

Resolutions adopted at the 10th SAMWU National Congress: Socioeconomic 2009

1. Amalgamation Municipalities

Noting:

- a) That the current demarcation in its current form is not viable and does not sufficiently respond to a growing need for services delivery.
- b) That District Municipalities, in many cases, have not ensured re-distribution of resources among local municipalities or facilitated improved service delivery.
- c) That the current funding formula for municipalities is problematic.
- d) That smaller municipalities do not have revenue enhancement mechanisms and lack capacity.
- e) That the current salary packages of these smaller and rural municipalities do not assist to attract skilled labour for efficient services delivery to the communities.
- f) Those certain municipalities do not have capacity to perform and meet their legal obligations because the services that are supposed to render to communities do not exist.
- g) That some rural municipalities do not own land rather it is owned by Traditional Authorities and as a result it is difficult for those municipalities to render certain services as required by law.

Believing:

- a) Municipalities are expected to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the communities because of their close proximity to the people.
- b) That municipality cannot only rely on grants because that delays services delivery on the ground.

Therefore resolve:

- a) That the current demarcation arrangement be reviewed for purposes of ensuring speedy service delivery in a more coherent and consistent manner.
- b) Municipalities should avoid outsourcing when considering appropriate service delivery mechanisms.
- c) That the need for District Municipalities as a second tier of local must be abolished where appropriate. Government be reviewed.

- d) That municipality that depend on grants and are without any sources of revenue be amalgamated with those that are sustainable and have revenue sources and revenue enhancements mechanisms.
- e) A special developmental framework, incorporating the turnaround strategy, should be put in place to guide the amalgamation process.

Northwest moved.

Gauteng seconded.

2. Municipal System Act

Noting:

- a) That the Systems Act is based on the NFA
- b) The NFA was a compromise position to ensure public sector is the preferred provider of services.
- c) The intention of the NFA and the systems act was to compel municipalities to undergo a through process of consultation and explore means and ways to ensure the public sector was the proffered provider.
- d) That recent case law viz. the Epping Market Privatization and establishment of Cape Town Metro Police cases have shown the limitations of the Systems Act in ensuring that municipalities are not able to privatize without undergoing a through consultation and assessment of its capacity to deliver the service.

Resolve:

- a) That we campaign for the amendment of the System Act.
- b) The limitations of s77 & s78 of the act are given special attention.
- c) That amendment of the act is taken to NEDLAC through COSATU.

Proposed: Western Cape

NB:

Proposed resolutions 1-4 were deferred to the local government workshop during which the turnaround strategy will be dealt with.

3. Eradicating corruption in Municipalities

Noting:

- a) That corruption continues unabated and with impunity in municipalities.
- b) The impact of corrupt and fraudulent behavior by both employed staff and political leaders on service delivery is devastating.
- c) Some of our members are involved in corrupt activities.
- d) That for the past fifteen years the state has not been able to fully deal decisively with corruption in government in general and municipalities in particular.
- e) Communities through their civic structures have been increasingly reacting more assertively against acts of corruption.

Believing:

- a) Corruption is unethical and has to be uprooted and exposed in every way.

Therefore resolves:

- a) This National Congress re-commits itself to intensify its role in fighting corruption and other fraudulent activities. We must expose corruption wherever it exists or surfaces.
- b) This National Congress commits the CEC of the union to ensure both its leaders and members are optimally mobilized to work closely with the government and its agencies in fighting scourge of crime and corruption.
- c) This National Congress further commits the CEC to monitor progress in this regard and ensure information collected is shared within the Alliance structures.
- d) SAMWU supports the established of the ministerial task team to root out corruption and improve working relations between SAMWU and municipalities.
- e) Both the corrupt employed staff and political leaders must be named and shamed in public domain.
- f) SAMWU must campaign against awarding of tenders because they are the root cause of corruption.
- g) Educate our members about the dangers of corruption and make them champions against corruption.
- h) SAMWU must develop an anticorruption campaign that will promote ethical values.

Proposed: North West & Gauteng & KZN

4. Incompetent Managers

Noting:

- a) Municipalities have a bloated management level while there are vacancies at the lower levels.
- b) The bloated management is handsomely remunerated though they virtually do nothing.
- c) The highly paid managers rely on consultants; and Many municipalities are under performing regardless of the presence of the highly paid managers.

Therefore resolve:

- a) We campaign for full information on the skills audit and competency profiles of the highly paid managers to be made freely available; and
- b) We campaign for the total removal of the consultants in municipalities.

Proposed: KZN**5. Land commercialization****Noting:**

- a) That municipalities and government are busy selling land at a very alarming rate to private developers and communities are expected to buy the same land from those private companies at high prices.
- b) Those senior politicians are beneficiaries of the sale of the land.
- c) That houses built on this land are very expensive and as a result the workers cannot afford to buy these houses.
- d) That this phenomenon promotes racism and widens the gap between the rich and the poor

Therefore resolve:

- a) That the state must stop the sale of state to private developer. In order for the state to provide housing to the communities.
- b) The state must prioritise the use of land for housing and social development
- c) The willing buyer, willing seller approach must be discouraged.
- d) We should build a campaign in support of the above demands.

Northwest moved**Western Cape seconded****6. Access to municipal land****Noting:**

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- a) The struggle against apartheid included the fight for land that was dispossessed.
- b) Land reform processes have not yielded positive results; and
- c) Municipalities advance a special type of land dispossession by subjecting their sale of land to the bid process which leaves the working class unable to access land in the developed areas.

Believing:

- a) Municipalities must have a more equitable system for the distribution of land that will undo the injustices of the past while also creating sustainable livelihoods.

Therefore resolves:

- a) We campaign for the review and change of all the legislative policy that municipalities use to deny the working-class access to land.
- b) We must call for a review of and information on all municipal land that has been sold to private developers.
- c) Land distribution from government must be accelerated.

Kwa Zulu- Natal moved Eastern Cape seconded.



7. Basic service delivery: (Poverty and decent jobs)

Noting:

- a) Based on our scientific analysis and perspective, in our country since 1994 we have experienced fragmented economic policies namely, Gear strategy, DTI, Treasury Department, Finance Department, Reserve Bank, TAX, etc, there was no one – single and integrated industrial strategy or policy where every sphere, institution and structure of the government had to plan their programmes from.
- b) In order to ensure quality and affordable service we need:
- c) A strongly interventionist state.
- d) Public sector services delivery with the municipality as a direct service provider.
- e) Provision of services based on needs, rather than the ability to pay.
- f) A process of prioritizing and providing services that is transparent and open; and
- g) A democratic and accountable municipality.

Therefore resolve:

- a) Land government must establish an economic policy or strategy that supports and sustains growth, job creation and poverty eradication.
- b) Transforming the local economic structural aspects, e.g. services, agricultural, manufacture, retailer industries, land, land bank, etc.
- c) To ensure that the ANC manifesto on social and economic development is implemented by vigorously service delivery to the people general and the workers and poor in particular.
- d) To ensure that local government funding allocation from provincial and national is democratic and equitable redistributed.

Eastern Cape moved Mpumalanga seconded.

8. Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP)

Noting:

- a) Large numbers of our population do not possess the skills nor are they afforded the opportunity to effectively participate in South Africa's economy and earn a living.
- b) The ANC government undertook to make the creation of decent work opportunities and sustainable livelihoods the primary focus of its economic policies as per the 2009 election manifesto.
- c) All of the work opportunities generated by the EPWP are therefore combined with ability to people to earn an income once they leave the programs.

- d) The programme has a target of providing employment opportunities and training to at least one million targeted unemployed people in its first five years.
- e) The conditions of employment of workers on EPWP projects are governed by the Code of Good Practice for Special Public Works Programmes. This Code was gazetted by the Department of Labour after discussions at NEDLAC, learnership employment conditions or special short-term contracts.
- f) The main delivery arms of government, provinces and municipalities are the primary project implementing bodies for the EPWP.

Believing:

- a) Our struggle for quality and sustainable jobs should not be compromised.
- b) The training and development of our human capital is invaluable.
- c) Local government to play a more meaningful role as an organ of government to accelerate EPWP programmes.

Therefore resolves:

- a) That the EPWP should result in sustainable quality jobs together with decent pay and without compromising the rights of workers and organized labour.
- b) That Local Government provides training and development resulting in job opportunities with a view to the filling of vacancies within the sector.

Western Cape moved.

Eastern Cape seconded.

9. Industrial Policy:

Noting:

- a) Since Gear economic framework, which is neo-Liberal capitalist economic policy that has intensified the working class exploitation, poverty and misery of the poor majority of South African people
- b) Interventions to shift the structures and directions of the economic growth path and proposals to promote a central economic role of the state in shaping the desired economic trajectory, both through the state's economic activity, and interventions to direct the private sector.

Believing:

- a) Transforming the structures of production and ownership, active and well-resourced industrial and trade policy aimed at creating decent work through expansion of labour absorbing sector.

- b) Diversify our industrial and service base, pursuing an active beneficiation strategy building sustainable export industries, and expanding production for domestic and regional consumption in general. Industrial policy should lead our overall approach to sector development.

Therefore resolves:

- a) The government must hit the ground running and intervene or nationalize towards socialization of the key sectors of the economy.
- b) To ensure that national resources, including land minerals, and water are exploited to maximize growth, development and employment and not purely for profit maximization.
- c) The wide economic planning of the government must find expression in this present arrangement of configuration of government ministries.
- d) To ensure that an adequate resource will provide to strengthen the state- led industrial policy programme.
- e) To continue in determining which direction public and private investment to support decent work outcomes.
- f) SAMWU to ensure that the necessary resources are leverage to make this strategy a success.

Eastern Cape moved Western Cape seconded.

10.Social Transformation:

Noting:

- a) The ANC manifesto deals with these issues of social transformation under 6 headings: “But working together, we can do more. With your help, ANC has a clear and achievable plan to speed up change in people’s lives.”
- More jobs and decent work through public investment in infrastructure and by supporting industries that create work.
 - Fight poverty and hunger through affordable basic food for the poor and extending free school feeding schemes to high schools.
 - Access to quality education for all is including free schooling at the poorest 60% of schools.
 - Health care for all including a new National Health Insurance System to provide access to free quality health care and plans to reduce new AIDS infections by 50%.
 - Develop our rural areas and ensure more land in the hands of the rural poor and support for small farmers.

- Build safer and secure communities with a more effective criminal justice system to convict offenders and improved police capacity to tackle crime.

Therefore resolves:

- a) To contribute and participate in implementation, to realize ANC manifesto through affordable, quality and equity service delivery to our communities.
- b) This process is fast tracked by ensuring that the manifesto is converted into government policy and monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis by the Planning Ministry.

Eastern Cape moved North West seconded

11. Local government sector summit:

Noting:

- a) That the last local government sector summit was last held in 2005.
- b) That its resolutions were never implemented.
- c) That the last local GDS resolution were never implemented and aligned to IDP and Budgets of municipalities.
- d) That the current Global economic crisis has got an effect to local government and thus there are service delivery protests throughout the country.
- e) There is a commitment from the government on promotion of alignment of all economic policies on decent work.

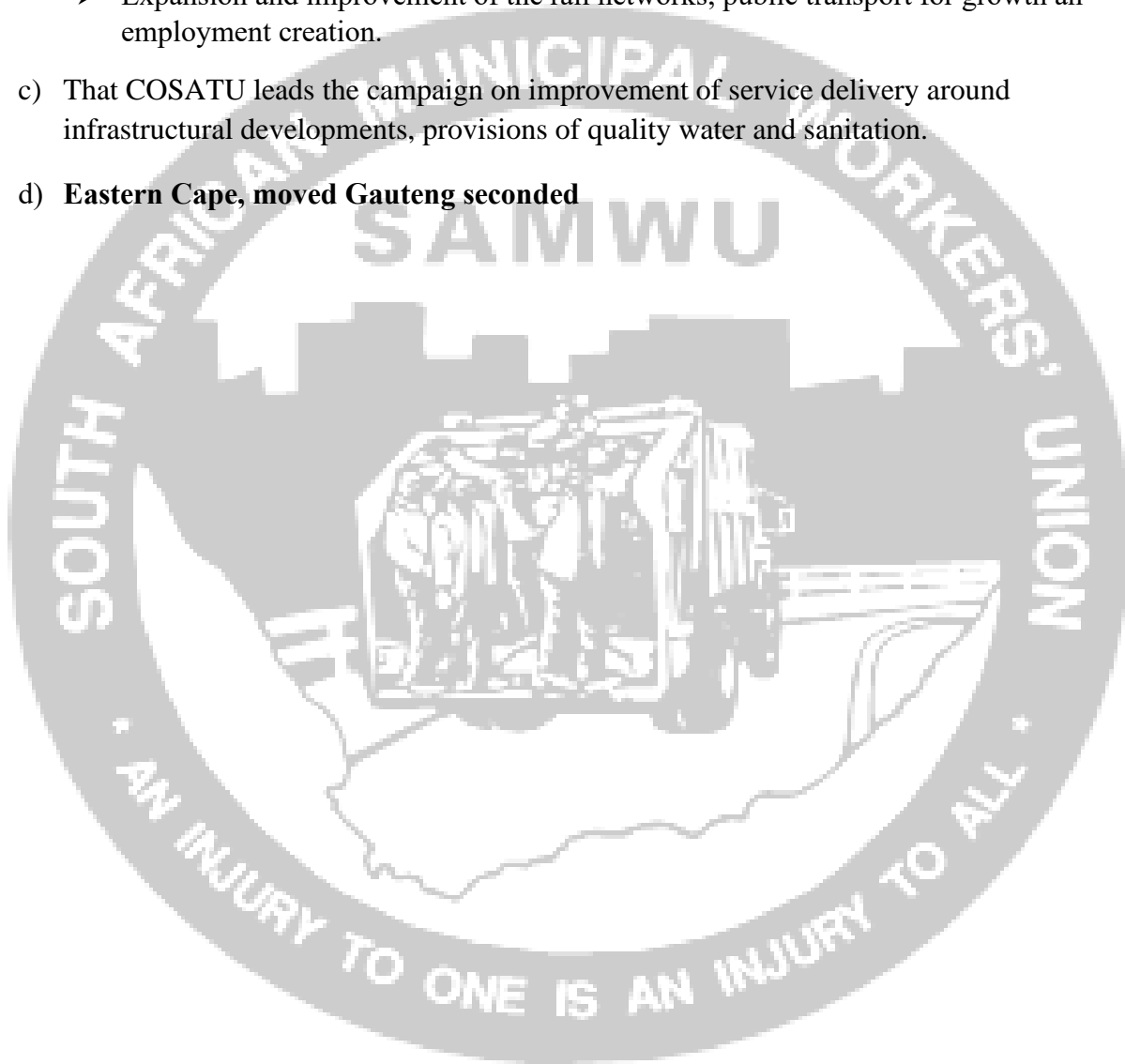
Believing:

- a) The local government is only sphere of government that is closer to the people and is duty bound to be in fore front on the creation of decent work opportunities and sustainable livelihood.
- b) The laws that will regulate contract work, subcontracting, problems of labour broking and prohibition of certain abusive practices can be debated and decided in the summit.
- c) What needs to be done is to be completely deal with the issues of casualization which is contradictory with the decent work promotion.

Therefore resolves:

- a) That the Local government sector summit be called before the end of 2010 in preparation for the 2011 local government elections and as part of contributing to enhanced service delivery.
- b) The following issues should form part of the local government summit:

- How do we ensure that the state- led industrial policy leads to the transformation of the economy?
 - How to ensure that an adequate resource will be provided to strengthen the state led industrial policy programme.
 - How to ensure that the natural wealth of our country is shared and develop local and accelerates the creation of decent work opportunities.
 - Expansion and improvement of the rail networks, public transport for growth an employment creation.
- c) That COSATU leads the campaign on improvement of service delivery around infrastructural developments, provisions of quality water and sanitation.
- d) **Eastern Cape, moved Gauteng seconded**



12. Opposing privatization and outsourcing

Noting:

- a) We reaffirm our strong opposition to privatization that dates back to the 1989 Congress where we declared that “Privatization will cause untold suffering to workers employed and the community at large.”
- b) There has been a concerted effort to outsource services by the local government.
- c) Municipalities are not adhering to the NFA they push on restructuring unilaterally even without sufficient consultation- they continue with privatization, outsourcing, etc.
- d) Currently, there is sufficient evidence to support our position that privatization, outsourcing and casualisation degrade the quality of services provided.
- e) Outsourcing is sometimes practiced under the guise of Black Economic Empowerment.
- f) We have not optimally challenged privatization and engaged the community regarding the failure of privatization and their suffering caused by the privatization of services.
- g) The ANC’s 2009 manifesto commits to regulate outsourcing and prohibit certain abusive practices.

Believing:

- a) Privatization, outsourcing, and casualisation can be defeated if we firmly undertake the campaign more vigorously.

Therefore resolve:

- a) We reaffirm the 8th National Congress resolution on campaigning against privatization and commercialization and for the return of privatized public entities to public control and ownership.
- b) SAMWU should conduct a proper audit on the services that employer has already outsourced and also those services that they contemplate to outsource.
- c) We must build the capacity of shop stewards to engage with the privatization process.
- d) All municipalities who privatize must be held accountable through the Alliance.
- e) To revive the anti- privatization committees to shoot the public looting.
- f) Ensuring universal access to free basic service.
- g) Continued to ensure that service remain in the public sector in a non-commercialized manner.

- h) To seriously start developing an alternative view of what the local government sector should look like.

Eastern Cape moved Gauteng seconded



13. Prevention of BBE on area of service delivery

Noting:

- a) It is an inherited inherent in all capitalist business of not to investing where there is a need, but they always invest where there is a profit for themselves, so BBE are following that trend of cutting corners and do not deliver an affordable quality services in our communities.

Therefore resolves:

- a) To prevent all BEEs, on areas of service delivery and advocate instead co-operatives and industrial socialization of small industries through public people partnership.
- b) To ensure that all procurement is done strictly in accordance with laid down policies and procedures.

Eastern Cape moved North West Seconded

16. IDP and Peoples Budget

Noting:

- a) Municipal IDPs and the Budgets can play an insignificant role in social and economic development of the South African communities.
- b) The principles of integrated and sustainable programmes and IDP and the Budget that is people centered and driven for, with or by the people themselves has to be firmly established.

Therefore resolves:

- a) SAMWU and COSATU to campaign for the workers in the work place and the communities in the society at large to be involved on IDPs and budget in meaning full way and active participating, as a way of empowering citizen to take over the IDPs and Budgets.
- b) To build the capacity of our shop stewards to participate in the IDP and budget processes.

Eastern Cape moved Gauteng seconded

17. Employment of women in municipalities

Noting:

- a) We don't have figures for the number of women employed in municipalities, let alone the number of women employed in non-traditional women's jobs such as grave digging, waste collection (on the trucks), tractors driving and so on.
- b) That access to facilities and health and safety conditions are not always conducive to employing women in these positions.

Believing:

- a) That the number of women employed in these non-traditional jobs is low.
- b) That there is a great deal of prejudice against employing women in these positions. This prejudice comes from both management and some of our own members.

Therefore resolves:

- a) To campaign around facilities and health and safety conditions that improves the working conditions for men and women workers in particular, and makes it possible for women to do the jobs.
- b) To demand campaign that management improves the safety standards of equipment and machinery so that it has no negative health and safety effects on men and women.

Moved: Eastern Cape moved

Seconded: North West

THE CEC RESOLVED THAT THE ISSUE COVERED BY RESOLUTIONS 16-24 SHOULD FORM THE CONTENT OF AN EDUCATION PROGRAMME AMONGST MEMBERS PRIOR TO BEING CONSIDERED AT THE NOVEMBER CEC.

18. Bottled water

Noting:

- a) Bottled water in South Africa is a more that R2 billion industry including two hundred and sixty million litres of bottled water being consumed in 2006, with sales increasing 20% a year and a predicted 34% increase in turnover.
- b) Bottled water is probably the most widespread & profitable form of privatization in South Africa, no less than the rest of the world.
- c) Bottled water costs 500 to 10,000 times than tap water.

- d) There is no guarantee that bottled water is any safer than tap water and is even sometimes less safe.
- e) In the context of water and fuel shortages along with environmental pollution and global warming
- It takes 3 litres of water to bottle on litre of water.
 - A litre of mineral water generates 600 times more carbon dioxide- the greenhouse gas- than a litre of tap water.
 - One and a half tons of plastic is used worldwide to bottle 89 billion litres of water
 - The manufacture of the plastic created 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide in the US alone in 2006.
 - Still more millions of tons of carbon dioxide are created in transporting the bottles to supermarkets, often from faraway lands and in large quantities (South Africa imports 3 million litres of bottles water very year).
 - The transport alone also requires still further millions of litres of non-renewable oil.
 - It annually takes more than 214 million litres of oil to produce the plastic in the bottles consumed by the US alone.
 - The plastic-polythene terephthalate- is virtually non- degradable and lies in landfill site for a very long time.
 - All the above require large quantities of water- the manufacture of each bottle, for instance, uses five times its volume in water.
 - Still more carbon dioxide, oil and water is used in advertising in the war for market-share that takes place between the bottled water manufactures and suppliers
 - Bottled water undermines public confidence in municipal water and, to a less extent, does the same to public services in general.
 - Over 60 US cities and a growing number in Canada, British and Australia have banned bottled water from government or other publicly funded gatherings.

Therefore resolves:

- a) Stop using bottled water at all SAMWU gatherings.
- b) Call upon COSATU to do the same at all COSATU gatherings.
- c) Call upon all the spheres of government and state funded institutions to ban the use of bottled water in all their meetings.
- d) Require the Government to introduce legislation that heavily taxes profits made by the anti-social and environmentally damaging sale of bottled water.

Proposed: CEC**19. Access v Provision****Noting:**

- a) COSATU's policy is for everyone in South Africa to enjoy basic service but

Further noting:

- a) COSATU's policy, like the Bill of Rights of the Constitution, refers to access to services and that access has a technical meaning that refers only to the existence of the physical infrastructure.
- b) Access INCLUDES people who, for instance, have no water because they have been cut off or because the infrastructure is not working due to broken pipes or pumps, access also INCLUDES people who, for example, have a health clinic in their neighbourhood even though the clinic stands empty or doesn't function properly because of no staff and / or equipment.
- c) Official statistics are based on access and therefore give exaggerates the actual state of service provision.

Therefore resolves:

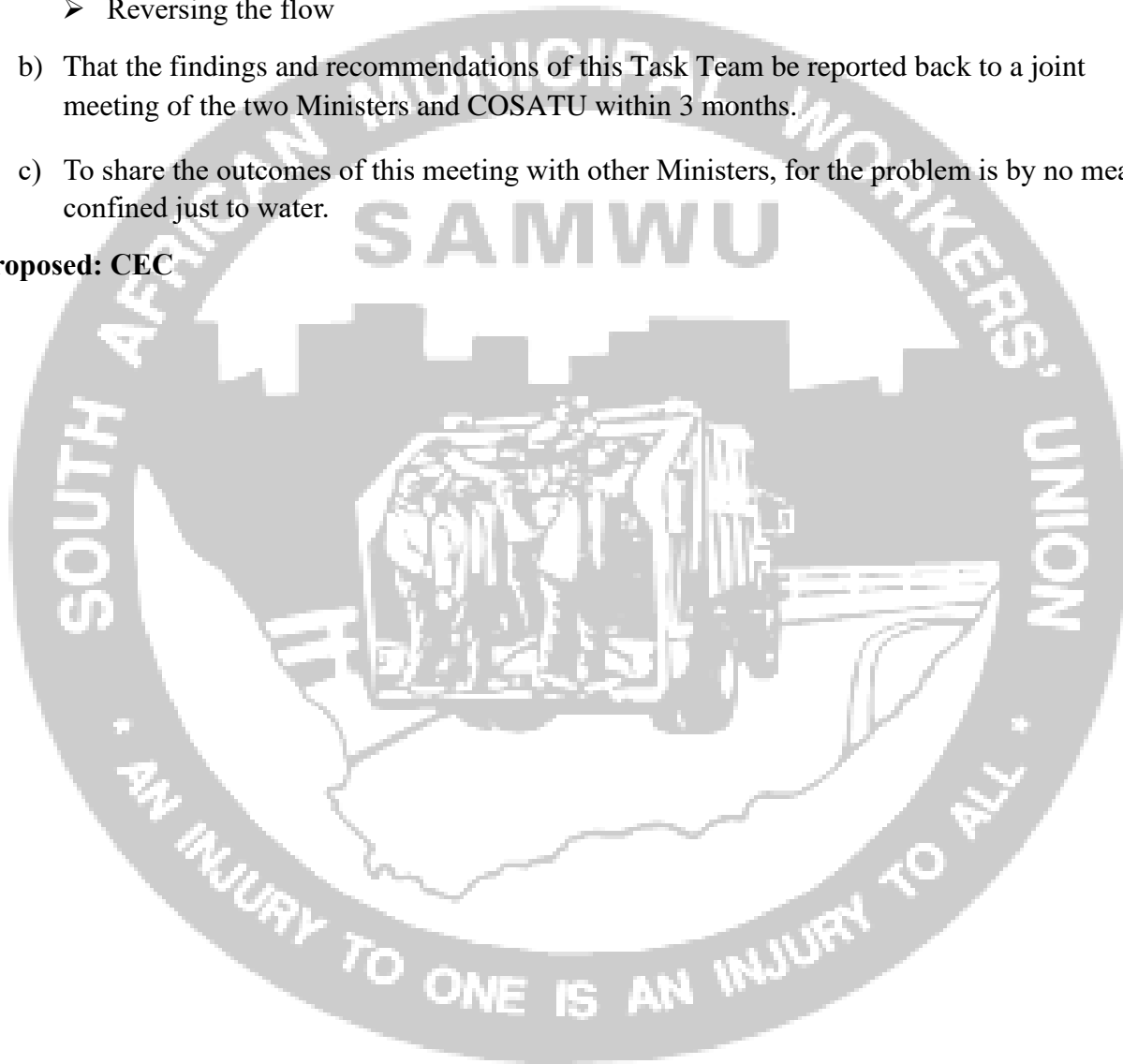
- a) Amend COSATU's policy by using the term 'provision' instead of access.
- b) Alert its Alliance partners as well as other organs of civil society to the problem.
- c) Seek the amendment of Section 26 (Housing) and 27 (health, food, water, social security) of the Constitution.

Proposed: CEC**20. Water capacity gap****Noting:**

- a) The chronic shortage of skilled and professional staff in both the WD (Water Department (WD – previously DWAF) and most, if not all, municipalities.
- b) That this problem has still been largely self-created as a result of the neo-liberal policies of outsourcing a large number of water-related activities that has produced the migration of skilled and professional staff from public service to the private sector, most commonly as consultants.
- c) That this practice has been further fuelled by the drive for what is called Black Economic Empowerment.
- d) The failures of the SETAs

Therefore resolves:

- a) To demand that the Ministers of Local Government and Water, in conjunction with COSATU (effectively the relevant affiliates), urgently convene a Task Team to examine the problem holistically with a view to
 - Not only stopping the still further haemorrhaging of public sector capacity and further dependency on an avaricious private sector with its army of consultants but
 - Reversing the flow
- b) That the findings and recommendations of this Task Team be reported back to a joint meeting of the two Ministers and COSATU within 3 months.
- c) To share the outcomes of this meeting with other Ministers, for the problem is by no means confined just to water.

Proposed: CEC

21. Water services enforcement

Noting:

- a) The regular scandals involving drinking water quality caused in many instances by defective waste water treatment plants and the consequent outbreaks of water-borne diseases.
- b) That the Water Department (WD-previously DWAF) is the statutory enforcement authority.
- c) That the WD, having, since its inception, neglected this function in favour of what is called a 'developmental' or softly-softly approach forced on it by so many of the water and other municipal managers being new and / or not up to the demands of their posts, changed its policy a few years ago with the commitment to being an uncompromising enforcer.
- d) Despite its declared new policy has still but adopted- leave alone implemented- its National Regulation Strategy, despite having been discussing this document for more than 4 years and that the latest version of this Strategy still contains a number of serious defects that Labour has identified in its formal submissions.

Therefore resolves:

- a) Raise this urgent problem with its Alliance partners.
- b) Campaign, in conjunction with other organs of civil society, to pressure the WD to fulfil its statutory duties.
- c) Seek legal advice on the merits and possibilities of a writ of mandamus.

Proposed: CEC

22. Individual or Household water provision.

Noting:

- a) The Water Services Act, giving effect to the Bill of Right's guarantee of a sufficient supply of water to everyone, defines basic water on either an individual or household basis.
- b) In practice water is supplied on a household basis only.
- c) The household allocation of water seriously discriminates against workers and the poor in two ways.
 - The people most in need of free basic water often have families larger than the current legal standard (of 8 members) that is used for water allocation.
 - There are often more than one household per erf but these additional families are not recognized, not matter how many there might be on a single property.
 - Multiple households pr property either mean that the additional households receive no free water or that all of them share the single household allocation thereby receiving a substantially reduced amount of what is already a very small amount.

- d) The discrimination against large families and / or multi-households per erf is well known to both the WD and municipalities yet the discrimination persists.

Therefore resolves:

- e) To alert the Alliance partners to the problem.
- f) In collaboration with other sections of civil society to press the government to rectify the discrimination of current practice.

Proposed: CEC

23. Water & sanitation ladders

Noting:

- a) The rationale behind much water policy is the both the quantity of water provided as basic water- 25 litres per person per day or 6 kilolitre per household per month- and the quality or level of service from communal standpipes to backward taps to indoor provision would increase over time.
- b) The same applies to sanitation where the movement is supposed to be from Pit-latrines to water borne, indoor toilets, with a range of other measures in between.
- c) This idea of gradual improvement has proved to be an illusion in the case of both water and sanitation. With few exceptions, the minimum legal standards has become entrenched as THE standard by water and sanitation authorities, other than for people with money, who can always buy improved service levels, the ladder has been stripped of all steps except for the bottom one.

Believing:

- a) That the above circumstances are contrary to the Bill of Rights in two closely inter-related ways given that the Constitution enjoys all spheres of government to take steps to progressively realize the Constitution's guarantees (Section 27.)
- First, the minimum standards has effectively regressed into becoming the only standard and
 - Second, 13 years after the adoption of the Constitution there has been little if any of the required protests that required upwards movement.
- b) That these issues are probably part of the often inchoate discontent behind the 'service delivery protest' that are now a feature of contemporary South Africa.

Therefore resolves:

- a) To raise this matter within the Alliance.

- b) To campaign, in conjunction with other progressive groups within civil society, to fix the broken by ladder by compelling municipalities to move beyond the minimum standards set in the 1990s.

Proposed: CEC

Noting:

25. Capping hedonistic water usage

- a) South Africa is recognized as being a water scarce country.
- b) The Water Department (WD- previously Department of Water Affairs & Forestry, DWAF) claims its slogan ‘Some for all Rather than all for some’ addressed this reality.
- c) The WD and Municipalities apply this slogan to justify the grossly inadequate amount of water they have allocated to meet basic human needs.
- d) Municipalities additionally use the claimed water scarcity against workers and the poor by using water conservation as the alleged reason for introducing credit control measures such as prepayment meters or the more recent euphemistically named water management devices.
- e) No water management measures are taken the rich who are the main consumer of water.
- f) Golf courses, for instance, need huge amounts of water- between 1.2 million and 3 million litres per day. Applying the government’s standard of basic water (25 litres per person per day)- which the government says is all that the country can provide given South Africa’s shortage of water- this means that one golf course uses the same amount of ‘basic’ water as between 48, 000 and 120, 000 people.
- g) The Western Cape has 82 golf courses with a further 33 being proposed. This means that existing golf courses in the Western Cape alone use the same amount of ‘basic’ water as between 1,041 and 1,603,177 people.
- h) Swimming pools are another huge drain on what is supposed to be scarce water yet there is no control over their construction or use.
- i) Golf courses and swimming pools are no more than example of the fact that unlimited amounts of water are available provided only one id rich enough to pay what workers and the poor are told is a scarce resource.
- j) That this glaring inequity is probably part of the often-inchoate discontent behind the ‘service delivery protests’ that are now a feature of contemporary South Africa.

Therefore resolves:

- a) To demand that both water scarcity and equity require the government to impose a cap on the absolute maximum amount of water available for any domestic user, this cap to be enforced by technologies such as Cape Town’s flow restrictor meter that could easily be to

cut off all water after a prescribed maximum has been used, regardless of the consumer's readiness to pay for as much water as they like.

- b) To raise this matter with the Alliance partners.
- c) To engage with other sections of civil society in mobilizing public support for the introduction of a cap on water usage for hedonistic purposes.

Proposed: CEC



26. Water restrictor meters

Noting:

- a) Prepayment meters are no longer the only meters those cut-off water supplies.
- b) So-called Water Management Devices (as used in Cape Town) also cut-off water.
- c) For people dependent on free basic water, there is no difference between the two types because they both stop the water flow.
- d) There are technical differences between the two meters, however. The difference is that for bought water (i.e., water that is in addition to the free basic amount) prepayment meters require payment BEFORE any water is supplied, whereas the so-called Water Management Devices (WMD) provide water on credit.
- e) Not allowing for this difference makes it easy for the authorities, who are most eager to distance their meters from the discredited prepayment ones, to attack opponents and accuse them of deliberately misleading the community.

Therefore resolves:

- To change existing policy by opposing all types of water restrictor meters, not prepayment ones.
- To not use prepayment meters as a genetic for all water restrictor meters.

Proposed: CEC

27. Conservation water audit

Noting:

- a) Recent initiatives by government and business to promote a far greater efficiency in water use, as part of water conservation and South Africa's contribution to protecting the environment and responding to global warming.
- b) These laudable initiatives are, however, based on the idea that any economic activity is good and therefore merits water supply.
- c) The expectation of water supply exists regardless of both (i) the social, environmental and ecological impact of the business or (ii) the amount of water it takes to produce, manufacture or grow each particular product. These decisions, in so far as they are even recognized, are seen as the exclusive prerogative of each individual business.
- d) The only aspect of the business operations that is opened for scrutiny by these initiatives is whether and how water can be used more efficiently in terms of conservation.
- e) Figures on the amount of water used to produce various products are hard to come by. However, the irrationality of bottled water in its consumption as well as manufacture, distribution and disposal is subject to a separate resolution. Some other indication of

the numbers involved is that it takes 5 litres of water just to make one litre of beer, excluding the manufacture and disposal of the bottle. The beer industry as a whole used 80 billion litres of water last year. Hamburgers provide yet another example from a near endless list. Taking all factors into account, including the water required to grow the food eaten by the cattle that become the hamburgers, each hamburger is said to use beer or sell hamburgers remains exclusively that of the business concerned. This is what free enterprise means (in part).

Believing:

- a) That the destructiveness of such market anarchism needs to be challenged as an integral part of Cosatu's long term struggle for socialism.

Therefore resolves:

- a) To raise this matter with the SACP.
- b) To campaign on this issue amongst those sections of civil society concerned with conservation in general and water conservation in particular.

Proposed: CEC

27. Public Transport

Noting:

- a) The 3rd and the 7th National Congresses stated clearly that public transport is unsafe, unreliable, inefficient, and highly commercialized.
- b) The situation stated in 1991 and 2003 respectively, still remain currently.
- c) There is a need to improve infrastructure for all public transport including rail.
- d) The government has embarked on the process of reviewing the current transport system under BRT and Recapitalization.
- e) The BRT process has not been managed properly by government.
- f) There has been poor consultation and engagements with labour in particular and broader civil society, particularly commuters. We have seen not been consulted as on major stakeholder.
- g) Some workers are already negatively affected by the process. We have seen violent activities associated with the strike actions of taxi operators and the severe inconvenience to the worker and ordinary people in particular working class school going children.
- h) In principle the process might be an opportunity to re-monopolies and fight privatization.
- i) The process is silent on the Tollgate process.

Believing:

- a) We are against any form of privatization.

- b) It is the duty of the state to provide public transport that addresses the needs of the people.
- c) Railway infrastructure must be improved to address the public transport problems.
- d) Nothing for us without us
- e) The process will affect workers and the communities.

Therefore resolves:

- a) Engage the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs together with the one for Transport to raise dissatisfaction about our exclusion.
- b) We need to support those who are against the unilateral implementation.
- c) BRT be supported only if it keeps the ownership in the hands of the state.
- d) That the BRT system should be operated and owned by the local state as part of the broader comprehensive integrated public transport system.
- e) That the infrastructure created through BRT and 2010 stadiums be used to generate income to improve revenue base for better and quality service delivery.

Mpumalanga moved Eastern Cape seconded.

Noting:

- a) The problem of too much waste in our society.

Believing:

- a) That the culture of a 'throw away' society is a capitalist culture.

Therefore resolves:

- a) SAMWU actively supports the concept of zero waste, and campaigns towards it achievement. This involves a concerted effort on recycling.
- b) That all members are educated around the importance of recycling and reducing of society's production of waste.

The CEC resolved that this issue should be properly considered and debated before the resolution could be considered.

29.Resolution on electricity production, transmission and distribution

Noting that in respect to:

General:

- a) Electricity energy is central to our mode of production as a source to drive mechanical processes and as the fuel underlying electronics and the information age.
- b) Electricity in and of itself is seen as less damaging to the environment than fuel oils and is being encouraged world wide to replace fuel oils where possible-such as domestic motor vehicles.
- c) Technology is not neutral and the current usage of electricity in South Africa is embedded in many of our economic development projects and plans, such as Koega's Aluminum smelter are driven the interests of big global capital rather than the needs for job creation.
- d) Electricity's impact on the environment depends largely on the mode of generation and that:
 - Only solar, wind and small hydro production are generally regarded as clean energy sources.
 - Bio fuel production on a small scale using waste, sewage and or methane extraction from existing land fill sites are acceptable, but not the production of cash crops for the ethanol which threaten food security.
 - Gas fuelled thermal power produces less harmful emissions, but remains a major contributor to global warming.
 - Coal fired power is the major contributor to green house gas emissions and South Africa with its
 - +- 90% dependency has one of the highest per capita rates of emission in the world.
 - Nuclear power is not clean energy, and there is no known method of disposing of radio active material; and the pebble bed modular experiment a monumental waste of resources.
- e) Government policy to seek to increase the contribution of the most clean renewable energy sources to only 6% to 8% by 2013 is inadequate.
- f) Eskom has done nothing to engage in substantial research and development into renewable energy in the interest of the people and of environmental justice in South Africa, instead it leaves development to the private sector and even then has been tardy in its responses.
- g) Eskom has also, claiming funding shortfalls, recently put on hold its renewable energy projects, such as Concentrated Solar Energy Plan near Upington, while plugging ahead with the building of 3 Coal-fired plants.
- h) Eskom has also failed deal in substantive ways in promoting electricity saving through research and development to support the production on standardized domestic solar water heaters, and instead mainly promoted energy saving globes which while they may save on electricity are a sources of mercury contamination.

- i) This reflects the highly commercialized operation of Eskom in terms of pricing policies that favour quick solutions based on commercial economic calculations that exclude the costs of environment damage and damage to human communities.
- j) Eskom has since 2001 been marked by the neo-liberal restructuring models that were imposed to turn it into a shareholding company and open up space for the entry of Independent Power Producers (IPP).
- k) As Cosatu we have consistently opposed such privatization.

30. Transmission

- a) The centralized Grid transmission system we have grown used to, and its extension to Ingwe in the DRC is not intended to meet the needs of Africa's poor, but those of big business.
- b) Such long-distance transmission is unproven and even Nersa has estimated that 25% of energy would be lost in transmission.
- c) The use of alternative green alternatives also lends itself to more local regions of transmission, with less wastage.
- d) Providing solar water heating in all housing developments is also an example of localized energy production.

31. Distribution

- a) The distribution of electricity to domestic, commercial and small industries users historically had been to domain of local government.
- b) It makes up +- 30% of all large municipal budgets and is an integrated part of any major municipality and its operations, staffing structures and finances.
- c) It is part of the package of services, including with water and sanitation, waste removal, roads and storm water, street lighting and the development and planning of housing estates and the delivery of other community amenities that make up the essence of the Integrated Development of sustainable human settlements under democratic participatory control set out in the Municipal Systems Act.
- d) The rationalization of the local government electricity distribution sector has been retarded rather than being advanced as a result of the imposition from above of the same neo-liberal grand plan and its so-called Regional Electricity Distributors (REDs).
- e) It is correct that there is a need for rationalization within wider reticulation areas, to introduce greater cross subsidization between local areas, to take advantage of economies of scale, and to rationalize domestic tariffs.
- f) The greatest inequality in tariffs however is between that larger industrial and mining users, and industrial and commercial users more generally and the domestic users.

Therefore resolves that: In respect of generation:

- a) Government must take steps to reverse the commercialization of Eskom to bring it under tighter state control. Government and Eskom must take direct substantive steps to engage in Research and Development of solar, wind and small hydro electricity production, and the design and development of solar water heaters for mass distribution.
- b) Eskom's must re-instate the Concentrated Solar Power Project near Upington even if this means dropping its third coal powered power station.
- c) Municipalities must be encouraged and supported to engage in other forms of more localized energy production, including the above forms, methane extraction from land file sites as in the case of the eThekweni, or pump hydro power as in Cape Town.

SAMWU must develop a clear position regarding the intended introduction of independent power producers.

With respect to Transmission:

- a) The government must initiate a transparent review of the transmission systems, the levels of wastage arising from long distance transmission, and the opportunities for the further developed of more localized distribution options.

With respect to Distribution:

- a) The work of rationalizing electricity must be undertaken by local government using the existing legislation proving for multi-jurisdictional local government entities and any additional supportive legislation if necessary.
- b) It is unnecessary to seek to amend the constitution as is currently intended and will lead to wasteful delays.
- c) Distribution is a matter of principle a local government functions which should take the form of a local government entity under local government control, and be integrated into all community service delivery planning.
- d) The entire value chain of production, transmission and distribution, including the rationalization of user to the tariffs to the advantage of smaller users must be dealt with through a transparent process through Nersa with government taking full responsibility on the issue of tariffs.
- e) To call for convening of a summit or workshop this brings all stakeholders together.

Eastern Cape moved**North West seconded****32. Regional Electricity Distribution****Noting:**

- a) There has been a delay on what action should be taken to bring back the function to distribution in the municipalities.
- b) Members are in limbo on what will happen in terms of their employment conditions services.

Therefore resolves:

- a) The union should consider without delay an action in addressing certainty regarding employment conditions of workers that can be affected.

Gauteng moved.

Kwa Zulu-Natal seconded

33. Public Libraries

Noting:

- a) The role of the public library is ideally to serve its community by providing free and accessible information to all.
- b) There are factors which impact o service delivery, perpetuating an inferior service in disadvantaged communities in many ways.
- c) The changing role and added responsibilities of library staff in disadvantaged communities, where school learner do not get proper guidance in conducting research, for school projects and sourcing of relevant information.
- d) Library staff is forced to adapt and accommodate all school learners with more effort and time required in guiding and assisting learners with these ever demanding school projects with the necessary professional guidance.
- e) School learners are more reliant on public library staff in disadvantaged that in advantaged communities to assist in extracting and sourcing information for these school projects.
- f) Libraries in disadvantaged communities are open for a maximum of 35 hours per week of which the staff complement will sometimes consist of volunteers, casuals, part-time and a minimum of full-time staff at its disposal.
- g) With this type of opening library hours and a shrunken staff complement, it becomes virtually impossible to provide an adequate service to the growing demand of the community it is supposed to serve.
- h) With the influx of immigrants into disadvantaged communities and the lack of source material in local public libraries in an availing foreign language literature, has resulted in dynamic linguistic problem, the public library infrastructure failed to adequately address.
- i) Public libraries in disadvantaged communities face a dual responsibility of providing source material in local and foreign languages that reflects the demographics of our society.

- j) The school libraries are at most dysfunctional and at times non-existent at many disadvantaged schools in our communities and have not been playing a role to lesser the burden of an ever-demanding Outcome Based Education (OBE) system schools learners are subjected to.
- k) Most public libraries in South Africa are situated in developed communities and as such out of reach of people living in distant rural villages and disadvantaged communities, where transport, crime and time is an impediment.
- l) Public libraries situated in disadvantaged communities are poorly sourced, understaffed and have shorter opening hours therefore making it difficult for disadvantaged communities to utilize the public library to its potential and capacity.
- m) The availability and the accessibility of a mobile public library service to disadvantaged communities and distant rural villages should be a temporary provision in order to give the municipality time, space and opportunity to build permanent public libraries in these communities.
- n) Technology in public libraries is primarily suited to communities who are electrified and who can afford these systems but are virtually non-existent in disadvantaged and rural communities.

Therefore resolves:

- a) We re-affirm the 7th National Congress Resolution.
- b) The Ministry of Arts and Culture interface with the Ministries of Basic and Tertiary Education in order to adequately equip and train library staff with the ever-demanding OBE system in assisting school learners and tertiary institutions.
- c) Public libraries become more adequately equipped and procure foreign a local literature, subject to the demands of the disadvantaged community to redress the needs of the community.
- d) All library services should be extended to promote early childhood learning.
- e) Public libraries to have longer opening house, with more permanent staff employed to address this dire need.
- f) Contract and part-time library staff to be outlawed in all public libraries.
- g) Schools' libraries should no longer exist and that the Ministry of Education interface with the necessary stakeholders in subsidizing Public Libraries, School libraries should continue to exist and be set up in every school and should be adequately equipped and resourced.
- h) Mobile Public library services to be utilized as an interim / provisional measure to build more permanent libraries in distant and disadvantaged communities.
- i) Technology like computers to learners is made available with the assistants and funding from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Arts and Culture as a joint venture initiative.

- j) A National Library Summit or Convention with all the role players should be convened within the next year of the mid-term of 2010.
- k) The roll out for the implementation of the resolution to become agenda items for discussions at national library summit / convention in the mid-term of 2010.

Western Cape moved.

Eastern Cape seconded

