



**THIS ELECTION, MAKE YOUR VOTE
A VOTE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**

**A toolkit for engaging local
government for Early Childhood
Development (ECD) reform**

ELECTIONS ARE ON 1 NOVEMBER

MAKE YOUR VOTE A VOTE FOR ECD

#MakeECDanElectionIssue

#ECDaForgottenSector

#ECDreform

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VOTE FOR THE COUNCILLOR THAT PRIORITISES EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**Local government must create
safe and vibrant care and learning
spaces for young children**

**Calling on everyone to make their vote in
this election a **vote for young children****

 **VOTE FOR THE COUNCILLOR THAT PRIORITISES
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**



**Pull down the
barriers to
registration
for ECD
programmes**

**We need more ECD programmes
registering and accessing
government subsidies.**



**Build more
and upgrade
existing ECD
programmes**

**We need more families
benefiting from more children
attending ECD programmes.**



**Make ECD a
local spending
priority**

**We need the local
government to deliver on its
promises to local families.**

THIS MUST URGENTLY BE MADE A PRIORITY AREA!

CALL ON YOUR COUNCILLOR TO:



Pull down the barriers to registration for ECD programmes

- Simplify health and safety standards to make it easier for ECD programmes to register.
- Municipal EHP's should issue timely health inspection reports to DSD for all ECD programmes regardless of whether or not they meet Health Certificate or Bylaw standards.
- Provide a fee waiver for all ECD programmes.
- Accept simplified, attainable and affordable land use options.
- Accept a hand-drawn site plan and floor plan instead of building plans.
- Implement rapid procedures to address delays.



We need more ECD programmes registering and accessing government subsidies.

ⓘ *Most of these "asks" are already supported by the department of social development*

CALL ON YOUR COUNCILLOR TO:



Build more and upgrade existing ECD programmes

- Upgrade existing and build new facilities for ECD programmes, for existing programmes to grow and new programmes to open.
- Provide basic services (electricity, water & sanitation) to ECD programmes free of charge.



We need more families benefiting from more children attending ECD programmes.

ⓘ *These "asks" are supported by the ECD Policy*

MAKE YOUR VOTE A VOTE FOR ECD #MakeECDanElectionIssue #ECDaForgottenSector #ECDreform

CALL ON YOUR COUNCILLOR TO:



Make ECD a local spending priority

→ Include ECD in local planning (IDPs) and budgets, setting clear targets and allocating funding for new builds and upgrades.



We need the local government to deliver on its promises to local families.

ⓘ *These "asks" are supported by the ECD Policy*

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What is local government?

In order to create meaningful change for ECD, we must first understand how government works

Local government is one of the three spheres of government:

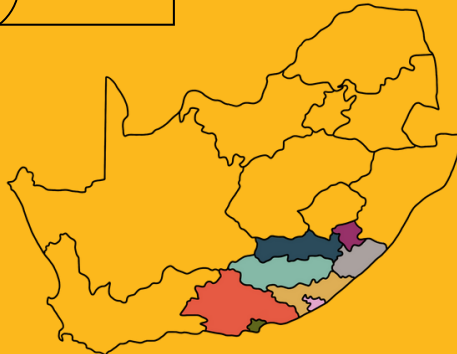
1 National



2 Provincial

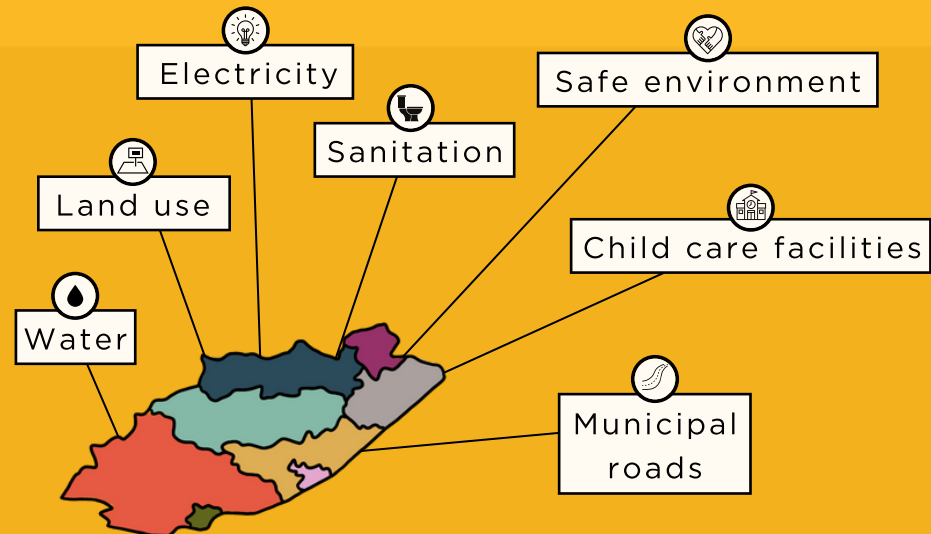


3 Local



Local government is made up of municipalities: **District & Local**

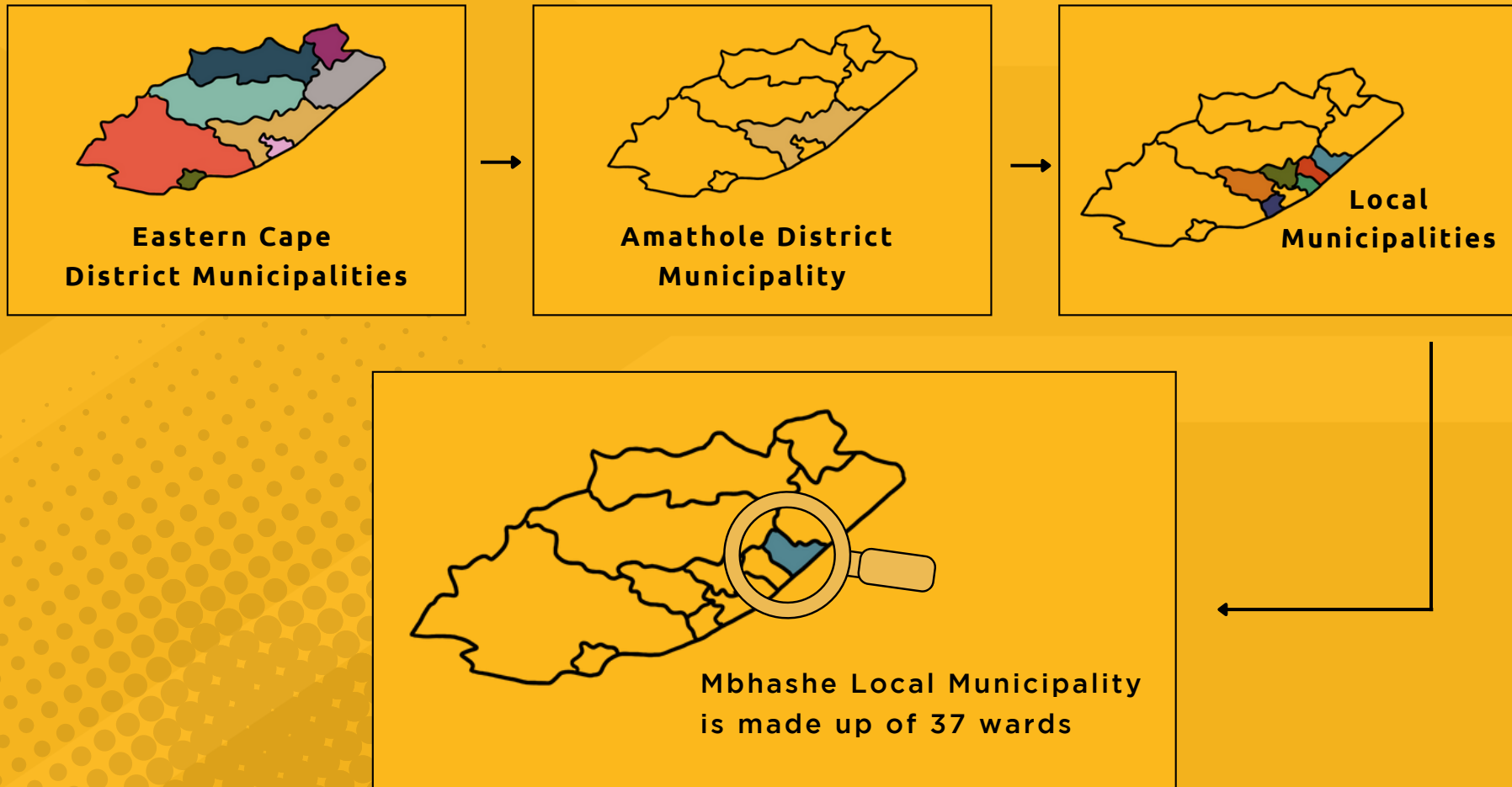
Municipalities are responsible for the following ECD related "services"



What is a Ward Councillor?

A Ward Councillor represents a specific ward on the Ward Council

...but first, what is a ward? Let's take a closer look at the following example:



Duties of a Ward Councillor

Ward Councillors are **elected** during local elections **directly by people** from their wards



DUTIES:

- ✓ Represent the people (govern on their behalf, regardless of which party they represent)
- ✓ Communicate community needs to council
- ✓ Must communicate council processes with community (must run information campaigns on planning and projects)
- ✓ Must prepare and attend all council meetings
- ✓ Monitor performance of municipality
- ✓ Follow code of conduct
- ✓ The chairperson of the Ward Committee, and forum that enables people to participate in local governance

Share your stories & struggles with your councillor

Stories can be a powerful tool to change systems. Your voice matters.



Lizo's Story

Lizo has been leasing the premises for Luvuyo Centre for ECD in Mamelodi, Tshwane since 2018. His first “daunting” hurdle in his registration process was obtaining the correct land use approval (a registration requirement). In order for Lizo to rezone the premises to a business, it will cost him over R40,000—an impossible price tag for his school. Beyond the cost, the process is tedious and due to backlogs, it takes forever.

Lizo, “We need an easy process for this, one easy step that is less expensive to access, and we need the support of government”.



Share your own story with your councillor about your challenges with registration.



Zodwa & Jo's Story

Zodwa Xhapha owns and runs Zoe's Crèche, an informal ECD, and currently gets by with support from her previous employer Jo Pentz, who assists with fundraising and the heavy lifting involved in the cumbersome registration process.

In order to comply with registration requirements, Zodwa and Jo did major renovations (age-appropriate toilets and basins, plumbing, and electricity) sponsored by various community social media groups, friends, and family. The new plans were drawn up, however, they did not pass the requirements because the wall was a few centimetres out of the boundary on the street corner of the property, and there is a brick and mortar flatlet in the driveway that was non-compliant. They were instructed that in order to get the crèche registered, they would need to demolish and rebuild the wall and flat— costing R50 000 .

“I can't afford to keep giving financial support and I shouldn't be, it is the government's responsibility to look after our young children. If this is how we are battling with my background in management, imagine how women like Zodwa are struggling? We are a microcosm of the problem facing ECD Centres”.



We call on all councillors to provide more and better venues and infrastructure for ECD programmes, for existing programmes to grow.



Nomathamsanqa's Story

Nomathamsanqa Mdwayi has been running Komkhulu Educare Centre, in Pedi, a rural community in the Eastern Cape since 2017. She has been unsuccessful in registering Komkhulu Educare Centre since they do not have a toilet or fence. Nomathamsanqa understands that safety is a priority, but is unable to cover the costs of the required renovations.

The children who attend Komkhulu Educare Centre cannot access any subsidies from the Department of Social Services (DSD) until Nomathamsanqa is able to get the Centre registered. "I have gone to Social Development to give them the documents, but they are not coming to visit us, everything takes so much time".



We call on all councillors to include ECD in local planning (IDPs) and budgets, setting clear targets and allocating funding for new builds and to help upgrade existing ECD programmes.

SHARE YOUR STORY

#MakeECDanElectionIssue

#ECDaForgottenSector

#ECDreform

Contact councillors running in your area

Share your own struggles concerning
registration with the candidates.

GET THEIR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT YOU!

Step 1

- Find out who is running as your councillor
- Receive your current ward councillor information

Step 2

- Invite the candidates to an ECD Forum meeting
- Use the provided agenda as a guide

Step 3

- Follow up post elections, via phone calls and emails

1

Find out through your local networks (ward/street committees/ community leaders) who is running for councillor in your area

2

SMS your ID Number to 32245 (SMS costs R1) to receive your current ward councillor information





Draft Meeting Invitation

Subject: Invitation to Meet with ECD Stakeholders: Make Local Government Work for Early Childhood Development

CC: fivesolutions@ecdreform.org.za

Dear [Ward Councillor Candidate] [Surname],

On behalf of [name of your school/organisation/forum/coalition/etc] and the Real Reform for ECD campaign, I am writing to request the opportunity to meet with you before the 1st of November, to discuss the importance of local government policies and practices for Early Childhood Development (ECD) and how this critical issue can be taken forward should you be elected.

During our meeting, we would like to discuss our mutual concerns and possible solutions related to Early Childhood Development and local government's legal responsibilities. This will include the role of councillors in removing the barriers we face when registering our ECD programmes and how the local needs for our young children can be included in the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) as well as how to ensure sufficient budget is allocated for this.

We look forward to your positive response and we can then schedule the date, time and venue of our meeting.

Please also consider endorsing the Real Reform for ECD campaign here.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScEnZCzHvcf1StEeU3gsLrTNg465GW0lpj_nQNoYlujOf-ufg/viewform

Sincerely,

[your name, school/organisation/forum/coalition name, email address, and phone number]

Adapt this invitation to suit you. Download written version from 'Toolkit' Google Drive



Draft Meeting Agenda

Intended to help you prepare for your meeting with candidates running for local election in your area

1. Choose a Chairperson
2. Choose someone to take minutes
3. Start with a round of introductions
4. Chair to provide an overview of early childhood development (ECD) and its importance
5. ECD forum representatives to share their obstacles and struggles with registering their ECD programmes
6. Chair to introduce the Real Reform for ECD Campaign and explain why ECD needs to be a local government priority
7. Chair to present some of the solutions outlined by the Real Reform for ECD Campaign (provided in the Toolkit)
8. Possible questions to ask the candidate(s):
 - Will you prioritise ECD if we vote for you?
 - Will you pull down the barriers to registration for ECD programmes?
 - Will you commit to building more and upgrading existing ECD programmes?
 - Will you make ECD a local spending priority?
 - Are you willing to sign on to the Real Reform for ECD Campaign's Open Letter and commit publically to the reforms needed at a local level?
9. Discussion (other questions from the floor)
10. Closing remarks

Adapt this agenda to suit you. Download written version from 'Toolkit' Google Drive



DEMOCRACY
=
GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE



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