

BOSA



BOSA
BUILD ONE SA

Founded:	2022
Leader:	Mmusi Maimane
Political position:	Radical centrism
Ideology:	Democratic pragmatism

History

Build One South Africa (BOSA) was launched by former Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Mmusi Maimane in 2022 as a party for independent political candidates at a local, provincial, and national level. The party portrays itself as a social movement founded on the values of advocacy, activism, and accountability with the central goal of an alternative to the domination of party politics (41).

Maimane initially launched this initiative as the One South Africa Movement in 2020 solely as a civic organisation that would act as an umbrella organisation for independent candidates to agitate for direct election of public representatives. However, this move was ditched after Maimane was disappointed with electoral reforms, which he believed did not go far enough to enable the direct election of candidates by the public. Although primarily associated with Maimane, the party's leadership includes former South African Women's commission convenor Nobuntu Hlazo-Webster and Hlumelo Biko, son of struggle hero Steve Biko.

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Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with party leader Mmusi Maimane)

Economic growth and job creation

BOSA aims to forge an inclusive and robust economy, prioritising marginalised citizens. The party pledges to boost the Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) sector by enhancing financing and venture capital accessibility and addressing the country's current enterprise funding challenges. The party would also incorporate more SMEs into government procurement chains with the goal of fostering fair competition and merit-based access to government contracts. A BOSA-led government would further aggressively clamp down on corruption and ineptitude in the state by performing an immediate merit-based dismissal of 20 per cent of the worst-performing public sector employees. The party would implement continuous lifestyle audits of all politicians and senior government officials.

Safety and security

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BOSA outlines a comprehensive approach to enhance the rule of law and public safety. The party proposes increasing the police force both directly and indirectly, implementing visible and contextual policing through regional and municipal forces. These forces, with significant volunteer participation, would collaborate with private security providers using advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology for crime prevention, response, investigation, and by-law enforcement. To ease backlogs, BOSA would pass laws enabling private laboratories to provide forensic support, integrating data into a national electronic forensic database. A BOSA government would also establish a national criminal investigation directorate to target and prosecute the top 100 most violent criminals and criminal organisations in South Africa. This would operate alongside specialised corruption courts empowered with the mandate to investigate and prosecute.

Foreign affairs

BOSA's foreign policy prioritises constitutionalism, multilateralism, human rights, sustainable migration, economic integration, Pan Africanism, Ubuntu, and democracy. A BOSA-led government would seek strategic partnerships globally and diplomatically campaign for accountable governance and democratic principles in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Energy security

BOSA addresses South Africa's energy crisis by proposing a mixed energy strategy, utilising green energy from the private sector. BOSA advocates for the construction of five 5 000 MW nuclear stations, inviting international suppliers through a transparent tender process with zero-capital outlay for taxpayers. The plan includes breaking Eskom up into three state-owned companies, promoting private sector competition, and implementing anti-corruption measures. A BOSA-led government would prioritise the development of gas-powered plants and open-cycle gas turbines to speedily eliminate load shedding. The party would pursue a just transition towards renewable energy through regulatory reforms and innovative financial instruments.

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Education

BOSA seeks to completely transform primary and secondary education in South Africa, aiming for a ripple effect on higher education and to earn international accreditation. The party would introduce student performance grants for critical subjects to foster interest and excellence in Maths and Science. A BOSA-led government would enforce performance-based contracts for state educators and gradually introduce master's degree requirements to enter the profession. The party would introduce a restructured grading system as well as an independent

education inspectorate. In higher education, BOSA would increase funding for needy students to improve access and throughput while enhancing student support in universities.

Mineral resources

BOSA advocates for a transformative mining policy that prioritises miners' rights and welfare to improve working conditions, deliver fair wages, and guarantee safety measures. A BOSA-led government would invest in skills development, beneficiation, and industrialisation for the sustainable growth of the sector. The party would seek to strike equity of benefit between mine-owners and the communities where mines are located. BOSA would proclaim August 16th a national holiday as Marikana Memorial Day in commemoration of the 34 miners gunned down by police in 2012.

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Youth development

BOSA will introduce a voluntary national civil service as a one-year programme for post-matriculants and establish a national venture capital fund for tertiary university graduates who are wanting to start businesses in line with South Africa's strategic manufacturing interests. The party would also offer a tax holiday for first-time graduate employees and a back-to-school programme for high-school dropouts.

Housing

BOSA proposes a policy of construction, planning, and design partnership for settlement development, fostering collaboration between large-scale construction companies, city planning experts, and local artisans. This model seeks to create jobs and develop communities while developing skills. BOSA further advocates for a Wholesale Mortgage Support system, allowing qualifying households to access loans from low-fee mortgage originators for home construction. The state would then repay the debt

over 20 years from its annual housing budget, expediting the eradication of housing backlogs.

The environment and climate change

BOSA acknowledges climate change as a reality and the urgent environmental issues linked to practices like factory farming, meat consumption, fast fashion, and fossil fuel burning. BOSA proposes tax breaks for individuals transitioning to electric vehicles and extends tax incentives to companies implementing innovations to reduce carbon footprints.

Tourism

BOSA's tourism policy centres on environmental protection to boost tourism numbers and revenue alongside safety measures to ensure visitors are not victims of crime. A BOSA government would encourage sustainable tourism practices to protect natural attractions and ensure long-term industry viability.

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Immigration and xenophobia

BOSA would crack down on illegal immigration by allocating more resources to refugee reception offices and implementing a corruption free e-visa system. BOSA rejects mass deportations of undocumented foreign nationals due to cost and impracticality, seeking instead to address migration's root causes through regional diplomacy and promoting democratic principles in the SADC region. The party acknowledges the necessity of skilled immigration to fill critical gaps in professions, such as medical doctors, engineers, nurses, and high-skilled artisans. BOSA proposes additional taxes on such immigrant critical skilled workers, and ring-fencing the funds for higher education training to enhance the local skills pool.

LGBTIQA+ rights

BOSA's commitment to human rights, as reflected in the South African Constitution, extends to the protection of the LGBTIQA+ community. The party upholds the principles of equality, dignity, inclusiveness, integrity, and Ubuntu, emphasising the restoration and respect for human rights for all individuals. In specific policy terms, BOSA advocates for legislation and measures that actively protect and promote the rights of the LGTIQA+ community, ensuring equal treatment, non-discrimination, and full recognition of their rights as enshrined in the constitution. This includes supporting anti-discrimination laws, promoting inclusive education, and fostering a society that values and respects the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities.

South Africa's twelve official languages

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BOSA's language policy advocates for multilingualism, recognising the richness of South Africa's official languages as a means for national connection. BOSA would introduce a gradual shift toward the provision of mother tongue education, aiming to strengthen cultural identity and facilitate effective communication among all South Africans.

Artificial intelligence

BOSA asserts the necessity of modernising the state through comprehensive digitisation, focusing on the gradual integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for enhanced governance. Recognising the outdated state structure, BOSA advocates for the implementation of digital technologies to streamline services, including record-keeping and cross-departmental coordination. The party envisions an advanced government that utilises data and AI modelling to fortify law enforcement, education, and health services. BOSA anticipates the

benefits of AI in promoting efficiency, innovation, and improved public service delivery across various sectors.

Source:

(41) Build One South Africa, About us - <https://www.bosa.co.za/about/>
