

SACP 2010
CONFERENCE OF
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DRAFT 1

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1. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

1.1 On Co-Operatives

- a. The Commission noted various challenges that impact on the capacity and role of Co-Ops as alternatives to the prevailing and dominant mode of production and such challenges include the following.
- b. That whilst appreciating extensive debates, discussions and resolutions of the SACP on Co-Operatives, there is still lack of conceptual clarity within the working class on their objectives, purpose and overall functioning. This is further exacerbated by lack of funding and inability to sustain existing co-ops.
- c. That SACP structures are not actively involved in the establishment of Cooperatives and this includes the current legislative review process and SANACO activities.
- d. Although the ANC Election Manifesto has prioritised and identified Cooperatives as critical structures for the real empowerment of working class and the poor, existing tender policies of Municipalities and government department still fail to prioritise Co-Operatives.
- e. The Commission reaffirmed the importance and strategic role of Co-ops as alternatives to the current private mode of accumulation that empowers individuals and noted international successes and best practices.
- f. The Commission proposed that the Party must develop an extensive training programme to improve the conceptualisation of Co-Ops and create capacity within its members, structures and broader working class communities.
- g. That the SACP should develop a clear strategy to profile and position Co-ops and that this should include ongoing and sustained engagements with Cde Rob Davies as the Minister of Trade and Industry.
- h. The Commission further proposed that Municipalities, government departments, and Financial Development Institutions should set aside funding by creating a Co-Operative Bank to support and finance Co-ops.

1.2 On Local Economic Development (LED's)

- a. The Commission noted lack of capacity within SACP structures especially Districts and branches to engage in Local Economic Development.
- b. The Commission proposed that LED's must be focused on the facilitation of local resource circulation and this should ensure participation by community structures. Co-ops, SMMEs to take advantage of the opportunities created government procurement and activities of big corporate institutions.
- c. LED's must focus on building local production capacity to create revenue for municipalities and working class households, taking advantage of existing natural resources such as land and infrastructure development programmes and other development activities by higher spheres.

- d. That Local Government redistributive system must not be limited within a single municipal boundary, but should be clustered around a number of municipalities to ensure the equitable sharing of resources.
- e. The Commission reaffirmed the need to fundamentally restructure and transform ongoing patterns of development that further entrenches Apartheid Spatial Development Planning such as speculative and profit making activities and this include golf estates and shopping malls.
- f. Review the focus and content of FETs to skilling of local communities to empower them to participate in the planning, execution and the budgeting processes.
- g. LED Planning should be linked to a broader national development framework.

1.3 On Integrated Development Planning (IDP's)

- a. The Commission noted and reaffirmed the notion of nationally driven and co-ordinated IDP process and proposed that the National and Provincial Planning Commissions must drive and support this approach whilst noting their current composition that may negatively impact on their capacity and commitment to execute this task.
- b. The commission noted that IDP's are currently driven and dominated by consultants and experts, with minimal community participation especially the effective control of budget processes. The Commission also emphasised the need to implement SACP resolutions on Nationalisation of commanding heights of the economy to increase resources (fiscus) to drive and support IDP's.
- c. In this context, it was proposed that the SACP must develop a strategic approach to ensure that integration of planning and delivery of services is centrally driven and supported with adequate financial resources and capacity.
- d. It was also proposed that IDP's should be linked with feedbacks on performance of previous plans and take resource capacity of municipalities when reprioritising and developing plans. In this regard, IDP's should also incorporate role of higher spheres to intervene in areas of poor performance and lack of funding such as water, sanitation and electricity.
- e. SACP should take advantage of the VD based branches and street committees to play a leading role in driving and influencing IDP process in municipalities. The commission also proposed the need to review the current ward committee system with a view to improving their efficiency or proposing working alternatives.
- f. The Commission also proposed the need to review the current two sphere local municipality system, especially the role of the District Municipality.

1.4 Subsistence farming for food security

- a. The Commission proposed that the concept of broader Agrarian Reform should be the basis of subsistence farming and this should also be linked to the food processing chain to ensure food security and fight poverty. The commission

further proposed the need for support in the provision of fertilisers and farming equipment especially to co-operative farmers.

- b. Land allocation and distribution in municipalities should be reviewed to cover various forms of use including subsistence farming and human settlement. It was proposed that the SACP should intensify its programme on land distribution to ensure that municipal land is allocated and distributed to enhance working class interests.
- c. The Commission also noted the serious threat to food security posed by global warming and the destruction of the environment and resolved to intensify the support for the use of clean and renewable energies/technologies, including organic farming and recycling.

1.5 On Skills for sustainable living

- a. The Commission proposed the need for a locally focussed skills development programme by the SETA's and FET Colleges to develop skills for LED's and IDPs. Municipalities should be encouraged to actively link and build relations with academic institutions.
- b. It was also agreed that such a programme should include recognition of prior learning.
- c. It was also agreed that there is a need to set aside resources at different levels and spheres of government and private sector to support the training and development of scarce skills that are critical to and hinder local development.

1.6 On Extended Public Works Programme

- a. The Commission noted that the EPWP was never intended to create jobs and therefore its intervention to create sustainable livelihoods and empower communities should be reviewed and assessed by the SACP.

2. LGTAS and the proposed New Local Government- deepening

2.1 Context and Background:

The commission broadly welcomes the development and implementation of LGTAS as part of the program to transform local government.

The commission's understanding is that Local government is strategic site for social transformation and the struggle for socialism. Local government, as we have repeatedly said, is crucial site of democracy, delivery and development. On the other hand, our understanding of the relationship between the national democratic and socialist struggles is that our struggle, if managed strategically, can also contribute to the transformation of governance. Therefore, building working class hegemony must find its practical expression in local struggles and the SACP must continue to pay more attention to this sphere.

While conference welcomes the LGTAS, it must be fine-tuned to deepen the relation between local government transformation and the struggle for socialism.

2.2 The Commission notes:

- a. The current neo-liberal model of Local government.
- b. The need and strategic importance of a transformed, responsive and efficient Local government system for the building of socialism.
- c. The broader political transformation that the country is currently undergoing and the role of municipalities in this context.
- d. That local government is a crucial site of democracy, delivery and development.
- e. The need for the SACP to take a leading role in the run-up to the 2011 elections and to decisively resolve its position in relation to state power.
- f. The severe economic, political and other challenges facing local government.
- g. The general decline in public confidence in local government and the need to deepen popular participation in the local sphere.
- h. The increased number of service delivery protests and the general outcry about the lack of service delivery.
- i. The need re-orientate the state along developmental state model and the need for a coordinated approach towards national development planning and alignment to IDPs.
- j. The new Cooperative Governance and Traditional affairs model and its focus on monitoring, coordination and support across all spheres of government and the need for the development of a framework for Support, Monitoring & Intervention in local government
- k. The systematic challenges of the two-tier local government model.
- l. The abstract nature of the demarcations process and the need to accelerate the pace of processing outstanding demarcation issues.
- m. The importance of CDW's and there need to link them more stringently to the role of ward committees

- n. The duplication, wastage and inefficiency across all spheres of government and the need for a single public service.
- o. The need to have innovative models & approaches to improve service delivery
- p. The need to revise Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations System and the inability of most municipalities to raise revenue.
- q. The need to rethinking the two-tier model of local government
- r. The proposal to prohibit administrators in Municipalities from holding public office-bearer position.
- s. The Local Government Legislative Reform program
- t. Current party based model of election and Electoral system
- u. The cheap sale of municipal land through auctions
- v. The glaring and rampant corruption within Municipalities
- w. The White paper on Local Government and lack of its implementation

2.2 The Commission therefore recommends that:

- a. We broadly endorse the 12th Special National Congress decision to support the LGTAS.
- b. The SACP develops a position on the functions and model for CDWs and ward committees.
- c. There must be a review on separation of powers between the executive, legislative and oversight functions of municipal councils.
- d. There must be a review of the Demarcations board's mandate and it must be strategic re-orientation to take into account the political consequences of its decisions.
- e. The LGTAS is not the state's program alone and that the SACP must play an active role in its implementation and monitoring.
- f. Improve regular feedback to communities on data collected during the Know-your-neighbourhood campaign.
- g. The SACP must actively campaign for a differentiated approach to the Equitable Share Formula, specifically taking into account the geographic spread and the ability of municipalities to raise revenue.
- h. Locate the LGTAS as a strategic part of the SACP's program on preparations for the 2011 local government elections and beyond.
- i. The SACP discusses a response to the two-tier system in the medium to long-term and to consider the phasing-out of District municipalities
- j. The SACP need to initiate discussion within the alliance on the leading role the party should assume at local government.
- k. Voting district branches must be strengthened and establish speedily.
- l. The conditions of service for councillors, including the reviewing the separation of part-time and full-time councillors, should be improved.
- m. Ward committees should be provided with sufficient resources to co-ordinate community based activities such as CPFs and SGBs.
- n. There must be a comprehensive legislative response to the internal governance of municipalities.
- o. There should be clear guidelines on the separation of powers across all sphere of governance, specifically on the definition of unfunded mandates.
- p. The Party must develop comprehensive guidelines for party cadre deployees on accountability, control, monitoring and evaluation.

- q. The Party endorses the creation and configuration of Municipal Standing Committees of Public Accounts.
- r. The party discuss a widespread response to the development of a new local governance model.
- s. There must be an immediate implementation of single public-service to allow for better human resource sharing and skills transfer across spheres of government, including the re-integration of the Metro police into the single police service.
- t. The party develops a position on the relationship between traditional leaders and local government.
- u. That there must be a review of the Municipal Finance Management Act.
- v. The Party endorses proposals on innovative models & approaches to improve service delivery through the development of a Special Purpose Vehicle, a bulk infrastructure fund, grant coordination framework and the review of the current Municipal infrastructure support grant.
- w. Must conduct an audit of party members' participation in communities and Know-your-neighborhood campaign.
- x. The Party should refine the combination of proportional representation and constituency based model for local government.
- y. Must develop an education program of meaningful public participation and educate communities of their democratic rights.
- z. The SACP should strengthen our campaign on the anti- privatization of land in local government

3. BUILDING A STRONG SACP FOR VICTORY IN THE 2010 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

3.1 Building VD Based Branches as per the 12th Congress Resolution & Towards the 500 000 members by 2014

- a. The Commission noted with serious concern the slow pace on the implementation of the Congress Resolution in most of the Provinces of the SACP.
- b. There is a need to recommit all structures of the Party and its Cadres to ensure that the Resolution is implemented as a matter of urgency.
- c. Provinces especially those with Metropolitan Municipalities have huge tasks, noting that there are more Voting Districts as compared to those with District Municipalities.
- d. The Commission further noted that there are areas where demarcation creates some challenges especially around finalization of new Voting Districts. It was however agreed that such should be noted and work to build VD Branches should continue at a higher rate.
- e. The SACP largely depend on VD based branches to take its Campaigns closer to the people, especially the working class and the poor.
- f. That the SACP should continue to explore better ways to resource the Party, ensuring that basic resources are mobilized for our structures to do Party work, particularly at district levels on administration and coordination of activities.
- g. That each Branch to verify the status of each member, especially to determine on whether a member is employed or unemployed, to determine the true character of our members.
- h. The commission noted that, the payment of levy to well nurtured communists is not a by the way thing or a favour, but a deep sense of belonging and appreciating the objectives of the communist struggle.
- i. That the SACP should continue to develop dynamic link with COSATU and its Affiliates for joint Recruitment and Other Campaigns as part of building a strong SACP and also strengthen our Debit Order Campaign.
- j. The Party should pay special attention to building the cadre that is loyal to the Party, the masses and the working class in particular.
- k. Administration of membership in Provinces and lower structures continue to be a serious challenge, and as a result the SACP continue to loose a lot of money which is mainly related to poor administration of membership forms.
- l. National Office to enforce the Central Committee Decision to deduct money from Provincial Accounts where the above applies.
- m. New demarcation processes of ANC ward based branches may impact negatively on our VD based branches
- n. Some Districts do not have the capacity to service all branches as some do not have offices.
- o. Constitutional imperatives like clauses 5.3 and 22.1 may cause barriers to leadership of VD based branches.
- p. BECs should assist in launching VD based branches either through setting up Task Teams or deploying BEC members.

- q. Clear programmes to be drawn on the launches. Progress report to be submitted by end of July 2010.
- r. Provincial Offices to monitor the launch of these branches. Zonal structures to be set up for co-ordination purposes.
- s. Issues for consideration in the 13th Congress
 - i. Consider extending term of office of branches to two years.
 - ii. Decentralise membership cards issuing to curb delays.

3.2 The kind of Cadre we need for better Service Delivery to the People

- a. The advantage is that all structures of the Alliance are guided by the principle of Democratic Centralism – participatory democracy, Unity in action and Acceptance of leadership.
- b. Commitment and or Loyalty to the needs and aspirations of the working class and the poor as reflected in many of our documents is key when-ever we deal with issues of deployment.
- c. In whatever arrangement that may be reached between the leadership of the Alliance, the issue of SACP representatives should never be compromised.
- d. In the movement there are forces in all levels who continue to openly attack the Left in general and the SACP in particular, and we should never be apologetic not to support such individuals or groupings.
- e. It should be a comrade who participates in ANC and SACP structures and is community based in terms of involvement in activities.
- f. We need to identify an individual with skills required in this sphere of government.
- g. Ensure that we embark on a campaign to root out corruption and identify a cadre consistent in fighting corruption.
- h. Councillors to be taken to a political school after their election so as to instil in them the class consciousness.

3.3 SACP Approach to the 2011 Local Government Elections

- a. The Central Committee to develop SACP approach for the Local Government Elections, taking into consideration many factors.
- b. Embark on a vigorous recruitment campaign as we are launching VD based branches and in that process mobilise for the ANC victory in the coming elections.
- c. Campaigning structures to be set up at all levels so as to among other things get closer to the communities.
- d. Intensify the “Know your Neighbourhood” Campaign as a key campaign and provide reports on a regular basis. Focus on NHI, HIV/AIDS and Rural Development among other community struggles.
- e. Encourage all our members to participate in MDM structures with the aim of being influential there.

- f. We need to make an audit of service delivery based on information received during the past National elections' mobilisation, with the aim of trying to identify shortw ins.

4. FIGHTING PATRIARCHY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

4.1 The Commission noted:

- a. Increase of violence against women and children.
- b. Hostile environment that prevent women comrades/councillors to excel.(sidelined, inferior, low self confidence)
- c. Cultural practises are still not gender sensitive.
- d. Work Skills Plan, Equity and Succession Plan are still gender insensitive.
- e. Female participation in IDPs formulation and monitoring is still low .
- f. Socialisation of children is still perpetuate gender imbalance. Cultural practises limits women participation in local government (politically and administratively)

4.2 The Commission therefore resolves:

4.21 Program to build a safe environment for women and children in our communities-fight violence directed against women and children

- a. Need to intensify our Know your neighbour campaign through leading and participating in Street Committees and partnership with CPFs (that will assist in combating violence against women and children)
- b. Party Cadres to play an active role in CPFs
- c. Forge partnership with FOWA in dealing with violence oriented matters.
- d. Forge partnership with BUSA in empowering women and youth in establishment of Cooperatives and SMEs.
- e. Lobby relevant government to consider increasing sentence of violence perpetrators and intensify rehabilitation program
- f. Increase the number of Safe Houses for abused women and children.
- g. Local Labour forums at all levels should comply with gender policies.
- h. NB: Progress evaluation should be conducted in three months time from now .

4.23 Gender parity and increased participation for women in local government.

- a. Need to ensure that Party Discussion Forums should play an oversight role in ensuring the IDPs /Budgets are gender biased –Ward IDP and Budget Participatory process are women inclusive (in terms of developing and monitoring its implementation).
- b. Municipalities should provide Elderly Villages for the elderly to be looked after while the female councillor or anyone is attending council / community business.(Safe Houses)
- c. Women Focused Councilor's Induction program

- d. Deployment committees should ensure that when there is vacancy the 50/50 quota applies.
- e. Male comrades should ensure that they encourage female family members to attend and participate in meetings.
- f. A clear mandate should be given to deployed cadres so that it could be easy to monitor and assess their performance.
- g. 50/50 Quota should be applicable in identification and replenishment of ward candidate lists
- h. Female SACP leaders should intensify in taking a lead in developing and implementing Female Political Programs within the structures and in Local Government.(politically and administratively)
- i. Close monitoring and inputting to Ward Demarcation and Ward delimitation processes

4.24 The vexed relationship between traditional leadership and women participation.

- a. Established a strong program based relationship of ONdlunkulu/Queens
- b. Initiation Tradition (Yokweluka) should be regulated through lobbying and convincing the House of Traditional leaders.
- c. Targeted Political awareness program of Rural Women and Traditional leaders in general.