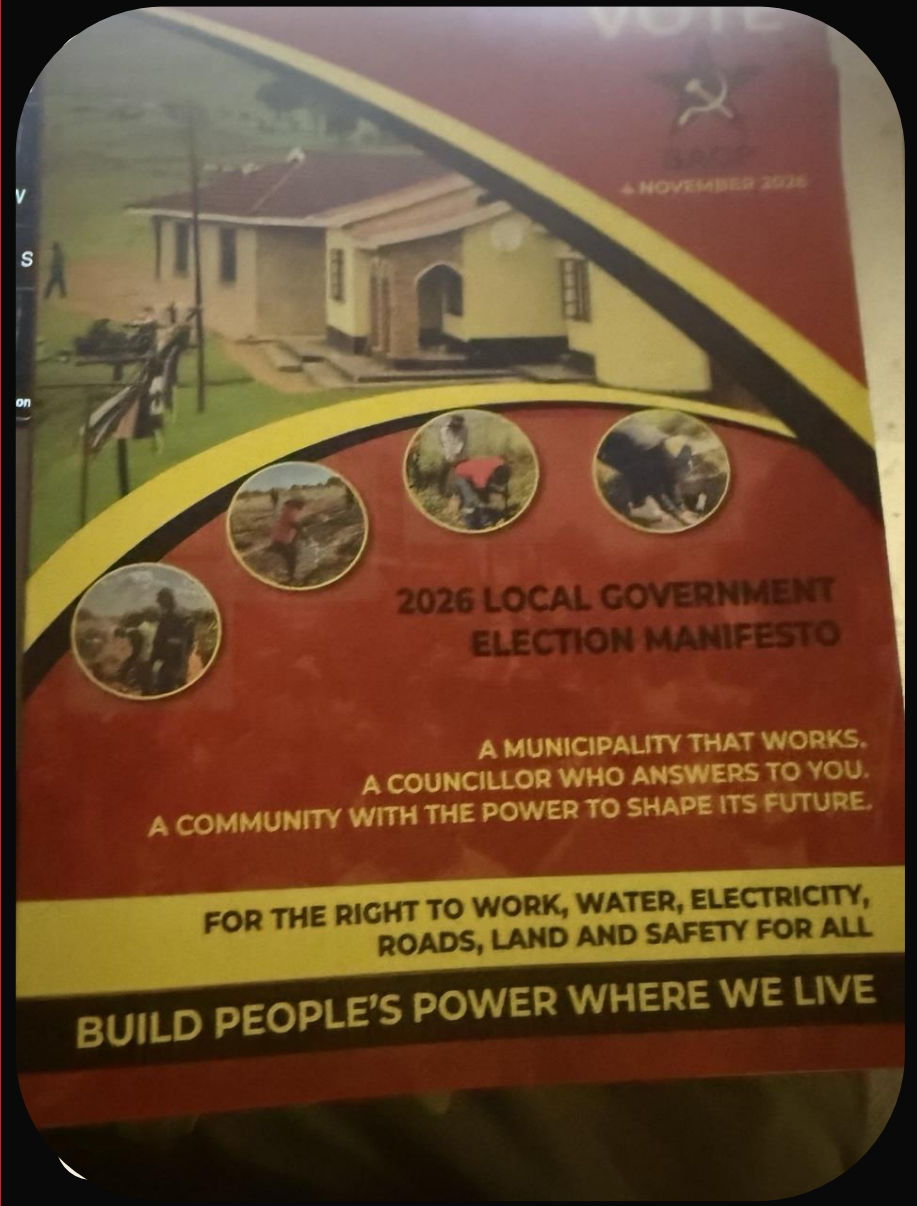
AN OVERVIEW OF THE

SACP 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO

BUILD PEOPLE'S POWER WHERE WE LIVE

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

A MUNCIPALITY THAT WORKS.
A COUNCILLOR WHO ANSWERS TO YOU.
A COMMUNITY WITH THE POWER TO SHAPE ITS FUTURE.



THIS MANIFESTO IS

A CONTRACT WITH THE WORKING CLASS

AND A CALL TO ORGANISE

A vote can elect a councillor. Only an organised people can change the balance of power.

The manifesto joins immediate municipal demands to the deeper struggle for democratic working class power.

Municipal failure is experienced as daily indignity

DRY TAPS	Water tankers replace a reliable public system.
DARK STREETS	Outages and broken lights increase danger.
BROKEN ROADS	Potholes isolate villages and raise household costs.
PAID TENDERS	Public money moves, but the promised work is not done.

THIS IS NOT THE DEMOCRACY OUR PEOPLE FOUGHT FOR.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS A SITE OF CLASS STRUGGLE

It decides whose settlement is upgraded, which contractor is paid, how land is used and whose voice is heard.

WHEN PUBLIC SERVICES FAIL

The wealthy buy private water, generators, security and transport.

Working class families depend on public services and carry the full cost when they collapse.

PUBLIC MONEY MUST MEET PUBLIC NEED.

The working class needs its own political voice

VOICE

Speak plainly about working class needs and power.

CANDIDATES

Elect organisers rooted in communities and workplaces.

PROGRAMME

Contest with a socialist plan, not a search for positions.

WE ARE NOT HERE TO ADD POLITICIANS TO COUNCILS. WE ARE HERE TO BUILD PEOPLE'S POWER.

Begin with the necessities of life, then ask who holds power

WHO OWNS?

Water, electricity, land and public assets

WHO CONTROLS?

Workers and organised communities

WHO DECIDES?

Budgets, development and public priorities

WHO BENEFITS?

The people or private profit

WHAT BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE MUST WORK FOR THE PEOPLE.

A PEOPLE'S MUNICIPALITY

IS NOT A TENDER DISTRIBUTION CENTRE.

It is capable

Skilled public workers, functioning systems and maintained infrastructure.

It is democratic

Organised communities shape plans, budgets, implementation and oversight.

It is properly financed

Funding follows functions, corrects inherited inequality and protects poor households.

WE DO NOT PROMISE MIRACLES. WE PROMISE ORGANISATION, HONESTY, HARD WORK AND A PROGRAMME THAT PUTS THE PEOPLE FIRST.

Five principles govern every choice

01

PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

Services and public resources meet social need.

02

BUILD PUBLIC CAPACITY

Skilled municipal workers perform essential work.

03

NO DECISION WITHOUT THE COMMUNITY

Planning and budgets include real participation.

04

KEEP LOCAL WEALTH LOCAL

Land, procurement and investment build local production.

05

REPRESENTATIVES SERVE THE PEOPLE

Councillors report, disclose, organise and face recall.

THESE PRINCIPLES TURN SIX PRIORITIES INTO ONE SOCIALIST PROGRAMME.

People's power is already in motion

1

PROFILE

Know the community, workplace and concrete conditions.

2

LISTEN

Meet residents, workers and democratic community formations.

3

ACT

Confront hunger, water failure, idle land, broken services and help build community self-reliance

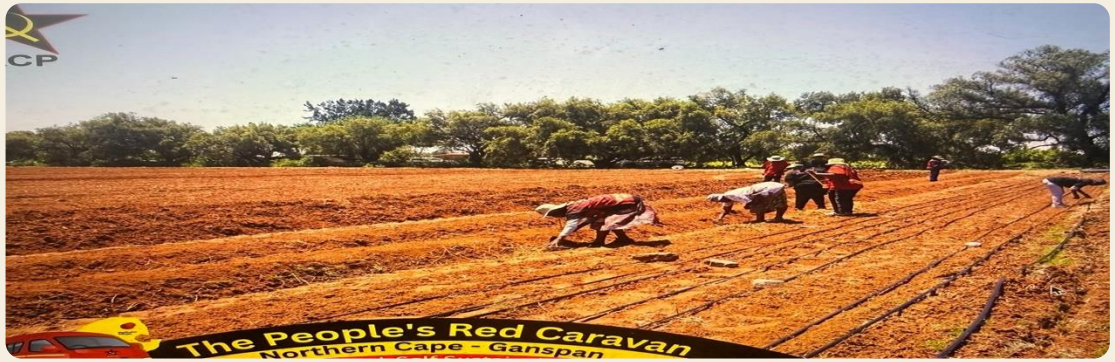
4

FOLLOW THROUGH

Document commitments, build organisation and return.

THE PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN IS A PARTY ORGANISING PROGRAMME. A PEOPLE'S MUNICIPALITY IS A PUBLIC INSTITUTION THAT MUST SERVE EVERY RESIDENT.

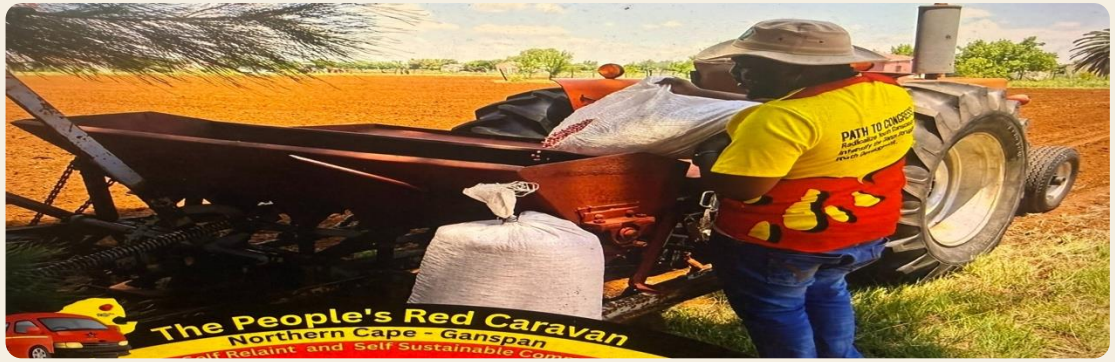
Organisation becomes practical work



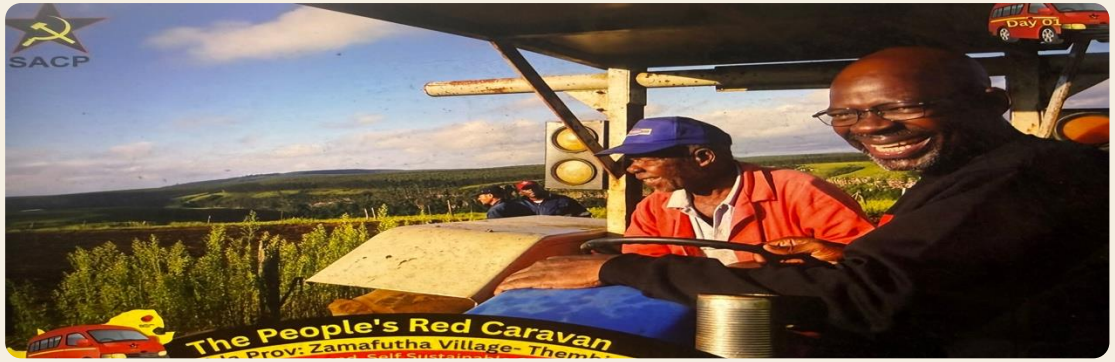
PREPARING TO PLANT 25,000 SPINACH SEEDLINGS



BUILDING A 1,000-LAYER CO-OPERATIVE POULTRY SITE



PREPARING THE LAND AND PLANTING GROUNDNUTS



THE GS JOINS EARLY-MORNING WORK AT CO-OP FARM SITES

The people identify priorities—and organise to solve them



GOING TO THE PEOPLE
House visits, street engagement and listening posts



POULTRY SITE MOVES INTO PRODUCTION



PROTECTED GROWING SPACE FOR LOCAL FOOD



MATIBIDI ACTIVATION
21–27 JULY 2025

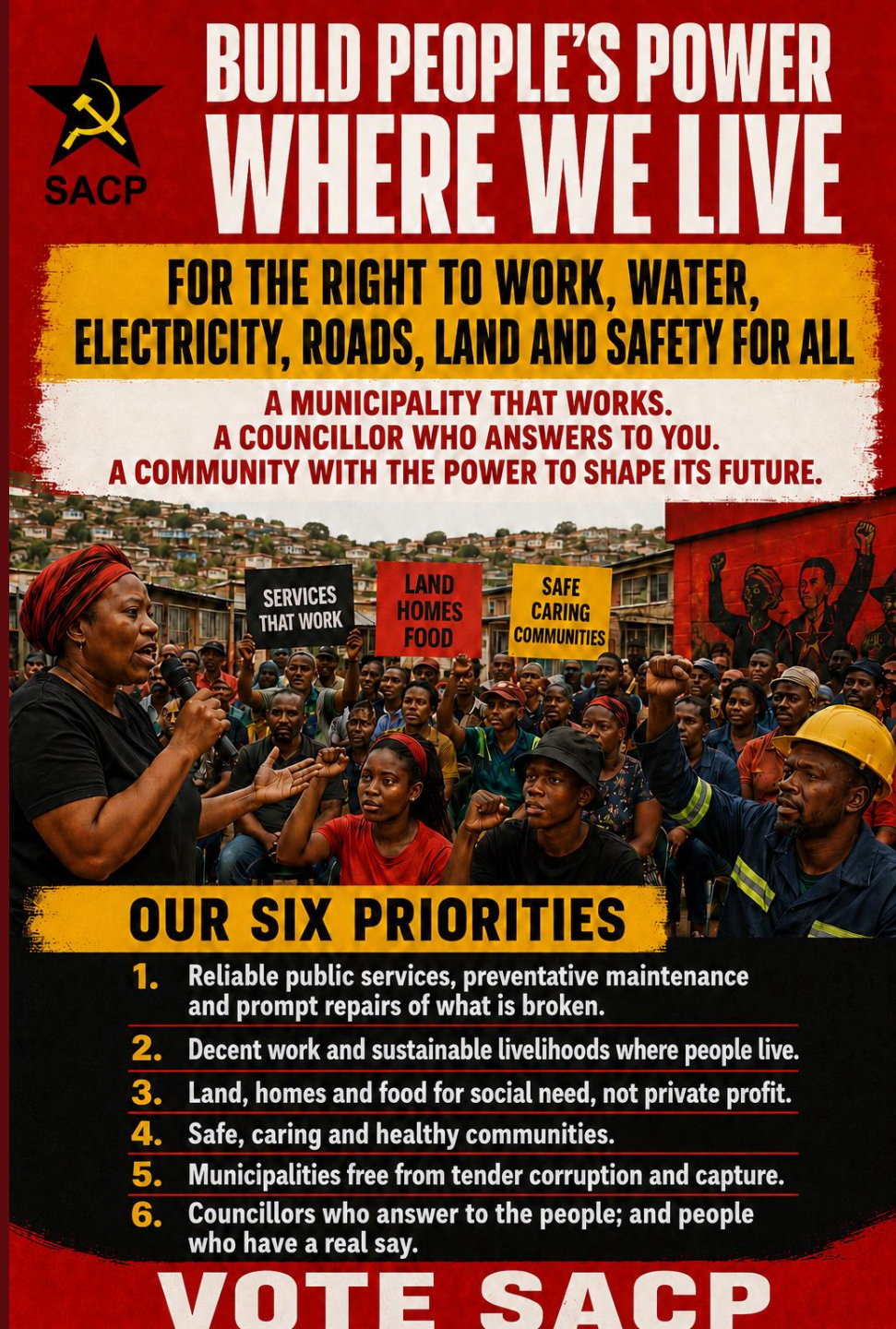
THE SAME METHOD MOBILISES COMMUNITIES TO REPAIR ROADS AND ACCESS BRIDGES, WATER SYSTEMS, CLINICS AND OTHER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE.

SIX PRIORITIES

ONE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME

Reliable services cut household costs. Public work repairs communities. Land supports homes and food. Safe communities protect life. Open books defend public resources. Organised people keep councillors accountable.

THE PROGRAMME WORKS AS A WHOLE.



Every priority strengthens the power to deliver the others



PUBLIC CAPACITY + SOCIAL NEED + DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

SACP

PRIORITY 1

RELIABLE PUBLIC SERVICES, PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND PROMPT REPAIRS OF WHAT IS BROKEN.

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

MAINTAIN • REPAIR • INSOURCE • REPORT



Move from permanent crisis to planned maintenance

1

- Complete public audits of water, sanitation, electricity, roads, stormwater, refuse, lighting and facilities.
- Publish maintenance plans with priorities, budgets, responsible officials and completion dates.
- Create rapid response teams for leaks, sewer spills, electricity faults and dangerous infrastructure.
- Rebuild staffed and equipped municipal technical units, with insourcing wherever feasible.
- Publish service backlogs and monthly progress reports for community monitoring.
- Protect poor households through fair tariffs, lifeline services and accessible support.

MAINTAIN BEFORE COLLAPSE. REPAIR PROMPTLY. REPORT PUBLICLY.

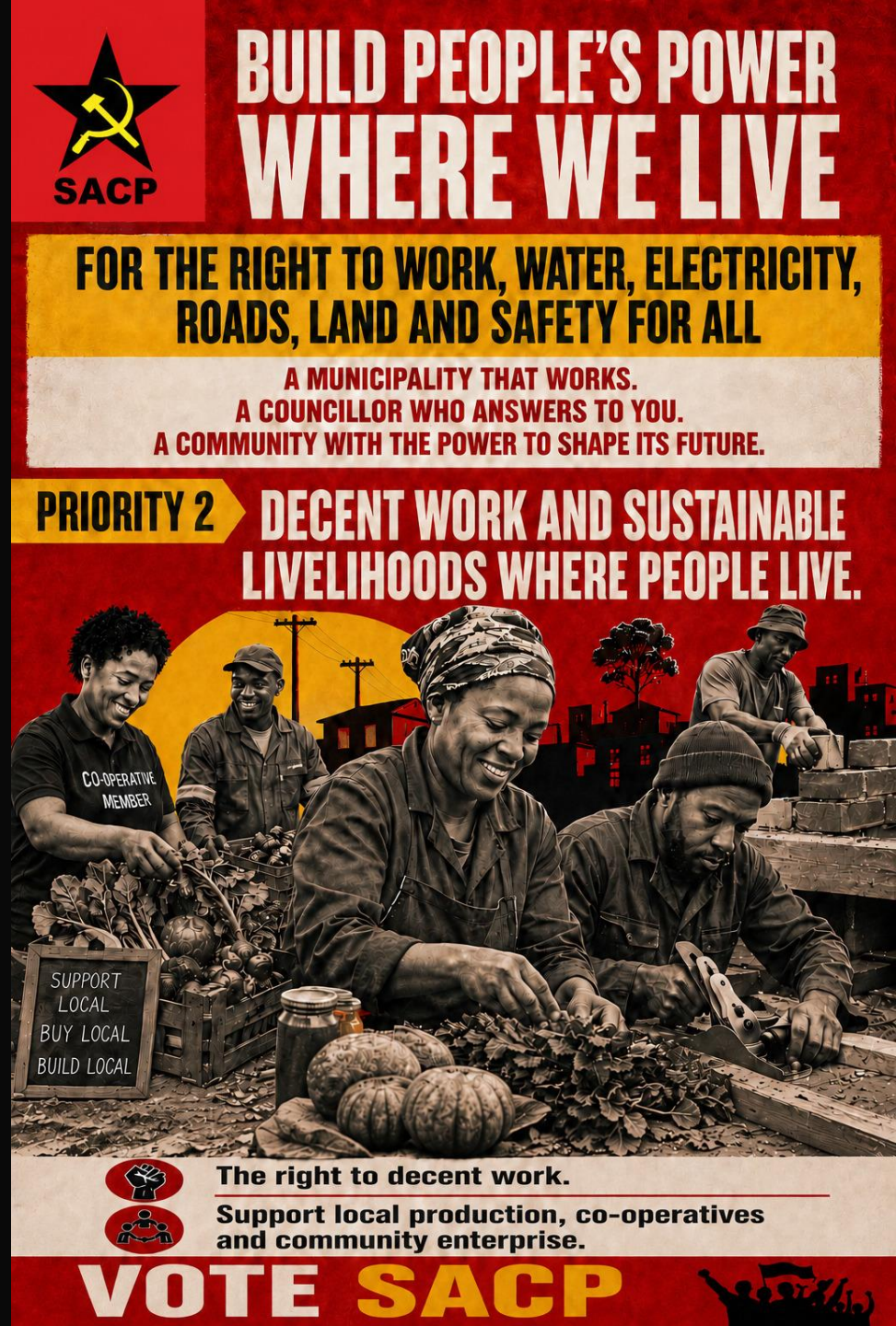
SACP

PRIORITY 2

DECENT WORK AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS WHERE PEOPLE LIVE.

Municipal power must build a people's economy.

PUBLIC WORK • LOCAL PRODUCTION • CO-OPERATIVES • WORKER POWER



Make every municipal decision pass a working class test

2

- Adopt a municipal Decent Work Plan linked to visible, useful work in every community.
- Create fair recruitment, apprenticeships, artisan programmes and pathways into permanent work.
- Use procurement, land and municipal assets to support genuine local producers and co-operatives.
- Build public and community owned energy, recycling, transport, food and digital enterprises.
- Recognise informal, platform and waste workers, with services, safety and organising rights.
- Establish worker support and co-operative development centres that connect skills, finance and markets.

HOW MUCH DECENT WORK WILL THIS CREATE OR PROTECT?

SACP

PRIORITY 3

LAND, HOMES AND FOOD FOR SOCIAL NEED, NOT PRIVATE PROFIT.

Land must support life, not lie idle for profit.

RESTORE • HOUSE • PRODUCE • CONNECT



Put public land to work for homes, food and livelihoods

3

- Publish an open audit of municipal land, ownership, leases, use and suitability for social purposes.
- Release suitable public land for housing, food production, co-operatives, clinics and schools.
- Upgrade informal settlements with residents, beginning with water, sanitation, power and safe access.
- Build well located social, affordable and co-operative housing near work, transport and services.
- Support household gardens, Village Agricultural Co-operatives, storage, processing and local markets.
- Plan homes, work, schools, clinics, industry and affordable transport as one connected system.

PUBLIC LAND IS HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE.

PRIORITY 4

SAFE, CARING AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

The right to come home safely belongs to everyone.

SAFETY • CARE • HEALTH • DIGNITY



Safety grows from functioning services, accountable institutions and care

4

- Build democratic safety forums and street or section committees, never vigilantism.
- Use ward safety audits to repair lights, secure routes and confront crime hotspots.
- Provide survivor centred responses to gender based, sexual and interpersonal violence.
- Demand visible, accountable policing and decisive action against infrastructure crime and extortion.
- Strengthen municipal health, clinics, water quality and local conditions for National Health Insurance.
- Maintain libraries, sport, arts, culture and youth programmes as essential social infrastructure.

SAFETY CANNOT BE PRIVATISED.

PRIORITY 5

MUNICIPALITIES FREE FROM TENDER CORRUPTION AND CAPTURE.

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

OPEN BOOKS • PUBLIC CAPACITY • CONSEQUENCE • PROTECTION



Turn councillors into people's guardians of public resources

5

- Test every proposed tender against an insourced public alternative before outsourcing.
- Publish major contracts, providers, values, beneficial ownership, timelines and proof of delivery.
- Pay only for work completed to standard, on time, within budget and with labour rights respected.
- Open budgets and performance reports to accessible public meetings and community social audits.
- Protect whistleblowers, investigate credible disclosures and recover public money and assets.
- End permanent government by consultants and rebuild skilled, accountable municipal capacity.

PUBLIC OFFICE IS A TRUST, NOT A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY.

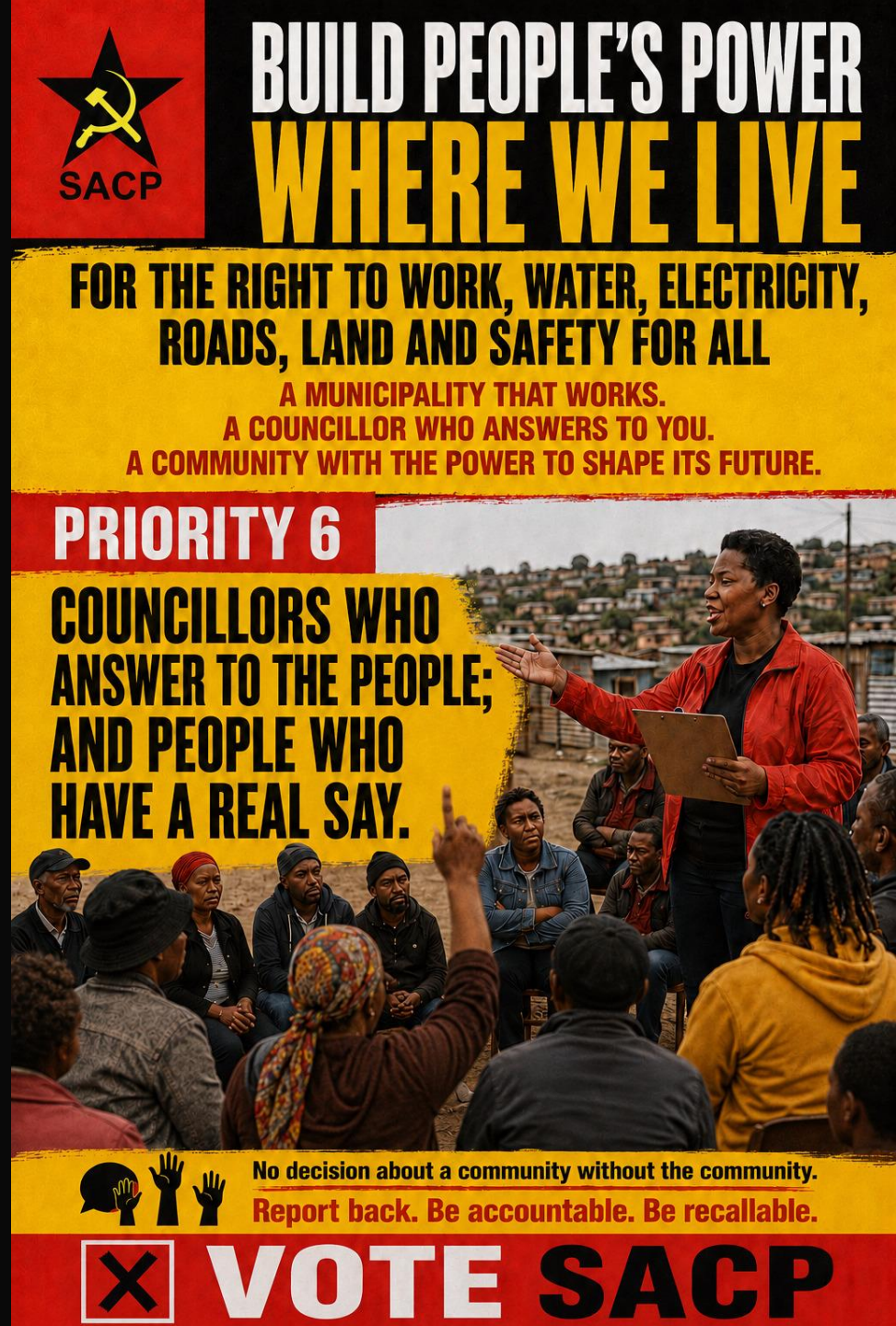
SACP

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.

REPORT • PARTICIPATE • ORGANISE • RECALL



Democracy must continue between elections

6

- Convene regular open ward assemblies that mandate councillors and monitor delivery.
- Introduce participatory budgeting early enough for communities to shape real choices.
- Strengthen independent worker, co-operative, youth, women and community formations.
- Create public support centres that serve democratic organisation without becoming patronage vehicles.
- Engage traditional leaders respectfully while defending equality, land rights and rural democracy.
- Require monthly ward feedback, open contact details, disclosed interests and lawful recall processes.

A COUNCILLOR MUST BE AN ORGANISER, EDUCATOR AND CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE.

A seat in council is a post of struggle and service

PEOPLE'S GUARDIAN

ORGANISER
EDUCATOR
CHAMPION

- Report monthly to residents and regularly to Party structures.
- Publish contact details and keep constituency hours.
- Disclose interests and reject gifts, favours and tender influence.
- Never interfere in procurement or recruitment.
- Defend workers, public services and insourcing.
- Explain major council votes and support community organisation.
- Accept Party discipline and lawful accountability if the manifesto is betrayed.

Scarcity cannot excuse secrecy, waste or anti poor choices

1	**RESOLVE DEBT FAIRLY**	Separate poverty related household debt from commercial debt, government debt and losses caused by maladministration.
2	**FUNDING MUST FOLLOW FUNCTIONS**	Transfer resources with responsibilities and correct inherited inequality between municipalities.
3	**CHANGE THE ORDER OF PRIORITIES**	Protect services and maintenance, stop waste, recover stolen resources and cross subsidise poor households.
4	**PLAN, MEASURE, REPORT**	Translate the manifesto into a five year programme, annual plans and ward commitments with public progress reports.

WHERE ANOTHER SPHERE MUST ACT, SAY SO CLEARLY AND ORGANISE FOR THAT SUPPORT.

The manifesto speaks to the whole working class

WORKERS AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS	Reliable services, insourcing, bargaining rights, skills and properly equipped public work.
UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE AND YOUTH	Useful public employment, training connected to work, co-operatives, sport, culture and a voice in budgets.
WOMEN AND CHILDREN	Services that reduce unpaid care, food security, reproductive rights, safety, health and leadership.
INFORMAL, PLATFORM AND RURAL WORKERS	Secure trading, fair standards, maintained roads and water, production support and organising rights.

EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED. FORMAL AND INFORMAL. URBAN AND RURAL. ONE WORKING CLASS.

DO IT FOR
CHRIS HANI

CHRIS HANI • MK 30TH ANNIVERSARY RALLY



Turn memory into organisation.
Turn sacrifice into people's power.

BUILD
PEOPLE'S POWER

WHERE WE LIVE

FOR WORK • WATER • ELECTRICITY
ROADS • LAND • SAFETY FOR ALL

SACP

THE TASK IS TO BUILD PEOPLE'S POWER

STREET BY STREET. WARD BY WARD.

JOIN A WARD ASSEMBLY • BUILD A STREET OR SECTION COMMITTEE • ORGANISE AT WORK • FORM A CO-OPERATIVE

DEFEND PUBLIC SERVICES. MONITOR THE BUDGET. HOLD EVERY COUNCILLOR TO ACCOUNT. BUILD SOLIDARITY.

VOTE SACP • 4 NOVEMBER 2026