

BATHO MOVEMENT

MANIFESTO

FOR

DIHLABENG

2026-2031 VISION

THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN

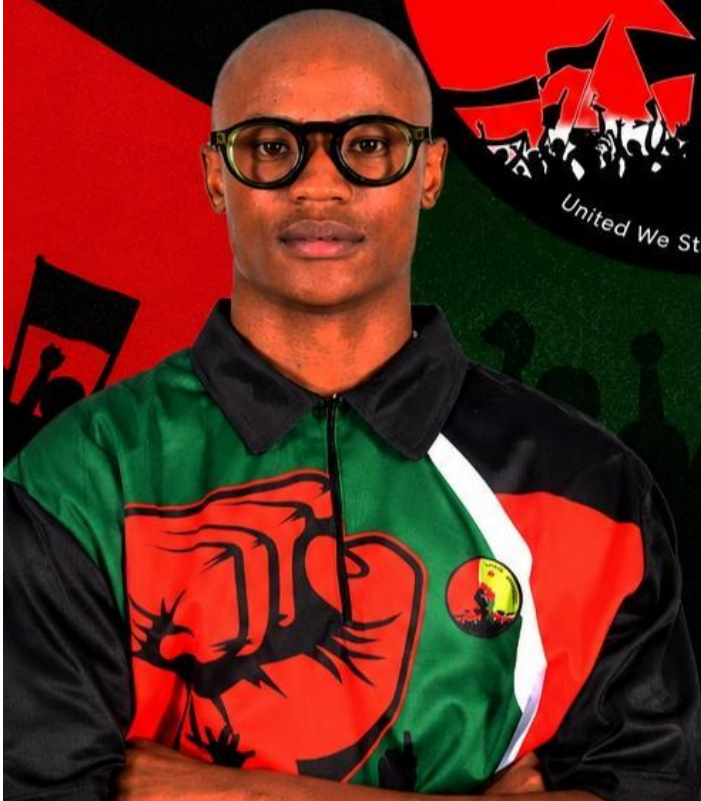


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword

Chapter 1: A Vision for a New Dihlabeng

Chapter 2: Understanding Dihlabeng – Our Municipality, Our Responsibility

Chapter 3: Water Security, Sanitation and Basic Services

Chapter 4: Roads, Public Infrastructure and Municipal Services

Chapter 5: Economic Growth, Business Development and Job Creation

Chapter 6: Safe Communities, Crime Prevention and the Fight Against Drugs

Chapter 7: Housing, Human Settlements and Land Development

Chapter 8: Education, Skills Development, Youth Empowerment, Sport, Arts and Culture

Chapter 9: Healthcare, Social Development and Community Well-being

Chapter 10: Clean Government, Accountability and Fighting Corruption

Chapter 11: Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security

Chapter 12: Tourism, Heritage, Arts and the Creative Economy

Chapter 13: Environmental Sustainability, Climate Resilience and Clean Communities

Chapter 14: Financial Recovery, Service Delivery and a Capable Municipality

Chapter 15: Good Governance, Public Participation and Community Partnerships

Chapter 16: Our First 100 Days in Office

Chapter 17: Action Plan 2026–2031

Chapter 18: Our Social Contract with the People of Dihlabeng

Chapter 19: Conclusion – The Time Is Now

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Batho Movement's 100 Commitments to the People of Dihlabeng

Batho Movement

2026 Local Government Elections Manifesto | Dihlabeng

“The People Shall Govern.”

Freedom. **Dignity. Development. Accountability.**

Foreword

Fellow residents of Dihlabeng,

It is with deep humility, hope and an unwavering commitment to our people that I present the Batho Movement's 2026 Local Government Election Manifesto for Dihlabeng Local Municipality.

This manifesto belongs to every resident of Bethlehem, Bohlokong, Clarens, Fouriesburg, Paul Roux, Rosendal and our surrounding rural communities. It is a product of listening to the voices of our people the elderly who seek dignity, young people searching for opportunity, workers striving for a better future, entrepreneurs taking risks, farmers feeding our nation, professionals, faith leaders, educators, students, community activists and every family that calls Dihlabeng home.

We extend our hand to every sector of society: our business community, emerging entrepreneurs, informal traders, commercial and developing farmers, churches and faith-based organisations, traditional and cultural organisations, non-governmental organisations, civic associations, neighbourhood watches, sports clubs, youth formations, women's organisations, organisations representing persons with disabilities, labour, pensioners, schools, colleges, training institutions, healthcare workers and every community structure committed to building a better municipality.

Batho Movement believes that a successful municipality must serve everyone—the middle class seeking efficient local government, working families striving for stability, small businesses creating employment, and the poorest of the poor who deserve dignity, opportunity and hope. Development must never leave anyone behind.

For too long, Dihlabeng has struggled with unreliable water supply, failing sanitation systems, deteriorating roads, dangerous potholes, inconsistent refuse removal, ageing infrastructure, inadequate housing delivery, high unemployment, rising drug abuse, crime, poor maintenance of public facilities and declining confidence in local government. These challenges affect every resident regardless of where they live or what they earn.

Our communities deserve safe neighbourhoods where children can walk to school without fear, clean streets that reflect our pride, parks and sporting facilities that inspire young people, clinics and municipal services that function efficiently, and roads that support businesses, farmers and tourism.

We believe that economic growth begins with competent local government. By investing in infrastructure, supporting local businesses, strengthening agriculture, expanding tourism, promoting innovation, improving municipal services and creating an environment that attracts investment, Dihlabeng can become one of South Africa's leading municipalities.

Housing must restore dignity. Water is a basic human right. Reliable electricity powers opportunity. Well-maintained roads connect communities and strengthen commerce. Safe public spaces build confidence. Sport, arts and culture develop disciplined, healthy and united communities. Education and skills development create pathways to employment. Effective municipal governance builds trust between government and the people.

This manifesto is our commitment to clean, accountable and people-centred government. It outlines practical solutions to improve service delivery, strengthen financial management, combat corruption, create sustainable employment, empower local enterprises, protect the vulnerable and restore public confidence in our municipality.

Real change cannot be achieved by political leaders alone. It requires residents, businesses, community organisations, religious institutions, educational institutions, labour, farmers, professionals and civil society working together with a shared purpose. The future of Dihlabeng belongs to all who live, work and invest here.

President Tumo J Mafisa & myself as the Deputy President invite every resident to judge us not by promises alone, but by our values, our integrity, our competence and our willingness to serve.

Together, we can build a municipality where government works, businesses prosper, communities are safe, young people have opportunities, families live with dignity and every resident has confidence that tomorrow will be better than today.

The time for renewal has arrived.

Together, let us build a prosperous, united, safe and dignified Dihlabeng for all.

Cde Neo Mokoena

Deputy President & Co-Founder

Aspiring Human Settlements Practitioner (Unisa)

Bachelor of Administration in Human Settlement Management | Second Year | 2026

Batho Movement

Chapter 1: Our Vision for Dihlabeng

A Municipality That Works for Everyone

Batho Movement envisions a Dihlabeng Local Municipality that is clean, safe, prosperous, inclusive and governed with integrity. We believe local government must exist to improve the quality of life of every resident, create opportunities for economic growth and restore public confidence in municipal leadership.

Our vision is built on the principle that every resident regardless of race, gender, age, disability, religion, language, income or political affiliation deserves equal access to quality municipal services, economic opportunities and a government that listens.

We are committed to building a municipality where every household has access to clean drinking water, reliable electricity, quality sanitation, well-maintained roads, efficient refuse removal, affordable housing and safe public spaces.

We envision a municipality where businesses can invest with confidence, entrepreneurs can grow, farmers can thrive, tourism flourishes, industries expand and young people find meaningful employment without leaving Dihlabeng in search of opportunities elsewhere.

Our vision is for:

- A municipality free from corruption, wasteful expenditure and political patronage.**
- Reliable water supply to every household, business and institution.**
- Roads free of potholes and properly maintained infrastructure.**
- Safe communities through partnerships with SAPS, Community Policing Forums, neighbourhood watches and community safety structures.**
- Clean towns and townships with regular refuse collection and recycling programmes.**
- Affordable, dignified housing supported by transparent allocation processes.**
- Functional clinics, libraries, sports grounds, parks and community facilities.**
- A municipality that supports schools, TVET colleges, universities and skills development initiatives.**

- Expanded support for agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, township businesses and informal traders.**
- Youth development through employment programmes, entrepreneurship support, sports, arts and cultural development.**
- Equal opportunities for women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and vulnerable households.**
- Modern municipal infrastructure that supports economic growth and environmental sustainability.**

Batho Movement believes that the future of Dihlabeng depends on unity between government, communities, businesses, farmers, workers, religious organisations, civil society, educational institutions and every resident who calls this municipality home.

Together, we will transform Bethlehem, Bohlolong, Clarens, Fouriesburg, Paul Roux and Rosendal into communities where opportunity is shared, services are reliable, investment is welcomed and every resident can live with dignity, safety and hope.

Our vision is simple: A municipality that works for its people, protects their future and leaves no community behind.

Chapter 2: Understanding Dihlabeng – Our Municipality, Our Responsibility

Building One Dihlabeng

Dihlabeng Local Municipality is more than a geographical area—it is the home of diverse communities united by a shared future. From the vibrant commercial centre of Bethlehem to the agricultural lands of Fouriesburg and Paul Roux, the internationally recognised tourism destination of Clarens, the artistic heritage of Rosendal and the resilient community of Bohlokong, our municipality possesses enormous economic, social and cultural potential.

Yet despite these strengths, many residents continue to face daily hardships caused by poor governance, inadequate planning and deteriorating municipal services.

Batho Movement believes that every community deserves equal attention, equal investment and equal respect.

Our Municipality Today

Dihlabeng faces serious challenges that affect households, businesses and public institutions every day:

- Frequent water interruptions and ageing water infrastructure.***
- Roads damaged by potholes and inadequate maintenance.***
- Unreliable electricity infrastructure.***
- Poor refuse collection and illegal dumping.***
- Inadequate stormwater drainage leading to flooding.***
- Rising unemployment, especially among young people.***
- Limited support for local businesses and entrepreneurs.***
- Drug abuse destroying families and communities.***
- Crime and vandalism affecting public safety.***
- Delays in housing delivery and serviced sites.***

- Poor maintenance of municipal buildings, parks, cemeteries and public facilities.

- Weak financial management and declining public confidence.

These challenges are not insurmountable. They require competent leadership, transparent governance and a municipality that places the interests of its residents above political interests.

Our Communities

Batho Movement is committed to serving every part of Dihlabeng:

Bethlehem will be strengthened as the economic, commercial and administrative centre of the municipality through infrastructure investment, business development and urban renewal, Bohlokong will receive priority investment in housing, roads, water, sanitation, youth development, safety and economic opportunities to improve the quality of life for all residents.

Clarens will be developed as a world-class tourism destination through improved infrastructure, environmental protection, support for artists and stronger partnerships with the tourism industry.

Fouriesburg will benefit from improved agricultural support, road maintenance, local business development and reliable municipal services.

Paul Roux will receive focused investment to revitalise infrastructure, strengthen local economic activity and improve access to quality municipal services.

Rosendal will be supported through heritage conservation, tourism promotion, agricultural development and improved municipal infrastructure.

Our Commitment

Batho Movement will govern with fairness and transparency.

No town, township or rural community will be neglected.

No ward will be forgotten.

Every resident will matter.

Our commitment is to build a municipality where government listens, services are delivered efficiently, businesses can grow, investors have confidence, young people have opportunities, vulnerable families receive dignity and every community shares in Dihlabeng's development.

Together, we will build One Dihlabeng united in purpose, accountable in government and committed to shared prosperity.

Chapter 3: Water Security, Sanitation and Basic Services

Water is Life. Water is a Right.

Batho Movement believes that access to clean, safe and reliable water is a fundamental human right and the foundation of a healthy, productive and dignified society. No family, business, school, clinic or farm should have to endure prolonged water interruptions, poor water quality or failing infrastructure.

For too long, residents across Bethlehem, Bohlakong, Clarens, Fouriesburg, Paul Roux, Rosendal and surrounding rural communities have experienced recurring water shortages, ageing infrastructure, leaking pipes and inadequate maintenance. Businesses lose revenue, schools struggle to operate, healthcare services are disrupted and families are forced to live without one of life's basic necessities.

A Batho Movement-led municipality will treat water security as its highest service delivery priority.

Our Commitments

Reliable Water Supply

We will:

- Upgrade ageing water infrastructure and replace deteriorating pipelines.
- Reduce water losses caused by leaks through a municipality-wide maintenance programme.
- Modernise reservoirs, pump stations and water treatment facilities.

- Introduce smart monitoring systems to detect leaks and infrastructure failures before they become major disruptions.
- Develop long-term water security plans to meet future population growth.

Emergency Response

We will:

- Establish rapid response teams to repair major water leaks and burst pipes.
- Ensure communities receive timely communication during planned maintenance or emergencies.
- Improve emergency water supply measures where interruptions cannot immediately be resolved.

Quality Sanitation

Every resident deserves safe sanitation.

Batho Movement will:

- Upgrade sewer infrastructure.
- Eliminate sewer spillages that threaten public health.
- Maintain wastewater treatment works to acceptable environmental standards.
- Expand sanitation infrastructure to underserved communities.
- Protect rivers, wetlands and groundwater from pollution.

Protecting Water Resources

We will:

- Promote responsible water use by residents, businesses and government.
- Strengthen environmental protection measures around rivers, dams and catchment areas.
- Work with farmers, environmental organisations and communities to safeguard water resources for future generations.

Fair and Transparent Service Delivery

Every community deserves equal attention.

Batho Movement will ensure that water infrastructure investment is guided by need, proper planning and fairness—not political favouritism.

Our Vision

We envision a Dihlabeng where:

- Every home has reliable access to clean drinking water.
- Every school and clinic operates without water interruptions.
- Every business can function with confidence.
- Every community benefits from modern and well-maintained infrastructure.
- Every resident receives the quality municipal services they pay for and deserve.

Water is not a privilege. It is a constitutional right, a public responsibility and a promise that Batho Movement is committed to fulfilling.

Reliable water. Modern infrastructure. Dignity for every household.

Chapter 4: Roads, Public Infrastructure and Municipal Services

Building a Municipality That Works

A municipality cannot grow if its roads are collapsing, public infrastructure is neglected and municipal assets are allowed to deteriorate. Roads connect communities, enable businesses to operate, support tourism, strengthen agriculture and ensure emergency services reach those in need.

Batho Movement believes that maintaining public infrastructure is not an option—it is one of the municipality's primary responsibilities.

Across Dihlabeng, residents experience deteriorating roads, dangerous potholes, damaged pavements, blocked stormwater systems, broken streetlights, neglected municipal buildings and poorly maintained public facilities. These failures increase the cost of doing business, discourage investment and reduce the quality of life for every resident.

A Batho Movement-led municipality will restore pride in public infrastructure through proper planning, preventative maintenance and responsible financial management.

Our Commitments

Safe and Well-Maintained Roads

We will:

- **Launch a municipality-wide pothole eradication programme.**
- **Prioritise the resurfacing and rehabilitation of severely damaged roads.**
- **Improve roads connecting townships, rural communities, businesses and farming areas.**
- **Maintain gravel roads regularly to improve accessibility.**
- **Introduce preventative road maintenance to reduce long-term repair costs.**

Stormwater Infrastructure

Flooded streets damage homes, businesses and public infrastructure.

We will:

- Upgrade stormwater drainage systems.
- Clear blocked drains before every rainy season.
- Invest in flood mitigation projects.
- Protect communities vulnerable to flooding. Street Lighting, Safe streets require proper lighting.

Batho Movement will:

- Repair and replace broken streetlights.***
- Expand lighting in high-risk areas.***
- Improve lighting around schools, clinics, transport facilities and public spaces.***
- Introduce energy-efficient lighting technologies where practical.***

Public Facilities

Every public facility should reflect the dignity of our people.

We will:

- Renovate municipal offices.**
- Maintain community halls.**
- Upgrade libraries.**
- Improve cemeteries.**
- Maintain parks and recreational areas.**
- Improve taxi ranks and public transport facilities.**
- Ensure public toilets are clean, safe and accessible.**

Municipal Fleet and Equipment

A municipality cannot deliver services without functioning equipment.

We will:

- *Properly maintain municipal vehicles.***
- *Modernise service delivery equipment.***
- *Improve workshop management.***
- *Replace obsolete machinery through transparent procurement.***

Digital Municipality

Batho Movement will modernise municipal services by:

- *Introducing online reporting of service delivery faults.***
- *Providing residents with regular updates on repairs.***
- *Improving municipal communication.***
- *Reducing unnecessary paperwork.***
- *Using technology to improve efficiency and accountability.***

Creating Local Employment

Infrastructure investment should benefit local communities.

Batho Movement will prioritise:

- Local labour where legally appropriate.***
- Skills development through infrastructure projects.***
- Opportunities for local contractors and emerging businesses through fair and transparent procurement.***
- Quality workmanship that delivers long-term value for public money.***

Our Vision

We envision a municipality where:

- Roads are safe and free from dangerous potholes.***
- Public infrastructure is maintained before it fails.***
- Streetlights improve safety.***
- Public facilities are clean, accessible and functional.***
- Businesses operate without unnecessary infrastructure constraints.***
- Residents take pride in clean, attractive and well-managed communities.***

Infrastructure is the foundation of economic growth, service delivery and community development.

Batho Movement will rebuild Dihlabeng one road, one bridge, one neighbourhood and one community at a time.

Chapter 5: Economic Growth, Business Development and Job Creation

Growing Dihlabeng's Economy

Batho Movement believes that the strongest weapon against poverty is a growing local economy that creates sustainable jobs, supports entrepreneurs and attracts investment.

Dihlabeng has enormous economic potential. Our municipality is strategically positioned as the commercial centre of the eastern Free State, supported by agriculture, tourism, retail, manufacturing, logistics and small businesses. Yet unemployment remains one of the greatest challenges facing our communities, particularly among young people and women.

Economic growth must benefit everyone not only a privileged few. It must create opportunities for established businesses, emerging entrepreneurs, township enterprises, informal traders, cooperatives, farmers and young innovators.

Our goal is to build an economy that creates employment, encourages investment and keeps wealth circulating within Dihlabeng.

Supporting Local Businesses

Businesses are not merely taxpayers they are partners in development, employers and drivers of innovation.

Batho Movement will:

- Create a Business Partnership Forum to strengthen cooperation between the municipality and the private sector.**
- Improve communication between municipal leadership and businesses.**
- Reduce unnecessary administrative delays affecting investment.**
- Promote transparent procurement processes that support fair competition.**
- Encourage businesses to participate in local economic planning.**
- Market Dihlabeng as an attractive destination for investment.**

Supporting Small Businesses

Small businesses are the backbone of local economies.

We will:

- Support township businesses and informal traders.**
- Create business support centres offering mentorship and advisory services.**
- Promote entrepreneurship among young people and women.**
- Expand opportunities for cooperatives and community enterprises.**
- Encourage local procurement wherever legally permissible.**
- Work with financial institutions and development agencies to improve access to business finance.**

Agriculture

Agriculture remains one of Dhlabeng's greatest economic strengths.

Batho Movement will work with commercial farmers, emerging farmers, agricultural organisations and government partners to:

- Improve rural roads serving farming communities.***
- Protect agricultural infrastructure.***
- Promote agricultural processing and value addition.***
- Support emerging farmers through skills development and market access.***
- Encourage partnerships that strengthen food security and rural employment.***

Tourism

Dihlabeng possesses world-class tourism assets.

From the beauty of Clarens to the heritage of Rosendal, the agricultural landscapes of Fouriesburg and Paul Roux, and the commercial opportunities of Bethlehem, our municipality has the potential to become one of South Africa's leading tourism destinations.

We will:

- Improve tourism infrastructure.**
- Maintain clean and attractive public spaces.**
- Promote cultural, heritage and sporting events.**
- Support local accommodation providers, restaurants, artists and tourism operators.**
- Market Dihlabeng nationally and internationally.**

Youth Employment

Every young person deserves an opportunity.

Batho Movement will:

- Promote apprenticeships and internships.**
- Support youth entrepreneurship.**
- Expand skills development programmes.**
- Work with colleges, businesses and government partners to improve employment opportunities.**
- Encourage investment that creates sustainable local jobs.**

Investment-Friendly Municipality

Investors require certainty, competent administration and reliable municipal services.

Batho Movement will build a municipality known for:

- Clean governance.**
- Efficient administration.**
- Reliable infrastructure.**
- Responsible financial management.**
- Respect for the rule of law.**
- Constructive partnerships with business and investors.**

Our Commitment

Our objective is simple:

A growing economy that creates decent jobs, supports local businesses, strengthens agriculture, develops tourism, empowers entrepreneurs and ensures that the prosperity of Dihlabeng is shared by all who live and work here.

A stronger economy. More businesses. More investment. More jobs. A prosperous Dihlabeng for everyone.

Chapter 6: Safe Communities, Crime Prevention and the Fight Against Drugs

Every Resident Has the Right to Feel Safe

Batho Movement believes that no community can prosper where crime, violence and substance abuse destroy families, discourage investment and rob young people of their future.

Safety is not only the responsibility of the South African Police Service. It requires strong partnerships between local government, law enforcement, schools, families, religious organisations, community structures, businesses and residents.

Our vision is to build communities where children can walk safely to school, businesses can operate without fear, visitors feel welcome and families enjoy peace of mind.

Fighting Crime Together

Batho Movement will work closely with:

- *South African Police Service (SAPS).***
- *Community Policing Forums (CPFs).***
- *Neighbourhood Watch organisations.***
- *Community Safety Forums.***
- *Security companies.***
- *Traditional and community leaders.***
- *Religious institutions.***
- *Schools and educational institutions.***
- *Local businesses.***

Together we will develop coordinated strategies to reduce crime and improve public safety.

Municipal Support for Community Safety

Although policing is primarily a national competency, the municipality has an important role to play.

Batho Movement will:

- **Improve street lighting in crime hotspots.**
- **Clear overgrown public spaces used for criminal activity.**
- **Install and maintain visible street signage.**
- **Expand CCTV cameras in strategic public areas where financially viable and legally appropriate.**
- **Improve emergency reporting systems.**
- **Ensure municipal by-laws are fairly and effectively enforced.**

Fighting Drug Abuse

Drug abuse has become one of the greatest threats facing many communities, particularly young people.

Batho Movement will:

- **Work with SAPS to combat drug trafficking.**
- **Support community awareness campaigns.**
- **Partner with schools, parents and religious organisations to educate young people.**
- **Advocate for improved rehabilitation and support services.**
- **Create opportunities through sport, arts, culture and employment initiatives that reduce vulnerability to substance abuse.**

We believe that prevention, education and rehabilitation must complement law enforcement.

- Protecting Women, Children and Vulnerable Persons
- A municipality must be a place of dignity and protection.
- Batho Movement will support initiatives that:

- ***Combat gender-based violence.***
- ***Protect children from abuse and exploitation.***
- ***Improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.***
- ***Strengthen support for senior citizens.***
- ***Promote safer public transport facilities and public spaces.***

Building Strong Communities

Safe communities are built by active citizens.

Batho Movement will encourage:

- **Volunteer community patrols operating within the law.**
- **Youth leadership programmes.**
- **Civic participation.**
- **School safety partnerships.**
- **Responsible parenting initiatives.**
- **Community clean-up campaigns that restore pride in neighbourhoods.**

Our Commitment

Our goal is to make every part of Dihlabeng including Bethlehem, Bohlokong, Clarens, Fouriesburg, Paul Roux, Rosendal and surrounding rural communities places where families feel secure, businesses can invest with confidence and young people can pursue their dreams without fear.

Safety is the foundation of development. Without safe communities, there can be no sustainable economic growth, quality education or lasting social progress.

Batho Movement commits to building a safer, stronger and more united Dihlabeng where every resident has the freedom to live, work and thrive in peace.

Chapter 7: Housing, Human Settlements and Land Development

Every Family Deserves a Place to Call Home

Batho Movement believes that decent housing is more than a roof over one's head—it is the foundation of dignity, security and opportunity. Every resident of Dihlabeng deserves access to safe housing, secure land tenure and well-planned communities with access to basic services.

For many families, the dream of owning a home remains out of reach. Long waiting lists, inadequate planning, slow delivery of serviced sites and poor maintenance of existing settlements have left many residents frustrated.

A Batho Movement-led municipality will place housing and human settlements at the centre of local development.

Our Commitment to Housing

We will work with provincial and national government to accelerate the delivery of:

- *Quality RDP and subsidised housing.*

- *Serviced residential sites.*

- Affordable housing for working families.**
- Rental housing opportunities where appropriate.**
- Housing upgrades in existing settlements.**

Housing projects must be built to high standards, completed on time and free from corruption.

Transparent Housing Allocation

Batho Movement will ensure that:

- Housing allocation processes are fair, transparent and publicly accountable.**
- Waiting lists are properly managed and regularly updated.**
- Beneficiaries are treated with dignity and respect.**
- Political favouritism and corruption have no place in housing allocation.**

Every qualifying resident must have confidence that housing opportunities are allocated fairly.

Planned Human Settlements

Communities should not simply consist of houses they should provide opportunities to live, work and thrive.

We will promote integrated human settlements with:

- *Reliable water and sanitation.***
- *Electricity.***
- *Well-maintained roads.***
- *Stormwater infrastructure.***
- *Public transport access.***
- *Schools and early childhood development facilities.***
- *Clinics and healthcare services.***
- *Parks and recreational spaces.***
- *Community halls and libraries.***
- *Safe public spaces.***

Land Development

Land is a valuable public resource that must be managed responsibly, transparently and in the public interest.

Batho Movement supports:

- *Fair and transparent allocation of municipal land.***
- *Secure tenure for qualifying residents.***
- *Proper land-use planning.***
- *Protection of environmentally sensitive areas.***
- *Land development that supports housing, economic growth and community development.***

Municipal land should never be allocated through corruption or political patronage.

Informal Settlements

Residents living in informal settlements deserve dignity and practical solutions.

Batho Movement will work with all spheres of government to:

- Improve access to basic services.**
- Upgrade informal settlements where feasible.**
- Relocate communities only after meaningful consultation and in accordance with the law.**
- Ensure that development protects the rights and dignity of affected residents.**

Building Sustainable Communities

Housing must create opportunities for future generations.

We will encourage developments that:

- Support local businesses.***
- Promote safer neighbourhoods.***
- Improve environmental sustainability.***
- Reduce travel distances between homes and places of work.***
- Strengthen social cohesion.***

Our Vision

Batho Movement envisions a Dihlabeng where every family has access to dignified housing, secure communities and reliable municipal services.

From Bethlehem to Bohlokong, Clarens to Fouriesburg, Paul Roux to Rosendal, every resident deserves a municipality that plans for growth, delivers quality housing and creates communities where people can build successful lives.

Every family deserves dignity. Every community deserves development. Every resident deserves a place to call home.

Chapter 8: Education, Skills Development, Youth Empowerment, Sport, Arts and Culture

Investing in Our Greatest Asset – Our People

Batho Movement believes that the future of Dihlabeng depends on the education, skills, creativity and determination of its people. Young people are not merely the leaders of tomorrow they are leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs and nation-builders today.

While education is primarily a national and provincial responsibility, local government has an important role in creating an environment where learners, students and young professionals can succeed.

We believe that no young person should be denied opportunities because of poverty, unemployment or a lack of municipal support.

Supporting Education

Batho Movement will work closely with:

- *Primary and secondary schools.***
- *TVET Colleges.***
- *Universities and higher education institutions.***

- ***School Governing Bodies.***
- ***Parents and educators.***
- ***Private education providers.***
- ***Community organisations.***

Together we will promote quality education and lifelong learning.

We will advocate for:

- ***Safe learning environments.***
- ***Proper maintenance of roads leading to schools.***
- ***Reliable water, sanitation and electricity for educational institutions.***
- ***Improved learner safety around schools.***
- ***Greater community involvement in education.***

Skills Development

Dihlabeng needs a workforce equipped for the modern economy.

Batho Movement will partner with government, businesses and educational institutions to expand:

- ***Artisan training.***
- ***Technical and vocational education.***
- ***Digital and technology skills.***
- ***Agricultural training.***

- Tourism and hospitality skills.
- Business management programmes.
- Entrepreneurship development.
- Leadership training for young people.

Youth Employment

Too many young people complete school or college only to face unemployment.

Batho Movement will:

- ***Promote internships and workplace experience.***
- ***Encourage local businesses to participate in youth employment initiatives.***
- ***Support youth-owned enterprises.***
- ***Create entrepreneurship programmes.***
- ***Expand opportunities for apprenticeships.***
- ***Promote innovation and digital entrepreneurship.***

Our objective is to create pathways from education to employment and business ownership.

Sport

Sport builds healthy communities, develops discipline and unites people across every background.

Batho Movement will:

- **Upgrade sports fields and stadiums.**
- **Improve community sports facilities.**
- **Support school sport.**
- **Promote women's sport.**
- **Support clubs participating in local and provincial competitions.**
- **Encourage partnerships with sporting federations.**
- **Expand recreation programmes for children and young people.**

Every ward deserves safe and accessible sporting facilities.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Dihlabeng is rich in history, culture and artistic talent.

We will:

- **Support local artists, musicians and performers.**
- **Promote cultural festivals and heritage celebrations.**
- **Protect historical sites.**
- **Strengthen arts and cultural programmes for young people.**
- **Develop creative industries that generate employment.**
- **Celebrate the diversity of all communities within Dihlabeng.**

Arts and culture strengthen social cohesion while contributing to tourism and economic development.

Libraries and Community Learning

Batho Movement will work to improve municipal libraries by:

- Expanding access to books and digital learning resources.**
- Providing internet access where feasible.**
- Supporting after-school study programmes.**
- Creating spaces for community learning and innovation.**

Our Commitment

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn.

Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed.

Every young person deserves the opportunity to work.

Every athlete deserves facilities to develop their talent.

Every artist deserves the opportunity to create.

Every community deserves spaces where knowledge, creativity and opportunity can flourish.

Batho Movement is committed to building a Dihlabeng where education, skills, sport and culture become powerful drivers of opportunity, unity and economic growth for generations to come.

Chapter 9: Healthcare, Social Development and Community Well-being

A Healthy Community is a Prosperous Community

Batho Movement believes that every resident deserves access to quality healthcare, clean environments and social support that protects the dignity of every person.

While healthcare is primarily the responsibility of provincial and national government, municipalities play an essential role in creating healthy communities through proper service delivery, clean environments, effective sanitation, safe public spaces and strong partnerships with healthcare providers.

We believe that every child deserves a healthy start in life, every family deserves access to essential services and every elderly person should live with dignity and respect.

Strengthening Primary Healthcare

Batho Movement will work with provincial health authorities to advocate for:

- *Better-equipped clinics.***
- *Reduced waiting times.***
- *Improved availability of medicines.***
- *Better maintenance of healthcare facilities.***
- *Reliable water, sanitation and electricity at all clinics.***
- *Expanded healthcare outreach programmes.***

Healthcare facilities should provide quality care in environments that are clean, safe and dignified.

Public Health

Healthy communities begin with effective municipal services.

Batho Movement will prioritise:

- **Clean drinking water.**
- **Effective sanitation.**
- **Reliable refuse collection.**
- **Environmental health inspections.**
- **Proper waste disposal.**
- **Vector and pest control where necessary.**
- **Clean public spaces.**

Preventative public health is one of the municipality's most important responsibilities.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Many families continue to experience the devastating effects of depression, anxiety, alcohol abuse and drug addiction.

Batho Movement will support partnerships with:

- **Healthcare professionals.**
- **Religious organisations.**
- **Schools and colleges.**
- **Community organisations.**

- **Rehabilitation centres.**

- **Youth organisations.**

Together we will promote awareness, prevention, counselling and rehabilitation.

Supporting Vulnerable Groups

A caring municipality leaves no one behind.

Batho Movement will advocate for programmes that improve the lives of:

- **Older persons.**

- **Persons with disabilities.**

- **Orphans and vulnerable children.**

- **Child-headed households.**

- **Women facing economic hardship.**

- **Victims of abuse.**

- **Homeless persons.**

Municipal planning must consider the needs of every resident.

Women and Gender Equality

Women continue to play a central role in building families, communities and the economy.

Batho Movement will promote:

- **Equal opportunities.**

- **Women's economic empowerment.**

- **Safer public spaces.**
- **Support for survivors of gender-based violence.**
- **Women's participation in local decision-making.**

A municipality cannot prosper while women continue to experience violence, discrimination and unequal opportunities.

Persons with Disabilities

Every resident deserves equal access to municipal services.

Batho Movement will encourage:

- **Accessible municipal buildings.**
- **Inclusive public infrastructure.**
- **Improved access to information.**
- **Greater employment opportunities.**
- **Participation in community life without barriers.**

Older Persons

Our senior citizens deserve dignity, security and respect.

We will advocate for:

- **Accessible municipal services.**
- **Safe public spaces.**
- **Community support programmes.**

- **Protection against abuse and neglect.**
- **Opportunities for older persons to contribute their knowledge and experience to community development.**

Building Healthy Communities

Batho Movement believes that health is influenced by many factors, including:

- **Housing.**
- **Employment.**
- **Education.**
- **Clean environments.**
- **Recreation.**
- **Community safety.**
- **Access to quality municipal services.**

For this reason, every chapter of this manifesto contributes towards improving the overall health and well-being of our communities.

Our Commitment

Our vision is a Dihlabeng where:

- **Every family has access to clean water and sanitation.**
- **Every clinic operates in a safe and functional environment.**
- **Every child grows up in a healthy community.**
- **Every vulnerable resident receives dignity and support.**

- Every neighbourhood is clean, safe and well maintained.

Healthy people build healthy communities. Healthy communities build a stronger Dihlabeng. Batho Movement is committed to protecting the health, dignity and well-being of every resident.

Chapter 10: Clean Government, Accountability and Fighting Corruption

Public Office is a Public Trust

Batho Movement believes that government exists to serve the people—not politicians, political parties or connected elites. Every rand collected from taxpayers must be spent honestly, efficiently and in the best interests of the residents of Dihlabeng.

Corruption steals from the poor. It delays housing projects, leaves potholes unrepaired, disrupts water supply, weakens service delivery, discourages investment and destroys public confidence in government.

Batho Movement will build a municipality where integrity, professionalism and accountability become the standard not the exception.

Zero Tolerance for Corruption

A Batho Movement administration will adopt a zero-tolerance approach to:

- Corruption.**
- Fraud.**
- Bribery.**
- Nepotism.**
- Political patronage.**
- Tender manipulation.**

- **Abuse of municipal resources.**
- **Wasteful and irregular expenditure.**
- **Unlawful appointments.**

Every allegation of corruption will be treated seriously and referred to the appropriate law enforcement and oversight authorities where required by law.

Transparent Procurement

Municipal procurement must deliver value for money while remaining fair, competitive and transparent.

Batho Movement will:

- **Strengthen transparency in procurement processes.**
- **Publish awarded tenders and contracts where legally required.**
- **Ensure procurement follows applicable legislation and regulations.**
- **Support fair competition for businesses of all sizes.**
- **Promote ethical procurement practices.**
- **Improve oversight of municipal contracts.**

Public contracts must benefit the people of Dihlabeng—not politically connected individuals.

Financial Responsibility

Every cent of public money must be accounted for.

Batho Movement will work to:

- **Strengthen financial controls.**
- **Improve revenue collection through lawful and fair administration.**
- **Reduce wasteful expenditure.**
- **Protect municipal assets.**
- **Improve budgeting and long-term financial planning.**
- **Ensure municipal funds are directed towards service delivery priorities.**

Financial discipline is essential to sustainable development.

Professional Public Administration

Residents deserve a municipality that is competent, responsive and professional.

Batho Movement will promote:

- **Merit-based appointments.**
- **Skills development for municipal employees.**
- **Ethical leadership.**
- **Performance management.**
- **Efficient administration.**
- **Respectful service to every resident.**

Municipal employees should be empowered to serve the public with professionalism and integrity.

Open and Participatory Government

Government works best when people participate.

Batho Movement will encourage:

- Meaningful public participation.**
- Ward committee engagement.**
- Community consultations on major municipal decisions.**
- Accessible council information.**
- Open communication between the municipality and residents.**

Every resident deserves the opportunity to be heard.

Accountability to the People

Batho Movement believes elected representatives must remain accountable throughout their term of office.

We therefore commit to:

- Regular public feedback meetings.**
- Transparent reporting on municipal performance.**
- Engagement with community structures, businesses, farmers, faith-based organisations, educational institutions, labour and civil society.- Honest communication regarding municipal challenges and progress.**

Leadership must be visible, accessible and accountable.

Building Public Confidence

Trust cannot be demanded it must be earned.

Batho Movement seeks to restore confidence in local government by delivering services honestly, managing public resources responsibly and placing the interests of residents above political interests.

Our objective is simple:

A municipality where residents trust their government because government consistently demonstrates competence, integrity and accountability.

Our Commitment

Batho Movement pledges to build a municipality where:

- Integrity guides every decision.**
- Public money serves the public.**
- Corruption is confronted without fear or favour.**
- Municipal administration is professional and efficient.**
- Every resident is treated with dignity and respect.**
- Government remains accountable to the people it serves.**

Honest leadership. Transparent government. Accountable public service. Together, we will restore integrity to Dihlabeng Local Municipality.

Chapter 12: Tourism, Heritage, Arts and the Creative Economy

Making Dihlabeng South Africa's Premier Tourism Destination

Batho Movement believes that tourism is one of Dihlabeng's greatest economic opportunities. Our breathtaking landscapes, rich history, cultural diversity, artistic talent and agricultural heritage position us to become one of South Africa's leading tourism destinations.

Tourism is more than attracting visitors it creates jobs, supports local businesses, stimulates investment and promotes community development.

We envision a municipality where tourism benefits every town, every business and every community.

Unlocking the Potential of Every Town

Every town within Dihlabeng has unique strengths that deserve investment and promotion.

Bethlehem – The Economic Heart of Dihlabeng

As the commercial centre of the municipality, Bethlehem must become a modern, clean and welcoming destination for business, shopping, conferences, sport and tourism.

Batho Movement will:

- Revitalise the Central Business District (CBD).**
- Improve cleanliness and public safety.**
- Upgrade parks, public spaces and entrances to the town.**
- Support local events that attract visitors and investment.**
- Promote Bethlehem as the gateway to the eastern Free State.**

Clarens – South Africa’s Tourism Jewel

Clarens is internationally recognised for its natural beauty, art, hospitality and outdoor activities.

Batho Movement will:

- **Protect Clarens’ unique character and environment.**
- **Improve roads, public amenities and visitor information.**
- **Support local artists, galleries and tourism operators.**
- **Expand hiking, cycling and adventure tourism opportunities.**
- **Promote Clarens in partnership with tourism stakeholders.**

Fouriesburg – Gateway to the Highlands

Fouriesburg has enormous potential as an agricultural and heritage destination.

We will:

- **Improve tourism infrastructure.**
- **Promote historical and cultural attractions.**
- **Encourage investment in accommodation and hospitality.**
- **Strengthen links with neighbouring tourism routes.**

Rosendal – Home of Creativity

Rosendal is known for its artistic community, heritage and peaceful rural character.

Batho Movement will:

- Support artists and creative entrepreneurs.
- Protect heritage buildings.
- Encourage arts festivals and cultural events.
- Promote Rosendal as a destination for creative tourism.

Paul Roux – Unlocking Hidden Potential

Paul Roux has the opportunity to become a stronger agricultural and community tourism destination.

We will:

- Improve municipal infrastructure.
- Support local enterprises.
- Promote cultural and sporting events.
- Encourage tourism linked to agriculture and local history.

Bohlokong – Developing Township Tourism

Township tourism presents opportunities for entrepreneurship, culture and local economic development.

Batho Movement will:

- Support local restaurants, accommodation providers and tourism entrepreneurs.
- Promote cultural festivals and local talent.
- Improve public spaces and community facilities.
- Encourage tourism that directly benefits residents.

Supporting the Creative Economy

Artists, musicians, performers, writers, designers and craftspeople contribute significantly to Dihlabeng's identity and economy.

Batho Movement will:

- Support creative industries.
- Expand opportunities for local artists.
- Promote public art and cultural exhibitions.
- Encourage partnerships between artists, schools and tourism businesses.
- Develop markets for locally produced crafts and products.

Events and Festivals

Major events stimulate local businesses and create employment.

Batho Movement will work with communities and businesses to expand:

- Agricultural festivals.
- Cultural celebrations.

- **Music and arts festivals.**
- **Sporting tournaments.**
- **Heritage commemorations.**
- **Tourism promotion campaigns.**

These events should benefit local businesses, accommodation providers, restaurants, transport operators and informal traders.

Clean, Safe and Attractive Destinations

Tourists return to places that are welcoming and well managed.

Batho Movement will prioritise:

- **Clean streets.**
- **Reliable refuse collection.**
- **Safe public spaces.**
- **Well-maintained roads.**
- **Functional public amenities.**
- **Attractive parks and recreational facilities.**
- **Effective signage and visitor information.**

Our Commitment

Batho Movement commits to making tourism a major driver of economic growth, employment and community development throughout Dihlabeng.

By investing in our people, protecting our heritage, supporting local businesses and showcasing the unique strengths of Bethlehem, Bohlokong, Clarens, Fouriesburg, Paul Roux and Rosendal, we will create a municipality that residents are proud to call home and visitors are eager to experience.

Discover Dihlabeng. Invest in Dihlabeng. Experience Dihlabeng. Together, we will build a municipality that the world wants to visit.

Chapter 13: Environmental Sustainability, Climate Resilience and Clean Communities

Protecting Dihlabeng for Future Generations

Batho Movement believes that economic development and environmental protection must go hand in hand. A clean, healthy and sustainable environment improves public health, attracts investment, strengthens tourism, supports agriculture and enhances the quality of life for every resident.

Dihlabeng is blessed with fertile agricultural land, rivers, wetlands, mountains, open spaces and unique biodiversity. These natural assets are central to our identity and economy and must be protected for present and future generations.

We reject the false choice between development and conservation. Responsible development is sustainable development.

Clean Communities, Every resident deserves to live in a clean and healthy environment.

Batho Movement will:

- Ensure reliable refuse collection throughout the municipality.**
- Eliminate illegal dumping through stronger enforcement and community education.**
- Expand waste collection to underserved communities.**
- Improve cleanliness in town centres, townships and public spaces.**

- Introduce community clean-up campaigns in partnership with residents, businesses, schools and community organisations.**

A clean municipality promotes dignity, tourism and public health.

Waste Management and Recycling

Waste should be managed responsibly.

Batho Movement will:

- Improve landfill management.**
- Promote recycling initiatives.**
- Encourage waste separation at source where practical.**
- Support community recycling cooperatives and small businesses.**
- Promote responsible disposal of hazardous waste.**

Reducing waste protects our environment while creating new economic opportunities.

Protecting Water Resources, Water is one of Dihlabeng's most valuable resources.

Batho Movement will:

- Protect rivers, streams, wetlands and catchment areas.**
- Prevent pollution caused by sewage spillages and illegal dumping.**
- Promote responsible water use.**
- Strengthen environmental monitoring in partnership with relevant authorities.**
- Encourage water conservation by households, businesses and public institutions.**

Healthy ecosystems support healthy communities.

Climate Resilience

Communities increasingly face droughts, severe storms and flooding.

Batho Movement will strengthen municipal preparedness by:

- **Improving stormwater infrastructure.**
- **Protecting flood-prone communities.**
- **Developing disaster risk reduction plans.**
- **Supporting climate-resilient infrastructure.**
- **Encouraging responsible land-use planning.**

Building resilience today protects lives, livelihoods and public infrastructure tomorrow.

Green Public Spaces

Parks, gardens and open spaces improve community well-being.

Batho Movement will:

- **Restore and maintain public parks.**
- **Plant indigenous trees where appropriate.**
- **Protect recreational areas.**
- **Improve playgrounds and community gardens.**
- **Encourage community participation in environmental stewardship.**

Every neighbourhood deserves clean and accessible public spaces.

Sustainable Municipal Operations

The municipality should lead by example.

Batho Movement will promote:

- **Energy-efficient public buildings where practical.**
- **Responsible use of municipal resources.**
- **Water-saving initiatives.**
- **Sustainable procurement practices.**
- **Better maintenance of municipal assets to reduce waste.**

Community Partnerships

Environmental protection requires collective action.

Batho Movement will work with:

- **Schools and colleges.**
- **Farmers.**
- **Businesses.**
- **Environmental organisations.**
- **Faith-based organisations.**
- **Community groups.**

- Youth organisations.

Together we can build a cleaner, greener and healthier municipality.

Our Commitment

Batho Movement commits to protecting Dihlabeng's environment while promoting sustainable economic growth, responsible resource management and resilient communities.

We will ensure that Bethlehem, Bohlokong, Clarens, Fouriesburg, Paul Roux, Rosendal and surrounding rural communities remain clean, healthy and environmentally sustainable places to live, work and invest.

Clean communities. Protected natural resources. Sustainable development. Together, we will preserve Dihlabeng for future generations.

Chapter 14: Financial Recovery, Service Delivery and a Capable Municipality

Restoring the Financial Health of Dihlabeng

Batho Movement believes that no municipality can deliver quality services without sound financial management. Every leaking pipe left unrepaired, every pothole left unattended and every delayed housing project is often the result of poor planning, weak financial management or the misuse of public resources.

We are committed to restoring Dihlabeng as a financially stable, professionally managed and service-driven municipality that delivers value for every rand entrusted to it.

Responsible Financial Management

Batho Movement will ensure that public finances are managed lawfully, transparently and responsibly.

We will:

- **Prepare credible and realistic municipal budgets.**
- **Prioritise spending on essential service delivery.**
- **Reduce wasteful, irregular, fruitless and unauthorised expenditure.**
- **Improve financial planning and internal controls.**
- **Strengthen oversight of municipal finances.**
- **Ensure that every major expenditure delivers measurable value to residents.**

Financial discipline is the foundation of sustainable service delivery.

Improving Revenue Collection

A municipality cannot function if it cannot collect the revenue that is legally due.

Batho Movement will:

- **Improve the accuracy of municipal billing.**
- **Resolve billing disputes promptly and fairly.**
- **Modernise revenue collection systems.**
- **Encourage a culture of responsible payment for municipal services.**
- **Protect indigent households through lawful support programmes.**
- **Improve customer service so that residents have confidence in the municipality.**

Every resident deserves accurate bills and efficient municipal administration.

Delivering Services with Excellence

Municipal success should be measured by results, not promises.

Batho Movement will introduce clear service delivery standards for:

- Water supply.**
- Electricity distribution.**
- Road maintenance.**
- Refuse removal.**
- Sanitation services.**
- Parks and public facilities.**
- Building plan approvals.**
- Customer care.**
- Infrastructure maintenance.**

Residents deserve a municipality that responds quickly, communicates honestly and resolves problems efficiently.

A Professional Municipality

Batho Movement believes that municipal employment must be based on competence, integrity and commitment to public service.

We will promote:

- Merit-based recruitment.**
- Continuous staff training.**
- Professional development.**
- Ethical leadership.**
- Performance management linked to measurable outcomes.**
- Respectful and responsive customer service.**

Municipal employees are public servants whose responsibility is to serve every resident fairly and professionally.

Innovation and Digital Government

Modern municipalities use technology to improve service delivery.

Batho Movement will work towards:

- Online reporting of service delivery faults.**
- Digital municipal accounts and statements.**
- Electronic application systems where practical.**
- Improved communication with residents through digital platforms.**
- Better use of data to improve planning and decision-making.**

Technology should make government faster, more transparent and more accessible.

Asset Management

Public infrastructure belongs to the people.

Batho Movement will ensure:

- **Regular maintenance of municipal assets.**
- **Protection of municipal buildings and equipment.**
- **Proper management of municipal vehicles.**
- **Long-term planning for infrastructure replacement.**
- **Prevention of vandalism through community partnerships and effective maintenance.**

Every public asset must be protected for future generations.

Measuring Performance

Residents deserve to know whether their municipality is delivering.

Batho Movement will publish regular reports on:

- **Service delivery performance.**
- **Financial management.**
- **Infrastructure projects.**
- **Municipal expenditure.**
- **Progress on manifesto commitments.**

Government must be accountable through measurable results, not political slogans.

Our Commitment

Batho Movement commits to building a municipality that is financially responsible, professionally managed and relentlessly focused on service delivery.

We will restore public confidence by ensuring that municipal resources are used wisely, employees are supported to perform effectively and every resident receives the quality of service they deserve.

Our goal is a municipality that is respected for its integrity, efficiency and ability to deliver.

A financially stable municipality. Professional administration. Excellent service delivery. Together, we will build a capable Dihlabeng that works for everyone.

Chapter 15: Good Governance, Public Participation and Community Partnerships

Government Must Govern With the People

Batho Movement believes that democracy does not begin and end on election day. A municipality succeeds when its residents actively participate in shaping decisions, monitoring performance and holding leaders accountable.

The people of Dihlabeng are not spectators they are partners in governance.

We reject governance that consults only during elections and ignores communities thereafter. Every resident deserves to be heard, respected and involved in building the future of our municipality.

People-Centred Governance

A Batho Movement-led municipality will place residents at the centre of every decision.

We will ensure that:

- Communities are consulted before major municipal decisions are taken.**
- Public participation is meaningful, accessible and inclusive.**

- **Municipal information is communicated clearly and timeously.**
- **Residents have multiple platforms to report service delivery challenges and make suggestions.**
- **Council remains accountable throughout its term of office.**

Strengthening Ward Committees

Ward Committees must become active instruments of community development rather than inactive structures.

Batho Movement will:

- **Strengthen the capacity of Ward Committees.**
- **Ensure regular Ward Committee meetings.**
- **Improve communication between councillors and residents.**
- **Encourage representation from youth, women, persons with disabilities, businesses, farmers, faith-based organisations and civil society.**
- **Monitor ward-level service delivery priorities.**

Every ward deserves a strong voice in municipal government.

Working with Community Structures

Batho Movement recognises that communities possess valuable knowledge, leadership and experience.

We will establish strong partnerships with:

- **Community Policing Forums.**
- **Neighbourhood Watches.**

- **Street Committees.**
- **Residents' Associations.**
- **Business Forums.**
- **Chambers of Commerce.**
- **Farmers' Associations.**
- **Taxi Associations.**
- **Faith-based Organisations.**
- **Traditional and Cultural Organisations.**
- **Women's Organisations.**
- **Youth Organisations.**
- **Organisations representing Persons with Disabilities.**
- **NGOs and Community-Based Organisations.**
- **Sports Clubs.**
- **Arts and Cultural Organisations.**
- **School Governing Bodies.**
- **TVET Colleges and Educational Institutions.**
- **Labour Organisations.**
- **Senior Citizens' Forums.**

Together we can solve problems more effectively than government acting alone.

Building Strong Business Partnerships

Batho Movement believes businesses are essential partners in local development.

We will establish regular engagement with:

- Large employers.**
- Small and medium enterprises.**
- Informal traders.**
- Property developers.**
- Tourism operators.**
- Agricultural businesses.**
- Manufacturing companies.**
- Financial institutions.**

Together we will identify barriers to investment, improve municipal services and create employment opportunities.

Religious and Cultural Partnerships

Faith communities and cultural organisations play an essential role in promoting social cohesion, compassion and community development.

Batho Movement will work respectfully with all religious and cultural communities while upholding the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the principle of equality.

We will support initiatives that strengthen families, encourage volunteerism and build peaceful, united communities.

Participatory Budgeting

Residents deserve a voice in determining municipal priorities.

Batho Movement will introduce participatory budgeting processes where communities can provide input into local infrastructure and development priorities before municipal budgets are finalised.

Public money must reflect public priorities.

Open Government

Transparency strengthens democracy

Batho Movement will:

- **Publish important municipal information in accessible formats.**
- **Hold regular community feedback meetings.**
- **Report honestly on progress and challenges.**
- **Encourage constructive public debate.**
- **Protect the right of residents to question and engage their elected representatives.**

Leadership must remain visible, accessible and accountable.

Building One Dihlabeng

Batho Movement rejects politics that divides communities.

We believe the future of Dihlabeng depends upon unity among all who live here.

Whether you are a worker, entrepreneur, farmer, student, professional, pensioner, public servant, informal trader, artist, faith leader or volunteer, you have a place in building our municipality.

Regardless of race, language, culture, religion, gender, age, disability or political affiliation, every resident deserves equal dignity, equal opportunity and equal service.

Our Commitment

Batho Movement commits itself to governing with the people, not above the people.

We will build a municipality where every community has a voice, every ward is heard, every stakeholder is respected and every decision is guided by the interests of the people of Dihlabeng.

Together, we will build a democratic, accountable and united Dihlabeng where government listens, communities participate and progress belongs to everyone.

Chapter 16: Our First 100 Days in Office

A Government That Starts Working on Day One

Batho Movement believes that elections must produce action, not excuses. The first 100 days of a new administration set the tone for the next five years. We are committed to acting decisively, transparently and in partnership with the people of Dihlabeng.

Our first priority will be to restore confidence in local government by focusing on service delivery, financial accountability and responsive leadership.

First 30 Days

Municipal Service Delivery Audit

We will conduct a comprehensive assessment of:

- Water infrastructure.**
- Electricity infrastructure.**
- Roads and potholes.**
- Sewerage and sanitation systems.**
- Refuse collection services.**

- **Municipal buildings and public facilities.**
- **Fleet and equipment.**
- **Housing projects.**
- **Financial commitments and outstanding projects.**

The results will be shared with the public together with a clear implementation plan.

Financial Review

We will commission a review of the municipality's financial position to identify:

- **Outstanding creditors.**
- **Revenue collection challenges.**
- **Infrastructure backlogs.**
- **Wasteful expenditure.**
- **Delayed projects.**
- **Priority funding requirements.**

Residents deserve to know the true financial condition of their municipality.

First 60 Days

Water Recovery Programme

Batho Movement will begin implementing emergency interventions to:

- **Repair major water leaks.**
- **Address recurring water interruptions.**

- Upgrade critical infrastructure where immediate action is possible.
- Improve communication with residents during service interruptions.

Pothole Eradication Programme

A municipality-wide programme will begin to:

- Repair dangerous potholes
- Improve road markings.
- Prioritise roads serving schools, clinics, businesses and farming communities.
- Address stormwater damage affecting road infrastructure.

Clean Dihlabeng Campaign

We will launch a municipality-wide clean-up initiative involving:

- Communities.
- Schools.
- Businesses.
- Religious organisations.
- NGOs.
- Youth organisations.
- Ward Committees.

Our objective is to restore pride in every town and neighbourhood.

First 90 Days

Business and Investment Summit

Batho Movement will convene a Dihlabeng Business and Investment Summit bringing together:

- Local businesses.**
- Farmers.**
- Tourism operators.**
- Financial institutions.**
- Entrepreneurs.**
- Cooperatives.**
- Educational institutions.**
- Government stakeholders.**

Together we will develop practical strategies to stimulate investment, expand employment and strengthen the local economy.

Youth Employment Initiative

We will establish partnerships to expand:

- Skills development.**
- Apprenticeships.**
- Internships.**
- Entrepreneurship programmes.**

- **Employment opportunities for young people.**

Community Safety Forum

Batho Movement will establish a municipal safety partnership involving:

- **SAPS.**
- **Community Policing Forums.**
- **Neighbourhood Watches.**
- **Security companies.**
- **Schools.**
- **Religious organisations.**
- **Community leaders.**

Together we will develop coordinated strategies to improve safety throughout Dihlabeng.

Before Day 100

Batho Movement will publish:

- **A Service Delivery Recovery Plan.**
- **Infrastructure maintenance schedules.**
- **Municipal performance targets.**
- **Community engagement programme.**
- **Public reporting mechanisms.**
- **Annual implementation priorities.**

Residents deserve measurable commitments not empty promises.

Our Commitment

Within our first 100 days, every resident should begin to see a municipality that:

- Communicates openly.**
- Responds more quickly.**
- Maintains infrastructure.**
- Works with communities.**
- Supports businesses.**
- Restores financial discipline.**
- Places service delivery above politics.**

These first 100 days will mark the beginning of a new era of accountable, transparent and people-centred local government.

The first 100 days are not the end of our work they are the beginning of Dihlabeng's renewal.

Chapter 17: Action Plan 2026–2031

Deliver. Restore. Build.

Batho Movement is not standing for election to make promises. We are standing to deliver results.

Our Action Plan is built on six priorities that will guide every decision, every budget and every programme over the next five years.

1. Restore Basic Services

Every household deserves reliable municipal services.

We will prioritise:

- **Reliable water supply.**
- **Functional sanitation systems.**
- **Reliable electricity distribution.**
- **Regular refuse collection.**
- **Clean public spaces.**
- **Responsive municipal services.**

No community should wait months for basic municipal services.

2. Rebuild Infrastructure

Infrastructure is the foundation of economic growth.

We will:

- **Eliminate dangerous potholes.**
- **Upgrade roads and bridges.**
- **Modernise water and sewer infrastructure.**
- **Improve stormwater drainage.**

- **Repair streetlights.**
- **Maintain municipal buildings, parks and community facilities.**

Every rand invested must produce visible improvements.

3. Grow the Economy

Economic growth creates opportunity.

Batho Movement will:

- **Support local businesses.**
- **Attract new investment.**
- **Promote agriculture and agro-processing.**
- **Expand tourism.**
- **Empower township enterprises.**
- **Support informal traders.**
- **Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.**

A growing economy must benefit every community.

4. Create Jobs

Every young person deserves hope.

We will:

- **Partner with business to expand employment.**
- **Promote apprenticeships and internships.**

- **Support youth-owned enterprises.**
- **Develop skills programmes.**
- **Expand public employment initiatives where appropriate.**
- **Encourage labour-intensive infrastructure projects.**

The best social programme is a decent job.

5. Fight Corruption

Corruption steals from every resident.

Batho Movement will:

- **Enforce transparent procurement.**
- **Protect public resources.**
- **Strengthen financial accountability.**
- **Promote merit-based appointments.**
- **Publish municipal performance reports.**
- **Hold leaders accountable for their decisions.**

Public money belongs to the people.

6. Put People First

Government exists to serve.

We will govern through:

- Community participation.**
- Honest leadership.**
- Respect for every resident.**
- Equal treatment before the law.**
- Partnerships with businesses, farmers, workers, religious institutions, educational institutions and civil society.**

Every decision must improve the lives of the people of Dihlabeng.

Coalition Government

Batho Movement recognises that no single political party is guaranteed an outright majority. If the people deliver a coalition government, we will respect their democratic choice.

Our approach to coalition building will be guided by principles, not positions, and by service delivery, not political convenience.

Batho Movement will only consider coalition agreements with political parties that are committed to:

- Clean and accountable government.**
- Zero tolerance for corruption.**
- Constitutional democracy and the rule of law.**
- Reliable service delivery.**
- Financial discipline.**

- **Economic growth and job creation.**
- **Respect for human dignity and equality.**
- **Transparent and ethical governance.**

Where parties such as the Democratic Alliance (DA), ActionSA or others share these objectives and demonstrate a genuine commitment to improving the lives of the people of Dihlabeng, Batho Movement will engage constructively in the interests of stable and effective local government.

Our common ground must never be political power it must be the well-being of our communities.

We will never enter a coalition simply to secure positions or offices. Any coalition must produce measurable improvements in water supply, roads, housing, electricity, sanitation, public safety, economic development, investment and employment.

If coalition partners fail to honour agreed principles or undermine good governance, Batho Movement will not hesitate to withdraw its support in accordance with the law and the interests of the people.

Our Commitment

Our loyalty is not to political parties.

Our loyalty is to the people of Dihlabeng.

Every decision we make will be guided by one question:

“Will this improve the lives of our people?”

If the answer is yes, we will work together.

If the answer is no, we will stand firm.

One Municipality. One Future. One Commitment: Deliver for the People.

Chapter 18: Our Social Contract with the People of Dihlabeng

A Covenant of Trust

This manifesto is more than a list of promises it is a Social Contract between Batho Movement and the people of Dihlabeng.

We recognise that political power belongs to the people. Public office is not a privilege to be enjoyed, but a responsibility to be exercised with integrity, humility and accountability.

When you entrust us with your vote, we make this solemn commitment to serve every resident of Dihlabeng fairly, honestly and without discrimination.

We Pledge to the People

Batho Movement commits to:

- Govern with honesty and integrity.**
- Protect every rand of public money.**
- Deliver reliable municipal services.**
- Put communities before politics.**
- Listen before making decisions.**
- Treat every resident with dignity and respect.**
- Build partnerships with business, labour and civil society.**
- Defend constitutional democracy and the rule of law.**
- Govern transparently and remain accountable throughout our term of office.**

We Will Never

Batho Movement will never:

- Use public office for personal enrichment.
- Tolerate corruption or fraud.
- Appoint people solely because of political connections.
- Discriminate against any resident on the basis of race, gender, religion, language, disability or political affiliation.
- Forget the communities that elected us.
- Place party interests above the interests of the people.

What We Ask of Our People

Building Dihlabeng requires a partnership between government and its residents.

We ask every resident to:

- Participate in public meetings and ward activities.
- Report corruption and criminal activity.
- Pay for municipal services where they are able to do so.
- Protect public infrastructure from vandalism.
- Keep neighbourhoods clean.
- Support local businesses.
- Respect municipal workers and fellow residents.
- Volunteer in community initiatives.
- Hold us accountable when we fall short.

A successful municipality is built by active citizens and accountable leadership working together.

A Municipality for Everyone

Batho Movement believes Dihlabeng belongs to everyone who lives, works, studies, farms, worships, invests and raises a family here.

We will serve:

- Every town.
- Every township.
- Every rural community.
- Every ward.
- Every business.
- Every school.
- Every church, mosque, temple and place of worship.
- Every farmer.
- Every worker.
- Every entrepreneur.
- Every student.
- Every pensioner.
- Every person with a disability.
- Every child.
- Every family.

No community will be forgotten.

No ward will be neglected.

No resident will be left behind.

Our Promise

We promise to lead with courage.

We promise to govern with integrity.

We promise to work harder than we speak.

We promise to measure success by the lives we improve not by political victories.

When history judges this generation of leaders, let it be said that we chose service over self-interest, honesty over corruption and unity over division.

Our Commitment

This is our pledge.

This is our responsibility.

This is our covenant with the people of Dihlabeng.

Together we will restore trust.

Together we will rebuild our municipality.

Together we will create opportunity.

Together we will leave a stronger Dihlabeng for future generations.

Batho Movement

The People Shall Govern.

Chapter 19: Conclusion – The Time Is Now

A New Beginning for Dihlabeng

The future of Dihlabeng will not be determined by chance. It will be determined by the choices we make today.

For too long, many of our communities have endured unreliable water supply, deteriorating roads, poor service delivery, unemployment, corruption, inadequate housing, crime and declining public confidence in local government. Yet despite these challenges, we remain confident that Dihlabeng can rise again.

Batho Movement believes that our municipality has everything it needs to succeed hard-working people, committed businesses, productive farmers, talented young people, dedicated public servants, vibrant faith communities and extraordinary natural beauty.

What has often been missing is leadership that places the people first.

Our Promise

Throughout this manifesto, we have presented a practical vision for rebuilding Dihlabeng.

We have committed ourselves to:

- Delivering reliable basic services.**
- Restoring financial discipline.**
- Fighting corruption without fear or favour.**
- Creating an investment-friendly municipality.**
- Supporting businesses, farmers and entrepreneurs.**

- **Expanding employment opportunities.**
- **Improving housing and infrastructure.**
- **Building safer communities.**
- **Investing in education, sport, arts and culture.**
- **Protecting our environment.**
- **Governing transparently and accountably.**
- **Working with every sector of society to build a municipality that serves all its people.**

These are not empty promises. They are commitments by which we invite the people of Dihlabeng to judge us.

A Municipality for Everyone

Batho Movement belongs to every resident who believes that local government can work again.

We are committed to serving:

- Bethlehem.
- Clarens.
- Fouriesburg.
- Paul Roux.
- Rosendal.
- Every rural community.
- Every ward.
- Every family.

Whether you are young or old, employed or unemployed, a farmer, worker, entrepreneur, student, professional, pensioner, faith leader or community activist you have a place in the future we seek to build.

We reject politics that divides people.

We embrace politics that unites communities around service, dignity, opportunity and hope.

A Call to Every Voter

On election day, your vote is more than a mark on a ballot paper.

It is your voice.

It is your hope.

It is your power to shape the future of Dihlabeng.

We ask you to vote not out of anger, fear or habit but with confidence in a better future.

Choose honest leadership.

Choose accountable government.

Choose reliable service delivery.

Choose opportunity.

Choose dignity.

Choose a municipality that works for everyone.

Together We Will Build the Future

The road ahead will require hard work, sacrifice and unity.

Government cannot do it alone.

Businesses cannot do it alone.

Communities cannot do it alone.

Together, we can restore trust in local government, rebuild our infrastructure, strengthen our economy, create opportunities for our young people and leave a better municipality for future generations.

The time for excuses is over.

The time for action has arrived.

The time for accountable leadership is now.

Vote Batho Movement

Let us build a municipality where every child has hope.

Where every family has dignity.

Where every business can grow.

Where every community is safe.

Where every resident is treated with respect.

Where government truly belongs to the people.

Together, let us build One Dihlabeng.

Together, let us restore dignity through service.

Together, let us create opportunity through honest leadership.

Together, let us prove that local government can work again.

Batho Movement

The People Shall Govern

Freedom. Dignity. Service. Development.

Appendix A: Batho Movement's 100 Commitments to the People of Dihlabeng

Our Commitment in One Page

When elected to govern Dihlabeng Local Municipality, Batho Movement commits to:

Service Delivery

- ✓ Reliable water supply.
- ✓ Functional sanitation.
- ✓ Regular refuse collection.
- ✓ Well-maintained roads.
- ✓ Pothole eradication.
- ✓ Working streetlights.
- ✓ Improved electricity reliability.
- ✓ Clean public spaces.

Housing

- ✓ Transparent housing allocation.
- ✓ Faster delivery of serviced sites.
- ✓ Quality housing projects.
- ✓ Integrated human settlements.
- ✓ Fair access to municipal land.

Economic Growth

- ✓ Support local businesses.
- ✓ Attract investment.
- ✓ Promote tourism.
- ✓ Strengthen agriculture.
- ✓ Empower township businesses.
- ✓ Support informal traders.
- ✓ Expand entrepreneurship.
- ✓ Create jobs.

Youth Development

- ✓ Skills development.
- ✓ Apprenticeships.
- ✓ Internships.
- ✓ Youth entrepreneurship.
- ✓ Sports development.
- ✓ Arts and cultural programmes.
- ✓ Leadership development.

Community Safety

- ✓ Better street lighting.
- ✓ Stronger partnerships with SAPS.

- ✓ Support Community Policing Forums.
- ✓ Fight drug abuse.
- ✓ Safer public spaces.
- ✓ Protect women, children and vulnerable persons.

Infrastructure

- ✓ Better roads.
- ✓ Upgraded water infrastructure.
- ✓ Improved sewer systems.
- ✓ Better stormwater drainage.
- ✓ Functional public buildings.
- ✓ Well-maintained parks.
- ✓ Better community halls.

Good Governance

- ✓ Honest leadership.
- ✓ Transparent procurement.
- ✓ Zero tolerance for corruption.
- ✓ Merit-based appointments.
- ✓ Responsible financial management.
- ✓ Public accountability.
- ✓ Community participation.

Health and Environment

- ✓ Cleaner communities.
- ✓ Better waste management.
- ✓ Environmental protection.
- ✓ Cleaner rivers and public spaces.
- ✓ Sustainable development.
- ✓ Climate resilience.

Agriculture and Tourism

- ✓ Support farmers.
- ✓ Improve rural roads.
- ✓ Promote food security.
- ✓ Expand tourism.
- ✓ Promote local heritage.
- ✓ Support creative industries.

Building One Dihlabeng

Batho Movement will govern for every resident of:

- Bethlehem – Clarens - Fouriesburg. - Paul Roux. - Rosendal.
- Every rural settlement.
- Every ward.

We will serve every resident equally, fairly and with dignity.

Our Final Pledge

We do not ask for your vote because we are perfect.

We ask for your vote because we are prepared to work.

We believe that honest leadership, competent administration and active communities can restore Dihlabeng to its rightful place as one of South Africa's best municipalities.

Our promise is simple:

Less politics. More delivery.

Less corruption. More accountability.

Less division. More unity.

Less excuses. More action.

This is our commitment.

This is our contract.

This is our mission.

Together, let us build a municipality that works.

Together, let us restore hope.

Together, let us restore dignity.

Together, let us build the future.

Founding Theorist

Approved by the National Officials

Batho Movement.

● EnD●

26 May 2026