



**INDEPENDENT CITIZEN  
MOVEMENT**

# **MANIFESTO 2026**

## **TAKING POWER BACK TO THE PEOPLE**

*Not promises. A social pact with the people of Ekurhuleni.*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**  
**WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2026**

Your vote is your power. Your community is your responsibility. Your future is in your hands.

# Contents

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- 01** A message from our President
  - 02** A social pact, not promises
  - 03** Ekurhuleni today: the facts
  - 04** The crisis we refuse to accept
  - 05** Our ten pledges to you
  - 06** The Nine-Point Plan
  - 07** Protecting Women and Children
  - 08** Our first 100 days in office
  - 09** Who we are: about ICM
  - 10** It's that simple: how to vote
  - 11** The ICM Social Pact
  - 12** Join the movement
- 

## THE CHOICE ON 4 NOVEMBER

Keep what is broken, or fix it. Ekurhuleni is a rough diamond with endless opportunity. All it needs is visionary, ethical leadership, and citizens ready to take their power back.

# It is time to take power back

Fellow residents of Ekurhuleni,

## **We have been patient long enough.**

Election after election, we have queued to vote, believed the posters and trusted the promises. And election after election, too many of our communities have been forgotten the morning after the votes were counted. The potholes stayed, the taps ran dry, the lights went out, and the jobs never came. That ends on 4 November.

## **We live in a city of giants.**

Ekurhuleni is the gateway to Africa. We are home to OR Tambo International Airport, the Aerotropolis city, the largest railway hub in South Africa and the busiest freeway interchange in the country at Gillooly's. Factories, finance and freight move through our streets every single day.

***Wealth passes through Ekurhuleni. It simply does not stay with the people of Ekurhuleni.***

Look at what that has cost us. One in three of our people cannot find work. More than a third live below the poverty line. We live in one of the most unequal cities on earth. While residents pay for services they never receive, billions of rands leak out of the City's systems, and the latest audit has gone backwards.

**This is not bad luck. It is bad leadership.**

## **Our hearts are heavy.**

Women have been murdered in our communities, their bodies found in the places where our children walk to school. No mother, daughter or sister should live in fear in her own city. To every family in mourning, we say: we see you, we stand with you, and we will not rest until our streets are safe.

## **So hear us clearly: ICM is not here to make promises.**

Promises are what brought us here. We come instead with a social pact: a signed, public and binding agreement between residents and the people they elect. Our councillors will answer to you, not to party bosses. They will report back, open the books, and stand down if they betray your trust.

**No cadre deployment. No patronage. No corruption. People-line politics, not party-line politics.**

## **But a pact has two sides.**

No one is coming to save us. We must save ourselves. Every resident who organises a street, joins a ward forum, holds a councillor to account or brings a neighbour to vote is part of the solution. And anyone who knowingly votes corrupt and incompetent leaders back into power is not a victim, but an accomplice.

## **Ekurhuleni is a rough diamond.**

With visionary and ethical leadership, it will shine. And it will prove to Johannesburg, to Tshwane and to the whole of South Africa that clean, capable and caring local government is possible.

**On 4 November, your vote is your power.  
Use it.**

**Together, let's take power back to the people.**

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**Dr Joe Mojapelo**

President, Independent Citizens Movement (ICM)

## A social pact, not promises

ICM's message is simple: power belongs to the people, and it is time to take that power back. Our communities understand their challenges better than distant political structures. So we are building a partnership between residents and the people they elect to serve them.

ICM is a platform for independent candidates, community leaders, activists, professionals and ordinary residents who believe in accountable, people-centred local government. You do not need to surrender your independence or your conscience to a political party to serve your community.

### What you can expect from ICM councillors

- ✓ Communities first, every time
- ✓ Integrity and honesty
- ✓ Transparency: open books, open doors
- ✓ Accountability: regular report-backs
- ✓ Courage to stand up to wrongdoing

### What we ask of you

- ✓ Vote, and bring a neighbour
- ✓ Take part in ward forums and committees
- ✓ Hold your councillor to account
- ✓ Report problems and demand results
- ✓ Lead change in your own street

**ICM candidates are not parachuted in from head office. They live in your ward, they know your streets, and they have already been serving. Meet them, question them, and judge their vision for your community.**

# People-line politics, not party-line politics

This is bigger than ICM. It is about reclaiming power for ordinary citizens and putting communities before political parties.

| PARTY-LINE POLITICS                               | PEOPLE-LINE POLITICS                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Councillors answer to party bosses                | Councillors answer to residents                                       |
| Promises at election time, silence afterwards     | A signed social pact, measurable commitments and regular report-backs |
| Cadre deployment, patronage and political loyalty | Skills, merit, competence and integrity                               |
| Vote with the party, right or wrong               | Vote for what is right for the ward and community                     |
| Candidates chosen by Party structures             | Communities know and choose the people who represent them             |
| Decisions made in distant boardrooms              | Decisions made with the community in that community                   |
| Politics first, service delivery second           | Service delivery is a mandate, politics must never stand in the way   |

**Your vote**  
is your power.

**Your community**  
is your responsibility.

**Your future**  
is in your hands.

**Together**  
we can.

**In 2026, don't change who governs. Change who government answers to.**

## The facts behind the pact

More than 4 million people call Ekurhuleni home, yet unemployment, poverty and inequality remain stubbornly high. These are not just statistics, they represent families, communities and opportunities lost. The city is home to about a quarter of Gauteng's households and 6.5% of all households in South Africa. Most residents live in our townships: Tembisa, Katlehong, Vosloorus, Tsakane, Daveyton, KwaThema, Thokoza and Duduza. Our Social Pact must turn these numbers around.

**4 061 691**

residents (Census 2022)

**±70%**

live in our townships

**33.4%**

of residents are unemployed

**34%+**

live below the poverty line

**0.633**

Gini coefficient: one of the most unequal cities anywhere

**32.8%**

of households are headed by women

**3 737**

households headed by children under 18

**50%**

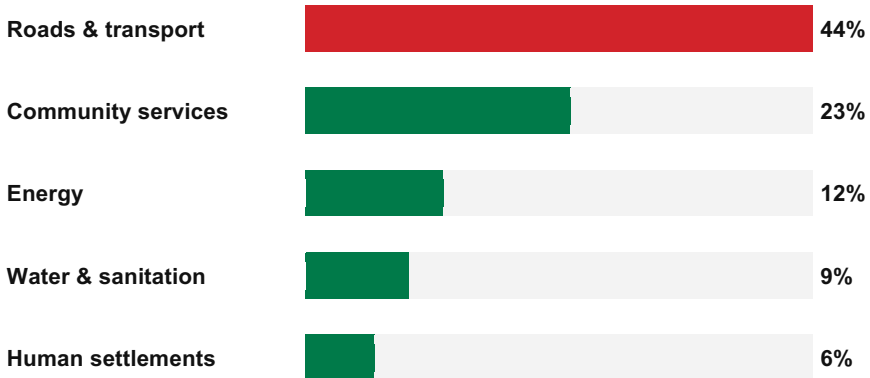
have completed Matric or higher

Sources: COGTA Municipal Overview (City IDP); Stats SA.

**In 2026, we must change the numbers – not just politicians.**

## What residents say matters most

Residents do not need politicians to tell them what their communities need. Through the City's own IDP process, they have already identified their priorities.



*Share of service delivery priorities raised. Source: City of Ekurhuleni IDP.*

These numbers must mean something and they must find expression in the City's budget, capital programme and daily operations. Public participation cannot become an annual exercise where government listens, writes a report and then continues with business as usual. Whilst we cannot fund everything immediately, where projects cannot be funded, the City must explain why, what will happen instead and when the matter will likely be considered. **The people's priorities must shape the City's priorities.**

The economy is driven by community services, manufacturing and finance, yet those sectors are not creating enough jobs for our young people. Informal settlements continue to grow. The City has enormous economic potential, and a heavy responsibility to share it fairly. We need to diversify our revenue base, and the Aerotropolis Masterplan is the answer.

### ICM'S VIEW

**Every budget line, every project and every appointment in the next Council must be measured against one question: does it fix what residents told us matters most?**

# Broken systems, real lives

## A City losing its money

A city that cannot collect and protect its revenue cannot deliver services. The Auditor-General's findings for 2024/25 show how deep the problem runs:

- **Audit regressed.** Ekurhuleni slipped from an unqualified to a qualified audit opinion, driven by weak ICT controls and supply chain failures.
- **R1.55 billion** in electricity losses in one year.
- **About R2 billion** in electricity revenue under-collected, linked to manipulation of the City's ICT systems.
- **Only about 60%** of valid invoices paid within 30 days, hurting the small businesses that serve the City.
- **Persistent liquidity pressure,** weak revenue collection and revenue leakages, as the City itself acknowledges.

*Source: Auditor-General hearing on Ekurhuleni audit outcomes, Parliamentary Monitoring Group, 2026.*

## A community living in fear

Crime remains a grave concern across South Africa, but the killings of women in Ekurhuleni since mid-July 2026 have brought gender-based violence and femicide into painful focus. By late September, the bodies of ten women had been found in our communities, from Tembisa to Katlehong. Nationally, an average of about 15 women are killed every day.

Behind every number is a name, a family and a community in mourning. Stronger prevention, effective policing, safer public spaces and real community action are no longer optional. They are urgent.

*Sources: Al Jazeera, 26 September 2026; Daily Maverick, 27 September 2026.*

### WE REFUSE THE STATUS QUO

**We do not accept unethical leadership, poverty, unemployment, gender-based violence, abuse of women and children, drug abuse, crime or corruption. We refuse what we are not, to become who we want to be.**

## As the ICM, we undertake to:

**01**

**Give power back to the people**

Decisions made with you, not for you.

**02**

**Provide ethical leadership**

Leaders who serve, not leaders who take.

**03**

**Fight for justice, fairness and equality**

For every resident, in every ward.

**04**

**Tackle poverty, unemployment and inequality**

The triple challenge comes first.

**05**

**Tell the truth**

Honesty and integrity, even when it is hard.

**06**

**Provide good governance**

Clean audits, clean systems, clean hands.

**07**

**Be accountable**

Report back to you, and answer for results.

**08**

**Deliver world-class services**

Measured against a public Services Charter.

**09**

**Be innovative and creative**

New thinking for old problems.

**10**

**Work with diligence and excellence**

Every day, in every office.

**Let's take power back to the people!**

# Power back to the people

Our plan rests on three simple ideas: put capable and ethical people in charge; fix the municipality that is failing it's residents, rebuild our local economy and return decision-making power to the communities where it belongs. These are not election promises, they are nine commitments against which you can hold us accountable.

|   |                                                           |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Win the wards: Put honest leaders in Council              |
| 2 | Skills before slogans: Professionalise Council            |
| 3 | People before party politics – End party line politics    |
| 4 | Real oversight: Accountability without Fear or Favour     |
| 5 | Clean up the City: Zero tolerance to fraud and corruption |
| 6 | Strong Wards – Empowered Communities                      |
| 7 | Service delivery that works – Get the basics right        |
| 8 | Grow the economy – Create Jobs                            |
| 9 | Power back to the people – Govern with you, not for you   |

**Nine commitments, One Social Pact, Five years to deliver.**

# 1

POINT 1 OF 9

## Win the wards: Put honest leaders in Council

*Not just on the ballot. Into office, to make a difference.*

Our goal is not simply to appear on the ballot paper. We are contesting to win more seats, build meaningful representation in Council, and demonstrate that ethical, competent and community-led local government is possible. What makes an ICM candidate different?

- **Proven local leaders.** We field honest, ethical people who are already recognised as leaders among their peers and have a real track record of serving the communities they live in. **Leadership should be earned before election day, not discovered during or afterwards.**
- **Already making a difference.** Our candidates are already contributing positively to their families, communities and country, so that their work can be multiplied. **Community first, Party second.**
- **One platform, many independent voices.** ICM is the platform and coordinating structure for independent candidates contesting wards across their Municipalities. **We don't take away the local voice and the character that makes each ward different.**
- **Bound by a public pact.** Every candidate partners with ICM, signs the Independent Candidate Pact with the community and abides by the ICM Constitution.
- PR seats will be allocated strategically, reflecting where we demonstrates strongest electoral support. Our representation should follow the votes we earn on the ground ensuring that the communities that place their trust in us are meaningfully represented in Councils.
- **Proof of concept.** We will show, in practice, what best-practice city government looks like. Our representation in Council must reflect where communities have placed their confidence in us.

### OUR PACT WITH YOU

**You don't give us your vote and then wait five years to see us again. Every ICM councillor signs a public pact with the community. Break it, and you answer to the people who elected you. The seat belongs to the people**

# 2

POINT 2 OF 9

## Skills before Slogans – Professionalise Council

*The right people, with the right skills, in the right seats.*

A city of more than four million people as complex as some of our Metros cannot be run on slogans, patronage or political loyalty. **Public office must never be a reward for political loyalty, it is a responsibility to serve.** Oversight and law-making need real expertise, so we will bring professionals and people with special skills into Council and onto our PR list.

- **Professionals into public leadership:** We will actively recruit people with proven expertise in public administration; built environment (engineers, architects, quantity surveyors); law; human resources; information technology; city and transport planning; safety and security; finance; communication and marketing; sport, recreation, arts and culture; supply chain; and audit. **Politics are too important to be left to Politicians, we need ethical, experienced leaders to rise.**
- **Merit-based deployment.** Professionals will be prioritised for deployment under a Deployment Policy aligned with the Labour Relations Act and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act. Appointments must be based on qualifications, competence, experience and integrity – never party membership or political patronage. **We will oppose cadre deployment in every form.**
- **Skills matched to needs.** Qualifications alone are not enough, we will match the right experience and expertise to the right responsibilities, particularly in Council oversight structures and political leadership.
- **Professionalise local government,** Our goal is bigger than filling positions, we want to rebuild municipalities into employer of choice that attracts, develops and retains exceptional professionals.
- **Smart use of consultants.** A clear insourcing and outsourcing strategy that weighs the real costs and benefits.

### OUR PACT WITH YOU

**Competence is not optional. Every ICM office bearer will have the knowledge to do the job on day one. No job for a friend, No position as a political reward, No compromise on competence.**

# 3

## POINT 3 OF 9

### People before Party Politics

*What is right, not who is right.*

Too often, decisions in Council are driven by party interests, political deals and instructions from party headquarters rather than the needs of the residents. ICM offers a different politics: **PEOPLE-LINE POLITICS.**

- **People first.** Every proposal will be judged on its merits and on whether it improves the lives of residents – not on which political party proposed. **A good idea does not become a bad idea because it came from the opposition.**
- **Issues, not personalities.** We challenge bad decisions without turning politics into personal warfare. **We will debate ideas, interrogate evidence and disagree respectfully.**
- **Open & independent minds.** We will welcome independent and discerning views, always be willing to be persuaded, and have courage to admit when we are wrong. **ICM councillors must think, listen and exercise judgement.**
- **No blind voting.** Where superior logic prevails, ICM councillors will not be forced to vote along party lines. We will vote for what is right for the ward, the community and the city. **Our councillors will vote with conscience, evidence and the interest of their communities.**
- **The community, our constituency.** Before major decisions affecting a ward, our councillors must first listen to residents and where appropriate, report back afterwards. **The mandate comes from the people.**
- **Majority does not mean impunity.** A numerical majority does not make an unlawful decision lawful. Where majority is used to force through decisions that are irrational, unlawful or contrary to the interests of the residents, ICM will challenge them politically, procedurally and where necessary, through the courts. **When they rely on the arrogance of numbers, we will rely on the supremacy of the law.**
- **A platform for like-minded people.** ICM is not a political party but provides a platform and shared values, and the community provides the mandate.

#### OUR PACT WITH YOU

**We will never ask: “What does the movement/party want” before asking “What do people need?” Your needs, not party instructions, will decide how ICM councillors vote.**

# 4

POINT 4 OF 9

## Real oversight: Accountability without Fear or Favour.

*No cadre deployment. No favouritism. No patronage.*

Oversight means nothing when those responsible for holding government accountable are politically compromised, conflicted or afraid to act. ICM will restore the proper separation between political leadership, Council oversight and municipal administration.

- **Independent oversight.** Oversight committees must scrutinise the Executive and administration without fear, favour or political instruction.
- **The right expertise in the right place.** Experienced professionals will serve as Speaker, Chief Whip, Members of the Mayoral Committee and chairs of Standing and Oversight Committees, matched to their expertise.
- **Politicians govern, Professionals administer.** Council sets policy, approves budgets and exercises oversight. The administration implements.
- **Skills audit for all.** We will audit the skills of every councillor and official, and invest in continuous professional development.
- **A culture of performance.** Political office bearers and councillors will be held to clear performance standards. Excellence must be recognised; persistent failure, misconduct and non-performance must have consequences.
- **Performance pays.** Performance contracts with clear indicators for every employee, linked to incentives.
- **Follow the money.** Oversight must interrogate the city's finances: expenditure, procurement, contracts, deviations and project performance. **Where evidence points, accountability must follow.**

### OUR PACT WITH YOU

**Jobs in the City will go to the best qualified, never to the best connected.  
Public office is a responsibility, not a reward.**

# 5

POINT 5 OF 9

## Clean up the City: Zero tolerance to Fraud and Corruption

*Every cent of your money accounted for.*

Corruption is theft from the poor. Every rand stolen, wasted or diverted is money taken from water, electricity, roads, housing, safety and jobs. Residents have a right to know their money is well spent, and ICM will clean up the system from top to bottom. We undertake to prevent theft and pursue those responsible when it happens.

- **A window to walk away.** Officials who know their integrity has been compromised will be given the opportunity to resign voluntarily. **There will however be no amnesty for criminal conduct or corruption.**
- **Investigate, prosecute, recover.** Every credible allegation of fraud and corruption must be investigated, offenders prosecuted, and the proceeds of corruption recovered.
- **Protect the honest, Pursue the corrupt.** Ethical officials must be protected from political pressure and victimisation. Whistle-blowers who expose wrongdoing must be protected and not punished.
- **Disclosure and lifestyle audits.** A clear policy on financial disclosure, lifestyle audits and protection for whistle-blowers, with vetting of all senior managers and supply chain staff.
- **Stop the leaks.** Corruption is not only money stolen through tenders. We will fix billing and revenue collection, close revenue leakages, and make a clean audit every year a way of life.
- **Build systems that make corruption harder.** Digitise procurement and contract management, strengthen audit trails and use data to identify suspicious transactions.

### OUR PACT WITH YOU

**A clean audit must translate into service delivery, and every cent of ratepayers' money accounted for, in public. Steal from the City, you steal from the People.**

# 6

POINT 6 OF 9

## Strong wards, Empowered Communities

*Vuk'uzenzele: stand up and do it for yourself.*

Strong cities are built from strong wards. Government must deliver services, but communities must have a meaningful voice in determining their own future. Real change is built from the ground up. ICM will move power closer to residents by giving organised communities a direct role in identifying priorities, shaping solutions and holding government accountable.

- **Organise every ward.** We will support and resource communities to organise at ward level: Ward Committees, community-based organisations, business forums, Community Policing Forums, youth and unemployment desks, and more.
- **Nothing about you, without you.** Major ward decisions, including projects and service requests, will be made together with the ward councillor and the community.
- **Active citizens.** We will build a healthy, engaged citizenry that works in partnership with the state to benefit fully from public programmes and spending. Every ICM councillor will work with residents to develop a **Ward Development Plan**.
- **From dependency to dignity.** Through jobs, skills and enterprise, we will help families move beyond dependency, so that grants are a safety net and not a life sentence.
- **Youth and the future of work.** We will back entrepreneurship and innovation to tackle youth unemployment and prepare young people for the jobs of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- **Mobilise local talent.** We will identify and mobilise every skill and sector already present in each ward. We will build a ward skills and enterprise database so that local talent becomes part of solving local problems and growing local economy.

### OUR PACT WITH YOU

**Your ward, your priorities, your voice, and your Councillor accountable to you. Don't just vote for your ward, own your ward.**

# 7

## POINT 7 OF 9

### Service delivery that works

*Measurable standards. Public deadlines. No excuses.*

Residents should not have to protest, beg, know somebody or repeatedly call the city to receive services they already pay for. ICM will make service delivery measurable, visible and accountable, starting with the priorities residents named: roads, community services, energy, water and housing. These are not political favours but a constitutional responsibility in terms of Section 152 and 156 of the Constitution.

- **Fix the basics first.** Water, electricity, roads, waste, streetlights, parks and public facilities. Before promises of grand projects, these everyday services residents depend on must work.
- **Spend the capital budget – and spend it well.** At least 95% of the CAPEX spent on IDP service needs, through open, fair, competitive and transparent procurement that meets ward-level aspirations. **All projects must be completed on time, within budget and to the required standard.**
- **A public Services Charter.** Publish clear service standards and response times for outages, burst pipes, sewer blockages, potholes, waste collection, streetlights and other common failures. **Residents must know what standard to expect and by when.**
- **Customer care that cares.** We will restructure Customer Care, make CRM the custodian of residents' needs, and strengthen the Operations Rapid Intervention Team (ORIT).
- **Customer Care Centres that work.** Centres and call centres will be the face of the City, measured on waiting times, answered calls and queries resolved within agreed service levels. **You pay for services, you deserve services that work.**
- **Support the people who serve.** We will improve working conditions for City employees and build a culture of excellence. Tools of trade, systems, leadership and working conditions required to perform will be provided for all employees.

#### OUR PACT WITH YOU

**Service delivery cannot be reduced to a political promise or an election slogan. It is a constitutional responsibility and the bare minimum that citizens should expect from those entrusted with public service.**

# 8

POINT 8 OF 9

## Grow the economy – Create Jobs

*Jobs, investment and a digital City.*

Ekurhuleni's location is its greatest economic asset and should be the economic heart of Gauteng. We have Africa's busiest airport, a powerful manufacturing base, major logistics corridors, established industrial areas and millions of ambitious people. **Our challenge is not lack of economic potential, it is turning that potential into investment, businesses and jobs.**

- **Unlock the Aerotropolis.** Put Aerotropolis back at the centre of the city's economic strategy with OR Tambo International Airport as its anchor. Review the Masterplan, identify catalytic projects and investment precincts, and convert years of planning into investment, development and jobs.
- **Rebuild City's industrial economy.** Protect and modernise our manufacturing base while attracting advanced manufacturing, logistics, aviation, pharmaceuticals, technology, energy and other high-growth industries.
- **Investment and partnerships.** Attract domestic and foreign direct investment and Public-Private Partnerships, and release strategic land parcels for Strategic Urban Developments and new value chains. Create a genuine **one-stop investment service** with published turnaround times for planning applications, building plans, land-use approvals and bulk service applications.
- **Build township economies.** Economic development cannot stop around the airport and industrial corridors. Township entrepreneurs and small businesses must be supported with access to markets and business development.
- **A digital City.** Turn rules and procedures into electronic processes and standard operating procedures, and make every City service available online.
- **Business as a partner.** Regular engagement with business, investors, universities and industry. Ensure an enabling environment, and priority funding for bulk infrastructure with favourable bulk contribution policies.

### OUR PACT WITH YOU

**Make Ekurhuleni the easiest city in South Africa in which to invest, start a business, build and create jobs. From the street trader to the Multinational investor – Ekurhuleni must be open for Business.**

# 9

POINT 9 OF 9

## Power back to the people

*You give us the mandate. We answer to you.*

Election day should not be the only day citizens have power. Your vote gives representatives a mandate to serve, it does not give politicians ownership of government for five years. Residents and ratepayers are the true employers of the City. ICM councillors will treat them that way, with consideration and respect.

- **A Social Pact with every community.** Our candidates will make a clear, public commitments to the communities they seek to represent.
- **Listen first.** On major decisions affecting communities, consultation must happen before they are taken. Public participation must influence decisions, not merely legitimise decisions already made.
- **Report back – regularly and publicly.** ICM councillors will return to their communities throughout the term of office, not only when the next election approaches. We will keep communication lines open and respond swiftly and honestly whenever services fall below agreed standards.
- **Measure us against our word.** The Social Pact becomes the community's scorecard for residents to judge us against our commitments.
- **Respect every resident.** Whether you voted for ICM, another party or did not vote at all, municipal government must serve you equally. **Public services belong to everyone.**
- **Community in action.** We will support community campaigns for cleaning, grass cutting, healthy living, safety and security, and food security.
- **Governance that includes you.** Ward-level structures will let the state and citizens work together on poverty, unemployment and inequality.
- **Power is borrowed, never owned.** We will always remember that public office is temporary and the authority we exercise belongs ultimately to the people.

### OUR PACT WITH YOU

**We will listen, We will report back, We will account, and We will never forget that the power we exercise belongs to you.**

# Protecting women and children

The murder of women in our communities demands more than outrage, condolences and another awareness campaign/march. It demands action. While policing is primarily a national responsibility, the city controls many of the conditions that determines whether our environment is safe. ICM will not hide behind jurisdiction while women and children live in fear. We will use every power available to the City to make Ekurhuleni safer.

- **Declare GBV and femicide a priority.** Treat GBV and femicide as a City-wide emergency, with a dedicated political champion, a ring-fenced budget and public progress reports.
- **Light up the dark.** Repair and install street lights and high-mast lighting in hotspots, starting with routes to taxi ranks, train stations and schools.
- **Remove the hiding places.** Clear overgrown open veld, derelict buildings and illegal dumping sites where criminals hide.
- **Eyes on our streets.** Expand CCTV at transport hubs and identified hotspots, linked to the metro police control room.
- **Community safety at ward level.** Strengthen Community Policing Forums and ward safety forums, with women and young people at the table.
- **Support survivors – with dignity.** Work with SAPS, the NPA, NGOs and faith communities to support shelters, care centres and victim support services.
- **Men must lead the change.** Create sustained programmes like men's dialogues in every region, engaging men and boys on violence, responsibility, masculinity and respect. Real change starts when we change ourselves first.

## OUR PACT WITH WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**Every woman and child in Ekurhuleni must be able to walk home safely. We will measure our success not by how many plans we publish, but by whether our streets, public places and journeys home become safer.**

# Our first 100 days in office

## No honeymoon, No excuses, Work starts on Day One

The first 100 days must demonstrate that change is real. Where we hold influence or the balance of power, we will place these actions on the Council agenda and fight for their adoption.

1

### **Publish the Services Charter**

Set measurable standards and public turnaround times for water, electricity, waste, potholes, streetlights and other core municipal services.

2

### **Open the integrity window**

Begin lifestyle audits and conflict of interest reviews in high-risk areas, starting with senior managers and supply chain management. **No amnesty for corruption or criminal conduct.**

3

### **Audit the skills & Leadership Capacity**

Assess critical leadership, technical and oversight capabilities and identify skills gaps that undermine service delivery.

4

### **Launch a safety blitz**

Identify priority GBV and crime hotspots, repair lights, cut overgrown vegetation, clear dangerous spaces and strengthen visible policing.

5

### **Stop the revenue leaks**

Launch an independent review of billing, electricity and water meters, revenue systems and major leakage points, with recovery plan.

6

### **Open the books**

Publish accessible dashboards showing budgets, major projects, expenditure and service delivery performance. **Residents must be able to follow the money.**

7

### **Activate the wards**

Convene ward structures, begin Ward Development Plans and establish community priorities against which councillors will report.

8

### **Declare Ekurhuleni Open for business**

Establish a one-stop Investment Facilitation Desk, identify stalled investments and publish turnaround targets.

9

### **Publish the People Scorecard**

Commitments measured, with clear Delivered/In Progress/Not Delivered

# About ICM

## Five Years – From Movement to Proven Leadership

The Independent Citizens Movement was inspired by Rev SC Mathebula's book *Devoted Citizen* and a commitment to Godly values and norms. We are a movement of people who have chosen to care, to try, to stand, and to believe that a prosperous South Africa is possible in our lifetime. We entered the 2021 Local Government Elections with little more than a conviction, committed citizens and a determination to serve.

Our logo says it all: Four colours, four pieces of one puzzle, forming one mind. Different backgrounds, different skills, different communities, one purpose.

### What we believe

- A country's brand and reputation are its wealth, and building them is the responsibility of every citizen.
- The South Africa of tomorrow depends on how we navigate today's challenges while resolving the injustices of yesterday.
- We must change ourselves first before we can see the change we desire in our homes, schools, hospitals and workplaces.
- Like the sons of Issachar, we must understand the times and know what South Africa ought to do.
- If voting is your responsibility, not voting renders you irresponsible. If politicians fail us, we have the power to elect better leaders.
- From the ashes of despair, a beautiful nation will arise.

### Our Highlights

- **A voice beyond one seat.** ICM became an influential voice in a complex and often fragmented Council, demonstrating that political influence must be earned through principle, courage and constructive engagement.
- **Leadership in Council.** ICM has occupied important oversight and political leadership responsibilities, including chairing Council oversight structure and providing leadership among the twelve minority parties.
- **A voice beyond Ekurhuleni.** ICM representation extended into organised local government through SALGA, including participation at provincial and national intergovernmental structures.

- **Standing up on difficult issues.** From tariffs and municipal finances to governance, billing irregularities, appointments, accountability and service delivery, we have demonstrated a willingness to challenge decisions when we believe they were not for the interest of residents.
- **Working across political divides.** We have shown that people-line politics means supporting what is right regardless who proposes it, and opposing what is wrong regardless of who supports it.
- **One seat proved the concept.** Imagine what organised communities across our municipalities can achieve with a stronger mandate.

## ONE SEAT, FIVE YEARS, A PROVEN VOICE

### Our aims and objectives

- Unite all South Africans behind a national vision of prosperity for all who live here.
- Embrace a vision that knows no race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or social class.
- Move past the atrocities of our history and emerge united with a shared national purpose.
- Build a nation marked by excellence and integrity.
- Reduce, and ultimately eliminate, crime, corruption and violence.
- Protect the defenceless, the weak and the vulnerable.
- Protect and keep a sustainable, clean environment.

### Our leadership

**Dr Joe Mojapelo**  
President

**Gladys Mahlangu**  
National Coordinator

**Rev Chris Mathebula**  
Overseer and Spiritual Leader

We are residents, professionals, workers, business people, community leaders, young people and ordinary citizens who have chosen to stand up and serve. In 2021, you gave us one seat, which we used to make our voice count. In 2026, give the people a stronger voice. **POWER BACK TO THE PEOPLE.**

**We are Independent Citizens – Not Spectators, Not career politicians, Not servants of party bosses.**

# It's that simple

## 1ST BALLOT PAPER

### Your candidate

Vote for your ICM-backed ward candidate: a leader from your own community.

## 2ND BALLOT PAPER

### ICM

Vote ICM on the proportional representation (PR) ballot to ensure no vote is wasted.

## PR COUNCILLORS

**Allocated on performance, under great leadership. Every ICM PR seat will go to people with the skills Council needs from communities with most votes.**

## ELECTION DAY

# Wednesday, 4 November 2026

Voting stations open 07:00 to 21:00 · Public holiday

## Before you go

- **Check your registration:** SMS your ID number to 32810, or visit [elections.org.za](https://elections.org.za).
- **Bring your ID:** green barcoded ID book, smart ID card or a valid temporary ID certificate.
- **Go to the right station:** vote at the voting station where you are registered.

## Can't make it on the day?

- **Special votes:** 2 and 3 November 2026, including home visits for those unable to travel.
- **Apply by 12 October 2026 (17:00):** SMS 32249, apply at [elections.org.za](https://elections.org.za), or visit your local IEC office.

*Election information: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC). Confirm details at [elections.org.za](https://elections.org.za).*

# Signed. Public. Binding.

This is not another election promise. It is a public commitment between every ICM councillor and the community they serve. It will be signed, published and reported against, throughout the term of office.

Keep it, Measure us against it and Hold us accountable.

## As your councillor, I pledge to:

- Put the community first in every decision, before any party or personal interest.
- Serve with integrity, transparency, accountability and courage, and never to use my position for personal enrichment or improper advantage.
- Hold a public report-back meeting in the ward at least every quarter and remain accessible at all times.
- Publish how the ward budget is spent, what has been delivered, what is in progress and what has not been delivered, and answer every question honestly.
- Use the ward budget and my position to address the societal ills of poverty, unemployment, inequality and crime.
- Consult residents on major matters affecting the ward and take their views into Council.
- Declare my interests and submit to appropriate integrity and lifestyle audit.
- Reject corruption and political interference
- Stand down if I am found to have acted corruptly or broken this pact.

## As residents, we pledge to:

- Take part in ward committees, forums and report-back meetings.
- Report problems, demand results and hold our councillor accountable.
- Lead change in our own streets: clean, safe and caring communities.
- Take ownership, protect public infrastructure and report vandalism and crime.

**Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ward:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Community witness:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 11 · JOIN THE MOVEMENT

# This is bigger than ICM

Meet your preferred candidates, engage with them and judge their vision for the communities they seek to serve. Then join us: volunteer, host a street meeting, or serve on a ward forum.

### Meet

your ICM candidate at a community meeting.

### Volunteer

to canvass, drive voters or monitor stations.

### Share

this manifesto with family and friends.

### Vote

on 4 November, and bring a neighbour.

## Facts you can check

- **Population, poverty, inequality, education and households:** COGTA Municipal Overview Report (City of Ekurhuleni IDP); Stats SA.
- **Service delivery priorities:** City of Ekurhuleni IDP.
- **Audit, electricity losses and revenue under-collection:** Auditor-General findings for 2024/25 as presented to Parliament (PMG, 2026); City of Ekurhuleni Annual Report 2024/25.
- **Killings of women in Ekurhuleni:** Al Jazeera (26 Sept 2026); CNN (18 Sept 2026); Daily Maverick (27 Sept 2026).
- **Election dates and voting requirements:** Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), elections.org.za.

*Authorised and published by the Independent Citizens Movement, 22 Quinine Road, Glen Marais, Kempton Park, 1638.*



## INDEPENDENT CITIZENS MOVEMENT

*"We can no longer be passengers in a bus driven by a drunk driver, leading us to an inevitable, fatal end. We are here to challenge the status quo."*

Dr Joe Mojapelo, ICM President

LET'S TAKE POWER BACK TO THE PEOPLE

# VOTE ICM

4 NOVEMBER 2026

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**SOCIAL** Facebook: Independent Citizens Movement | X: @independentCMSA

*Independent in mind. United in diversity.*