

UNITY

IS OUR STRENGTH

ONE NATION • ONE PEOPLE • ONE FUTURE

DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS.

ONE VOICE.
ONE AZANIA.



LGE2026 MANIFESTO

WE NEED A PEACEFUL MUNICIPAL REVOLUTION!
GIVE AZANIA YOUR PROTEST VOTE !

ONE VOICE. ONE VISION. ONE AZANIA.

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1. PREAMBLE: A HISTORIC CROSSROADS

We stand at a historic crossroads. Our Metropolitan (metros) and municipalities, once designed to serve, have become oppressive burdens that exploit and overtax the very ratepayers keeping them afloat. This exploitation must end.

Azania Peaceful Revolution (AZANIA) demands a fundamental restructuring of local government; through a Peaceful Revolution; for absolute sustainability. Municipalities were never meant to be financial parasites, but nurturing fountains of public stewardship.

AZANIA champions a vital balancing act: forging unyielding fiscal responsibility alongside absolute justice for the overburdened ratepayer. Together, let us reclaim our cities, restore municipal integrity, and build a prosperous, sustainable future for all South Africans.

2. ABOUT THE PRESIDENT OF AZANIA



RICARDO MAARMAN: PRESIDENT OF AZANIA

Maarman is a dedicated social activist, published author, and academic who stands out as a powerful voice for structural change in South Africa's modern political landscape. Rooted in community development and civil liberties, his leadership offers a principled alternative designed to dismantle historical inequities and protect basic freedoms.

Background and Education

Origins: Born in Graaff-Reinet (Robert Sobukwe Town), a town deeply rooted in the history of liberation and African self-determination.

Undergraduate Studies: Graduated from the University of South Africa (UNISA) with a Bachelor of Arts in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE).

Postgraduate Studies: Holds a Master's degree from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom.

Social Activism and Literature

Defending Civil Liberties: Emerged as a prominent social activist through his vocal opposition to State of Disaster Lockdowns, standing firmly against the suspension of the nation's Bill of Rights.

Published Author: Authored the critical political text, *The Subversion of South Africa*, which examines how external and domestic capital influence national interests and democratic institutions in South Africa.

3. POLITICAL VISION

Realising the limitations of conventional political models, Maarman founded AZANIA to serve as a direct vehicle for civil rights, justice, and national renewal. AZANIA champions a Peaceful Revolution to structurally transform governance through accountability rather than conflict. By fostering national unity, AZANIA aims to bridge historical divides and unite all South African citizens under a shared constitutional vision. Grounded in the urgent renewal of our political leadership, Maarman is positioned as the only trusted leader in the current political landscape to deliver much-needed change. For voters seeking a decisive break from the status quo, casting a Protest Vote for the President of AZANIA represents a strategic demand for constitutional integrity, fresh leadership, and much needed national renewal.

4. THE TEN PILLARS OF OUR AGENDA

1. Scrap Fixed Charges

Abolish “extortionate” electricity fixed fees immediately.

2. Wipe Out Debt

Grant full municipal debt amnesty to struggling households.

3. Freeze the Hikes

Reverse and freeze double-digit tariff hikes, end billing estimates & lower utility rates for SA citizens to stop foreign gentrification.

4. Energy Independence

Decouple from Eskom by building local grids to end load-shedding and slash costs.

5. Water & Sanitation

Upgrade infrastructure to stop leaks and enforce strict laws for clean drinking water.

6. More Cops, Less Crime

Train & Deploy more Metro Police officers for visible, proactive patrols.

7. In-Source & Reform Tenders

Get rid of costly consultants, eliminate tender fraud, and empower local small businesses.

8. Build Homes

Mass-construct affordable housing to expand and support the ratepayer base.

9. Medical Freedom & Safe Food

Guarantee informed consent, authorise natural treatments, and enforce strict food safety standards.

10. Reject the Police State

Stop smart-city mass surveillance, mandatory digital IDs, and the push toward a cashless economy.

5. HOW WE WILL DELIVER A PEACEFUL MUNICIPAL REVOLUTION

SCRAP FIXED CHARGES

Abolish “extortionate” electricity fixed fees immediately. To achieve this through lawful means, the newly elected municipal administration shall immediately utilize its executive authority under the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) and the Municipal Systems Act. The incoming council can table an urgent mid-term budget adjustment or initiate a formal tariff restructuring process, directing municipal accountants to strip out non-operational administrative overheads from consumer bills. By passing a revised municipal tariff policy through official council resolutions and executing a transparent, legally compliant public participation process, the administration can lawfully reallocate costs, dismantle the punitive fixed charges, and establish a fairer, consumption-based pricing model.

To ensure financial sustainability while abolishing fixed charges, the incoming administration must simultaneously offset revenue losses through structural internal reforms. Legally, this requires balancing the operational budget by drastically cutting bloated administrative overheads, eliminating redundant executive positions, and terminating wasteful consultancy contracts.

WIPE OUT DEBT

Grant full municipal debt amnesty to struggling households. To execute debt amnesty while ensuring financial sustainability, the incoming administration will utilize its executive powers under the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) to formally adopt an updated Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy. Legally, councils possess the statutory discretion to write off irrecoverable debt where traditional recovery costs outweigh collection yields or where it threatens household survival.

To offset these revenue losses, the administration will redirect funds from expensive external debt-collectors toward aggressive internal fiscal restructuring. Concurrently, it will stabilize municipal finances by formally registering qualifying indigent households for national equitable share allocations, expanding the active ratepayer base through affordable housing, and curbing municipal resource theft, in addition to the aforementioned cost cutting measures.

FREEZE THE HIKES

Reverse and freeze double-digit tariff hikes, end billing estimates & lower utility rates for SA citizens to stop foreign gentrification. To execute this policy, the incoming administration will utilize its statutory powers under the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) and the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act to table urgent mid-term budget adjustments in strict compliance with section 28 of the MFMA, passing revised, pro-consumer tariff policies through lawful council resolutions and statutory public participation processes.

This includes challenging NERSA-approved double-digit hikes through structured, cooperative engagement with regulatory authorities to ensure rational and affordable tariff adjustments. Furthermore, utilizing the structural protections under Section 229 of the Constitution and Sections 3 and 15 of the Municipal Property Rates Act (MPRA)—mirroring anti-displacement housing, tax, and tariff measures adopted in countries like Canada, Singapore, and New Zealand—the administration will implement a tiered pricing and rating structure that establishes lower utility rates and property protections for local citizens compared to foreign and non-resident buyers, directly halting displacement and stopping gentrification. To end billing estimates, the

council will legally mandate direct, verified meter readings and enforce strict regulatory penalties against defaulting service providers within the framework of existing municipal supply chain management policies.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Decouple from Eskom by building local grids to end load-shedding and slash costs. To achieve energy independence and permanently end load-shedding without increasing public debt, the incoming administration will legally decouple from Eskom by constructing localized micro-grids and municipal distribution networks under the Electricity Regulation Act.

Capital expenditure will be fully financed through international and domestic development grants and municipal infrastructure funds, avoiding ratepayer-funded loans. To reduce costs, the municipality will mandate innovative systems, including waste-to-energy conversion plants and inline conduit hydropower turbines embedded within municipal water pipes to generate local, independent electricity from existing pressure. The municipality will employ local unemployed labor to construct and maintain these micro-grids. This strategy secures municipal energy sovereignty and decouples the city from costly external mandates, creates jobs and will lower consumer utility tariffs. Electricity is a fundamental public good that must ultimately be placed within a Public Trust, free from private or government ownership.

WATER & SANITATION

Upgrade infrastructure to stop leaks and enforce strict laws for clean drinking water. To overhaul water and sanitation, the incoming administration will exercise its powers under the Water Services Act and Municipal Systems Act to redirect capital budgets toward critical infrastructure repairs, utilizing local and international ring-fenced infrastructure grants.

To stop catastrophic leaks and guarantee pristine water, the municipality will deploy advanced Tokyo Water Management Technology—renowned for precision acoustic leak detection and pressure control to eliminate non-revenue water losses. Furthermore, the administration will mandate safe, non-chemical water purification methods that completely exclude fluoride and harsh synthetic additives, enforcing rigorous quality laws to ensure chemical-free, safe drinking water for all residents. Local unemployed labor shall be employed for construction, maintenance and inspection. Similar to electricity, water is a vital public good whose long-term administration must be safeguarded under the same Public Trust framework.

MORE COPS, LESS CRIME

Deploy more Metro Police officers for visible, proactive patrols. To dramatically reduce crime, the incoming administration will utilize its executive powers under the South African Police Service Act and the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act to restructure public safety budgets, redirecting funds from bloated administrative salaries into frontline law enforcement.

To execute this, the municipality will establish temporary, highly visible mobile stations within high-crime hotspots, deploying Metro Police officers for continuous 24/7 regular patrols. For coastal metros, the administration will formally establish a dedicated municipal coast guard division to intercept illegal drug smuggling and secure maritime borders. Local unemployed youth shall be trained and deployed accordingly.

More Visible Policing: Establish and deploy additional Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (Peace Officers) under Section 334 of the Criminal Procedure Act, and formalize an Intergovernmental Safety Partnership (MoU) with SAPS for joint proactive patrols across Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality.

IN-SOURCE & REFORM TENDERS

Eliminate costly consultants and tender fraud. Empower local small businesses & drive sustainable job creation through in-sourcing. To reform local procurement, the incoming administration will utilize its statutory powers under the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) and the Municipal Supply Chain Management (SCM) Regulations to overhaul public contracting.

The council will legally terminate wasteful external consultancy contracts and through reformed tender processes, we will shut the door on overpricing and redirect funds to reduce rates and towards essential services. In the case of the City of Johannesburg Metro, to centralise the 13 municipal entities it currently has to save the rate-payer the unnecessary bloated executive salaries and duplication. The council will invoke clauses that prioritize internal capacity building of municipal services. To ensure financial sustainability and empower local enterprise, the administration will restructure SCM policies to legally reserve procurement quotas for local small, medium, and micro-enterprises (SMMs), redirecting funds previously lost to inflated contractor fees directly into sustainable rate cuts, local job creation, community wealth-building and essential services. End wasteful, fruitless and irregular expenditure.

BUILD HOMES

Mass-construct affordable housing using local labor to expand the ratepayer base and reverse Apartheid-style spatial inequality. To execute mass housing and economic expansion, the incoming administration will utilize its statutory powers under the Housing Act and the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act to fast-track municipal land release and rezone underutilized public parcels for development.

To guarantee financial sustainability and build resilient communities, the administration will leverage infrastructure development grants and capital improvement funds to deploy cost-effective, durable housing methods—incorporating resource-efficient designs and high-durability, locally sourced materials and currently unemployed labor.

Furthermore, the council will establish dedicated Inner-City Renewal Funds and Development Funds, to address inner-city neglect and Apartheid-style unequal development. This will be complemented by targeted tax incentives, rate rebates, and streamlined building approvals to attract private investment, eliminate urban decay, and permanently expand the stable ratepayer base through sustainable local job creation.

MEDICAL FREEDOM & SAFE FOOD

Guarantee informed consent, authorise natural treatments, and enforce food safety by hiring healthcare professionals, homeopaths, and inspectors. To institutionalize medical freedom and safe food, the incoming administration will utilize its statutory powers under the National Health Act and the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act to overhaul municipal public health mandates and direct public health budgets toward holistic wellness.

The council will legally guarantee fully informed medical consent across all municipal clinics, establish specialized protocols to identify, support, and provide comprehensive health services to those suffering from vaccine injuries, and formally integrate holistic care by employing registered homeopaths alongside conventional practitioners. To promote community health, the administration will implement continuous training programs for municipal nurses and medical staff focused on integrative wellness and preventative care.

To safeguard consumer health, the municipality will hire and deploy rigorous food safety inspectors to enforce strict compliance standards across local markets and vendors. Furthermore, to combat lifestyle

diseases and promote proactive health, the administration will construct and upgrade community sports facilities, establish accessible outdoor public gyms, and roll out comprehensive municipal lifestyle and wellness programs. To ensure financial sustainability, these expanded public health initiatives will be lawfully funded by reallocating health grants, redirecting savings from cancelled administrative contracts, and leveraging national wellness subsidies.

REJECT THE POLICE STATE

Stop smart-city mass surveillance, mandatory digital IDs, and the push toward a cashless economy. To dismantle the police state and protect civil liberties, the incoming administration will utilize its statutory powers under the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act and municipal bylaws to pass binding regulatory ordinances explicitly banning authoritarian overreach. This in line with section 10 (Dignity), 12 (Freedom and Security of the Person), and 14 (Privacy) of the Constitution of South Africa.

The council will legally pass resolutions removing all invasive surveillance cameras installed by previous administrations, forbidding mass surveillance systems on all municipal property and across the entire municipal jurisdiction, and legally outlawing the rollout of mandatory digital IDs or biometric tracking within the metro. Furthermore, to safeguard financial autonomy and protect marginalized citizens, the municipality will enact bylaws requiring all traders, markets, and businesses operating within the municipality to accept cash as a valid payment option, strictly prohibiting any forced transition to a cashless economy.

To ensure financial sustainability, the funds previously wasted on maintaining privacy-infringing surveillance technology will be legally redirected toward reduction in rates, defending constitutional rights, auditing municipal privacy compliance, and supporting consumer freedom.

6. A CALL TO ACTION !

GIVE US YOUR PROTEST VOTE!

This revolutionary local government agenda outlines a complete restructuring of South African municipalities from exploitative entities into financially responsible public stewards by scrapping fixed electricity charges, wiping out indigent household debt, freezing tariff hikes, and driving energy and water independence. For the ratepayer, this guarantees lower utility costs, restores civil liberties, enhance public safety, and reliable basic services, while securing the municipality's long-term sustainability through slashed administrative bloat, localized grids, and a vastly expanded, thriving rate base.

Compared to mainstream LGE 2026 manifestos—which largely tinker around the edges of a broken administrative status quo through traditional taxation and bureaucratic management—this manifesto uniquely dismantles the structural drivers of municipal failure, rejecting overreaching surveillance, mandatory digital IDs, and financial coercion in favor of absolute ratepayer protection.

A protest vote is a deliberate ballot cast by disillusioned citizens not necessarily to back a conventional political careerist, but to send an uncompromising, disruptive message to establishment parties that business-as-usual governance will no longer be tolerated. It is an active rejection of systemic failure, municipal corruption, and economic overreach, utilizing the democratic process to demand total institutional reform.

This manifesto deserves your protest vote because it transforms generalized public anger into a concrete, legally backed roadmap for systemic liberation rather than empty opposition rhetoric. By leveraging actual statutory powers under the MFMA and Municipal Systems Act to immediately slash rates, cancel unjust debts, and legally ban authoritarian overreach, it provides the only definitive mechanism to break the cycle of municipal exploitation and hand power permanently back to the people.

AZANIA PEACEFUL REVOLUTION !

VOTE AZANIA !