JACK SIMONS PARTY SCHOOL

"Make the People our Forests & Caves"

BUILDING SAFE, CARING AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Kancane Kancane, Poco a Poco, Little by Little.

Presented by: Cde Barry Mitchell
18 October 2026

WHAT WE WILL TRY COVER ~

1. Where do we draw reference from?
2. The state of Working Class Communities.
3. The People's Red Caravan Experience.
4. Translating our Manifesto Commitments into Socialist VDs, Wards & Municipalities.

WHERE DO WE DRAW REFERENCE FROM?

1. Comrade Ho Chi Minh & The Vietnamese Liberation Struggle.
2. The Freedom Charter.
3. Section 27 of the Constitution.
4. Municipal Systems Act.

WHERE DO WE DRAW REFERENCE FROM?

Comrade Ho Chi Minh & the Struggle of the Vietnamese People

SACP

Great Solidarity (Đại đoàn kết)

The people (Dân) are the root of the country and the ultimate driving force of history.

People/ community centered.

Placing the interests of our people above everything else.

Meeting our People's Basic and Fundamental Needs for life and development.



Mass ~ Skilled Mobilisation (Dân vận)

Mobilisation is not merely top-down command or forceful persuasion.

People/ Community Participation in driving the Revolution.

Organs of People's Power.

The "D" in the NDR.

['Our leadership told the Vietnamese that we were not making headway' says Rabkin. 'And the Vietnamese said, well of course you're not, because yours isn't a military struggle like ours against the USA. Yours is a political struggle…']
Attacking the Heart of Apartheid, Y Carrim.

WHERE DO WE DRAW REFERENCE FROM?
FREEDOM CHARTER TO THE 1996 CONSTITUTION

As adopted in 1955 at Kliptown

There Shall be Houses, Security and Comfort!

- All people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;
- Unused housing space to be made available to the people;
- Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no-one shall go hungry;
- A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state;
- Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children;
- Slums shall be demolished, and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres;
- The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;
- Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all: Fenced locations and ghettoes shall be abolished, and laws which break up families shall be repealed.

Adoption of the 1996 Constitution obliged the state **(within "reasonable means")** to provide basic services, uplift dignity, to address class, racial and gender inequalities and to transform society through the progressive realisation of these rights.

S.27 Health care, food, water and social security

1) Everyone has the right to have access to ~

a) health care services, including reproductive health care;
b) sufficient food and water; and
c) social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance.

2) The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights.

3) No one may be refused emergency medical treatment.

WHERE DO WE DRAW REFERENCE FROM?
MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS ACT

- **Mandatory Development of Safe and Healthy Environments ~** Section 4 and Section 23 of the Act, municipal councils are legally required to promote a safe and healthy environment and contribute to the progressive realisation of fundamental human rights.

- **A "Caring" Partnership via Community Participation ~** The Act requires municipalities to design credit control and tariff policies that accommodate the financial needs of poor or indigent households.

- **Service Delivery for a "Healthy" Quality of Life ~** The Act regulates how municipalities provide "basic municipal services". According to the framework, basic services are legally defined as those necessary to ensure an acceptable and reasonable quality of life. This directly addresses community health and safety.

- **Integrated Development Planning (IDP) ~** Forces local government to align scarce resources toward social and economic upliftment. Obligation of the councilour to convene quarterly public participation engagements every 3 months) with the community. ******

THE STATE OF WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES

THE STATE OF WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES

Inflation adjusted National Poverty Lines 2026

STATSSA recently released the adjusted national poverty lines under the three categories ~

Table 1: Inflation-adjusted national poverty lines for 2026 (per person per month in rands)

Poverty line	2026 line values
Food poverty line (FPL)	868
Lower-bound poverty line (LBPL)	1 457
Upper-bound poverty line (UBPL)	2 962

R868 per month = R28.00 per day

SRD Grant = R370 per month = R12.00 per day

37,9% of South Africans (23,2 Million) fall below the Lower-Bound Poverty Line (R1300 per person per month)

i) **Food poverty line** – **R868** (in May 2026 prices) per person per month. Threshold of absolute deprivation. **The amount of money required to purchase the minimum required daily energy intake.** This is also commonly referred to as the "extreme" poverty line;

ii) **Lower-bound poverty line** – R1 457 (in May 2026 prices) per person per month. This refers to the food poverty line plus the average amount derived from non-food items of households whose total expenditure is equal (or near) to the food poverty line; and

iii) **Upper-bound poverty line** – R2 962 (in May 2026 prices) per person per month. This refers to the food poverty line plus the average amount derived from non-food items of households whose food expenditure is equal (or near) to the food poverty line.

THE STATE OF WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES

Household Affordability Index

Cost of a basic nutritious diet for a family per month, July'26	
Household size with 4 members	R3 848,97
Household size with 5 members	R4 864,47
Household size with 7 members	**R6 727,47**

Cost of a basic nutritious diet for a child per month in July 2026	
Small child aged 3-9 years	R868,16
Small child aged 10-13 years	R941,83
Girl child aged 14-18 years	R994,84
Boy child aged 14-18 years	R1 117,81
Average for all children	**R980,66**

In **July 2026,** the Child Support Grant **(R580)** is **32%** below the food poverty line **(R855)** & **41%** below the average cost to secure a basic nutritious diet for a child **(R980,66).**

General Workers: at NMW — **R30,23 an hour**

Income	Wage scenario 1	Wage scenario 2	Wage scenario 3
Number of days worked	23	15	15
Number of hours worked	8	8	5
Remuneration rate	R30,23	R30,23	R30,23
Wage income	**R5 562,32**	**R3 627,60**	**R2 267,25**

	Wage scenario 1		Wage scenario 2		Wage scenario 3	
Wage income	**R5 562,32**		**R3 627,60**		**R2 267,25**	
Household expenses		**% of wage**		**% of wage**		**% of wage**
Transport to work (2 taxi, return)	R2 208,00	39,7%	R1 440,00	39,7%	R1 440,00	63,5%
Prepaid electricity (350kWh)	R1 263,45	22,7%	R1 263,45	34,8%	R1 263,45	55,7%
Total for transport + electricity	**R3 471,45**	**62,4%**	**R2 703,45**	**74,5%**	**R2 703,45**	**119,2%**
Money remaining to spend on all other expenses	**R2 090,87**		**R924,15**		**-R436,20**	
Subtract: food (4 persons)	R3 848,97		R3 848,97		R3 848,97	
***Minimum** surplus/shortfall on food costs*	**-R1 758,10**	**-45,7%**	**-R2 924,82**	**-76,0%**	**-R4 285,17**	**-111,3%**

The National Minimum Wage is a poverty wage - it harms workers' health, it reduces productivity in the workplace, and slows down economic growth. The maximum wage of **R5 562,32 in July 2026** when disbursed in a family of **four persons is R1 390,58.** This is **below the National Upper-Bound Poverty Line of R2 846 per capita per month**, and **below the National Lower-Bound Poverty Line of R1 415 per capita per month** (in May 2025 prices).

After paying for transport and electricity **(R3 471,45)** workers are left with **R2 090,87. The minimum shortfall on food for a workers' family in July 2026 is 45,7%** (a shortfall of R1 758,10 on a basket of nutritional food costing R3 848,97). If all the remaining money (R2 090,87) went to buy food, then for a family of 4, **it would provide R522,72 per person per month**. **This is 39% below the National Food Poverty Line of R855 per person per month.** *Note that: the Food Poverty Line is a monetary-based threshold below which a person cannot consume enough food to meet their minimum daily energy requirements.*

THE STATE OF WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES

WAR-LIKE CONDITIONS ~ Our Youth

Youth

- We have growing youthful population who face some of the highest levels of unemployment in the world.

Youth Unemployment (Ages 15–34): Rose to 47.4%, leaving about 5 million young people unemployed.

Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET) Rate (Ages 15–24): 36.4% of young people are not in employment, education, or training.

Expanded Youth Unemployment: Reached 62.8%.

- 2026 academic year, projected to offer approximately **535 thousand** first-year places across public universities, TVET colleges, & community colleges combined. The gap between the number of learners who pass matric & number of available post-school places leaves an estimated **121 thousand** successful matriculants without an immediate place in the public system.

- In going to the root, identify some of the persistent and systemic challenges at a basic education level (literacy, reading for meaning, science/ mathematics, nutrition, teacher-to-learner ratios and infrastructure).

- In 2025, 80% of grade 3 pupils in SA cannot read for meaning

THE STATE OF WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES
WAR-LIKE CONDITIONS ~ Our Health

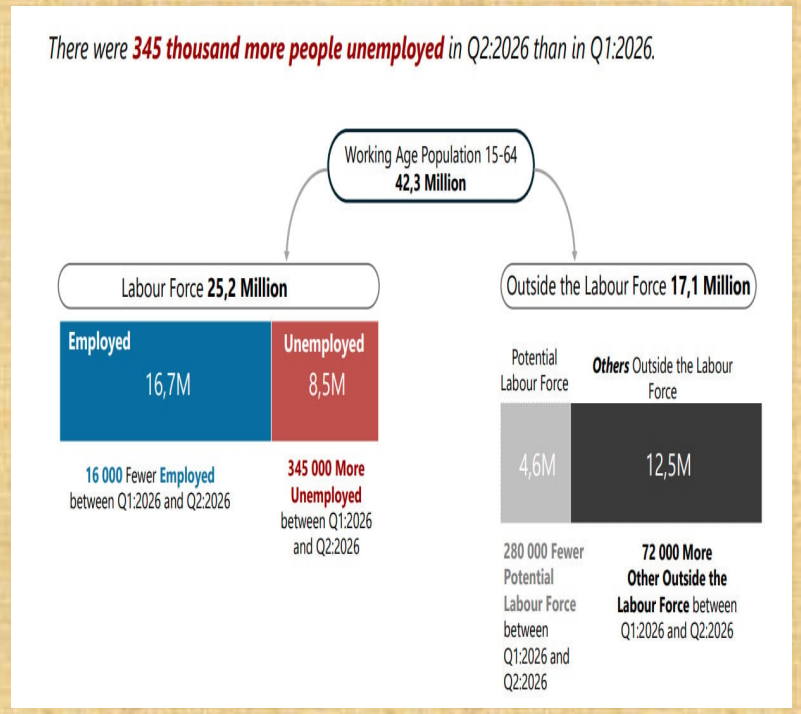
SACP

Health & Nutrition

- 8 million South Africans living with HIV/AIDS (12.3% of the population), the roll-out of the Lenacapavir (HIV prevenetative medication) has been absorbed into NHI spend.
- In 2023, 56 000 people died of tuberculosis, a treatable & preventable disease;
- In 2023, 27,692 people died of diabetes, which has surpassed HIV and TB as the biggest killer in South Africa.
- Increasing levels of psycho-socio and economic linked non-communicable diseases (cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases.)
- There are increasing levels and cases of malnutrition, especially amongst the most formative population aged groups, infants (aged 0 to 5) and in adolescents.
- Substance abuse, and the linked socio-economic and familial repercussions, are completely out of control – leading to GBV+F, school-drop outs.
- **In 2019:** The number of food insecure people in South Africa were approximately 24% of households, amounting to approximately 14.25 million people. The number of severely food insecure people were 5.2 million.
- **In 2023:** The number of food insecure people increased to 17.8 million people. The number of severely food insecure people increased to 8 million people.
- **National Trend ~** Overall, the percentage of moderately food insecure households jumped from 14.9% to 17.2%, while severe cases rose from 6.4% to 8.0%.

THE STATE OF WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES
NEOLIBERAL FIXATION & THE MANIFESTATIONS





"If the structure does not permit dialogue, the structure must be changed."
Paolo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

POLICY REGRESSION – RDP TO NEOLIBERALISM
NEOLIBERAL FIXATION



1994 to 1999

RDP - Reconstruction & Development Program, State-led socio-economic strateegy.



1999 to 2008

GEAR - Growth, Employment, and Redistribution, 1996 Class Project & Neoliberal take-over.



2009 to 2018

NDP + Hybrid policy first term but entrenched Monetary/ Fiscal Poilcy.



2018 –

South African Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, Fiscal Consolidation & GNU Compromise.

PEOPLE'S RED CARAVAN EXPERIENCE & LESSONS

THE PRC EXPERIENCE Cradock Letters

Health, Food & Nutrition ~

- Limited access to nutritious food, main source of food from spaza shops & large retail stores, despite access to arable & productive land.
- School nutrition programmes lacked five main food groups, only consisted of poor quality substitutes. Heavy reliance on programme as a "main meal".
- Children in Ganspan were inhaling toxic sherbet, causing asphyxiation. Main meal between breakfast & dinner were chips & biscuits.
- Substance abuse rife in households, children suffering from disabilities, alcohol foetal syndrome, stunted growth & development. No access to psycho-social & disability support (No mental health professionals, no wheel chairs/ crutches).

GBV+F & Community Safety and Security ~

- Mqhekezweni sextortion of elderly woman and young girls, extorting money to prevent sexual abuse.
- Intimidation, fear and murder coordinated by local Cat Matlalas.
- Intra-familial child sexual abuse.
- Abusive partners withholding Antiretroviral medication for drug use & to sell.
- Organised drug rings targeting youth.

THE PRC EXPERIENCE

Socio-economic realities ~

- High-levels of unemployment, particularly amongst youth. In Mothlabe, we worked with skilled young artisans in repairing the clinic & bridge.
- Very limited local economic initiatives or ownership, with the exception of spaza shops, taverns & hardware stores.
- Major multi-national mining companies operate in these communities, extracting billions worth of natural resources (Glencore in Mothlabe & Matibhidi), yet the communities remain massively underdeveloped & impoverished.
- Major privately owned farms & agricultural companies operate in these communities, yet unemployment & food insecurity remain high.
- Major Public Institutions & Insurance Companies (PIC & National Lotto) claim to be supporting the development of these communities, this is not always the case. In Matibhidi, the Lotto constructed a school, a tornado destroyed it & the PRC intervened. In Ganspan, the PIC claimed it was supporting a Crèche, but the PRC found it to be an unconducive & dangerous space for children.
- Austerity budget cuts have turned our public schools into what resemble prisons. Classrooms/ infrastructure collapsing, toilets not functioning, regular break-ins & burnt-out staff. Pit latrine tender contracts no longer budgeted for.

TRANSLATING OUR MANIFESTO INTO SOCIALIST VDs, WARDS & MUNICIPALITIES

SACP 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

"The right to come home safely belongs to everyone"

Community-centred safety & security

- 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

SACP 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

"NHI ~PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT"

SACP

Primary Health Care Focus

- 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.

SACP 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

"The right to come home safely belongs to everyone"

Existing Triple Oppression & the Crisis of Social Reproduction

- We will fight to ensure that 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, SACP 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.

"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."

BEYOND 04 NOVEMBER 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Rethinking the Know & Act in your Neighbourhood Campaign

Every SACP Branch must Know & Act its community!

Every time a branch conducts door-to-door work, meets workers, speaks to residents, attends a community meeting, visits a workplace or listens to a local struggle, it is gathering **political knowledge.**

Our task is to turn that everyday knowledge into organised information that helps the Party understand, organise and act.

The basic principle is simple: concrete analysis of the concrete situation.

Every branch must do five things:

TASK	WHAT THE BRANCH MUST DO
KNOW	Build a basic picture of the ward and voting districts.
LISTEN	Listen to workers, residents, young people, women, community organisations and other local formations.
OBSERVE	Know what is changing politically and socially on the ground.
VERIFY	Separate facts from rumours. Check important information before reporting it.
REPORT	Give a short weekly report through the agreed Party structures.

THE SACP BRANCH ~ THE EYES AND EARS OF THE PARTY

The system only works if every level does its part.

THE REPORTING LINE

BRANCH
↓
DISTRICT
↓
PROVINCE
↓
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

KNOW YOUR WARD: THE 8 QUESTIONS

1. What kind of ward do we have? Is it mainly: Residential? Industrial? Commercial? Rural? Informal settlement? Farming? Or mixed?

~ Different kinds of wards have different material conditions and therefore different organising questions. The Party specifically require this basic classification.

2. Who lives here? Know the broad picture: workers and unemployed people; young people and pensioners; women and men; languages and communities; formal and informal residents; long-standing residents and newer residents.

~ Do not reduce people to statistics. Understand how people actually live.

KNOW YOUR WARD: THE 8 QUESTIONS

3. How do people survive? Ask: Where do people work? Who is unemployed? What workplaces exist? What informal economic activity exists? Are there cooperatives, small businesses, farms, traders, stokvels or other community economic activities?

~ Branches need to understand employment, unemployment, economic sectors, informal activity, cooperatives and other local economic activity.

4. What are the main problems?
Listen for issues such as: jobs • water • electricity • housing • land • sanitation • roads • refuse • transport • crime • schools • clinics • food • municipal services

~ But do not simply make a list. Ask: Why is the problem happening? Who is responsible? Who is affected? What are people already doing about it?

KNOW YOUR WARD: THE 8 QUESTIONS

5. Who is organised?
Know the: trade unions • shop stewards • civics • community organisations • churches and faith organisations • women's organisations • youth organisations • sports organisations • NGOs • cooperatives • stokvels • informal trader organisations • other popular formations

~These organisations are part of the real social terrain in which the branch operates.

6. What struggles are taking place?
What are communities and workers fighting about? What protests, petitions, meetings, negotiations or campaigns have happened? What victories have been won? What problems remain unresolved?

KNOW YOUR WARD: THE 8 QUESTIONS

7. What is happening politically?
Know which political organisations are active, what issues they are raising, where they are active and what political questions are gaining or losing support. Do not rely on rumours. Observe, listen and verify.

8. What does all this mean for our branch?
This is the most important question. Ask: What should we do differently because of what we have learnt?

- **OUR BRANCHES MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO SOCIALIST TOOLS OF ACTION & INFLUENCE!**

In Wards we win ~ the SACP branch must assist in coordinating the enhancement of participatory democracy through the establishment of strong Ward Committees.

- The Ward Committee must include Health, Education, Safety/ Security and Cultural leaders or community members that will provide support and advice on our Manifesto priorities & commitments.

- Branches must assist Ward and PR Councillors with the development of a **Five-Year Programme of Action** that speaks to our Manifesto priorities on health, education and safety. This POA must be endorsed by the District and Province for presentation in a community meeting within the first month two-months of office.

In Wards we do not win ~ the SACP branch must advocate/ influence the Ward Committee, must establish or participate in Organs of People's Power & ensure the Councillor is accountable to the community through quarterly public participation engagements. Launch localised PRC initiatives that speak to health, education, security & cultural challenges facing the community.

BEYOND 04 NOVEMBER 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

THREE QUESTIONS WE SHOULD ASK & ANSWER ~

1) What happens to the information captured through our Election Door-to-Door Canvasing? Where is the centre? Where is the system of reporting?

2) How do we use the remaining days until LGE to intensify Know & Act Campaign & Localised PRCs?

3) How do we use the momentum from LGE to better capacitate our branches to Know, Listen, Observe, Verify & Report?



SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY
WESTERN CAPE
Know & Act In Your Neighborhood Campaign

NAME:					
DATE:					
SACP BRANCH:					
CONTACT:					
WARD:			**VD:**		
NAME & SURNAME:			**ID:**		
ADDRESS:			**TELEPHONE:**		
GENDER:			**RACE:**		
LANGUAGE – *read and write*:	English	Afrikaans	IsiXhosa	Other	
RESIDENT TYPE: (Mark with X)	Informal Settlement	Rented Home/ Apartment	Own Home	**NO. OF PEOPLE HOUSEHOLD:**	
SCHOOLING:	None	Std 5	Std 8	Matric	Post Matric
OCCUPATION:	Unemployed	Student	Job Type:		
GRANT:	YES	NO	**Grant Needed:**		
COUNCILLOR: (Mark with X)	**Do You Know Your Councillor?** YES/ NO **Councillors Name:**	ANC/ DA/ Other	**When Does Your Councillor have a Public Meeting?** Regularly	Sometimes	Never
SOCIAL CHALLENGES:					
FOLLOW UP:					

THANK YOU…

"We have always believed (and we continue to do so) that it is indispensable for the working class to have an independent political instrument which safeguards its role in the democratic revolution and which leads it towards an eventual classless society. But such leadership must be won rather than imposed. Our claim to represent the historic aspirations of the workers does not give us an absolute right to lead them or to exercise control over society as a whole in their name.

Our new programme asserts that a communist party does not earn the title of vanguard merely by proclaiming it. Nor does its claim to be the upholder of Marxism give it a monopoly of political wisdom or a natural right to exclusive control of the struggle. We can only earn our place as a vanguard force by superior efforts of leadership and devotion to the cause of liberation and socialism. And we can only win adherence to our ideology by demonstrating its superiority as a theoretical guide to revolutionary practice."

Slovo, Has Socialism Failed?