Trust Begins on Your Street

By Yunus Ahmed Bhamjee

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani recently made a simple point about government that deserves attention far beyond New York: if government cannot deliver on the small things people experience every day, how can people trust it to deliver on the big things?

His example was a pothole. For residents, however, it could just as easily be a pothole, broken pavement, a speed bump, a fallen tree, a streetlight or another basic municipal service.

These may seem like small issues to those in power, but they are often the daily evidence residents use to judge whether government is working.

Forget ideological monopolies for a moment. The real questions are: Who cares? Who listens? And who delivers?

Trust in government is built from the ground up — on our streets, in our neighbourhoods and in our communities.That is why local residents must be passionate about where they live and hold those elected to represent them accountable.

Deliver the small things consistently, and you begin building confidence for the bigger things.

Trust is not demanded. It is earned — street by street, community by community.

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