

CONGRESS TODAY



27 FEBRUARY 2026

DAY ONE

NELSON MANDELA BAY

MEET THE CANDIDATES

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AMAZING LINEUP

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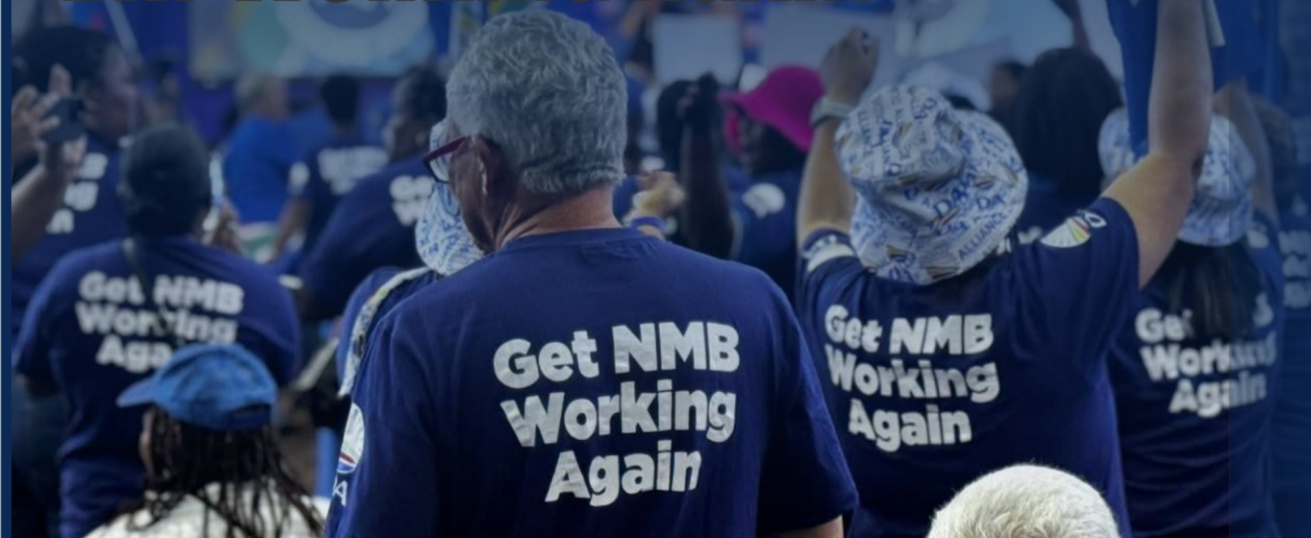


WELCOME TO NELSON MANDELA BAY



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WE CAN GET NELSON MANDELA BAY WORKING AGAIN



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WELCOME TO NELSON MANDELA BAY

By Andrew Whitfield MP

How time flies. It feels like only yesterday that we gathered at our last Provincial Congress in 2023 in Graaff-Reinet, where we reflected on our shared mission to change the course of history ahead of the 2024 National and Provincial elections. At that moment, we spoke about hope, accountability, and the responsibility we carry to deliver a better future for the people we serve. Today, we gather once again with renewed purpose and even greater urgency. Now, we ask you to unite behind the Democratic Alliance to change the course of history in municipalities across the Eastern Cape. The task before us is clear, and the opportunity is within reach. This year's theme focuses on winning key municipalities in the 2026 Local Government Elections. Our goal is bold, but it is achievable: to win this Metro right here in Nelson Mandela Bay, to retain a strong and capable DA government in Kouga, and to work tirelessly to take up government in Dr Beyers Naudé and Makana. These are not merely political

objectives. They represent our commitment to restoring dignity, delivering services, creating opportunity, and building municipalities that truly work for the people. This weekend, we gather not only as public representatives, activists, and leaders, but as changemakers. Each of us holds a piece of the future. Each conversation, each decision, and each commitment made here contributes to shaping better governance in municipalities across the Eastern Cape. Our collective responsibility is to ensure that communities experience real change: reliable services, accountable leadership, safer neighbourhoods, and economic opportunity. Let this Congress be more than a meeting of minds. Let it inspire meaningful action. Let it strengthen our resolve to serve with integrity and to lead with courage. Let our collective commitment ignite real and lasting change in every community we represent. Your dedication and commitment matter. The work you do every day, often unseen and



unrecognised, is the foundation upon which electoral success and good governance are built. Together, we must continue to dream big, act boldly, and work tirelessly to bring about the change our province deserves. Enjoy the Provincial Congress. Take the time to connect, to share ideas, and to strengthen the partnerships that make our movement stronger. Let us ensure that this Congress is memorable for all the right reasons — not only for what we discuss, but for what we resolve to achieve together. Thank you.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

By Yusuf Cassim MPL

As the 2026 local government elections approach, the people of the Eastern Cape face a pivotal choice: continue with failed governance or embrace a future built on accountability, service delivery and real safety. As the Democratic Alliance's provincial chairperson, I firmly believe our communities are ready for DA leadership that works for all residents. Across our cities and towns, service delivery failures, from collapsed infrastructure to rising crime, have eroded confidence in the status quo. In areas such as Nelson Mandela Bay, residents endure daily hardships because competent, stable local government has been absent for far too long. It is time for a new direction. Citizens need government that delivers on its promises. The DA's leadership in the Eastern Cape has been renewed, with our team unopposed and unified, ready to lead the campaign to grow our municipal footprint. We have shown that when given the trust of voters, the DA can stabilise municipalities, improve governance, and deliver basic services efficiently. Our



victories in by-elections and governance successes in municipalities such as Kouga demonstrate what capable leadership can achieve — stability, clean audits and improved quality of life. These elections are not just about party politics; they are about whether communities can expect safer streets, functioning infrastructure, jobs and opportunities for their families. I urge every citizen to register, engage and vote. The 2026 local government elections are our chance to choose accountability, hope and real change. Together, we can get the Eastern Cape working again.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Provincial Leader



Andrew Whitfield

Provincial Chairperson



Yusuf Cassim

Councillor to Provincial Council (Uncontested)

Basson, Roelof
Booyesen, Leetesline Alphonso
Van Wyk, Ingrid

Member to Provincial Council

Public Representative Candidates

Adams, Tyrone Peter
Auld, Cecilia
Basson, Roelof
Blaauw, Marco
Boggenpoel, Vernon
Fillis, Sandra
Grobbelaar, Jason
London, Ignatius
Mey, Joerhan Voughan
Monks, Duncan
Moodley, Noeleen
Van Der Westhuizen, Andre (Dries)

Non-Public Representative Candidates

Botha, Kobus
Campher, Audrey
Hlabanie, Wendall
Hopshire, Earl
Ross, Rosline Theresa
Walljee, Alain

Provincial Deputy Leader



Horatio Hendricks



Vicky Knoetze



Mlindi Nhanha

Provincial Deputy Chairperson



Marlene Ewers



Rano Kayser



Chantel King



Mathee Nel



Baxolile Nodada



Marshall von Buchenroder

MEET THE PRESIDING OFFICERS

As the DA in the Eastern Cape convenes its **11th Provincial Congress**, we are honoured to welcome two of our senior national leaders, Werner Horn and Bridget Masango, as presiding officers. Presiding officers fulfil a critically important role at Congress and must, above all, ensure that all leadership elections are conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner. Both Werner and Bridget are leaders of integrity, with the experience, institutional knowledge, and parliamentary authority that make them ideally suited to this responsibility. Werner is a qualified attorney and Member of Parliament who

began his political career as a councillor in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality between 2006 and 2014. Following the 2014 national and provincial elections, he was elected to the National Assembly, where he has served in several senior capacities and on numerous parliamentary committees. He currently serves as a House Chairperson of the National Assembly, a senior presiding role responsible for overseeing proceedings in the House and ensuring that parliamentary processes are conducted in accordance with the Rules and the Constitution. He has previously served as the DA's Shadow Deputy Minister of

Justice and Correctional Services and remains a senior leader within the party, including having served as DA Free State Provincial Chairperson. Bridget entered politics after a successful career in the private sector and was elected to the National Council of Provinces in 2014 before becoming a Member of the National Assembly in 2015. She currently serves as Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development in the National Assembly, where she plays a critical oversight role over one of the most important social service departments in the country. She has previously served as the DA's Shadow Minister of Social Development

and has been an active member of several parliamentary committees, including those dealing with education, social services, communications, public enterprises, and mineral resources. We wish Werner and Bridget strength, wisdom, and fairness as they undertake this important responsibility, and we are confident that they will ensure the smooth, professional, and credible running of the DA Eastern Cape's 11th Provincial Congress.



WE CAN GET NELSON MANDELA BAY WORKING AGAIN

By Retief Odendaal MPL

Nelson Mandela Bay is one of South Africa's great coastal cities, blessed with 40 kilometres of beaches, a moderate climate and a rich industrial heritage. But its greatest asset is its 1.3 million resilient residents. I was born and raised in Algoa Park, educated here, built my law practice here and am raising my children here. This city is home. We have overcome deep divisions in our past. From the injustices of forced removals in South End to the violence that scarred communities like Helenvale, democracy in 1994 brought hope and opportunity. For a time, we saw growth,

investment and progress. Our factories hummed. Businesses expanded. There was a shared commitment to building a city that worked for everyone. Today, that momentum has stalled. Across Motherwell, Missionvale, KwaNobuhle and the Northern Areas, residents face unemployment, crime, broken infrastructure and collapsing service delivery. Roads are crumbling, traffic lights don't work and sewage flows in our streets. No child should walk through filth to get home from school. No family should live in fear of gang violence. This decline is the result of poor governance.

When I served as Executive Mayor in 2022, we stabilised municipal finances and secured the first unqualified audit in 12 years. In just nine months, we proved that clean, accountable government is possible. My vision is clear: a safe, well-run and growing city. We will expand metro policing, enforce by-laws, root out corruption, fill critical technical posts and fast-track business approvals to attract investment and create jobs. The upcoming election is our opportunity to restore dignity, rebuild trust and choose hope. We can get Nelson Mandela Bay working again.

KOUGA - A TESTAMENT TO HOW THE DA GETS THINGS DONE

By Kouga Mayor Hattingh Bornman

As the Eastern Cape Provincial Congress convenes, I reflect with pride on Kouga's achievements under DA leadership and look forward with confidence to what we can achieve for our province. Kouga Municipality has demonstrated that when governance is guided by the DA's core values of freedom, fairness, opportunity, and diversity, measurable progress follows. In 2025, Kouga was recognised as the Best Run Municipality in the Eastern Cape. We have also achieved two consecutive clean audits, reflecting disciplined financial management, strong oversight, and a culture of accountability. Our governance success is matched by bold delivery. We have launched the largest infrastructure project in Kouga's history — a R200 million road reseal programme that will resurface approximately 70% of all tar roads across the municipality. This investment is transforming mobility, improving safety, and

protecting critical infrastructure for the long term. We have strengthened water and sanitation systems, invested in informal settlement upgrades, and enhanced our operational capacity to respond more effectively to community needs. These are practical steps that make a tangible difference in the daily lives of residents. These milestones matter because stability builds confidence — and confidence unlocks opportunity. Looking ahead to the 2026 local government elections, it is my firm ambition to see more municipalities in the Eastern Cape governed by the DA. Communities across this province deserve sound financial management, reliable service delivery, and leadership rooted in accountability. I wish all delegates a productive and focused Congress as we work together to expand clean, accountable governance throughout the Eastern Cape.



IN MEMORIAM

With deep respect and gratitude, we honour the members, leaders, and activists who have passed since our last Provincial Congress in 2020. Their service, commitment, and dedication to our communities will not be forgotten. We remember them with appreciation and extend our heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and colleagues.

Dr Beyers Naudé
Garry Wiehahn - Cllr
Arthur Knott-Craig - Cllr

Ngqurha
Buyelwa Jacobs – PR CLLR
Fikiswa Ndleleni – Activist
Cynthia Dlova - Activist
Zimkitha Teta - Activist
Zoliswa Dyaloyi - Activist
Neliswa Ntsasa - Activist
Pamela Ziqula - Activist
Landiswa Mkoyi - Activist
Phumla Sodladla – Activist
Buyile Lennox Ntantiso – Activist

OR Tambo
Bavuyise D'va Vimbani - Exco Member
Ayabonga Nombanga - Exco Member
Sithembiso Mabasa - Cllr

Frontier
Jocelyn Guest - PR Councillor in Ndlambe Municipality

Winterhoek
Felicity Ann Adams – NMB Ward Assistant

Zuurberg
Buansa Beverley Galant

Buffalo City
Bukelwa Mfidi – Branch Chairperson

NMB Southwest
Bredine Share – EC Provincial Finance Manager
EK Moorcroft - MPL

North East Cape
Mxolisi Oyiya – PR Cllr & Constituency Chairperson

Enoch Mgijima
Lumkile Wiseman Mgozolozeli - Branch Chairperson

Alfred NZO
Macalonke Johnson Ndesi - DA PR Cllr
Tsepo Samuel Seane - PR Cllr
Nomkhitha Ncapayi - Activist and Branch Secretary
Thanduxolo Wellington Giqi - Activist and Branch

Kouga
Ben Rheeder - Cllr
Freddie Campher - Cllr

PENA
Johnny Arends – Cllr and PENA Deputy Leader
Bethany Oliphant - Activist



CONGRESS PROGRAMME

Day 1: 27 February 2026

- 12h00 Registration opens for Delegates
- 13h00 Provincial Congress begins with Opening Ceremony (delegates to be seated)
- 13h20 Welcoming
Meditation, prayer, and Singing of the National Anthem
- 13h30 Provincial Leader opens Congress
- 13h45 Report by the Provincial Chairperson
- 14h10 Presiding Officers explain the voting process
- 14h30 Recess for voting and tea, and coffee

VOTING TAKES PLACE

- 15h30 Constitutional Amendments
- 16h15 Motions and Resolutions
- 18h00 Provincial Congress adjourns for Day 1
- 19h00 Congress Braai
(Fairview Sports Centre, Willow Rd, Overbaakens)

Day 2: 28 February 2026

- 07h30 Arrival Tea and Coffee
- 08h30 Provincial Congress resumes (Delegates to be seated)
- 08h45 Opening Ceremony, and Welcoming
- 08h53 Dr Ivan Meyer (Federal Chairperson)
- 09h00 CONGRESS AWARDS CEREMONY
- 10h15 TEA
- 11h00 Congress resumes (Delegates to be seated)
- 11h15 John Steenhuisen (The Federal Leader)
- 11h35 Presiding Officers Announce Results
- 11h45 Andrew Whitfield (The Provincial Leader)
- 12h15 Closing Remarks by Provincial Chairperson
- 12h25 Provincial Congress closes

LIGHT TAKEAWAY LUNCH

MEET OUR CONGRESS ALL STARS

This year's Congress will once again showcase exceptional musical talent from across the Eastern Cape, celebrating the depth and diversity of local artistry.

Sebenzile Rafani, our very own homegrown DA talent, returns to the stage, bringing his distinctive blend of traditional and contemporary sound. Known for his powerful performances and cultural authenticity, Rafani has built a strong following across the province and remains a respected figure in the local music scene.

Melissa, (Idols semi-finalist) a dynamic stage performer, captivates audiences with her commanding presence and emotive delivery. Her performances are marked by vocal strength and engaging energy, making her a firm audience favourite. **KK** (Soprano from Buffalo City) brings vibrancy and flair to the programme. With a strong stage presence and versatile repertoire, she adds

contemporary appeal to the line-up. **Andrea** (Oppi-Noot finalist met Emo Adams), offers a soulful performance style that connects easily with audiences. Her warm vocal tone and confident delivery continue to win support across the region. **Raymo**, (Gospel Rapper) known for his smooth vocal style and easy audience rapport, rounds out the programme with performances that are both polished and accessible. **Lauralee Jacobs**, a DA professional staff member, brings warmth and energy to the stage, showcasing her vocal talent and passion for music. Together, this talented group reflects the richness of Eastern Cape music and the spirit of celebration that defines this year's Congress.



DRESS CODE

Delegates are requested to don their DA golf shirts and t-shirts or other DA attire for the two Congress days.



CONGRESS 2023