



VOICES OF  
**!NAREMAB**

*Our Heritage. Our Voice. Our Future.*

# FOUNDING MANIFESTO

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## Preamble

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*We believe that no people can build a strong future while disconnected from their history, culture, identity and dignity.*

We believe that the Aboriginal peoples of South Africa possess histories, languages, cultures, customs, knowledge systems, skills and traditions that deserve to be preserved, researched, respected and carried forward.

We also recognise that preserving our heritage cannot mean turning our backs on the future. The world is changing rapidly. Technology, education, artificial intelligence, science, entrepreneurship and globalisation are transforming societies.

**We must therefore do both: preserve what is valuable from our past and build the capabilities required for our future.**

Voices of !Narema exists to help make that possible.

## 1. Our Purpose

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Voices of !Narema is a civil-society organisation dedicated to advancing the dignity, cultural heritage, education and socioeconomic development of Aboriginal South African communities.

We seek to build communities that are: culturally rooted; educated; economically empowered; technologically capable; socially organised; historically conscious; confident in their identity; and prepared for the future.

## 2. Cultural Revival

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We believe culture is not merely something displayed at festivals. Culture is a living system of language, family, history, customs, values, food, music, art, clothing, oral traditions, indigenous knowledge, community relationships, and connection to land and place.

We will work to document, teach, practise and transmit these traditions to future generations. Our objective is not to freeze culture in the past. We want culture to live.

## 3. Our Languages

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A language carries memory, worldview and knowledge. We will support efforts to strengthen indigenous South African languages through youth education, literacy, storytelling, oral-history projects, digital resources, research, publications and language-learning initiatives.

We want young people to be able to use their indigenous languages at home, in education, in culture and increasingly in the digital world.

## 4. Reclaiming Our History

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We believe communities should know their history. We will encourage rigorous research into indigenous histories, genealogies, oral traditions, historical migrations, indigenous governance, traditional economies, indigenous knowledge, archaeology, languages, historical records and community archives.

We will value oral histories while also encouraging evidence, documentation and scholarly investigation. Where history is uncertain or disputed, we will investigate rather than manufacture certainty.

*Our history deserves both pride and intellectual honesty.*

## 5. Economic Empowerment

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Cultural pride without economic opportunity is insufficient. We therefore seek to help communities develop the ability to create, own and control productive economic activity.

We will promote entrepreneurship, cooperatives, agriculture, food production, small businesses, artisan development, financial literacy, digital commerce, community enterprises, youth entrepreneurship and skills development.

**Our goal is productive capacity.**

We want communities that don't merely consume wealth, but increasingly create, own and circulate wealth within their communities.

## 6. Education for the Future

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Education must prepare young people not only for today's economy, but for tomorrow's. Voices of !NaremaB will promote access to science, mathematics, technology, engineering, digital literacy, coding, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, research, critical thinking and creative industries.

We reject the idea that modernisation requires cultural erasure. A young person can know their ancestral history while learning AI. They can speak an indigenous language while programming software. They can practise traditional arts while building a global business.

## 7. Our Youth

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The youth are not merely beneficiaries of our work. They are the future custodians of it. We will create opportunities for young people to become researchers, entrepreneurs, cultural practitioners, technologists, educators, community organisers, artists, leaders and innovators.

*We want young people to inherit more than problems. We want them to inherit institutions.*

## 8. Indigenous Knowledge

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We recognise the importance of indigenous knowledge concerning agriculture, ecology, food, medicine, architecture, astronomy, environmental management, craftsmanship and community organisation.

We will encourage responsible documentation and research of indigenous knowledge while respecting community ownership, consent, cultural protocols and applicable laws.

## 9. Community Self-Development

We believe communities should participate directly in solving the problems affecting them.

**Identify the problem → Organise the people → Develop the solution → Mobilise resources → Implement  
→ Measure the results**

## 10. Rights and Dignity

We believe every human being deserves dignity. Voices of !Naremaab will advocate peacefully and lawfully for the cultural, educational, social and economic interests of the communities we serve.

We oppose racism, discrimination, exploitation, cultural destruction, dehumanisation, corruption, abuse of power and deliberate exclusion.

Our advocacy will be based on evidence, lawful civic participation, research and constructive action. We will fight for our dignity without denying the dignity of others.

## 11. Women, Families and Community

The advancement of our communities cannot be built around one demographic alone. Women, men, children, elders and young people all have important roles to play.

We will support stronger families, intergenerational relationships, community networks, youth mentorship, women's participation and elder knowledge.

**Our elders carry memory. Our adults carry responsibility. Our youth carry the future. All three generations must be connected.**

## 12. Our Relationship with the Modern World

We do not believe modernisation requires abandoning our identity. We will embrace useful advances in science, technology, artificial intelligence, education, medicine, engineering, entrepreneurship and digital communications.

*We will approach modernisation critically and ask: does this technology strengthen our people's ability to live, learn, create and prosper?*

We want to participate in the future — not merely watch it arrive.

## 13. Research Before Rhetoric

Voices of !Naremaab will strive to become an organisation that produces knowledge, not merely opinions. We will encourage community research, academic partnerships, oral-history collection, surveys, data analysis, publications, archives and policy research.

We will distinguish between what we know, what we believe, what our communities remember, what the evidence demonstrates, and what still needs to be investigated.

## 14. Our Economic Philosophy

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We believe economic empowerment requires more than employment. We want to increase:

**Skills → Ownership → Production → Enterprise → Investment → Community Wealth**

We will encourage communities to participate in productive sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, technology, construction, tourism, cultural industries, food, renewable energy, digital services and creative industries.

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## 15. Our Principles

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**Dignity** — Every person deserves respect.

**Heritage** — Our history and culture deserve preservation.

**Truth** — We will pursue evidence rather than convenient narratives.

**Unity** — We seek cooperation within communities.

**Education** — Knowledge is a foundation of empowerment.

**Enterprise** — Communities must develop productive economic capacity.

**Innovation** — We must prepare for technological change.

**Self-development** — We should actively participate in solving our own problems.

**Accountability** — Those entrusted with community resources must answer to the community.

**Peaceful civic action** — Our advocacy will be lawful, constructive and non-violent.

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## 16. Our Commitment

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We do not promise that Voices of !NaremaB will solve every problem. We promise something more realistic:

*We will organise. We will research. We will teach. We will preserve. We will build. We will document. We will advocate. We will create opportunities.*

*And wherever possible, we will turn ideas into measurable projects.*

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## Our Call

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- We call upon parents to teach
- Elders to share
- Young people to learn and lead
- Researchers to investigate
- Entrepreneurs to build
- Artists to create
- Educators to educate
- Communities to organise
- Professionals to contribute their skills
- And diaspora communities to remain connected

**Stand with us.**

*Not to live in the past.*

*Not to reject the future.*

***But to carry our heritage forward into it.***



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## VOICES OF !NAREMAB

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**We remember. We organise. We build. We advance.**

*Know where you come from. Understand where you are. Build where you're going.*