

Policy Brief

2024 Elections: What are South African Political Parties promising when it comes to the climate, environment, and finance?

On the 29th of May 2024 South Africans will be heading to the polls to vote in the country's seventh National and Provincial Democratic Elections. As an organisation dedicated to helping build a just and inclusive financial ecosystem that serves the needs of sustainability, climate, and biodiversity, we have reviewed the manifestos of the key political parties in the upcoming election, drawing out commitments made around climate action, environmental protection, and the financial sector. The key points for each category have been detailed in Annexure 1 (see below).

Climate change mitigation measures

Across the manifestos, there is a recognition of the dangers that climate change poses to the globe and country and that emissions need to be mitigated. All parties are committed to increasing renewable energy output either explicitly or implicitly. However, only Rise Mzansi explicitly states the need to phase out coal use, and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) on the other hand sees a long-term future for coal electricity generation (supplemented with clean-coal technologies). Many of the parties, including the African National Congress (ANC), Democratic Alliance (DA), and EFF are also committed to developing green jobs as part of the transition, and have commitments as it relates to skills development. However, Action South Africa (ASA) and the ANC are the only two parties to mention the just transition.

Climate change adaptation measures

In terms of adaptation and disaster management, the only parties to mention the need for this are ASA, the ANC, the EFF, and Rise Mzansi. ASA has committed to developing resilient housing, while the EFF makes several proposals on how exactly the country's communities and infrastructure can be improved to better withstand climate catastrophes. The EFF also provides extensive details on the disaster management systems and programs they will put in place including the introduction of disaster management legislation and functions across all levels of government, while Rise Mzansi has committed to make shelters available in the wake of such events.

Financial Sector commitments

Except for the EFF and to a certain degree the ANC, the political parties have made no detailed commitments relating to the financial sector and fiscal space in South Africa. The EFF has two chapters in their manifesto speaking to the financial sector and the fiscal and monetary framework. Key commitments made that are relevant to the transition and its financing are the renegotiation of existing debt, the establishment of a sovereign wealth fund, the expansion of fiscal spending, the establishment of new tax regimes as new revenue sources, and the establishment of a national emergency economic fund to provide immediate financial support during economic crises or natural disasters. The ANC has also committed to the establishment



of a sovereign wealth fund, improving the capitalization of development finance institutions, and the coordination of fiscal and monetary frameworks.

The DA, Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), and Freedom Front Plus (FF+) are all committed to fiscal consolidation and budget cuts, while the Rise Mzansi does not have a position on this but does call for increased private sector investment in public assets due to fiscal constraints. All of which will impact the ability of the government to support a just transition. Finally, ASA has nothing in their manifesto relating to the financial sector of the fiscal space.

Conclusion

With a basic overview of how each of the political parties are approaching climate change and its consequences, as well as the proposals they have for the financial sector and fiscal space, we hope that South Africans have a better understanding of what they will be voting for on the 29th of May 2024.

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Annexure A: Political party manifesto commitments – climate, environment, and finance¹

Party	Key climate, transition, environmental, fossil fuel, and disaster risk proposals	Key financial sector, fiscal, and monetary proposals
Action South Africa (ASA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ActionSA will provide adequate support to wildlife conservation programmes and improve South Africa’s border controls to reduce the poaching and illegal trade of wildlife. We will empower the police service and the Green Scorpions to combat environmental crimes like pollution, animal abuse, and wildlife trafficking to safeguard South Africa’s wildlife and ecosystems. • Our natural environments are home to diverse ecosystems that should be safeguarded from harmful pollution. We will reduce the pollution of our oceans by implementing strict measures and penalties to combat industrial effluent, sewerage, and agricultural runoff. Air pollution controls aligned with international standards will be introduced and we will impose penalties for non-compliance with these standards. • An ActionSA-led government will implement environmental protection measures for key land areas located between human habitats and vulnerable natural environments. We will also establish more marine protected areas to ensure better protection of marine habitats and wildlife. • Single-use plastics are incredibly harmful to the environment. ActionSA will enhance support for the informal waste-picking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA

¹ All content is directly taken from the manifestos’ of the respective political parties.

	<p>sector to increase recycling and implement community recycling initiatives to reduce pollution and waste in our landfills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ActionSA will ensure that urban and rural settlements are built to be resilient against the effects of natural disasters. • We will introduce targeted training and development programmes for government officials aimed at improving their ability to execute climate-related initiatives. • ActionSA will promote greater collaboration between the government, the private sector, civil society, and academic institutions to ensure that we respond to climate change and natural disasters using a holistic societal approach. • We will reduce demand on the electricity grid by incentivizing the public to install solar panels through tax rebates. We will additionally invest in providing low-income houses with universal access to rooftop solar panels and solar-powered geysers. • We will implement the gradual transition from relying on fossil fuels to using more renewable energy sources for electricity generation. We are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and economic justice in our transition to renewable energy and we will carefully consider the impact of renewable energy generation on the economy and mining communities. • We will proactively engage with communities affected by the transition to renewable energy sources to ensure that community interests and needs are considered, and we will empower communities to participate in planning and implementation processes related to the transition. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gradual shift to renewable energy technologies will be managed responsibly, ensuring support for citizens engaged in the fossil fuel energy value chain through a Just Transition framework. This will include reskilling programmes to allow them to take up employment in other sectors. • The transition to renewable energy generation will require the knowledge of experienced energy experts. We will work closely with international partners to ensure that South Africa has the necessary skills and knowledge for a successful energy transition. • The renewable energy transition will create more diverse job opportunities in the energy sector. We will introduce training programmes that focus on building the skills required to maintain South Africa’s energy grid, now and in the future. 	
<p>African National Congress (ANC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise green technologies, energy efficiency, waste management, climate-smart agriculture and infrastructure and eco-friendly production processes to ensure long-term sustainability. This includes developing and executing a plan to become a world player in green hydrogen, battery and electric vehicle production. • Mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, technological changes and other trends in the context of a just transition and ensure that South Africa’s transition to a low-carbon economy supports communities and workers in affected areas, particularly Mpumalanga. • Support innovation in green technologies, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and decarbonisation programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align monetary, fiscal and trade policy, along with transformation of the financial sector, to meet basic needs and support job creation and industrialisation. • Engage and direct financial institutions to invest a portion of their funds in industrialisation, infrastructure development and the economy, through prescribed assets. • Finalise the establishment of a public sovereign wealth fund as a social wealth investment fund that prioritise public benefit through targeted investments in social programmes, infrastructure and sustainable development initiatives.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase research and development spending and prioritise areas like industrialisation, climate change. • Over the next five years, Recommit South Africa to work with others to take forward its responsibilities in the fight against climate change, global poverty and inequality in line with applicable international resolutions. • Modernise commuter rail for efficient and green public transport. • Foster development of new and existing industries, increase patent development and strengthen local innovation systems, including green energy technologies. • Promote entrepreneurship, innovation and investment in emerging industries like renewable energy, sustainable tourism, e-commerce and agro-technology. • Prioritise investment in expanding the transmission grid so that more energy, including from renewable sources, can be supplied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards a state or public banking sector by creating development and sectoral banks focused on specific sectors aligned with industrial policy goals and building a public retail banking system to directly serve the people’s needs. • Empower provinces to establish their own financial institutions. • Empower cooperative banks by removing regulatory barriers to entry, including the review of the National Credit Act and support the growth of cooperative banks. We will ensure affordable access by the cooperative banking sector to the national payment system, including ATMs and debit and credit cards. • Ensure development finance institutions are well-capitalised to provide concessional lending to small enterprises and social enterprises, and develop their capacity to support regional development. • Establish a Human Settlement Bank for affordable financing. • Coordinate fiscal and monetary policy mandates, including interest and exchanges rates, towards supporting balanced and sustainable growth as envisaged in the Constitution. Where necessary, this will require an expansionary fiscal policy. • Mobilise additional domestic and international resources to support priorities in this Manifesto
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		including through progressive tax reforms and other measures.
Democratic Alliance (DA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing to achieving net zero carbon emissions to reduce the impact of energy generation on the climate. We will achieve this by diversifying the energy mix. • To rescue South Africans from the energy crisis, we need to get the state out of the power generation business, diversify our energy mix, and encourage the emergence of private prosumers (individuals who both produce and consume electricity) so that we can bring load-shedding to an end. • Increase usage of renewable energy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building local manufacturing capacity for renewable energy technologies without resorting to protectionist trade practices and incentivising the training and development of skills capacity in the renewable energy sector. ○ Reducing high tariffs on imports of renewable energy technologies (such as PV panels and other goods) to ensure that these technologies are more affordable and accessible. ○ Committing to achieving net zero carbon emissions to reduce the impact of energy generation on the climate. We will achieve this by diversifying the energy mix. • No mention of environmental conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DA will get our public finances under control by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stabilising public debt. The DA will establish debt ceilings in the form of a fiscal rule to limit annual government borrowing, avoiding further debt crises. ○ Encouraging responsible fiscal spending. Drawing on past government spending reviews, we are committed to enhancing fiscal efficiency and instilling a culture of responsibility in our financial management. ○ Improving state-owned enterprises (SOEs) through a balanced approach to privatisation. The goal is to make SOEs financially responsible, fostering competition and innovation. ○ Developing a savings culture through a formalised programme in which employees will be offered the opportunity to commit 10% of their salary towards their pension or an alternative savings instrument of their choice. The programme will be coupled with programmes designed to enhance financial literacy.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DA will change the tax system so that it encourages investment, creates jobs and restores public trust. We will do this by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committing to no new taxes. People are already heavily overburdened by existing taxes. Rather than trying to extract more out of the approximately 5.5 million people who keep South Africa’s coffers afloat, we need to broaden the pool of taxpayers. ○ Preventing hidden tax increases. In the national government, the DA pledges that tax brackets will be adjusted for inflation. This way, income will not be depleted by the introduction of so-called stealth taxes. ○ Expanding the zero-rated food basket to include bone-in chicken, beef, tinned beans, wheat flour, margarine, peanut butter, baby food, tea, coffee and soup powder. Additionally, we will conduct regular reviews on VAT zero-rated items, ensuring essential products remain affordable for low-income households. ○ Enhancing SARS’ capabilities is a top priority. We will ensure that everybody pays their fair share by intensifying SARS’ efforts to fight tax fraud, illicit trade, collect unpaid income and
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		<p>VAT, and ensure taxpayers file and pay on time.</p>
<p>Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will invest in repairing the existing fleet of power generation and adopt clean coal technologies to enhance the energy availability factor. • The EFF government will commit to decarbonizing the electricity sector, advancing at a pace, scale, and cost that is feasible and beneficial for South Africa. • The EFF Government will establish a state-owned mining company to manage coal mines owned by Eskom, ensuring a quality coal supply at affordable prices. This company will also export surplus coal, prioritizing African countries to support their electrification and industrialization. • The EFF government will leverage 200 years of coal reserves, implementing carbon-capturing technology, and nuclear energy as the dependable energy for baseload to ensure security of energy supply. • The EFF government will stabilise energy supply by maximally pursuing a mix of energy sources, including clean coal, gas, nuclear and nuclear energy as baseload, and renewable sources like solar, wind, and hydro-energy. • The EFF government will direct Eskom to develop an internal substantial renewable energy division to build its own infrastructure, focusing on solar, wind, and hydro-energy, and researching to improve their reliability. 	<p>Financial sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will nationalize the Reserve Bank and discontinue its private ownership to be in line with the more than 80% state owned central banks across the world. • The EFF government will create state owned banks in different sectors, including provincial and municipal state-owned banks, using the Post Bank and African Bank assets, and make the state bank the primary lender with affordable interest rates. • The EFF government will abolish the free 3.5% margin offered by the reserve banks to banks in South Africa (Prime rate – Repo rate is always 3,5%). This will go a long way in making mortgages and vehicle finance affordable for all. • The EFF government will form a state owned insurance company to transform insurance in South Africa. • The EFF government will establish a state owned asset management firm to manage all municipal pensions. • The EFF government will consolidate all National, Provincial, Municipal and state-owned companies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will enhance technical capacity by collaborating with China and other friendly nations to repair and restore coal power stations. • The EFF government shall vigorously pursue environmentally friendly policies and mining methods so as to gradually and drastically reduce dependence on coal over a defined period of time dictated by the economic needs of the country and the continent. • The EFF government will amend and strengthen the National Environmental Management Act and other progressive legislation so as to ensure stricter prevention and the criminalization of the prevalent practice of the dumping of toxic waste and to enforce stricter rehabilitation commitments beyond the economic life of their operations. • The EFF government will deploy advanced IoT-based systems for real-time monitoring and management of sewer systems, enhancing efficiency and reducing environmental impact. • The EFF government will create 100,000 jobs for environmental scientists, waste management, health and safety officers, recycling and reuse specialists, education and outreach coordinators, and waste infrastructure maintenance technicians. • The EFF government will develop a centralized database leveraging AI and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to track all waste compactors in real-time. This system will enable efficient monitoring of waste compactor locations, operational status, and maintenance needs, ensuring optimized routes and schedules for 	<p>assets under one asset manager and create the biggest balance sheet in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will consolidate all municipal pensions to be administered under the new state owned company. <p>Fiscal and monetary framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will maximally collect taxes with the aim of a 100% increase in current annual tax collections. This will be achieved through various means, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aggressively combating tax avoidance to ensure all due taxes are collected. ○ Curbing illicit financial flows that erode the tax base. ○ Expanding the tax base to include e-commerce, effectively tapping into the digital economy. ○ Implementing a wealth tax on the ultra-rich to ensure a more equitable distribution of the tax burden. ○ Revising corporate income tax policies to ensure fair and adequate contribution from businesses. ○ Maximizing the collection of VAT from small-scale traders who are not registered but are responsible for the distribution of goods and services to large section of society.
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	<p>waste collection, thereby improving overall waste management efficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will rapidly increase the protected area network to ensure that all representative ecosystems unique to South Africa are preserved and protected. • The EFF government will integrate local community forums in the management of protected areas to ensure that local people are not excluded from the management of protected areas in their localities. • The EFF government will promote local participation in initiatives to protect endangered and iconic species such as rhinos. People living in and around protected areas will be empowered and employed as the first line of defence against marauding poachers. • The EFF government will streamline environmental authorisation procedures to ensure that the Department of Environmental Affairs becomes the only authority able to grant authorisation for mining, property development, and other forms of development. • The EFF government will, through strengthened legislation, ensure that mining companies that have abandoned mines are forced to come back and rehabilitate denuded mining landscapes. • The EFF government will improve the monitoring capacity of the state to ensure that there is zero acid mine water drainage. The runoff from storm water outlets in urban areas will be treated to remove heavy metals, oil residues, nutrients, and pathogenic microorganisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will reduce the state debt to under 20% of the GDP. • The EFF government will equitably distribute nationally raised revenue in the ratio of 40% nationally and 60% locally (with provinces to be disbanded). • The EFF government will increase capital gains tax and inheritance tax so as to ease the tax burden of the poor and transfer it to the rich. • The EFF government will increase corporate income tax from 28% to 32%, with a 25% dividend tax, in 2026. • The EFF government will increase capital and inheritance gains tax. • The EFF government will introduce education and training taxes on all private companies at a minimum of 2% of total revenue for companies with a turnover of R50 million and more, to be used to fund fee-free quality education. • The EFF government will increase taxes on speculative capital inflows to 60%. • The EFF government will raise an additional R100 billion annually through curbing illicit financial flows, including the expropriation of multinational companies which participate in tax avoidance and
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will officially adopt the civil society-driven one million climate jobs’ initiative as a government programme. Through this initiative, the EFF government will create one million jobs aimed at transitioning South Africa from wholly coal-based energy sources to a fair mix of energy sources comprising fossil, nuclear, and renewable energy. • The EFF government will build a new recycling plant in each municipality by 2028. • The EFF government will phase out the use of plastic bags, so that by 2029 they are no longer being distributed . • The EFF government will fund research into the development of substitutes for plastics such as biodegradable plastic from fish scales. • The EFF government will require all mining companies to pay for the rehabilitation of mines that they have abandoned and for the draining of acid water. Water will be treated to remove heavy metals, oil residues, nutrients, and pathogenic microorganisms. • The EFF government will reduce carbon emissions by 10% by 2029 and will renegotiate our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which includes components on climate adaptation and mitigation as well as support requirements for both. • The EFF government will reduce the levels of pollution in all South Africa’s rivers by 60% by 2029. • The EFF government will require all children to clean their school and the school grounds once a week. 	<p>institute a stronger penalty regime with jail sentences for directors and executives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will pass an Anti-Avoidance of Tax Act to illegalise all forms of tax avoidance and will ensure that all those found to be engaged in tax avoidance and tax base erosion are imprisoned. • The EFF government will adopt a long-term infrastructure financing model. • The EFF government will combine all Municipalities’ Pension Funds into one Municipal Employees Pension Fund (MEPF), with an investment mandate that focuses on Municipal Infrastructure Development. • The EFF government will reduce VAT to 14%. • The EFF government will establish a state-controlled credit rating agency to provide independent assessments of the national economy and counteract bias from international rating agencies. • The EFF government will introduce a progressive luxury goods tax, targeting high-value items, to redistribute wealth and ease the tax burden on essential goods for the poor. • The EFF government will implement a transaction tax on high-frequency trading to curb speculative financial activities and generate additional revenue for public spending.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will require all citizens to clean up their community once a month. • The EFF government will nationalise all game reserves, particularly the game reserves in Waterberg and uMkhanyakude, and bring them under the management of South African National Parks (SANParks). • The EFF government will collaborate with African governments to drive the Green Revolution across the continent, underpinned by agriculture, good production, and environmental protection. • The EFF government will progressively introduce carbon taxes as one additional tool in the fight for sustainable development. • The EFF government will progressively introduce carbon taxes as an additional tool in the fight for sustainable development. • The EFF government will use nature reserves for environmental education purposes, aiming to nurture a generation of young people that is aware of the ecological limits of the planet. • The EFF government will prioritize the maintenance of ecological infrastructure, employing a team of people focused on eradicating alien plants, rehabilitating wetlands, and rehabilitating areas affected by soil erosion through the planting of ecologically suitable plant species. • The EFF government will have state-owned nurseries, in which indigenous plants will be propagated for use in environmental rehabilitation projects, and for environmental education purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will introduce a robust financial transaction tax on large multinational corporations to ensure they contribute fairly to the national economy. • The EFF government will mandate a minimum interest rate on savings accounts to protect and encourage individual savings, especially for low-income earners. • The EFF government will establish a foreign exchange control mechanism to stabilize the national currency and manage capital flows effectively. • The EFF government will implement a sovereign debt restructuring program to renegotiate existing debts and reduce reliance on foreign loans. • The EFF government will create a national emergency economic fund to provide immediate financial support during economic crises or natural disasters. • The EFF government will implement a rigorous oversight mechanism for banks, ensuring they do not engage in currency manipulation. Any bank found guilty of such practices will face severe penalties, including the possibility of losing their banking license. • The EFF government will amend legislation to require Parliamentary approval for any government loans exceeding a specified threshold. This will include a
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will incentivize businesses that use clean energy, implement clear water recycling methods, and limit their levels of pollution. • The EFF government will establish a biodiversity conservation forum, made up of civil society organizations, that meets twice a year to discuss progress made with conserving our natural resources and to act as an advisory forum to the government. • The EFF government will have a Protected Area Expansion Strategy, aimed at identifying critical ecological areas that should be declared as nature reserves. • The EFF government will identify critical freshwater ecosystems and develop management plans for these freshwater ecosystems to ensure their protection. • The EFF government will require environmental assessment plans for all major construction projects. • The EFF government will install solar power in all houses built by the State Housing Construction Company. • The EFF government will provide schools and communities with saplings to plant and to act as carbon sequesters. • The EFF government will ensure that there is a minimum standard for air quality to reduce the negative impact of the environment on human health. • The EFF government will ensure that industrial carbon polluters are fined and prevented from continuing to pollute the environment. 	<p>thorough review of the loan conditions to ensure they align with national interests and economic stability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will mandate the public disclosure of all conditions attached to both local and international loans issued to the government. • The EFF government will introduce a capital control system to monitor and regulate large international financial transfers, preventing capital flight and ensuring economic security. • The EFF government will establish an independent financial watchdog with investigative and prosecutorial powers to directly address financial crimes, including tax evasion, fraud, and embezzlement, particularly within the banking and financial sectors. This body will be empowered to take legal action against individuals and organizations found in violation of financial laws, ensuring swift and effective enforcement of justice. • The EFF government will create a national sovereign fund to manage and invest a portion of foreign exchange reserves, aiming to generate sustainable revenue for the country while protecting against currency volatility. • The EFF government will introduce stricter regulations on offshore investments by corporations
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will ensure that all public spaces like roads and parks have sufficient waste disposal bins, and that waste removal is done regularly. • The EFF government will establish a research and development centre focused on oil and gas refining and the development of clean coal technologies such as carbon capture, sequestration, and storage by 2029, creating 2,000 jobs, 1,000 of which will be reserved for women and the youth. • The EFF government will ensure that effluent discharges from more than 60 pipelines into the surf zones and estuaries are treated to remove heavy metals, oil residues, nutrients, and pathogenic microorganisms. • The EFF government will have special task teams to crack down on crime in the Ocean's economy. Crimes that affect coastal and marine environments have serious consequences for ecosystem resilience and biodiversity loss, leading to a scarcity of natural resources. • The EFF government will introduce legislative measures that would ensure that the disaster management function on all government spheres is capacitated and has level three (3) disaster management plans by 2028. • The EFF government will ensure that the newly established National Disaster Management Centre and national disaster management forums, as enacted in the Disaster Management Act of 2002, are not fragmented and uncoordinated. 	<p>and individuals to ensure that a significant portion of generated wealth remains within the national economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will implement a tiered tax system on foreign investments, with higher rates for short-term speculative investments and lower rates for long-term, sustainable investments that contribute to the country's development. • The EFF government will mandate regular audits of the South African Reserve Bank and other major financial institutions to ensure compliance with national economic policies and objectives. • The EFF government will amend the Competition Commission laws to give the Commission sufficient powers, ensuring that the finance minister cannot veto the findings of the Competition Commission, and the relevant court, increase the threshold of fine to 25% of annual profits. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will force the Prudential authority to offer licenses to black owned insurance companies. All lives in all wards under the EFF will be insured by black owned insurance entities. • The EFF government will pass a special appropriation bill allocating R100bn to the sovereign Wealth fund in the 2025/26 budget.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will reconfigure the disaster classification and declaration process to expedite rehabilitation and redirect resources to impacted communities faster. • The EFF government will mainstream disaster risk management in all sectors of society to ensure disaster risk readiness and resilience • The EFF government will develop a disaster governance implementation model to expedite the transition from a largely reactive governance response to disasters to a more proactive oversight approach. • The EFF government will implement a comprehensive and integrated disaster management plan, which includes early warning systems, emergency response teams, evacuation plans, and relief and recovery programs. • The EFF government will establish a well-defined and aligned disastrous incident escalation model from local to national government to allow for quicker national support and intervention. • The EFF government will establish dedicated disaster research and development skill sets at all spheres of government to better understand the unique risk dynamics of each community, enhance institutional capacity on each sphere, and future-proof communities against disasters and climate change. • The EFF government will invest in resilient infrastructure and community programs as part of the national disaster risk reduction strategy, shifting the national disaster funding focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will pass a special appropriation bill to write off some debts in state owned companies and to convert the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) debt to equity. • The EFF Government will rebuild the old credit guarantee corporation CGIC that will allow purchase orders and invoices by the state to be insurable hence allowing for easy working capital financing from our new state bank. This is done in all countries in Latin America and in Europe and was done in south Africa during apartheid times. • The EFF government will ensure that newly employed graduates get preferential mortgage rates for their first homes through the newly formed state bank. • The EFF government will ensure that the missing middle of security guards, teachers, police, nurses obtain preferential rates from banks through the newly formed state bank. • The EFF government will break all barriers to entry for black people from accessing financial sector licenses from insurance, banking, asset management, private equity, venture capital, credit. • EFF government will change how these trustees of pension funds are interviewed.
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	<p>from reactive disaster spending to more research-supported proactive investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will actively pursue policies to help South Africa adapt to climate change impacts on water resources, implementing strategies to manage water scarcity during periods of drought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFF government will make sure these trustees are interviewed live on television like we do with the JSC interviews. • The EFF government will ensure that elected members must reflect the demographics of the country. • The EFF government will ensure that the trustees work for the interest of the members who are 80% black and not in the interest of Stellenbosch. • The EFF government will eliminate all historical electricity debts, including municipal debts owed to Eskom.
<p>Freedom Front Plus (FF+)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the use of renewable energy. • Move away from products, practices and energy sources that are destructive to the environment. • Increasingly replace coal-fired power stations with renewable energy power plants. • Empower the Green Scorpions. • Criminally prosecute the accountable officials of municipalities and government departments where environmental legislation is violated and pollution takes place. • Upgrade sewage treatment plants and dumping sites. • Install drainage nets on storm water drainage pipes to stop the pollution of water resources. • Cultivate a culture of coordinated recycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FF Plus will establish a fiscal commission that will function very much like the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) does at the moment. An upper limit for state expenditure will be formulated. When that limit is reached, the fiscal commission will have the power to increase VAT. Once the threat passes, the VAT rate can be lowered again. • Cut state expenditure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit water losses and invest in water infrastructure, including dams. • Promote practices preventing desertification, and implement integrated water and soil management. • Promote the rehabilitation of soil where desertification has already occurred. • Ban the testing of cosmetic products on animals. • Ban the hunting of lions in captivity. • Facilitate the sustainable utilisation of environmental resources through coordinated regulation of the environment. • Develop an environmentally friendly policy framework and effectively enforce environmental legislation to create favourable conditions for sustainable agricultural, forestry and fishing operations. • The country should move away from products, practices and energy sources that are destructive to the environment; stop pollution and promote recycling; prioritise renewable energy; offer tax rebates for individuals and businesses that make use of alternative energy sources. 	
<p>Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with stakeholders, including workers, unions, communities and businesses to • develop policies and strategies that promote a fair and equitable transition to a • sustainable future. • • Protect our wildlife, promote ethical and sustainable tourism, and ensure that future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote fiscal restraint and limit public debt.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generations can continue to enjoy our biodiversity. • • Implement policies and practices that reduce human activities negatively impacting the • Great African Seaforest and other ocean ecosystems. • • Support initiatives that promote sustainable fishing practices, marine protected • areas, and education and awareness campaigns to increase public understanding of • environmental threats. • • Take remedial action to reduce the use of single-use plastics. We commit to • implementing policies and practices that promote sustainable alternatives. • • Increase law enforcement efforts to crack down on illegal hunting, creating specialist • wildlife courts and funding public awareness campaigns. • • Encourage recycling and proper disposal of plastic waste. • • End rhino poaching by using a range of measures to combat the illegal trade in rhino • horn, including increased law enforcement efforts, harsher penalties for offenders, and • increased public awareness campaigns. • • Stop captive-bred lion hunting, banning the import and export of lion parts and • trophies. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure community empowerment through education on conservation. 	
<p>Rise Mzansi (RM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce pressure on the grid and create new economic opportunities, we will use international climate change transition financial instruments to develop a local solar production and installation industry, helping households and small- to medium-sized businesses reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. The majority of existing households and businesses will be powered in this way within five years. • ‘Leave no one behind’: Balance inclusive development with our need to transition from a high-carbon intensive to lowcarbon intensive economy in the shortest reasonable time. • Help communities mitigate climate change impacts including heat, drought, impact on food supply and increased frequency of natural disasters. • RISE Mzansi supports a balanced, green energy mix. Coal should steadily decrease as a primary energy source. Solar, wind and energy storage should be scaled. For baseload generation and energy security, we are open to a role for gas in the transition, as well as next generation nuclear based on small, modular reactors. • RISE Mzansi will accelerate the shift to a more decentralised energy system – one which all citizens can directly participate in and benefit from. Tax deductions for residential rooftop solar should be increased. Low-income communities should be assisted to develop their own energy cooperatives, whereby they become ‘prosumers’ of electricity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to fiscal challenges facing South Africa, greater focus on private investment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When transparently done and regulated, private investment in public assets can effectively replace borrowing, reduce fiscal risk (from bailouts) and stimulate investment in the economy. • We will support entrepreneurs with upskilling and access to capital at competitive lending rates to reduce enterprise failure, grow the economy and create employment opportunities. For this we will use a combination of fiscal reprioritisation and financial sector prudential interventions within the risk parameters of Basel regulations. • Leverage the national balance sheet to enable affordable, patient finance to emerging and small businesses with growth potential.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the electricity crisis is resolved, all low-income households will be provided with free electricity between 9am and 3pm each day. • RISE Mzansi will begin what will be a decades-long process to fully electrify the country’s transport system, through expanded, integrated public transport networks (electric trains and buses) and a shift to electric cars for carbon mitigation and export competitiveness. • To become more competitive in the global economy, and to create healthier ecosystems, the country’s manufacturers will need to decarbonise their operations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Through incentives and financial de-risking mechanisms, the state can accelerate the use of green hydrogen (a replacement for fossil gas and coal in certain heavy industrial processes) and electric arc furnaces. • Government will offer incentives and budgetary resources for waterefficiency projects, the adoption of drought-resistant crop varieties, and the use of innovative new approaches to farming, including agrivoltaics (which provide shading for crops) and regenerative agriculture practices. Such interventions should be aimed at both commercial farmers and small-scale subsistence farmers in urban and rural areas. • Formalise and scale up the waste-picking and recycling industry to create jobs and build a more resilient and sustainable economy. Make the manufacturers of goods more responsible for the waste that their products cause, through industry-wide recycling 	
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	<p>initiatives, and the implementation of the 'polluter pays' principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A RISE Mzansi government will build an apparatus which can bring together planning, preparedness, early warning systems and rapid response. Emergency services, trauma counselling, food and alternative shelter must be quickly made available in the wake of natural disasters.	
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