



2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

MANIFESTO



INSOURCE & BUILD CAPACITY | THE PEOPLES RED CARAVAN
KWAZULU-NATAL • HLOKOZI | COMMUNITY WASTE MANAGEMENT



DECENT WORK & RIGHTS | THE PEOPLES RED CARAVAN
NORTH WEST • MOTLHABE | COMMUNITY FARMING



STRONG, INDEPENDENT UNIONS
GAUTENG | COSATU 40TH ANNIVERSARY | NEHAWU | NUM SASBO

BUILD PEOPLE'S POWER WHERE WE LIVE

FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK, WATER, ELECTRICITY, ROADS, LAND AND SAFETY FOR ALL

A Municipality that Works. A Councillor Who Answers to You.

A Community with the Power to Shape its Future.



WORKERS' SUPPORT & EDUCATION | PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN
EASTERN CAPE • MQHEKEZWEZI | COMMUNITY HALL REVAMP



END PRECARIOUS WORK | PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN
FREE STATE • GLADSTONE | COMMUNITY STORE



PROTECT JOBS & LIVELIHOODS | PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN
MPUMALANGA • MATHIBIDI | AGRICULTURE





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THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN
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THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN
FREE STATE • GLADSTONE | FOOD SECURITY



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EASTERN CAPE • MQHEKEZWENI | INFRASTRUCTURE



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EASTERN CAPE • MQHEKEZWENI | BOREHOLE



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NORTHERN CAPE • GANSPAN | YOUTH SPORTS TOURNAMENT



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THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN
FREE STATE • GLADSTONE | MAIZE MEAL MACHINES TRAINING



FOREWORD

By Solly Mapaila
General Secretary of the
South African Communist Party



“

This manifesto is our contract with the working class, and our call to organise. A vote can elect a councillor. Only an organised people can change the balance of power.



Every day, millions of South Africans do everything asked of them and still cannot live with dignity.

Workers rise before sunrise and spend much of their wages travelling to and from work. Women carry the heaviest load when there is no water, when food runs short, when children are unsafe. Young people search for work where factories have closed and production has stalled. Informal traders keep local economies alive while being denied safe space to trade. Platform workers keep the city moving while facing opaque pay and arbitrary exclusion. Municipal workers are told to fix broken systems without tools, staff or investment. People wait for water tankers. They sit in the dark during outages. Sewage runs through streets. Potholes swallow vehicles and cut off villages. Tenders are awarded; the work is not done. Councillors vanish between elections.

This is not the democracy our people fought for.

The SACP is contesting the 2026 Local Government Elections independently because the working class needs its own political voice, its own candidates, its own programme. We are not here to add politicians to councils. We are here to build people's power and turn municipalities into instruments that serve workers and the poor.

This manifesto is our contract with the working class, and our call to organise. A vote can elect a councillor. Only an organised people can change the balance of power.

Introduction

When this manifesto speaks of workers, it means the whole working class: employed and unemployed, permanent and casual, formal and informal, urban and rural. The SACP organises and serves the entire working class, African, Coloured, Indian and White, in the tradition of non-racialism and the call for workers of the world to unite.

This manifesto is a contract with workers: women and men, LGBTQIA+ workers, people with disabilities, the unemployed and the young. It is a contract with communities, and a call to organise.

We set six clear priorities:



★ **Reliable public services, preventative maintenance and prompt repairs of what is broken**



★ **Decent work and sustainable livelihoods where people live;**



★ **Land, homes and food for social need, not private profit;**



★ **Safe, caring and healthy communities;**

★ **Municipalities free from tender corruption and capture;**

★ **Councillors who answer to the people; and people who have a real say.**

These priorities form one programme. Reliable services cut household costs. Public employment repairs communities and puts income into homes. Trade unions and worker organisations strengthen working-class democracy. Co-operatives keep wealth under collective control and circulating locally. Local food production makes food more accessible. Public land supports homes, production and community facilities. Insourcing creates decent work and restores accountability. Strong primary health care helps build National Health Insurance from the ground up. Participatory budgets put decisions into the hands of organised communities.

WHY LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS A SITE OF CLASS STRUGGLE

Local government is where politics enters the home

It is the tap, the electricity connection, the refuse truck, the streetlight, the road, the trading stall, the library, the clinic, and the land on which people build their lives. It decides which settlement is upgraded, which contractor is paid, and whose voice is heard. When a municipality fails, poor and working-class communities suffer first and hardest. Wealthy households buy water tanks, generators, private security and private transport. Working-class families cannot.

They depend on public services, and when those fail, they have nowhere else to turn. For years, municipalities have been weakened by austerity, outsourcing, tenderisation, corruption, poor planning and the loss of skilled public capacity. Austerity means government deliberately cutting public spending even as need grows. In everyday life this means unfilled posts, postponed maintenance and delayed investment. Residents are treated as customers to be charged rather than citizens with rights and power, even where poverty makes full cost recovery impossible.

The results are visible:

unaffordable tariffs, punitive disconnections, failing infrastructure, dependence on consultants, insecure outsourced work and communities excluded from decisions.

Many local problems have national roots.

National policy shapes whether the economy creates work, how much revenue

municipalities can raise, and what they pay for bulk electricity and water.

But national failure is not an excuse for municipal corruption or neglect. Municipalities must use every power and every rand they have, while communities organise for the national changes local development requires.

The SACP rejects the idea that municipal failure proves the need for more privatisation. Failure caused by neglect, corruption and the private capture of resources must be answered by rebuilding democratic municipal institutions. Our principle is simple: public money must meet public need.

We will fight to rebuild capable municipalities with skilled workers, permanent maintenance teams, transparent budgets and organised community oversight. Municipal workers and residents need the same thing: a public service that is properly staffed, equipped, funded and accountable.

What socialism means where we live

The SACP's programme, The South African Struggle for Socialism, guides this struggle. Socialism is sometimes presented as a theory for a distant future. For the SACP, it begins with a question people confront every day:

who owns, who controls, who decides, who benefits?





“SOCIALISM IS NOT ABOUT BIG CONCEPTS AND HEAVY THEORY. SOCIALISM IS ABOUT DECENT SHELTER FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOMELESS. IT IS ABOUT WATER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO SAFE DRINKING WATER. IT IS ABOUT HEALTH CARE, IT IS ABOUT A LIFE OF DIGNITY FOR THE OLD. IT IS ABOUT OVERCOMING THE HUGE DIVIDE BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS. IT IS ABOUT A DECENT EDUCATION FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE. SOCIALISM IS ABOUT ROLLING BACK THE TYRANNY OF THE MARKET. AS LONG AS THE ECONOMY IS DOMINATED BY AN UNELECTED, PRIVILEGED FEW, THE CASE FOR SOCIALISM WILL EXIST.”

CHRIS HANI

THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN / KWAZULU-NATAL • MATIBIDI | ½ COMMUNITY BOREHOLE DEVELOPMENT



**THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN
NORTHERN CAPE • GANSPAN | COMMUNITY FARM**



When water, electricity, land and public buildings are run for private profit, working people pay more and have less power. When public money is handed to tender networks while municipal workers go without tools and young people go without work, wealth is transferred from the people to the few.

When land lies idle while people need homes and food, property is placed above human need. Our socialism says the opposite. What belongs to the people must work for the people. Basic services must be organised to meet human need. Public land must support homes, food, work and community life. Municipal workers must have the tools to serve the public.

The money working-class communities produce and spend must build institutions they own together. This is why we support public ownership, cooperatives, community-owned stores, collective saving, insourcing and participatory budgeting. These give people control over the necessities of life, keep value in communities, and reduce dependence on private monopolies, tender parasites and political patrons. Socialism does not mean officials decide everything. It means people's power: in the workplace, in budgets and development, in cooperatives, and in public representatives who remain answerable to the people.

Young people must stand at the centre of building this power, not as beneficiaries but as workers, producers, organisers and leaders. An SACP-led municipality will open the door for young people to participate directly in production, ownership, planning and community development. No single municipality can build socialism alone. But every municipality chooses between public need and private profit, between people's power and capture by the few. An SACP-led municipality will use every power it has to tilt those choices toward the working class, and to organise for the deeper transformation our country requires.

DO IT FOR CHRIS HANI



THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN | NORTHERN CAPE GANSPAN | COMMUNITY FARM & COOP HANDOVER

We draw inspiration from Comrade Chris Hani because he connected the struggle for socialism to the everyday conditions of working people. He demanded courage without arrogance, discipline without bureaucratism, and revolutionary purpose rooted in daily life.

Every government needs capable administration; what we reject is bureaucratism, officialdom that serves itself instead of the people.

To do it for Chris Hani is to accept a standard:

- ★ Speak plainly about what people face;
- ★ Live among, listen to and organise with the people;
- ★ Reject corruption, careerism, greed and empty promises;
- ★ Place workers, the unemployed, women, LGBTQIA+ people, persons with disabilities, young people and the poor at the centre; and
- ★ Connect every immediate improvement to the struggle for deeper social transformation.

This is not decoration. It is the measure by which our candidates and public representatives must be judged. Chris Hani made socialism understandable because he began with the lives of ordinary people: work that does not exist, food a family cannot afford, land people cannot access, the fear that follows them home. He showed that these hardships are connected to who owns wealth and who holds power. That is the socialism carried by this manifesto: a struggle to ensure no child goes hungry while land lies unused, no community lives with broken services while public money enriches contractors, and no worker remains powerless over the wealth built through collective labour. Socialism is the working class gaining the democratic power to meet its needs, shape its communities and build a society free from exploitation.

A People's Municipality: Fixing Local Government from the Ground

An SACP-led municipality will not be a tender distribution centre. It will be a capable, democratic and properly financed People's Municipality in which organised communities shape planning, budgets, implementation and oversight.

THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN



EASTERN CAPE MQHEKEZWENI | BOREHOLE & MEETING WITH THE ELDERS



NORTHERN CAPE GANSPAN | ART & HERITAGE EVENT



NORTHERN CAPE GANSPAN | COMMUNITY BRIEFING



NORTH WEST THUSONG

We will govern by five principles:



People before profit: basic services and public resources must serve social need.



Build public capacity: essential municipal work should be done by skilled, accountable municipal workers wherever feasible.



No decision about a community without the community: planning and budgeting must include real public participation.



Local wealth must circulate locally: municipal land, procurement and investment must support local workers, producers and co-operatives.



Public representatives remain servants of the people: SACP councillors will report, disclose, organise and be subject to recall.

We will tell the truth about what a municipality can do alone, what needs provincial or national support, and what will take sustained struggle to change. We will not promise miracles. We promise organisation, honesty, hard work and a programme that puts the working class and the poor first.

The People's Red Caravan: People's power already in motion

THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN



KWAZULU-NATAL HLOKOZI - SEED PLANTING



FREE STATE - FIXING OF ROADS



MPUMALANGA MATIBIDI | SCHOOL REPAINTING & FISH POND PREPARATION



EASTERN CAPE MQHEKEZWEZI | BOREHOLE

This is not a promise for after the elections. Since the SACP's 15th National Congress in 2022, the Party's General Secretary and other leaders have taken the commitment to build people's power where we live out of this manifesto's pages and into practice.

The People's Red Caravan has already gone into villages and townships for days at a time, meeting community residents, workers and traditional leadership, confronting food insecurity, access to water and failing services directly, turning idle land into productive use, and building community self-reliance. Every visit is profiled beforehand, documented on the ground, and followed up afterwards.

Community self-reliance here does not mean communities left to fend for themselves in the neoliberal sense. It means organised communities developing collective capacity to meet their own needs, with active public support. An SACP-led municipality will deliberately strengthen that capacity: by releasing land and water for community production, supporting co-operatives and local food systems, investing in skills and infrastructure, and ensuring that the basic conditions for productive activity (reliable water and affordable electricity) are in place. Self-reliance is a collective achievement, not individual survival.

This is the Party's own practical expression of what building people's power from the ground looks like: direct engagement, organised workers and communities, and leadership that shows up before an election and stays after it. The Caravan is a Party programme, not a municipal one, and neither should substitute for the other. An SACP-led municipality is a public institution that must serve every resident, whatever their politics; the Caravan is the Party's own instrument for organising workers and communities.

What the Caravan proves in practice, that solutions must be built directly with the people who need them and that public power must actively support community capacity, is the standard this manifesto sets for how an SACP-led municipality must govern: as public policy, properly funded, and accountable to every resident.

THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN



MPUMALANGA MATHIBIDI COMMUNITY CENTRE PAINTING



NORTHERN CAPE GANSBAM | WASTE MANAGEMENT



MPUMALANGA MATHIBIDI | LAND PREPARATION

PRIORITY 1: RELIABLE PUBLIC SERVICES, PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND PROMPT REPAIRS

Water that flows. Lights that work. Streets that are cared for.

Basic services are treated as favours while neglected infrastructure and outsourcing deepen working-class hardship. The SACP will rebuild high-quality public services organised to meet human need, not profit. Privatisation and outsourcing have raised costs, weakened accountability and stripped municipalities of skills. We will maintain infrastructure before it collapses, employ and equip municipal workers, and bring essential work back into strong public provision wherever feasible.

We will fight for:

- ★ **a ward-by-ward audit of water, sanitation, electricity, roads, stormwater, refuse removal, lighting, facilities and public internet access;**
- ★ **a public maintenance plan with priorities, budgets, responsible completion dates; officials and**
- ★ **rapid response teams for water leaks, sewer spills, electricity faults and dangerous infrastructure;**
- ★ **proper maintenance and repair of roads in townships and villages, treating municipal roads as essential public infrastructure, not an afterthought;**
- ★ **properly staffed and equipped technical units, prioritising prevention over permanent crisis management;**
- ★ **published service backlogs and monthly progress reports, with community monitoring of projects;**
- ★ **labour-intensive maintenance programmes that create decent work without replacing permanent municipal posts;**
- ★ **safe, reliable refuse collection and community recycling;**
- ★ **protected and upgraded libraries, halls, parks, clinics, sports fields and public toilets;**
- ★ **affordable digital access, including free public Wi-Fi at public facilities and the rollout of broadband through SA Connect;**
- ★ **safer streets and public spaces, with particular attention to the safety of women, children, older people and persons with disabilities;**
- ★ **disaster preparedness plans for floods, fires, droughts and extreme weather that make specific provision for persons with disabilities.**

THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN



NORTH WEST MOTLHABE | BRIDGE REHABILITATION

FREE STATE GLADSTONE | BRINGING BACK POWER TO SCHOOLS

NORTHERN CAPE GANSBAN | IRRIGATION IN AGRICULTURE

Affordable services for working-class households The cost of living crisis enters the home through municipal bills, especially water and electricity.

Since 2007, Eskom tariffs have risen by 937% while inflation rose by only 155%. Electricity has become six times more expensive in real terms. This hits working-class households hard for basic consumption and makes productive activity, small workshops, food processing, co-operative enterprises and cold storage, increasingly unaffordable.

Water interruptions and high charges compound the burden, forcing women and families to spend hours and scarce money just to meet basic needs. We will fight for fair, transparent, pro-poor tariffs for both water and electricity; accessible support for qualifying low-income households; the maximum sustainable provision of free basic services; and an end to punitive treatment of households that cannot pay because they are poor.

Electricity pricing must recognise both household survival and the productive needs of community enterprises and co-operatives. No qualifying household should be excluded because the application process is inaccessible, humiliating or badly administered. Municipalities must identify eligible households proactively, protect their information and explain accounts in clear language. We will oppose arbitrary disconnections, demand fair notice and accessible dispute mechanisms, and protect essential lifeline services. We will campaign against prepaid and billing systems that are opaque, exploitative or designed primarily for private profit. Access to water and affordable electricity for both consumption and production is a condition of community self-reliance and decent work.

THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN



NORTHERN CAPE GANSPAN | FIXING THE ROADS & CLEARING THE PARK



FREE STATE GLADSTONE | COOP & COMMUNITY STORE



Rebuild a public service ethos that values communities and workers

Quality community services cannot be separated from the conditions and morale of the workers who provide them. Municipal workers are not the enemy of communities.

Corrupt managers, patronage networks and contractors often hide behind attacks on workers while public service capacity is weakened.

We will defend collective bargaining, safe working conditions and the right to organise, alongside discipline, performance and ethical conduct.

Workers must have the tools, training, staffing and leadership to do their work.

No worker shall work without remuneration, and no worker shall be kept in temporary employment for longer than six months: continuing work must become permanent work.

Where essential work has been outsourced, SACP councillors will demand a transparent assessment of cost, quality, labour conditions and public capacity, and campaign for insourcing wherever legally and operationally feasible.

PRIORITY 2: **DECENT WORK AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS** **WHERE PEOPLE LIVE**

Decent work and sustainable livelihoods where people live

Mass unemployment is produced by economic choices that weaken industrialisation, cut public investment and protect concentrated wealth. Municipalities cannot solve it alone, but too many deepen it through outsourcing, idle land and procurement that drains rather than builds local capacity. The SACP will use municipal power to build a people's economy based on decent work and sustainable livelihoods: public employment, co-operatives, local production, support for informal and platform workers, and communitycontrolled development.

The right to decent work

The SACP affirms the right to decent work and sustainable livelihoods: the right of every person who is willing and able to work to access decent, productive and socially useful work. Work is not merely a commodity bought only when profitable. It is a source of livelihood, dignity, social participation and collective development. The right to decent work means fair pay, safe conditions, social protection and the freedom to organise and bargain collectively. Sustainable livelihoods mean that this work and the income it provides can support households and communities over time, not just temporary survival. Realising this right requires national industrialisation, public investment and employment policy. Municipalities cannot guarantee work to everyone alone, but they must use public employment, insourcing, procurement, land, infrastructure, municipal enterprises, co-operatives, apprenticeships and training to expand decent work. This right must never be used to deny social protection and basic services to the unemployed, to people unable to work, or to those carrying unpaid care responsibilities.

A municipal Decent Work Plan

Every SACP-led municipality will adopt a Decent Work Plan based on actual community needs: identifying useful work in infrastructure maintenance, cleaning, greening, food production, recycling, care, early childhood support, community safety and public services, and goods and services that can be sourced from co-operatives and genuine local small businesses. The plan must include persons with disabilities, with reasonable accommodation and equal access to skills development and employment opportunities.



We will fight for:

- ◆ expanded public employment linked to visible, useful community work;
- ◆ fair recruitment, published criteria and an end to the "jobs for pals" system;
- ◆ pathways from temporary work into skills, co-operatives and permanent employment;
- ◆ apprenticeships and artisan programmes linked to municipal technical needs;
- ◆ free public Wi-Fi, digital access and productive opportunities for young people; and
- ◆ recognition and support for care work, most of it done by women.

Young people as producers and builders

Every SACP-led municipality will establish a Municipal Youth Development Programme, anchored in Youth Affairs Centres, linked to its Decent Work Plan and coordinating co-operative development, technical and vocational training, apprenticeships, innovation support, financial education and access to municipal procurement and productive assets. Support will prioritise youth-led co-operatives in agriculture, agro-processing, manufacturing, renewable energy, construction, recycling and digital technology. Partnerships with TVET colleges, universities and trade unions must connect learning to real work and production, not training without prospects.

Climate work for resilient communities

Climate change is already causing floods, droughts, extreme heat, fires and damage to roads, water systems and settlements. The poor, and especially women, suffer first and most. Municipal climate programmes must create work while protecting communities: repairing stormwater systems, reducing water leaks, protecting rivers and wetlands, rehabilitating degraded land, planting trees, recycling and building climate-resilient infrastructure. We will develop public and community-owned renewable energy to strengthen water systems, clinics, libraries and markets. Renewable energy must reduce costs, create decent work and expand democratic ownership, not become another field for private monopolies or worker displacement. Workers and young people must receive recognised training in solar installation, electrical maintenance, water management, recycling and environmental rehabilitation. A just transition must be shaped by workers and communities, who must receive its skills, work and benefits.

Put public assets to work

Municipalities own land, farms, markets, workshops and other productive assets. Communities must know what is owned, who uses it and who benefits. We will publish asset registers, review leases and concessions, protect strategic public property, and put suitable idle assets to productive social use. Municipal farms must support food production, markets must connect producers and consumers, and unused municipal land must support food security programmes.



THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN
NORTH WEST • MOTLHABE | BRIDGE REHABILITATION



THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN
NORTHERN CAPE GANSPAN | WASTE MANAGEMENT



FREE STATE GLADSTONE
COOP CONSTRUCTION

EASTERN CAPE MQHEKEZWENI
COOP CONSTRUCTION

Government as an active economic institution

An SACP-led municipality will not merely facilitate private investment or outsource development to consultants. Municipalities must have the capacity to plan, own, invest, produce and trade in the public interest, through institutions with clear public mandates, professional capacity and direct accountability to councils and communities. Where there is a clear public purpose, municipalities may establish or strengthen municipal enterprises in renewable energy, public transport, digital infrastructure, waste and recycling, water maintenance, municipal farms, food processing, public markets and industrial premises. Performance must be measured by affordable services, decent work, local procurement and environmental sustainability, and must complement rather than displace cooperatives, small producers and informal traders. Mining, large-scale farming and other major commercial projects using local land, water or labour must deliver a fair public and community return, through revenue, lease income, community benefit rights or share ownership, while protecting basic service budgets and delivering decent work, apprenticeships and local procurement. Boards of municipal entities must be appointed transparently, on merit. Budgets, remuneration and performance must be public. Municipal entities must never be used to evade collective bargaining, conceal debt or escape democratic scrutiny.

Build the co-operative and solidarity economy

The SACP will support a co-operative economy based on collective ownership, community control and social need. Co-operatives must not be temporary projects, tender vehicles or dumping grounds for the unemployed. They must become viable, democratically controlled institutions that keep wealth within workingclass communities.

Every SACP-led municipality will establish Cooperatives Development Centres (or equivalent co-operative support mechanisms) to remove red tape and connect co-operatives to infrastructure, finance, skills and markets.

We will support:

- ◆ worker co-operatives and worker-owned enterprises;
- ◆ consumer co-operatives, communityowned stores and buying clubs;
- ◆ Village Agricultural Co-operatives linked to aggregation, processing, storage and markets;
- ◆ housing, transport, energy, recycling and care co-operatives;
- ◆ secondary co-operatives providing shared purchasing, logistics, marketing and technical services;
- ◆ access to suitable municipal land, buildings, markets, water, energy and equipment; and
- ◆ fair access to procurement, subject to quality, delivery and governance standards.

Municipalities will support voluntary partnerships between co-operatives, stokvels, savings groups and registered co-operative financial institutions, which must never control schemes. We will promote co-operative banking and financial education while protecting communities from loan sharks and fraudulent schemes. Municipal support must build a connected cooperative movement through local forums and federations. It must never take over their internal governance or appoint their leaders.

Respect, recognise and support informal and platform workers

Informal traders, waste pickers, homebased and transport workers sustain local economies. Digital platform workers are also part of the working class and must not be treated as disposable. All must be recognised, respected and free to organise, and must not be criminalised, harassed or displaced for elite development.

We will fight for secure trading spaces, water, sanitation, storage, lighting, transparent permits, protection from unlawful confiscation, and participation in municipal planning, guided by the Public Space Trading Guidelines 2021 to 2026 and any successor framework.

Waste pickers and reclaimers must be recognised as workers and integrated into municipal recycling systems through funded plans developed with their participation, guided by the Waste Picker Integration Guideline for South Africa. These plans must provide fair payment, safe conditions, protective equipment, access to recyclable materials, and support for democratic co-operative organisation, and must address the safety and leadership of women waste pickers.

Digital platform workers must have fair and transparent pay, safe conditions, information on how work and pay are allocated, protection against arbitrary deactivation, and the right to organise and bargain collectively. The SACP will campaign for South Africa to ratify the ILO Decent Work in the Platform Economy Convention, 2026 (No. 193). Municipalities will advance these standards through procurement, social dialogue and local economic planning.

A municipality on the side of workers

Trade unions are essential institutions of workingclass democracy and economic transformation. Where informal or platform workers have not yet secured trade union recognition, democratic, worker-controlled organisations can strengthen their collective voice.

An SACP-led municipality will engage both, while recognising that such organisations are not substitutes for trade unions and must never be used to weaken freedom of association or collective bargaining. We will encourage all workers to join a trade union of their choice. Membership will remain voluntary, and municipal resources will never be used to favour one union, compel membership or interfere in internal affairs.

We will fight for:

- ◆ municipal labour forums addressing employment, workplace rights, retrenchments and informal and platform work, with collective bargaining through lawful structures where the municipality is the employer;
- ◆ Trade Union and Worker Support Centres providing advice on labour rights, unemployment benefits, disputes and occupational injuries;
- ◆ fair access to municipal facilities for worker education and organising;
- ◆ enforceable decent work standards in municipal contracts, leases and platform arrangements;
- ◆ action against labour broking, casualisation and disguised subcontracting;
- ◆ protection of workers' basic benefits, including maternity, parental, family responsibility and sick leave; and
- ◆ early intervention when workplaces face closure or retrenchment, including worker ownership and co-operative alternatives.

Every major municipal investment and contract must pass a working-class test: how much decent work will it create or protect? What wages, rights and conditions will workers have? Will they be free to organise? How will it strengthen local productive capacity? The results must be published before approval.

PRIORITY 3: LAND, HOMES AND FOOD FOR SOCIAL NEED, NOT PRIVATE PROFIT

Land must support life, not lie idle for profit.

Land in South Africa is not merely a municipal asset or a market commodity. It is the product of dispossession.

Colonial and apartheid rule stripped the majority of the people of land, and that historical injustice still shapes who lives where, who owns what, and who goes without.

The struggle for land is therefore a struggle to restore to the people what was taken from them, and to place land under democratic control so that it serves human need rather than private accumulation.

An SACP-led municipality cannot by itself undo national patterns of ownership. But it can and must use every power it has over municipal land to tilt the balance toward the working class and the poor.

Public land must be treated as a collective resource held in trust for the people.

It must be audited, protected from capture, and put to work for homes, food production, co-operatives, community facilities and local livelihoods.

Suitable land must be reserved and released for these social purposes, not left idle or handed to speculation.

In this way, municipal land policy becomes one practical expression of the larger demand: land must belong to the people and must serve the people.

Apartheid geography remains written into land, housing and transport.

Working-class families are pushed far from work while well-located land is hoarded for speculation.

We fight for urban land justice and the right to the city: public land, planning and infrastructure must secure affordable housing near work, transport and services. We will break apartheid zoning by bringing housing into industrial and commercial areas, and productive activity into residential areas.

THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN



NORTHERN CAPE GANSPAN | CHICKEN COOP CONSTRUCTION



WORKERS GOING TO THEIR STREAMS & IRRIGATION INSTALLATION



Land for homes, livelihoods and public use

We will fight for:

- ◆ an open audit of municipal land: ownership, current use, leases and suitability for social purposes;
- ◆ release of suitable public land for housing, food production, co-operatives, schools, clinics and community facilities;
- ◆ transparent management of municipal leases and action against illegal capture of public land;
- ◆ participatory land-use planning, with communities involved before decisions are taken;
- ◆ protection against displacement by speculative and elite development; and
- ◆ well-located social and affordable housing near work, transport and public services.

Public land in established areas and near transport must bring workers closer to work and services. We will promote social and affordable rental housing, require major developments to contribute to spatial integration, and expose unreasonable rentals, deposits and hidden costs. Housing affordability must be measured together with transport and service costs, because a cheap home far from work can still be an unbearable burden. Municipalities must exercise real authority over land within their jurisdiction.

Suitable public land must be reserved and protected for food production, housing, co-operatives and community facilities, not left idle or captured for private speculation. We will also address the housing needs of the so-called “missing middle”: working people who earn too much to qualify for subsidised housing, yet far too little to afford a bond or formal private housing.

These are teachers, nurses, municipal workers, shop stewards, security officers, clerks and many others who keep our cities and towns running.

An SACP-led municipality will fight for well-located social rental housing, municipal and co-operative housing options, and mixed income developments that include this layer of the working class, instead of leaving them trapped between the subsidy system and the private market.



Upgrade settlements with people, not against them

Informal settlements are communities, not temporary inconveniences. We will support in situ upgrading wherever possible, starting with water, sanitation, electricity, drainage, safe access, refuse removal, addresses and protection against fire and flooding.

Upgrading and new housing must incorporate universal design and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. The continued use of the bucket system is a humiliation.

The SACP will fight for its complete eradication and for decent, permanent sanitation solutions developed with the communities who live with the indignity every day. Residents must participate in enumeration, planning, monitoring and allocation.

Relocation must be a last resort, follow lawful and humane process, and never be used to clear poor communities from valuable land for private development. Where settlements sit on flood plains or dangerous land, residents must be provided with safe, serviced land, keeping them connected to work, schools, clinics and transport.

Defend housing, dignity and the right to the city

The SACP opposes the PIE Amendment Bill in its present form. A housing crisis born of dispossession and state failure cannot be solved by criminalising poor people and collective action. No one must be evicted into homelessness. Land disputes require due process and judicial oversight, alongside public housing, settlement upgrading and the release of well-located land.

Build local food systems

Hunger in a country that produces abundant food is a political failure. Municipalities can release land, provide water infrastructure, support markets and connect producers to public procurement. We will promote household gardens, community production, village agricultural co-operatives, fresh produce markets, storage, small-scale processing and links to school nutrition programmes. Municipalities will identify underused land for household food production, youth-led co-operatives, agro-processing, storage and agricultural training. Land allocation must be lawful, transparent and linked to water, equipment and markets. Young people must participate throughout the food system as owners, producers and organisers. We will support consumer co-operatives and buying clubs that combine working-class households' purchasing power, keeping prices fair and reducing dependence on concentrated retail chains.



THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN | FREE STATE GLADSTONE| EGG LAYERS



COMMUNITY MAIZE MEAL MILLING MACHINES WORKSHOP



SEEDLINGS

Shorten the distance between home, work and services

Municipal planning must reduce the time and money workers spend travelling. Housing, transport, industry, markets, schools and clinics must be planned as one system. Housing must be built in and near areas of work; clean, workcreating industry must be integrated into residential areas; and affordable housing must be built in well-located, historically exclusive areas.

We will oppose development that deepens spatial inequality or pushes poor communities ever farther from work.

Working-class households still spend a large share of their income on transport, even where services are described as subsidised.

The SACP will fight for integrated, affordable, safe and reliable public transport under public and community control.

Municipalities must play a stronger role in planning and supporting public transport that serves workers and the poor, not private operators alone. Co-operative and worker-controlled transport initiatives that meet quality and safety standards will be supported as part of building a people's transport system.

PRIORITY 4: SAFE, CARING AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The right to come home safely belongs to everyone

Working-class communities carry the heaviest burden of murder, gender-based violence, unsafe transport, dark streets, dangerous buildings, substance abuse and the social damage of unemployment. Public protection is weakest where danger is greatest.

The wealthy buy private security; the poor are told to endure. The SACP rejects both silence about crime and empty law-and-order politics. Safety requires accountable policing, functioning services, organised communities, youth development, safe public spaces and care for people in crisis.

Violence takes many forms: gender-based violence and the killing of women, violence against LGBTQIA+ people, sexual violence against men (which is heavily under-reported), and the interpersonal violence that kills mostly young men.

All of it must be named and confronted. Crime is also a class question. Organised syndicates, extortion networks and stocktheft rings prey on working-class and rural communities because the state is weakest where people are poorest. Cable theft leaves streets dark and water pumps idle. Extortion halts housing and clinic projects. Stock theft strips rural households of savings and food security. Fighting crime means defending the working class and its infrastructure.

We will fight for:

- ◆ democratic community safety forums representing women, LGBTQIA+ people, youth, workers, schools and community organisations;
- ◆ street and section committees linked to lawful, accountable safety work, never vigilantism;
- ◆ ward safety audits identifying dangerous buildings, unlit routes and crime hotspots, with repaired streetlights and safe routes to schools, clinics and transport;
- ◆ survivor-centred services addressing gender-based, sexual and interpersonal violence against women, children, LGBTQIA+ people and men;
- ◆ visible, accountable, corruption-free policing, with properly resourced stations and honest cooperation between SAPS, metro police and communities;
- ◆ decisive action against infrastructure crime, including theft of cables, transformers and water pumps, through protection of key installations and regulation of scrap-metal dealing;
- ◆ strict, fair by-law enforcement against drug dens and illegal outlets near schools, combined with treatment pathways for people trapped in addiction;
- ◆ confronting extortion networks and “business forums” that invade construction sites and extort workers; and
- ◆ rural safety plans developed with communities and SAPS Stock Theft Units, including livestock identification, secure kraals, functioning pounds and coordinated patrols against stock theft.

Safety cannot be privatised. The measure of a safe municipality is not the height of suburban walls, but whether a worker can come home in the dark, a child can walk to school, and a rural family can keep its herd. Public spaces and services must be accessible and safe for children, older people and persons with disabilities, with opportunities for sport and social participation across generations.

Build the National Health Insurance from the ground up

Local government has a direct role in protecting health. Clean water, sanitation, refuse removal, food safety, pollution control and access to clinics all shape whether people fall ill and whether they get care.

The SACP supports full implementation of the National Health Insurance as a universal, publicly funded system based on social solidarity and equal access. Health policy is mainly a national and provincial responsibility, but municipalities must strengthen municipal health services, primary health care and the conditions in which people live.

We will fight for municipalities to:

- ◆ protect water quality, food safety, waste management and environmental health;
- ◆ ensure clinics and emergency health facilities have reliable water, sanitation, electricity, safe roads and transport connections;
- ◆ make suitable municipal land and facilities available for primary health care and outreach;
- ◆ map and publish ward-level health needs and barriers to access;
- ◆ campaign for functioning clinics with maternity services and reliable emergency medical services in every ward, including rural wards;
- ◆ support health education, screening and referral for HIV, tuberculosis, chronic illness, mental health, substance use and maternal and child health;
- ◆ help public facilities meet the standards required for NHI accreditation;
- ◆ support the training, safety and decent work of community health workers and frontline carers; and
- ◆ mobilise communities to defend the NHI and hold every sphere of government accountable. National and provincial health responsibilities must not be shifted onto underfunded municipalities.

Reproductive health and dignified care

Reproductive rights are health rights. Women, girls and gender-diverse people must be able to make informed decisions about their bodies and receive respectful, confidential and lawful care without stigma, coercion or violence. Men and boys also have reproductive rights and responsibilities, and must respect the right of women and gender-diverse people to control their own bodies. Municipal health and education programmes must invest in boys and young men with accurate information on sexual health, contraception, consent and the rights of women and genderdiverse people. Working with health and education authorities, municipalities will support accurate sexual and reproductive health information and referral to contraception, antenatal and postnatal care, HIV services, cancer screening, fertility services and lawful termination of pregnancy services. We will promote menstrual health in public facilities, safe routes to clinics, and programmes opposing gender-based violence, forced pregnancy, unsafe abortion, homophobia, transphobia and reproductive coercion. Programmes must identify and respond to sexual offences against children, including pregnancies resulting from statutory rape, with survivor-centred protection and referral. No one should be denied care because of poverty, geography, disability, documentation or prejudice.

Women's freedom and leadership

Women and gender-diverse people experience municipal failures differently and often more severely. Water interruptions increase unpaid care work. Unsafe streets restrict movement. Rising food prices press hardest on women who sustain households. Every municipal plan must be assessed for its impact on women and the LGBTQIA+ community. Women must be represented and lead in ward structures, planning forums, safety bodies, co-operatives and municipal decisionmaking. Programmes against gender-based violence must be properly supported and protect the dignity and privacy of survivors.

Young people must have a future in their communities

Young people are workers, students, creators, organisers and leaders, not a problem to be managed. We will open public facilities for youth activities, expand sport and cultural programmes, improve community internet access, connect education and training to real work, and include young people in municipal planning and budgeting. Youth programmes must be continuous and developmental, not once-off events for photographs.

Sport, arts, culture and heritage

Sport, recreation, the arts and cultural life are part of full human development and the social fabric that holds communities together. Yet working-class communities have inherited cultural apartheid: run-down or absent facilities, closed halls and libraries, while private facilities serve those who can pay.

An SACP-led municipality will treat sports grounds, halls, libraries, arts centres and heritage sites as essential social infrastructure: budgeted, maintained and staffed like any other basic service.

We will fight for:

- ◆ maintained, accessible sports grounds, halls, libraries and arts centres in townships, informal settlements and villages;
- ◆ fair, transparent and affordable access for clubs, cultural groups and practitioners, without political gatekeeping;
- ◆ continuous local sport, arts, music and heritage programmes, including indigenous games;
- ◆ recognition of cultural workers and artists as workers, with fair, prompt payment for municipal events; and
- ◆ libraries developed as community knowledge and cultural centres with internet and study space.

Investment must serve mass participation, not elite events or tender-driven festivals, and must include older people, from community games to soccer for grannies.

Religious formations and community solidarity

Religious formations of many faiths are deeply rooted in communities, often providing care, moral leadership and social support. An SACP-led municipality will work respectfully with churches, mosques, temples and interfaith structures on hunger, homelessness, genderbased violence, substance abuse, youth development, disaster response and public health. This cooperation must be transparent, fair and non-sectarian, respecting freedom of religion and conscience. Municipal resources must never be used to favour a denomination or turn religious formations into extensions of a political party.

PRIORITY 5: MUNICIPALITIES FREE FROM TENDER CORRUPTION AND CAPTURE

Every rand must be traceable. Every contract must serve the people.

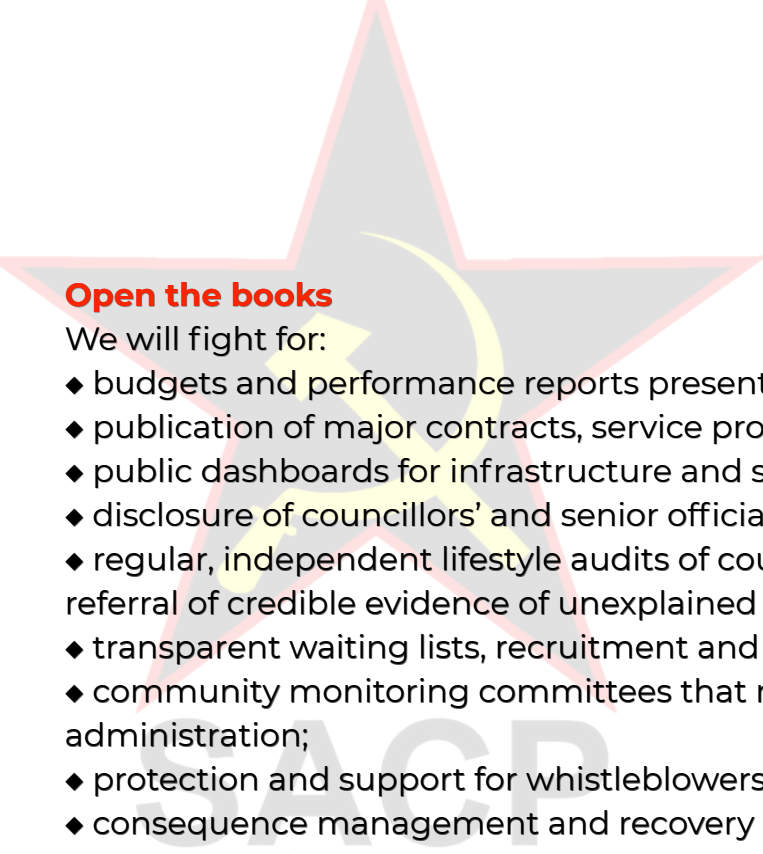
Corruption steals water from taps, light from streets, books from libraries and work from the unemployed. Tender capture has become a system for converting public power into private wealth. Privatisation and outsourcing of basic municipal services further weaken public capacity and raise costs for working-class households. The SACP will fight tender parasitism, privatisation and political patronage. We will not accommodate a system that turns public services into private profit. We will rebuild public capacity so municipalities are not helpless purchasers of work they should perform themselves, prioritise insourcing, and support lawful criminal justice action against anyone credibly alleged to be involved in corruption.

People's guardians of public resources

SACP councillors will act as people's guardians against corruption, waste and misappropriation, treating every rand as a resource held in trust for the people. Before any major work goes to tender, SACP councillors will insist on full details of the proposed work, its cost, the reasons for outsourcing, and whether it can instead be done through an insourced public alternative that builds skills, creates decent work and strengthens accountability. The default position is public provision and insourcing, not outsourcing.

Where a tender is necessary, councillors will insist the process is open, competitive and free from political interference, and will monitor whether the provider delivers, meets standards, respects workers and stays within budget and time frame. Payment will be made only once work is done to standard. Labour compliance is part of public accountability.

For major contracts, municipalities must publish the labour standards that apply and monitor wages, bargaining obligations, health and safety and the treatment of vulnerable workers. Serious violations must trigger corrective action or termination, and workers must have safe channels to report abuse. We will insist on maximum transparency in every transaction: what is bought, why, from whom, at what price, and whether the promised service was delivered. For significant contracts this includes the tender, the award, beneficial ownership, later changes and evidence of delivery, supported by community social audits that complement the Auditor-General and lawful investigation. We will support municipal workers, service providers and whistleblowers who uncover corruption, defend them against victimisation, and insist that credible disclosures are investigated promptly and independently.



Open the books

We will fight for:

- ◆ budgets and performance reports presented in accessible public meetings;
- ◆ publication of major contracts, service providers, values, locations, timelines and progress;
- ◆ public dashboards for infrastructure and service projects;
- ◆ disclosure of councillors' and senior officials' interests as required by law;
- ◆ regular, independent lifestyle audits of councillors and officials, with due process and referral of credible evidence of unexplained wealth;
- ◆ transparent waiting lists, recruitment and allocation of public resources;
- ◆ community monitoring committees that make delivery visible without interfering in administration;
- ◆ protection and support for whistleblowers; and
- ◆ consequence management and recovery of public money and assets lost through unlawful conduct.

End government by consultants

Consultants should provide genuinely specialised, time-limited expertise, not perform permanent municipal functions while public capacity decays. Every major consultancy must have a clear purpose, time frame, cost, skills transfer and responsible official. We will demand publication of consultancy spending and a plan to reduce dependence. Repeated payment for the same advice is not capacity building.

No political interference in administration

Elected leaders set policy and exercise oversight. They must not manipulate recruitment or procurement. Officials must implement the democratic programme and remain accountable for performance. The SACP will oppose jobs for pals, factional purges, bribery and the deployment of people who lack the competence public office requires.

PRIORITY 6:

COUNCILLORS WHO ANSWER TO THE PEOPLE; AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE A REAL SAY

Vote for a representative. Build the power to hold them accountable.

Democracy is reduced to voting every five years while councillors disappear, decisions move behind closed doors and communities are ignored. The SACP will build people's democracy through ward assemblies, street and section committees, participatory budgeting, open information, active trade unions, co-operative forums, women's leadership, youth organisation and community oversight.

Ward assemblies with real influence

SACP councillors will convene regular open ward assemblies at accessible times and places. Assemblies will receive reports, identify priorities, monitor delivery and mandate councillors.

They must not be Party rallies or used to silence criticism, and must seek a collective community approach. Municipal labour forums, trade unions, cooperative forums and other democratic formations must have real opportunities to shape local economic development, budgets and investment decisions, strengthening their independence rather than turning them into extensions of the municipality or any party.

Young people must have organised, independent platforms to shape municipal decisions. SACP-led municipalities will support democratically constituted youth councils and meaningful youth representation in planning and budgeting. No major decision affecting young people's future should be taken without their participation, and these structures must never become patronage networks.

Community solidarity and organised partnerships

People's power is built through solidarity and organised action.

An SACP-led municipality will create transparent platforms through which trade unions, co-operatives, civic associations, traditional leaders, religious formations, youth and women's organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities, stokvels and other credible community formations can work together on hunger, safety, public health, youth development and the protection of public services. To give these partnerships real institutional capacity, SACP-led municipalities will develop dedicated support structures as part of building municipal capacity.

These include Youth Affairs Centres, Trade Union and Worker Support Centres, Liberation War Veterans Welfare Support Units, Cooperatives Development Centres, Traditional Leaders Support Centres, Religious Support Centres, and Women Support Centres.

These are not parallel bureaucracies or patronage vehicles. They are public instruments to strengthen the independent organisation of workers and communities, provide practical support, and ensure that municipal programmes reach and are shaped by the organised formations of the working class and the poor.

These partnerships and support centres must be built openly, respect the independence of each organisation, and never become patronage networks or channels for party-political use of public resources.

Traditional leaders remain important to many rural communities.

An SACP-led municipality will engage them respectfully as partners in development, service planning, land-use planning, cultural heritage and the mobilisation of communities around public programmes. This cooperation must strengthen rural democracy, not replace elected councils or direct participation. Customary law and governance must evolve democratically under the Constitution. Women, unmarried people, LGBTQIA+ people, young people and persons with disabilities must enjoy equal land rights, voice and dignity. Deals over communal land, especially with mining companies, must require informed community participation and fair benefits. We will oppose patriarchy, coercion, corruption and every abuse of customary authority.

Participatory budgeting

We will campaign for ward-level participatory budgeting in which residents help identify and rank local priorities before budgets are adopted, with participation early enough to influence decisions, not after everything has been decided

The quality of our public representatives

The SACP offers a different quality of public representative. Our candidates are activists who live in, serve and are known by their communities: shop stewards, community organisers, co-operators, educators, health workers and young activists with a record of struggle and service. Candidates are vetted for integrity and chosen through democratic Party and community processes, not bought positions or factional deals. .

Once elected, our councillors are trained in municipal governance, finance, planning and law, supported and monitored by Party structures, and held to the communist councillor's pledge and the commitment to do it for Chris Hani. They will give monthly feedback to the ward, sixmonthly and annual report-backs to the Party, and work actively with the Know and Act in Your Neighbourhood campaign. A seat in council is a post of struggle and service, not a career or a business opportunity

The communist councillor's pledge

Every SACP councillor will be required to sign and uphold a public pledge:

- ◆ I will report back regularly to residents (including monthly ward feedback) and to Party structures (including six-monthly and annual report-backs).
- ◆ I will publish how to reach me and keep scheduled constituency hours.
- ◆ I will disclose my interests and reject gifts, favours and tender influence.
- ◆ I will report to SAPS any corruption or bribery I become aware of, as the law requires.
- ◆ I will not interfere in procurement or recruitment.
- ◆ I will defend workers, public services and insourcing.
- ◆ I will support ward organisation, women's leadership and youth participation.
- ◆ I will explain my votes in council on major public questions.
- ◆ I will treat public office as service, not enrichment, and contribute an agreed portion of my remuneration to community development and organisation. working-class
- ◆ I will uphold anti-capitalist values and a people-centred morality, and educate residents to exercise their rights and scrutinise municipal power.
- ◆ I will implement this manifesto in the concrete struggles of my community, and accept Party discipline and every lawful accountability process if I betray it.

An SACP councillor must be an organiser, educator and champion of the people: not a political entrepreneur.

Communities may initiate a transparent public review where legitimate grounds exist for recall. A Party recall, statutory removal and replacement by voters are different legal processes.

The SACP will use every lawful power available and will never protect a representative who has betrayed the manifesto. The Party will provide continuous political education for SACP councillors, strengthening Marxist-Leninist understanding, ethical leadership, revolutionary discipline and a service-oriented culture rooted in the working class.

Municipalities may support non-partisan civic education on local government, budgets, rights and public participation. Municipal resources must never be used for party-political indoctrination.

How we will pay for and implement our programme

Municipal finances are under pressure. Poverty and unemployment weaken the local revenue base, while budget cuts limit the grants, staffing and investment needed to overcome inherited backlogs. Bulk electricity and water charges, debt and rising costs add further pressure. The SACP will fight nationally for a developmental, redistributive and historically corrective funding system, one that accounts for Bantustan underdevelopment, apartheid planning and the unequal infrastructure inherited by different municipalities. But scarcity cannot excuse secrecy, waste, corruption, unfair revenue collection or anti-poor choices within municipal control.

Resolve municipal debt fairly

Municipal debt is not one problem. We will distinguish poverty-related household debt from commercial debt, government debt and losses caused by maladministration. Poor households must receive relief and lifeline services, while government bodies settle what they owe and wealthy households and businesses pay fairly. Distressed municipalities need negotiated restructuring tied to recovery plans, stronger capacity and public oversight.

Funding must follow functions

No municipal function should be assigned without a credible, predictable funding instrument. National and provincial government must not transfer responsibilities without transferring the resources and support required. Municipalities do not begin equally. The fiscus must allocate substantially more to poor municipalities, recognising poverty, rural distances, Bantustan underdevelopment and infrastructure backlogs. We will fight for progressive taxes on wealth and high incomes, action against tax avoidance, and redistribution from wealthy areas. Wealthier users must crosssubsidise affordable basic services for workingclass and poor communities.

The SACP will fight for a different order of priorities:

- ◆ protect essential services and preventative maintenance as a first priority, with budgets made public;
- ◆ stop wasteful expenditure, inflated contracts and unnecessary consultancy dependence;
- ◆ recover money lost to corruption and redirect it to services, maintenance and public employment;
- ◆ improve fair revenue collection, apply progressive cross-subsidisation and protect poor households from unaffordable charges;
- ◆ use grants fully and on time while campaigning for adequate, better designed transfers; and
- ◆ build internal capacity to reduce repeated contractor costs, and mobilise for a redistributive funding system that follows functions.

Where commitments require cooperation from another sphere of government, we will say so and organise publicly for that support. National and provincial government must provide integrated, timely support to struggling municipalities before failure becomes irreversible.

Where intervention becomes necessary, it must restore democratic and service-delivery capacity, not displace accountability or prepare public services for privatisation.

Where a municipality lacks capacity, we will publish a recovery plan rather than hide failure. This manifesto will be translated and popularised through shorter leaflets, community-language materials, WhatsApp and SMS messages, podcasts, social media, the Party's ongoing People's Red Caravan visits to communities and workplaces, and face-to-face political education, to help people understand what will change, who is responsible and how communities can act.

Every SACP-led municipality will translate this manifesto into a five-year programme, annual implementation plans and ward-level commitments with measurable timelines.

All SACP councillors will strive for implementation even where the Party does not lead: tabling proposals, opposing anti-poor decisions, reporting to residents and organising communities to win these demands. Progress must be reported publicly.

For women

We offer services that reduce unpaid care work, safer public spaces, support against genderbased violence, food security, reproductive rights and dignified health care, recognition of care work, and leadership in every democratic structure.

For children

We offer reliable basic services, safe routes and public spaces, libraries and recreation, support for early childhood development, nutrition and health, and protection from violence and neglect.

For young people

We offer work pathways, skills, sport, culture, public internet access, safe facilities and a direct role in shaping municipal plans and budgets.

For informal and platform workers

We offer recognition, secure trading spaces, services, storage, fair permits, protection from harassment, funded waste-picker integration, fair standards for platform work, and support for collective organisation and participation in planning.

For rural communities

We offer equitable services, maintained roads and water systems, support for household and communal production, rural markets, and planning that does not treat villages as an afterthought.

For municipal workers

We offer properly staffed and equipped services, respect for rights and skills, an end to scapegoating, and a common front with communities against corruption and outsourcing.

What Your Vote for the SACP Means

A Vote For The SACP Is A Vote:

- ◆ to put workers and poor communities before private profit;
- ◆ to repair public services and rebuild municipal capacity; ◆ to create work by meeting community needs;
- ◆ to build community safety for all people;
- ◆ to use land, procurement and public resources for social purpose;
- ◆ to fight corruption by opening budgets and contracts to the people;
- ◆ to elect councillors who report, disclose and can be recalled; and
- ◆ to build a powerful socialist movement that continues beyond election day.

We do not ask people to become spectators of another election campaign. We ask workers, the unemployed, women, gender-diverse people, young people, informal workers and rural communities to become organisers of change. Join a ward assembly. Build a street or section committee. Join the Party's People's Red Caravan when it reaches your community or workplace. Organise at work. Form a co-operative. Defend public services. Monitor the budget. Hold every councillor to account. Fight sexism, racism, xenophobia and every attempt to divide the working class. Build solidarity in the community.

Our call South Africa's municipalities can work, but only if public power is taken from tender networks, private profiteers and unaccountable elites, and placed under the democratic control of organised workers and communities. We can have water that flows, streets that are cared for, public facilities that are open, work that rebuilds our communities, land used for homes and food, safe public spaces and councillors who answer when the people call. These are not gifts delivered from above. They are gains won through organisation, struggle and democratic people's power.

The task is to build people's power: street by street, ward by ward. The task is to deepen people's democracy.

The task is to construct a people's economy. The task is to build a powerful socialist movement of workers and the poor.

**BUILD PEOPLE'S POWER WHERE WE LIVE
FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK, WATER,
ELECTRICITY, ROADS, LAND AND SAFETY
FOR ALL**

VOTE SACP ON 04 NOVEMBER 2026



Launched on the 105th anniversary of the South African Communist Party.



