle rather than the future.

What we will do

SCHOOLS WORTH CHOOSING IN EVERY COMMUNITY.	We will negotiate with provincial education departments for focus schools in mathematics, science, technology and the trades in every one of our economic nodes, from Mitchells Plain and Atlantis to Eldorado Park, Gelvandale, Heidedal, Kimberley and Wentworth.
EARLY LEARNING FIRST.	We will fund and register community crèches and early childhood development centres, many of which are run by women from their homes, and give them legal premises, training and a reliable subsidy, because the learning gap opens long before Grade 1.
READING BY TEN.	We will press for a measured reading and numeracy programme in every foundation-phase classroom in our areas, with results published by school so that parents can see progress.
SAFE AND SERVICED SCHOOL PRECINCTS.	Municipalities control the street outside the school gate. We will make every school precinct lit, patrolled and clean, with safe walking routes to school in every high-risk ward.
LIBRARIES AND STUDY HALLS THAT STAY OPEN.	Public libraries and study halls in our areas will open into the evening and on weekends, with free Wi-Fi and open-access fibre laid with every road the municipality rebuilds.
TEACHERS WHO STAY.	We will advocate for rural and high-risk-school incentives and for the fair, provincially representative appointment of teachers and principals, so that our qualified people are not excluded from posts in their own communities.



PART THREE: OUR FIRST PRIORITY, EDUCATION

SECOND CHANCES.

Adult education, matric rewrite support and night classes for the young people and adults who were pushed out of school by poverty, violence or pregnancy.

SKILLS AND ARTISAN PATHWAYS.

TVET and community-college partnerships in every node, linked to municipal contracts, so that a plumbing, electrical, welding or coding qualification leads directly to work on local projects.

BURSARIES TIED TO HOME.

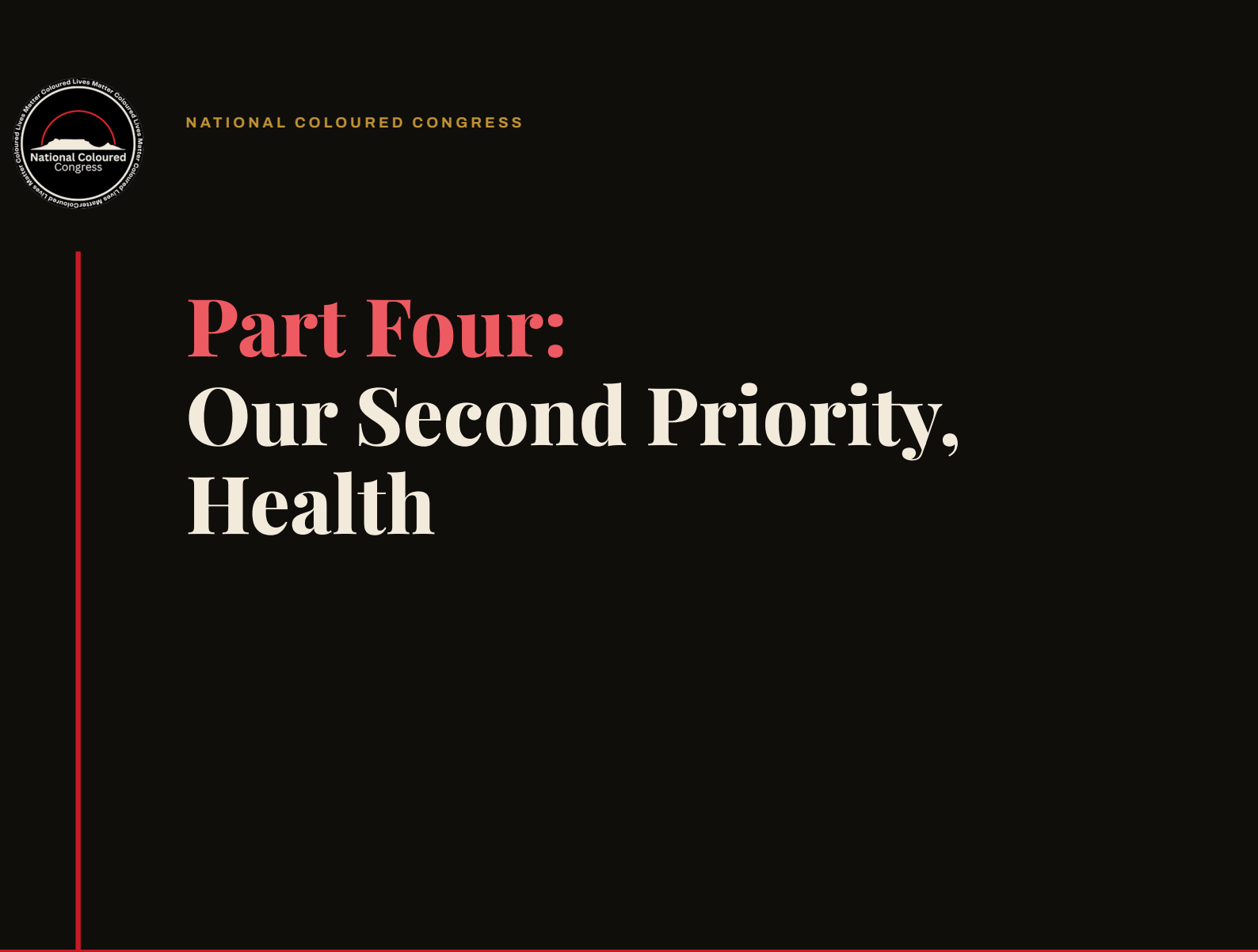
A bursary and alumni-fund system where graduates can invest in the school that taught them, and where municipal bursaries in engineering, planning, health and law come with an opportunity to serve in our own communities.

OUR HISTORY IN THE CLASSROOM.

We will press for the history, languages and heritage of the Khoi, San, Nama, Griqua, Cape Malay and Coloured people to be taught properly, including Kaaps and Afrikaans as the home language of most of our children, so that every child learns that they come from a people who built this country.

How you check

Every year we will publish, by ward and by school: the number of school precincts made safe and lit, library hours, ECD centres registered and funded, bursaries awarded to local learners, and matric and reading results. If the numbers do not move, you will see it in our own report.



NATIONAL COLOURED CONGRESS

Part Four: Our Second Priority, Health





The problem

Health in our communities is shaped long before anyone reaches a clinic. It is shaped by violence and trauma, by drugs that the authorities have allowed to flood our streets, by polluted air in south Durban, by overcrowded backyards without proper sanitation, by long queues at clinics far from home, and by the stress of poverty itself. The Cape Flats has never been given the rehabilitation facilities its drug crisis demands. Families in Wentworth and Austerville breathe refinery emissions every day. Mothers lose a working day queuing for medicine. Professionals who could serve our communities open their practices elsewhere because there are no specialist rooms, pharmacies or safe premises at home.

What we will do

REHABILITATION AS INFRASTRUCTURE, NOT CHARITY.	We will fund and build public drug and alcohol rehabilitation and recovery centres in our communities, starting with the Cape Flats, the Northern Areas of Gqeberha and Eldorado Park, and support the churches, mosques and community organisations that already help people off drugs.
CLINICS CLOSER TO HOME AND OPEN LONGER.	We will press provincial health departments for extended clinic hours, more community health workers and mobile clinics, and use municipal land and buildings in our nodes for clinics, pharmacies and specialist rooms.
BRING OUR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS HOME.	Zoning and premises for doctors, dentists, physiotherapists, psychologists and pharmacists in every node, with business licences issued in weeks, not months.
MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA CARE.	Counsellors and trauma support in high-violence wards and in schools, so that children who witness shootings are helped, not forgotten.
CLEAN AIR AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.	Independent air-quality monitoring in south Durban and other industrial zones, published monthly, with the results tied to the permits of the polluters.
WATER, SANITATION AND HOUSING AS HEALTH MEASURES.	Working sewerage, clean water, stormwater plans before every winter, and safe, serviced backyard and informal housing, because disease follows broken pipes and flooded streets.
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH.	Antenatal care, nutrition support and school-based health services in our areas, so that every child starts life healthy.
A FAIR NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ROLLOUT.	Whatever form national health reform takes, we will insist that our communities receive their fair share of facilities, staff and funding, measured and published.



How you check

We will publish, every year: the number of rehabilitation beds opened in our communities, clinic opening hours and waiting times, health premises approved in our nodes, and monthly air-quality readings for Wentworth and Austerville.



NATIONAL COLOURED CONGRESS

Part Five: Our Third Priority, Safety





The problem

Safety is not the soft chapter of this manifesto. It is what makes every other chapter possible. Nobody builds, insures or hires in a place that has already been written off, and nobody raises a child in peace there. Our communities carry some of the highest murder and gang-violence statistics in the country, yet the cameras, lights and patrols go where the houses are expensive. Children cannot play outside after dark. Workers cannot walk home safely from the station. Drug houses operate openly and nobody closes them.

We know the picture. We also know the young man in the photograph, and his mother. Most of the young people drawn into gangs were failed long before they picked up a weapon: by schools, by the absence of work, by the absence of anywhere safe to go after three o'clock.

What we will do

POLICING WHERE THE MURDERS ARE.	We will press for the allocation of police resources, detectives and visible patrols according to where violent crime actually happens, not where political influence lies.
PRECINCT SAFETY DISTRICTS.	The same tool the wealthy suburbs already use. Safety districts in every node, with the municipality carrying the cost where households cannot, cameras linked to a real response, and streetlights fixed within days.
CLOSE THE DRUG HOUSES.	Problem buildings and drug houses closed under existing municipal by-laws, and illegal shebeens shut down, while licensed and managed evening trade is supported.
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.	Lit, patrolled walking routes to school in every high-risk ward, named within the first 100 days.
TAKE BACK THE PARKS.	Parks with working equipment, sports fields with change rooms and pools that open, so that the gangs no longer own the open spaces.
YOUTH DIVERSION.	Sport, arts, mentorship, apprenticeships and job placement funded as infrastructure, linked to the rehabilitation centres described under health.
MORE POLICING POWERS FOR METROS.	We will lawfully pursue additional policing powers for metropolitan municipalities, and work with the South African Police Service in the meantime. We will not pretend that a mayor commands the police.
PROTECT WOMEN AND CHILDREN.	Shelters for women and children escaping abuse, many already run by our faith communities, funded for the work they already do, with faster court processes for gender-based violence cases.



PART FIVE: OUR THIRD PRIORITY, SAFETY

SAFE TRANSPORT.

Safe interchanges and stations, and completion of the transport routes our communities were promised first and received last.

How you check

Hotspots named within the first 100 days. Every year we will publish the number of safe school routes built, streetlights repaired and restoration times, drug houses closed, and the gap in violent crime between our wards and the metro average.



NATIONAL COLOURED CONGRESS

Part Six: Equality in Every Sphere and Every Sector





The principle

We are asking for what is already written. Section 9 of the Constitution promises equality before the law and protection from unfair discrimination on grounds of race, language, culture and origin. Section 10 promises dignity. Section 235 allows a community sharing a common cultural and language heritage to be recognised in its right to self-determination within the Republic. Equality does not mean everyone receives the same. It means everyone is counted fairly. Our aim is priority without exclusion: redress through law, policy and investment, never by taking from anyone.

Employment and empowerment

PROVINCIAL, NOT ONLY NATIONAL, DEMOGRAPHICS.	We will fight in court, in Parliament and in public for employment equity and B-BBEE targets that reflect the actual population of each province and region, so that our people are not excluded from work where they are the majority, and not overlooked where they are a minority.
NAME US IN PARTICULAR.	National policy must stop speaking only of "Africans in particular". Coloured, Khoi and San people must be explicitly recognised in redress policy, data and reporting.
FAIR PUBLIC-SERVICE APPOINTMENTS.	Representation in municipal, provincial and national public service, state-owned entities, the police and the courts, measured and published by province.
GOVERNMENT MOVES IN.	Municipal, provincial and national offices, licensing and customer service moved into our communities, with local people appointed to new posts.

Land, housing and title

A TITLE DEED FOR EVERY HOUSE.	Clear the title deed backlog on subsidised and old council housing in every one of our townships, counted and published every year.
A HOUSING LIST YOU CAN CHECK YOURSELF.	Ward-by-ward housing lists that residents can verify, and recognised tenure for backyarders and long-standing residents.
HOMES TO TRADE UP INTO.	Serviced land released for middle-income homes, townhouses and sectional title, not only subsidy houses, so that a family can move up without moving out.



PART SIX: EQUALITY IN EVERY SPHERE AND EVERY SECTOR

LAND THAT WORKS.	A public register of all municipal land, a freeze on high-risk sales, and long leases of 30 to 90 years with local employment written in, so that public land stays public and keeps working for us.
RESTITUTION THAT GROWS.	Support for District Six, South End and other claimants, and for Khoi, San, Nama and Griqua claims, so that awards become professionally managed assets that pay the next generation.
RATES PROTECTION.	Protection for long-standing families in Bo-Kaap, Woodstock, Salt River, South End and Kimberley's old quarters, so they are not taxed out of their own neighbourhoods.

Economy, business and procurement

TENDERS THAT COME HOME.	Tenders lawfully unbundled, published local procurement targets and payment within the legal time limit, so local firms own the contract, not merely do the work.
ROOM FOR BUSINESS.	Serviced workshops and retail space a first-time business can rent, zoning that permits business, and licences in weeks.
ECONOMIC NODES.	Named places in every province where capital and jobs are deliberately concentrated: Mitchells Plain, Elsies River, Atlantis and Bellville; Eldorado Park and Eersterust; Gelvandale; Uptington and Kimberley; Heidedal; and Wentworth.
OUR OWN MONEY WORKING AT HOME.	A regulated community property fund that people from a stokvel to a surgeon can invest in, and a public register of co-investment projects.
MINING, ENERGY AND FISHING.	Local supplier and beneficiation conditions on mining and solar projects in the Northern Cape, and small-scale fishing rights defended as property along the West Coast and Garden Route.
FAIR FINANCE.	Full enforcement of the Home Loan and Mortgage Disclosure Act and a challenge to insurers and lenders who price a whole postcode rather than a house.

Recognition, culture and faith

RECOGNITION WITH LAND ATTACHED.	A binding policy on First Nation recognition, heritage, economic inclusion and land claims, and a First Nation House in Cape Town and in each province.
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PART SIX: EQUALITY IN EVERY SPHERE AND EVERY SECTOR

THE KHOI-SAN LAW.	A formal, expert submission on the law that will replace the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, which must be finalised by May 2027.
CULTURE THAT PAYS.	The Klopse, choirs, clubs, Cape Malay tradition and First Nation knowledge funded as an economy, with contracts made directly with enterprises our people own.
FAITH COMMUNITIES AS PARTNERS.	Churches, mosques and madrassahs funded for the feeding, rehabilitation, shelter and youth work they already do.
LANGUAGE.	Afrikaans, Kaaps and the heritage languages of the First Peoples respected in schools, courts and public services.

Services and infrastructure

- › Water, sewerage, power, stormwater and roads delivered to named nodes on a published schedule.
- › Water and electricity revenue spent on water and electricity, audited and published.
- › Ward budgets published so that neglect can be proved rather than argued about.



NATIONAL COLOURED CONGRESS

Part Seven: Accountability and Delivery





Who holds the power

Most manifestos promise things the office cannot deliver. Every promise we make is marked by where the power lies: what a council can do with its own money and by-laws; what requires agreement with a province; what requires national funding or cooperation; what requires a change in the law through Parliament; and what we will take to court when government fails its duty. Negotiate. Legislate. Cooperate. Litigate. Deliver.

The first hundred days

DAY 1: OPEN THE BOOKS.	The true financial position, land, backlog and major contracts, published in full.
DAY 30:	the land register, with high-risk sales frozen pending review.
DAY 60:	the community map, showing where the jobs, land, money and gaps really are, ward by ward.
DAY 90:	the office study, naming the first government offices to move into our communities.
DAY 100:	a live, ward-level dashboard, and named safety hotspots, safe school routes and the recognition policy tabled.

Five years of work, 2027 to 2031

2027, OPEN:	audit the land, the books and the backlogs, and publish the baseline for education, health and safety.
2028, BUILD:	land released, housing moving, first offices, first rehabilitation centres and first economic nodes operating.
2029, SCALE:	more nodes, more local firms winning contracts, more safe routes and longer clinic and library hours.
2030, OWN:	title deeds at scale, local businesses owning contracts and heritage earning for its own people.
2031, DELIVER:	every gap measured against year one, whether the news is good or not.



The Distance and Equality Report

Every year we will publish the measured distance between the best-served and worst-served communities, ward by ward and province by province: journey times to work, water and power outages, investment per person, home ownership with a deed, locally owned businesses, local contracts, public employment, school and health outcomes, and violent crime. If the distance does not shrink, we have failed, and we will publish the proof ourselves.

What could stop this

We say it plainly. Coalitions collapse, so we do first the things that survive a change of government: registers, published figures and adopted policy. Money is short, so we sequence carefully and lease land rather than sell it. Plans fail in the middle of an organisation, so every node gets one named office. Some powers sit elsewhere, so we mark those promises honestly. Tenders can be captured, so every target, payment and award is published.



NATIONAL COLOURED CONGRESS

Our Call to Our People





OUR CALL TO OUR PEOPLE

Look at the people beside you. The teacher and the one still waiting for work. The graduate and the man with a bakkie and his own team. The grandmother who raised every child in the street. The professional who left and the young person who wants to stay. We are not one type of person, and never have been. But we are one people.

As long as we split our votes, split our names and split our strength, every party knows exactly how to handle us. We are served last and asked to say thank you. That ends when we stop waiting to be counted and start building.

We are not asking for a favour. We are asking to be counted, included and treated as equals in the country our ancestors helped to build. Give our people safe streets, good schools, healthy families, land, title and work close to home, and watch what happens to this entire country.

To those who left: you can go home without going back. Invest in the version of home this manifesto builds, and hold us to it. To those who stayed: this is your manifesto. Keep the receipt.

On 4 November 2026, and again in 2029, vote as if the place you came from is the place you are going.

Our time is now. By our own. For our own. First. So oorwin die Bruin Kind.



NATIONAL COLOURED CONGRESS