

Resolution adopted at the SAMWU 5th national Congress 1997

1.Socialism

Noting That:

- a) That the implementation of our previous resolutions on socialism has always created misunderstanding amongst our members

Believing That:

- a) An effective, achievable education programme for our members will ensure understanding amongst our members.
- B) SAMWU's continued commitment to socialism requires that it develops a counter to the ideological war against socialism.
- c) Socialism is the only system which can solve the socio-economic problems of working people across the globe and any attempts to reform capitalism will merely lead to greater problems of poverty, unemployment, homelessness, disease, starvation, crime and civil war.

Resolves That:

- SAMWU, with COSATU , shall mount a counter-offensive campaign against capitalism proving the superiority of socialism by :
- Engaging in relentless of public criticism of capitalism
- By conducting, throughout the federation, on-going education on the fundamental ideas of socialism and nurturing a working class consciousness and outlook.
- Fostering a climate of free and fraternal debate on how socialism is to be achieved.
- SAMWU should forge links with other working-class formations internationally as part of international fight against neo-liberal globalization.
- SAMWU has the responsibility to start building socialism now. Steps in this process should include:
- Strengthening working class organization
- Fighting for a powerful role of the public sector by, for example, familiarizing the communities with SAMWU public Pilot Project Proposal
- Introducing socialist forms of work organisation and management which forms worker control.

- Emphasising the concept of equality and ending all forms of discrimination and oppression, particularly those affecting women.
- Fighting reduce higher echelons of bureaucracy in local government administrations.
- Moving beyond traditional notions of capitalist democracy and introducing participatory forms of democracy.

Submission by: CEO Committee



2. People's Parliament

Noting That:

- a) Our people are demobilized and frustrated as a result of lack of accountability and responsibility by the elected politicians.
- b) Elected politicians have moved away from their constituency base.

Believing That:

- The continued involvement of the masses in policy formulation and accessibility of the MPs forms the cornerstone of an informed constituency.

Resolves That:

- SAMWU, through COSATU, should ensure that adequate mechanisms are put in place to ensure the accountability of the elected politicians to their constituencies. This includes:
 - A mechanism for recall in respect of both lists and constituency candidates
 - A system for engaging constituencies
 - A more effective use for constituency offices
- We should consider the establishment of the people's parliament where elected MPs are required to report. The purpose of such an arrangement could be to create a forum where communities can:
 - Raise questions on issues affecting their day to day life , particularly those linked to a better life for all to ensure accountability by elected politicians
 - Be part of decision making.

Submissions by: CEC committee

3. 1993 Elections

Noting That:

- A) Our people are disillusioned and demotivated as a result of decisions made by the ANC led Government to adopt anti working-class policies such as: Privatisation and GEAR. This policy has led to tension in the alliance and has created frustrations against alliance partners.
- B) There is still general support for ANC –led alliance among the working class, even though voters are disillusioned and despondent in the ANC government because of the slow progress in delivering.
- C) There is no coherent strategy by the ANC-led Alliance policy formulation.

Believing That:

- a) The 1999 elections are aimed at the transfer of political and economic power to the majority.
- b) The ANC has adopted GEAR not only as strategy but as a government policy which undermines the principles of the RDP
- c) Notwithstanding any frustrations of the masses the ANC remains the political Vehicle to transformation
- d) An Alliance Summit, based on a concrete programme which will adequately address the needs of the poor, can assist in easing some of the tension.

Resolves That:

- The 1999 elections should be informed and based on the Electoral Platform.
- Such a platform focus on the consolidation of the gains made and the elimination of weakness experienced during apartheid era and transition period.
- Any platform should be based on the principles of the RDP.
- We should ensure that our approach to the Electoral platform is located within our broader approach to the transformation of socialism.
- SAMWU through COSATU commit some resources to bolster an ANC-led victory in 1999 and if necessary, deploy its officials during the election campaign.

Submissions by: Northern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal, and CEC Committee

4. Local Government Elections

Noting That:

- a) The ANC-led government had decisive victory in the 1995 local government elections.
- b) A lack of experience and commitment amongst some of the ANC councillors have caused unnecessary tensions between communities and SAMWU members.
- c) An uncoordinated policy of the local government within Alliance and failure to resolve the financial crisis, has contributed to this poor level of service delivery.

Believing That:

- a) SAMWU, as an organized formation within local government, has to date managed to develop capacity amongst its members on local government issues.
- b) SAMWU as a component of the alliance can contribute in building the capacity

Resolves That:

- a) Municipal employees have the right to canvass and stand for elections as councillors outside their area of work. This should however exclude ROB's, NOBS and officials of SAMWU except if prepared to resign.
- b) SAMWU investigate the possibility of the re-demarcation of constituencies based on size and acceptable number of councillors.
- c) We re-affirm our position of 1995 on the remuneration of councillors.
- d) SAMWU calls for a local government electoral platform which will focus on housing, water, electricity, roads and public transport at affordable rates, underpinned by the principles of public ownership.

Submissions by: Mpumalanga, Free State and CEC Committee.

5.Socio Economic: Gear

Noting

- The RDP was supported and adopted by the vast majority in the liberation movement as a programme which would provide for a better life for all.
- The adoption by the Government and subsequently by the ANC of the growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) macroeconomic policy was not the product of popular participation.
- GEAR relies heavily on capitalist investment for economic growth and very little on utilizing the power of the democratic state to re-distribution the vast inequalities of wealth that exist in our country and that GEAR contains a number of features which will have very serious effects on the working class. These include:
 - Privatisation of state assets and services.

- The removal/ reduction of state subsidies in areas like transport, social welfare, education, and health.
- Labour flexibility which will lead to greater exploitation of workers.
- Both SAMWU and COSATU have previously stated their opposition against GEAR for amongst members:
- That GEAR fails the test COSATU has for any macro-economic policy.
- That any macro-economic policy that fails the test of substantial job creation and re-distribution of wealth cannot win our support

Further Noting That:

- Our stance on GEAR has already been vindicated in many fronts in the form of cuts in amongst others, education budget, and the privatization programme in local government, the proposed child welfare programme and cuts in funds in the CCMA.
- Notwithstanding our opposition to GEAR the government continues with the implementation thereof.

Believing That:

- The adoption of GEAR policy constitutes a very definite shift in the policy by the ANC and will seriously undermine the achievement of the RDP objectives.
- Any economic strategy should be informed by the RDP goals

- GEAR is diametrically opposed to the interests of the working class and instead promotes the interest of the bosses.
- The GEAR stated objective of providing 400 000 jobs per annum by the year 2000 besides being inadequate to address the massive and growing unemployment problem in the country , will not be realized.
- Basic Social service delivery, job creation and other RDP goals will remain at the level of rhetoric until GEAR is scrapped.

Resolves That:

- The ANC-led government should implement a new macro-economic policy consistent with RDP objectives
- SAMWU, in COSATU, take the process forward of finalising the Social Equity and job creation document as part of the process of developing a macro economic strategy which underpins our vision of socio-economic transformation.
- We should guard against simply tinkering with GEAR.
- SAMWU, through COSATU, embark on a campaign involving MDM structures to resist of all elements of GEAR such as subsidy cuts, privatization, labour market flexibility etc.
- SAMWU draw up a concrete programme based on the issues outlined in the COSATU Congress and whatever emanates from this congress in preparation for the COSATU special central committee which will be held within the next 6 months.

Submissions by: Mpumalanga , Western Cape and CEC Committee

6. Apartheid debt

Noting that :

- A huge amount of government's annual budget is used to service that dept.
- The debt repayment is a huge waste of taxpayers' money which does not benefit any section of the majority of the working class.
- Loans were both made from international and local institutions, but the major part is from internal sources.

Believing that:

Resolution adopted at the SAMWU 5th national Congress 1997

- The huge debt was deliberately made in order to finance the apartheid system and regime.
- Majority of South Africans are still continuing to suffer from the effects of the brutal apartheid oppression.

- Apartheid debt repayment is now the expense of the majority of people who suffered.

under apartheid system.

Resolves that:

- SAMWU calls on COSATU to spearhead a vigorous campaign against debt.
- We call on the international community and the international secretariats to join and support our campaign to scrap the apartheid debt.
- SAMWU and COSATU campaign, in the short term, for the one rand in currently used to service the public debt, to be allocated to RDP projects.
- SAMWU canvass for a day of action against the apartheid debt.

Submissions by : CEC Committee

7. RDP and Masakhane.

- We re-firm our 1995 Congress Resolution.

We Further note that:

- Some local authorities are on the verge of collapse as a result of on-going financial crisis caused by amongst others the non-payment of services.

Service delivery is an integral part of RDP and Masakhane

Believing That:

- SAMWU members have a pivotal role in Masakhane and service delivery.

Resolves that:

- SAMWU use its members skills and knowledge to put in place strategies to improve service delivery and payment.

- SAMWU call on its members to be on stop-order for service payments where services are delivered by municipalities. Furthermore, that this call for stop order facilities for service payments should be on the basis of effective and quality delivery of services
- Cross subsidization mechanisms for those municipalities which are not viable be affected.
- SAMWU popularize its Public Pilot Projects as means of turning around local government.



- SAMWU calls on COSATU to spearhead a vigorous campaign against debt.
- We call on the international community and the international secretariats to join and support our campaign to scrap the apartheid debt.
- SAMWU and COSATU campaign, in the short term, for the one rand in currently used to service the public debt, to be allocated to RDP projects.
- SAMWU canvass for a day of action against the apartheid debt.

Submissions by : CEC Committee

Submissions by: Northern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Mpumalanga and CEC Committee.

8.NEDLAC

Noting That:

- NEDLAC was born out of worker's hard struggle.
- NEDLAC, as a tri-partite institution, has the potential to encourage corporatism and bureaucratization of unions

Believing That:

- NEDLAC in its present form is but one terrain of struggle.
- Our members need to be taken on board on NEDLAC process, issues and complaints.

Resolves That:

- SAMWU Education Department develop capacity building programme for members and leadership focusing broadly on socio-economic issues and which will assist in promoting greater participation in NEDLAC.
- Regular report backs and mechanisms for mandating and accountability be put in place.
- SAMWU, with COSATU, campaign the forces that tend to undermine NEDLAC process.
- To ensure that the objectives for NEDLAC set in 1996 COSATU Policy Conference should be what informs our participations.
- SAMWU, with COSATU, to ensure that public hearings are held parallel to negotiations and NEDLAC, that regular report-backs are held and that mass actions (whenever necessary) in support of our demands remains part of our approach to NEDLAC.

- Workshops of NEDLAC negotiators and leadership be held to assess and strategies in our participation.
- COSATU should then finalise the social equity and job creation document and table this document for negotiations within NEDLAC.

Submissions By; CEC Committee



9.Immigration

Noting That:

- Since our previous congress of 1995 our resolution on migration has not been implemented.
- Migrant workers are still being used as cheap labour which undermines organized workers and gains made by these workers.

Believing That:

- Exploitation and abusive language is still being used against immigrants.

Resolves That:

- SAMWU should push for COSATU to engage in the department of home affairs to reflect on our position regarding the issue of immigrants.
- SAMWU call on COSATU to engage progressive organized formations of immigrants within our country to develop working relationships particularly on employment standards.

Submissions by: CEC Committee

10.Collective Bargaining

Noting That:

- A National Bargaining Council has just been launched.
- This process will leave confusion amongst most of our members and officials.
- SAMWU is also organising in other sectors which do not form part of the formal local Government sector and those workers in these sectors are facing the same problems as municipal workers.
- Presently we do not have a common approach to bargaining.

Believing that.

- We need to have a common approach in all divisions of the bargaining council.

Resolution adopted at the SAMWU 5th national Congress 1997

- We should seek to create centralized bargaining arrangements in those sectors currently falling outside the jurisdiction of the bargaining council.

Resolves that:

- SAMWU call a bargaining conference before mid-1998 for the sole purpose of dealing with the following:
 - Job grading and local government grading.
 - Social Wage
 - Conditions of Service
 - Wage gap between grades
 - Levels of bargaining and which issues are bargained were.
 - Agency Shop
 - Worker benefits internal to SAMWU
 - A long-term Wage Strategy.
 - Capacity building programme for negotiators
 - SAMWU campaigns for a national bargaining council to cover water boards.
 - We fight to ensure that those service providers currently providing services to local government (conducting out, delegated management, leasing) be covered by conditions set in the National Bargaining Council.

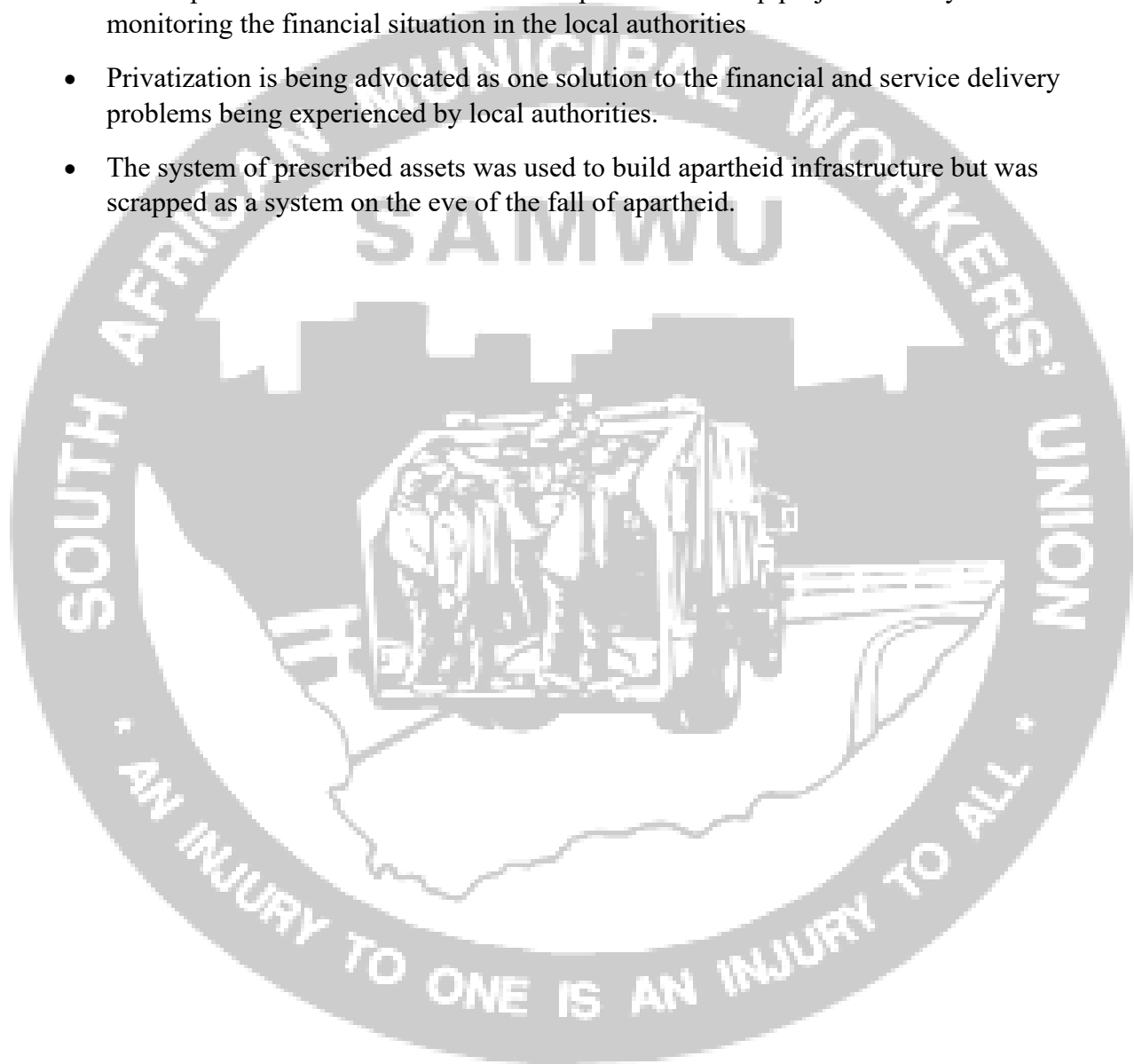
Submissions by: Free State, Western Cape, Mpumalanga, and CEC Committee

11. Local Government Funding.

Noting That:

- Local Government is faced with a funding crisis and as a result many local authorities are experiencing financial difficulties (in some instances a few were even able to pay salaries and wages)
- A number of municipalities are not viable and sustainable because of insufficient funds, maladministration and fraud.
- Several Municipalities do not have a strong tax base, and this therefore inhibits their ability to deliver effective services. They are struggling to survive.
- The restructuring and amalgamation of the internal administrations of local authorities is not proceeding smoothly and that this is having an adverse effect on the extension and delivery of services to the historically disadvantaged masses.

- Central Government curtailment of funds to local government presents new challenges to local government.
- The government has the policy on restricting the budget of local government yet does not take responsibility of funding the local government.
- Communities have not adequately responded to the payment of services
- The Department of Constitutional Development has set-up project viability as a means of monitoring the financial situation in the local authorities
- Privatization is being advocated as one solution to the financial and service delivery problems being experienced by local authorities.
- The system of prescribed assets was used to build apartheid infrastructure but was scrapped as a system on the eve of the fall of apartheid.



Believing That:

- Local Government will not survive without radically restructuring the existing methods of funding.
- The so-called service charge boycott was a direct response to the boycott of service delivery to our communities by the illegitimate apartheid structures.
- Once service delivery has been re-instituted, people should pay for the services they receive within the framework of a national tariff system which makes provisions for adequate levels of cross subsidisation.
- A pre-scribed asset is viable vehicle for post –apartheid reconstruction.
- The involvement of the private sector should be limited to financial contributions as part of their social responsibility.
- The government’s adoption of GEAR will further impede effective service delivery and undermines the basic principles of the RDP.
- The funding of local government is the political responsibility of central government within its general fiscal policy and should not be restricted to certain services but all services in local authorities.

Resolves That:

- We reject GEAR and the private sector involvement in rendering municipal services.
- SAMWU, with COSATU, campaign strongly for the re-introduction of prescribed assets.
- Municipal workers should be directly involved in building the Masakhane Campaign. This process could be facilitated by SAMWU convening a workshop/meeting in order to come up with a concrete plan on our participation in the campaign .
- SAMWU, with COSATU, push for national tariff reform in respect of all basic services. This reform should include what constitutes life-line levels of services and makes provision for cross- subsidisation.
- SAMWU calls for National Summit with stakeholders to deal with the financial crisis faced by local authorities notwithstanding Project Viability. Organisations such as NIEP could assist with facilitation.
- SAMWU re-enforces its intention to fight for solidary fund for local authorities.
- SAMWU pushes for the amalgamation of those local authorities which have no financial viability.
- SAMWU develop a coherent strategy for the implementation of the RDP and put this forward through our active participation in local development forums.
- Government should have a centralized funding network to give effect to the extension of basic services to disadvantaged areas.

- Local authorities' budgets should be geared to redress the effect of apartheid.
- SAMWU encourage its members to participate in the budgetary process.
- SAMWU fukky debate the concept of "Socialising Private Capital "as raised in the September Commission Report in order to formulate a clear position in the regard.



Submissions by: Western Cape, Free-State, Northern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal , Mpumalanga and CEC Committee.

12. Local Government Councillors

Noting that:

- Since the first democratic local government elections little attention has been given to building capacity of councillors drawn from the democratic movement and that this has led to tensions developing between local government employees (and SAMWU) and the councillors .
- The recognition of local government as a distinct sphere of government places enormous responsibilities to councillors. They are expected to play a more political and development role. Local government has more decision-making powers. Decisions in terms of appropriate form of service delivery, local economic development, etc.
- The actions of many of the new councillors have been based on self-interest rather than the collective interests and needs of the communities they were elected to represent.
- The continued domination of statutory local government bodies by old older conservatives and the heavy reliance upon them by democratically elected councillors is a source of continued stagnation in transforming this institution.
- There still exists a problem regarding the status of councillors on the issue of remuneration and positions.

Believing that:

- Councillors' positions should not be regarded as permanent employment positions.
- The training and portfoliorisation of councillors will enhance their capacity to serve and to deliver and to play a more meaningful role in local government transformation.
- A number of councillors have fallen prey to corruption, and this will affect their integrity and objective handling of issues such as tendering is questionable.

Resolves that:

- Mechanisms be put in place to have councillors, who are not accountable to the communities they represent, be re-elected.
- A code of conduct be developed and implemented by the Alliance which will serve as a guide on councillor's role.
- As part of capacity building problem for local government, effective training programmes be developed for councillors and that the local government training Board play an active role in this regard.
- Councillors be portfoliorised and clear roles and their responsibilities be outlined.

Submissions by : Free State ; Mpumalanga and CEC Committee



13. Local Government Service Delivery.

Noting That:

- Many of the services aimed at meeting basic needs of people, are provided by local authorities.
- In essence the restructuring of local government is to effect the re-distribution in the previously disadvantaged and impoverished areas
- Lack of Capacity in local government in particular councillors in dealing with the restructuring process
- This lack of capacity (Funding) seems to be one of the main motivation to want to contract out/privatize municipal activities.
- The restructuring process is still happening in a much uncoordinated way within the Department.
- The intention by local authorities of increasing the involvement of the private sector in service delivery.
- Existing administration still tend to be fragmented, too bloated and hierarchical.
- There is an agreement in the National Bargaining Council that basic services should be delivered by municipalities and that alternative to the Public Private Partnership be sought and that the SAMWU Public Pilot Project option be explored.

Further Noting That:

- The role of local government workers in the delivery of services is a paramount importance.
- SAMWU has a responsibility to ensure its members render efficient quality services.
- The establishments of service committees we will have the capacity to be proactive in the restructuring process.

Believing that:

- SAMWU needs to take ownership of the restructuring process.
- SAMWU need to include the work ethic amongst its members and that it should be incorporated in our education programme.
- Through the effective functioning of our service communities, we will have the capacity to be proactive in the restructuring process.

Resolves that:

- We move speedily in implementing our resolution on establishing service committees according to the clusters identified in the CEC and that this process be finalized within the next four months of Congress.
- SAMWU ensure that links are developed between the different local government services and those government departments politically responsible for those services.
- We popularize our own Public Pilot Projects as a viable form of service delivery.
- We reiterate our call for further co-ordination of local government affairs within the Department of Constitutional Development. This must include:
 - Co-ordination of a service delivery framework.
 - Co-ordination of implementation of development plans
 - Liaising with stakeholders in local government
 - Developing a capacity building programme
- 5. We strengthen our Anti-privatisation campaign by:
 - Popularising our Public Pilot Projects
 - Developing a joint mass action programme with the Alliance Partners
 - Funds be set aside for the campaign at regional level.
 - Expose politicians and elected officials who openly propagate privatization to the detriment of the poor.

Submissions by: Western Cape, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, Free-State and CEC Committee.

15. Metro Local Government.

Noting that:

- The present form of two-tier metropolitan local government is not addressing the issue of amalgamation and transformation adequately. Instead, it is just perpetuating problem of the old apartheid system which was characterized by bureaucratic inequality and inefficiency.
- The present structure is very costly to manage.

Believing that:

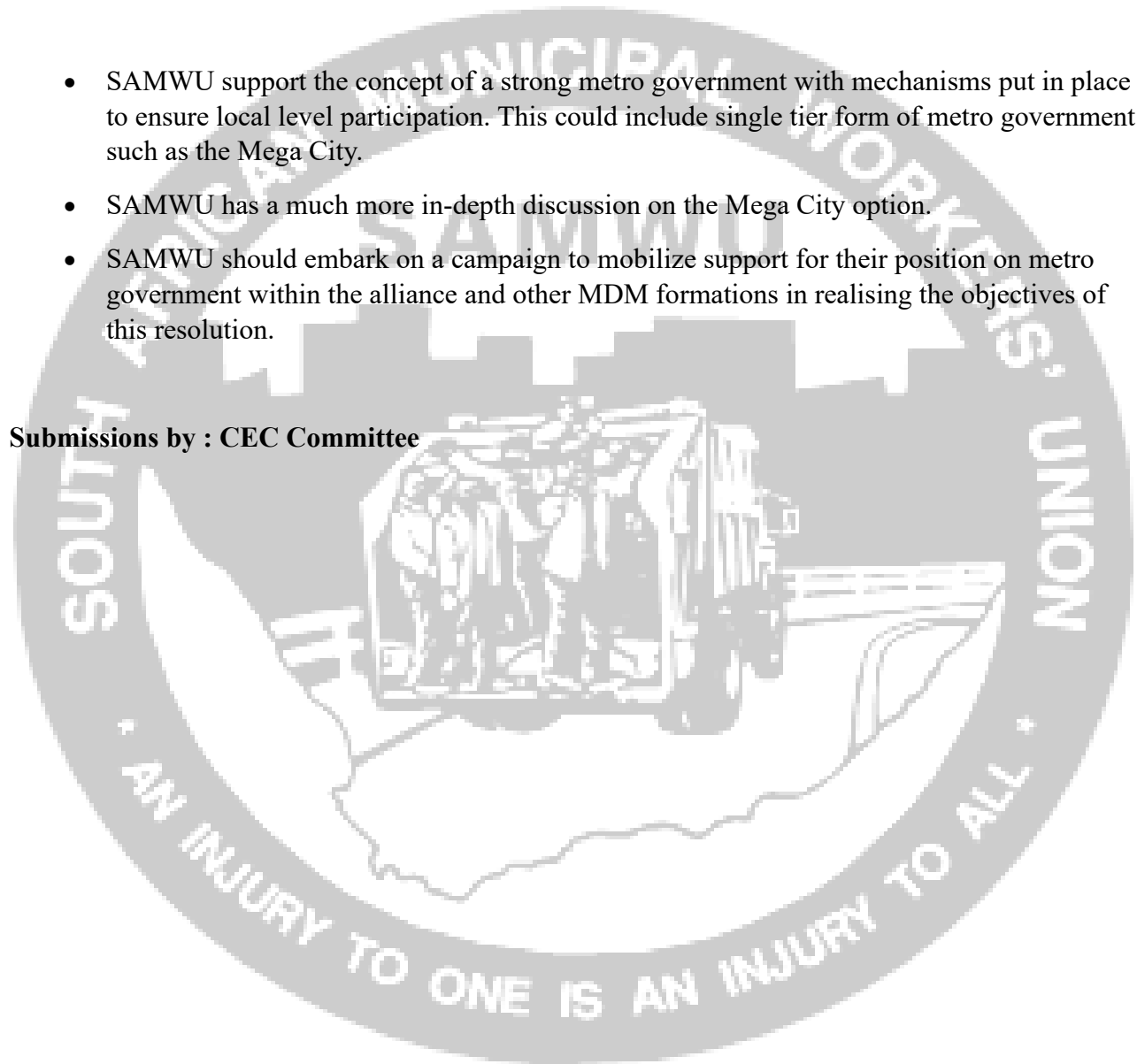
- The current form will lead to development of elites and bureaucrats.
- The number of councillors should be determined by the priorities of the council.
- A properly structured financial management structure is needed to ensure efficiency and delivery.

- The amalgamation of councils will assist in economies of scale cross- subsidization from the wealthy to the poor.
- There is a need for radical transformation of local government in order to ensure clean management and effective delivery of services and do away with competition by local authorities.

Resolves that:

- SAMWU support the concept of a strong metro government with mechanisms put in place to ensure local level participation. This could include single tier form of metro government such as the Mega City.
- SAMWU has a much more in-depth discussion on the Mega City option.
- SAMWU should embark on a campaign to mobilize support for their position on metro government within the alliance and other MDM formations in realising the objectives of this resolution.

Submissions by : CEC Committee



16. Discussion Document on the Local Government White Paper

Noting that:

- The discussion Document is part of the process of developing a policy framework and vision for a democratic local government in a direct attempt to address the imbalances of the past. South African society faces a huge infrastructural backlog in both urban and rural areas. This is a direct product of apartheid urban planning which, amongst others, directed resources to formerly white areas and created dormitory townships and informal settlements which serves (and continue to serve) as labour reserves for business.
- The discussion document is put within the current context of globalization and neo liberalism (in line with government's Macro Economic Policy –GEAR) which emphasizes the increasing role of the private sector and the diminished role of the state. Central to this strategy is contracting out of municipal services and privatization of municipal services. The private sector has been specially put up most often in recent times as a viable mode of service delivery. Strong arguments in this regard are that it will alleviate the financial crisis faced by many local authorities and/ or will build capacity within the Local government in the long run. International experience indicates that private sector delivery is, contrary to its stated objectives, has more often than not had the opposite effect.
- It raises a number of critical issues affecting the local government which amongst others include:
 - SWOT analysis
 - The quota system for women representation
 - The role of local government in providing efficient services and developing the local economy
 - The role of the private sector in investment and service delivery.
 - A model for local government
 - Local Economic Development and the importance of integrated development plans (IDP) with community involvement in the implementation of these plans
 - Infrastructure investment with an emphasis on the role of the market, affordability and ability to pay for services.
 - Capacity building in Local government
 - The role of councillors and administration
 - Financing and Funding.
 - Local Government transition has been geared towards creating unified, non-racial local government

- Local Government as a distinct sphere of government has a direct stake in the national and provincial policy formulation and has legislative powers through the establishment of the National Council of Provinces.

