



UDM

UNITED DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT



PUT COMMUNITY FIRST

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2016

MANIFESTO





Message from UDM President Bantu Holomisa

Dear Voter

This is our opportunity to demonstrate on a local level that there are solutions to the challenges that face us. United in our desire to create better villages, towns and cities, we can light the way and show which policies should be applied nationally. We have it within our power to affect changes that will result in genuine improvements in the lives of South Africans.

There is one thing that we can all agree on: change is necessary!

In this election you are not simply choosing between one political party and another. You can choose another five years of the same old discredited policies and poor service delivery, or you can choose change for the better.

Some will be quick to point out that much has been done in the past 20 years to improve the political, social and economic landscape. But we look at our daily reality and know that many of these accomplishments are overstated. For instance - when the ANC government claims to have built more houses, they should admit that more people have badly-built houses. And when the ANC government claims to have provided more services, they should admit that more people are receiving bad and unreliable services. When they claim to have built more infrastructure like roads, they should admit that it is mostly just more tolls and more potholes. To add insult to injury elite projects like the E-tolls funnel our taxpayer money out of the country.

When did we stop trying to be a world-class nation? To be the best? To excel? To measure ourselves not against the past but against our highest ideals?

When did Apartheid become the benchmark... for us to settle for inefficiency, corruption and mediocrity because "at least it's not Apartheid"

PUT COMMUNITY FIRST!

We should be reaching for the highest goals, to give expression to the spirit of the Constitution. We should be aiming to build a country that unleashes its vast potential – where each person (irrespective of race, gender, class or geography) has the opportunity (and indeed, the calling!) to contribute to a thriving prosperous nation. A nation like no other.

This local government election is our chance to show that it can be done. Starting in the streets where we live, we can build something greater, something better, to improve the lives of our families and loved ones.

As a voter, it is up to you to set a new agenda. You have the power to say what are the real priorities; as opposed to the elite projects (such as speed trains, automated tolling, etc.) which contribute nothing to your life and only enrich the politically-connected. It is time to PUT COMMUNITY FIRST by prioritising service delivery and removing the politicians and parties that stand in the way of that.

Once and for all we need to firmly establish the principle that our elected councillors are there to serve the community and not the other way around.

All of us pay municipal rates, but in return most of us do not receive the services that are rightfully ours.

We have so much work to do, the need is great. But we can do this, we can rise above the current disaster in local government. Let us vote for a party and councillors dedicated to joining hands with their communities. Let us start.

Local government must PUT COMMUNITY FIRST

In many municipalities the potholes outnumber the streetlamps. The services don't reach the people and often people are charged for services they do not receive.

It is up to you, as a voter, to demonstrate your unhappiness with incompetent and corrupt councillors and councils. I give you my personal assurance that if we find any UDM councillors



You have the power to set the real priorities

Potholes outnumber the streetlamps



*UDM Councillors
will champion
your cause and
serve your
community*

who are failing to deliver, they will be swiftly removed. Other political parties may tolerate corrupt and incompetent councillors, but the UDM does not.

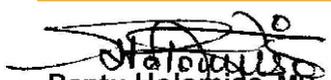
I believe that the UDM, and the councillors we are fielding in these elections, provide you with champions for your cause. Our overriding purpose is to serve and PUT COMMUNITY FIRST. The UDM seeks to bring about positive change and improve the quality of life in those wards and municipalities where our councillors are elected.

This manifesto introduces you to our thinking on the core principles of how local government should PUT COMMUNITY FIRST. We are eager to meet you – at rallies or within your living rooms – to explain to you, in greater detail, our values and how we intend to serve you in your municipality.

Ultimately your UDM councillor is your voice in local government; a person that consults with the community to determine your needs, and then champions your cause in the council.

LET US PUT COMMUNITIES FIRST!

Yours in BUILDING A WINNING NATION


Bantu Holomisa, MP
UDM President

VOTE UDM	 <small>UNITED DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT</small>	
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Put community first with **SERVICE DELIVERY**

The UDM will promote: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Every community is crying out for job creation. Where we have control or influence the UDM will ensure that councils turn all their efforts towards stimulating and promoting local economic development.

UDM councils will promote the creation of jobs and eradicate poverty. Irrespective of national and provincial job creation initiatives, local councils must take their own initiative to promote job creation and remove any local obstacles for entrepreneurs and job creators. UDM councils will form partnerships with local communities and businesses to stimulate the local economy.

The three tiers of government need to work together; inter-governmental relationships and support systems must be improved to stimulate economic development at local level. Small and medium sized businesses can only flourish in a stimulating environment. Municipalities that do not pay contractors on time are undermining job creation. Your UDM Councillor will work for a local government that encourages local entrepreneurs to get the job done and be paid on time. UDM councils will also strive to create a local business environment that support the Youth, women and people with disabilities to be entrepreneurs.

The UDM will institute SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

We maintain that the current system of ward committees has failed. They have been reduced to an extension of the ruling party, while local stakeholders are not properly represented. UDM Councils will institute sustainable development councils (SDCs), which are representative of the community, including councillors, key state departments (such as land affairs, water and environment, health, human settlements, rural development and public works), traditional leaders, non-governmental organisations, religious groupings as well as the youth, women and people with disabilities.

UDM councils will form partnerships with your communities

Municipalities that do not pay contractors on time undermine job creation

UDM Councils will give you a direct say in development projects



Your UDM Councillor will come from your community and serve your community

Every UDM Councillor pledges to maintain an open-door policy

A UDM council will liaise with relevant stakeholders to ensure that community health is a priority

The UDM will ensure: CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

One of the biggest problems with most councils and councillors today is that they do not communicate and consult with the communities they are supposed to serve. The UDM commits itself to continuous and regular interaction with the community. Your UDM councillor will come from your community and will continue to live in the community from which he/she has been elected.

Every UDM councillor pledges to maintain an open-door policy to ensure that you are in a position to express your needs and aspirations. In those municipalities where we govern, public participation in decision-making, will be guaranteed. Your UDM councillor will campaign vigorously on your behalf.

The UDM recognises that you have the right to express your service delivery needs so that your council knows how to prioritise spending.

The UDM will promote: ADEQUATE HEALTH SERVICES AND HYGIENE

Primary health care at municipal level is in deep crisis. There is a lack of medicine, shortage of nurses and doctors as well as poor infrastructure and equipment. In many of the poorest communities, where the need is greatest, access to clinics is limited to restrictive times. A UDM council will liaise with the relevant state departments to ensure that community health is a priority. A UDM council will ensure that communities have access to testing, counselling and treatment for HIV/Aids and other chronic illnesses.

The UDM will ensure: WATER AND SANITATION

Water and sanitation is your constitutional right – your council must provide it. Your UDM-governed municipality will provide every household in the community with access to clean, reliable water and sanitation.

The UDM commits to: ACCESS TO RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

The ruling party's abject failure to avert or manage the electricity crisis has caused untold harm to households and businesses.

What is worse, in many areas electricity provision is being used as a method to punish or reward communities for their perceived level of support for the ruling party. Electricity provision is one of the prime examples of selective development by government, which purposefully neglects rural areas. This approach creates the justification for Eskom to connect fewer and fewer rural communities in order to reduce pressure on the electricity grid.



The availability and reliability of alternative electricity sources have increased in the wake of the Eskom crisis. There are now many technological solutions that can be implemented at household and community scale.

Electricity is a fundamental factor in a wide range of socio-economic matters; it is the lifeblood of an economically active community. Reliable electricity has the potential to significantly improve the quality of life of the poor.

A UDM municipality will make it a priority to promote and incorporate all viable options for electricity generation. Our aim is to ensure that every household has access to reliable electricity.

A UDM municipality will promote all viable options for electricity generation

The UDM will fight for: DECENT HOUSING

Housing is the bedrock of prosperous communities. The UDM will make adequate housing, in conjunction with provincial and national authorities, one of the highest priorities in those councils where we govern. Newly-elected councils will inherit the legacy of the ANC's poor housing delivery and shoddy structures.

Spatial development is inadequate or lacking, with some communities erecting structures in unsuitable areas, like floodplains. On the other hand, corrupt officials illegally 'sell' land for informal settlements. The result is communities living in unsafe environments with little or no infrastructure.

UDM councils will systematically upgrade all informal settlements to formal housing and fix poorly built RDP houses

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The UDM believes that a functional road network is indispensable for improving a multitude of socio-economic issues

A UDM council will engage SAPS to bring satellite police stations closer to communities

UDM councils will halt the current process of excessive property rates

The UDM work towards: PROPER ROADS

The UDM pledges to address the shocking state of our roads. Many municipalities are causing untold damage to their communities by failing to build, maintain and improve roads. Roads are the connection between neighbours and families, between employers and employees, between children and schools, and between the sick and healthcare. The UDM believes that a functional road network is indispensable for improving a multitude of socio-economic issues.

UDM councillors will make sure that municipal road projects are not undermined by shoddy workmanship. Roads should be properly built and your UDM councillor will fight for the implementation of proper quality control measures. We will ensure that sustainable maintenance programmes are put in place. UDM councillors will ensure that roads and transport infrastructure, such as taxi ranks and bus stations, are well maintained and expanded where necessary.

The UDM will ensure: COMMUNITY SAFETY

Local government has a vital role to play in preventing and fighting crime. We will ensure that every council in which the UDM serves or governs will enhance their role in community safety. Your UDM councillor will advocate for local community safety organisations to be empowered.

A UDM council will engage the South African Police Services to bring satellite police stations closer to communities. In those councils that have metro police services, serious interventions will be launched to root out corruption and incompetence. Community involvement is vital, thus neighbourhood watches and similar initiatives will help us take back our streets and foster better relationships between the community and the police.

The UDM will promote: FAIR VALUATION OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY RATES

A UDM council will apply standardised criteria to ensure that properties are fairly and appropriately valued. A UDM Council will ensure that competent valuers are appointed and will institute fair and equitable rates. UDM councils will halt the current process of excessive property rates that stifle development and

make it even more expensive for people to own their own homes or start small businesses.

The UDM will ensure: ACCURATE BILLING

Billing in many municipalities continue to be in a state of chaos; many residents may not even be aware that they are being incorrectly billed. UDM councils will conduct immediate audits of billing departments. It is vital for accurate budgeting that a council knows exactly how much it is receiving in rates. Similarly, it is only right that you pay for the services you actually receive.

The UDM will fight for: ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES FOR THE POOR

UDM councils will ensure that the poorest of the poor receive at least a basic minimum of services without being charged. UDM councils will scrap any Apartheid-era arrears that serve to provide a justification for a culture of non-payment.

The UDM will improve: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Despite common themes, we understand that every community has specific needs, hence the UDM is committed to community-led development. A rural community has different needs and priorities compared to an urban community.

A UDM Council will formulate a strategy for the equitable allocation of funds to rural areas, to be spent on, amongst others, access roads, dipping tanks, fencing of grazing lands and crop fields, clearing of streams and rivers of invasive alien vegetation, combating soil erosion, as well as adequate sanitation.

The UDM will promote: A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND GREENING

The state of the environment in South Africa leaves much to be desired. Global warming is affecting South Africa's weather patterns and our communities suffer the consequences of floods, on the one hand, and drought, on the other.

Refuse has become unmanageable as plastic bags, cans and bottles pollute and deface our veld, beaches, parks and streets. After decades of uncontrolled refuse, many areas have become health hazards because they are infested with pests and rodents.



It is only right that you pay for the services you actually receive

We will ensure that the poorest of the poor receive at least a basic minimum of services without being charged

The UDM is committed to community-led development

Therefore, a UDM Council will ensure integration of proper environmental practice in terms of its daily operation as well as planning and project management.

These 'green' projects also create the opportunity for employment and skills development, thus a UDM council will promote women and youth participation in such environmental projects.

The UDM will institute "green" projects that will also create employment

Put community first with GOOD GOVERNANCE

The UDM will fight for: AN END TO NEPOTISM AND CORRUPTION

We witness institutionalised corruption every day where the ruling party is a parasite feeding on our people. It is an abuse of power that directly affects the taxpayer.

The UDM pledges to expose and root out any attempt to award tenders or council business to people with personal or family ties to council employees or councillors.

Tenders and contracts in a UDM council will be managed in a transparent and unbiased manner. The tender process should be left entirely in the hands of the accounting officers, in line with the financial rules and regulations. Councillors have a duty to practice oversight over municipal officials. A UDM council will not interfere in the day-to-day administration of the municipality.

In a UDM council tender processes will be left in the hands of accounting officers, and councillors will not interfere in day-to-day adm

The UDM will ensure: PROPER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

UDM councillors will exercise continuous oversight over council funds. Your UDM councillor is there to ensure that your council rates are managed in the most responsible and appropriate manner. To ensure that you have a say in how your rates are spent, UDM councils will enable proper public participation in the budget process.

UDM councils will enable proper public participation in the budget process

The UDM will institute: IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

There is a widespread lack of skills in local councils. A UDM council will conduct a skills audit for municipal staff and initiate training and education programmes for all council personnel to

A UDM council will initiate training programmes for all council personnel to improve on service

improve productivity and service to the public. UDM councils will immediately recruit competent people to fill the many existing vacancies.

The UDM will improve: CONSULTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The ruling party's so-called 'consultation process' is a mockery. Development projects, such as the toll road fiasco, are imposed on communities who do not feel ownership. Another example is houses in many areas that remain empty, and are vandalised, because they were built without considering the specific needs of those people.

UDM councillors will be active members of their communities within their wards and will ensure that residents remain up to date with the activities of councils and are given adequate opportunity to participate in decisions that affect them.

Your UDM council and councillor pledges to be your servant and allow you to have the final say in council decisions that affect you and your community.

The UDM will ensure: PROPER INCLUSION OF TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

The role and responsibility of traditional leadership in many rural communities cannot be denied. Yet, in the current system, many traditional leaders have been undermined and side-lined in a variety of ways, such as the demarcation of wards. Traditional leaders are extorted to support the ruling or else their communities are not provided with services.

UDM councils in rural areas will work closely with traditional leaders.

The UDM will ensure: COORDINATION WITH PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL SERVICES

There is lack of suitable and skilled administrators in municipalities. In some cases, inadequate budgets make it impossible to hire the right people.



UDM councillors will be active members of their communities and ensure that residents remain up to date with the activities of councils

The UDM recognises the role of traditional leaders in local government and will work closely with them

A UDM council will engage provincial administrations to second officials with the relevant skills, expertise and knowledge, to local level.

Better coordination is necessary between the different levels of government. There are delays in budgets filtering from national to local level.

Often it is a case of undeclared sanctions applied against municipalities that the ANC does not govern. UDM Councils will ensure that the process of releasing funds from the National Treasury reaches the councils as soon as possible.

Many major service delivery matters are the competence of national and provincial government, such as education, policing, healthcare, welfare, water and environmental protection. Nevertheless, UDM councils will gear themselves to enable in every possible way the effective delivery of these services, and to campaign with higher levels of government when these services are not being delivered.

UDM councils will gear themselves to liaise with the different levels of government to ensure that budgets filter down from national to local level in an expedient manner



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