



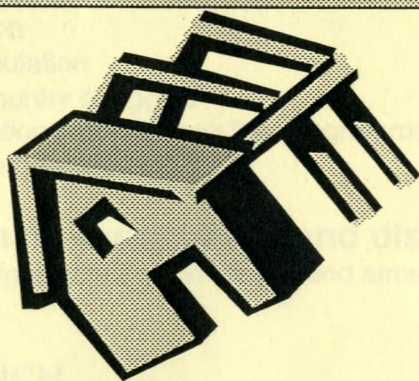
Mr. Kavanagh



# Local Government Transformation Forum

Workshop  
10 February 2000

SAMWU Office,  
Athlone





# **Local Government Transformation Forum**

## **Workshop agenda**

*10 February 2001*

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**9 – 9.15am**      **Welcome and opening: Chair**  
*Andre Adams, SAMWU*

**9.15 – 9.45am**    **Input: *Sandra van Niekerk, SAMWU***

- Challenges facing working class communities and state employed workers.
- Understanding these challenges in the context of privatisation, commercialisation and the reduction in the role and responsibilities of the state.
- Responding to the challenges.

**9.45 – 10am**      **Programme of workshop**  
**Explain how commissions will work**

**10 – 10.20am**    **TEA**

**10.20 – 11.45**    **Commissions: aims and objectives of forum**

The chair of each commission will take participants through the summary table of different submissions; the founding principles of the forum; and Johannesburg Anti-Privatisation Forum Declaration.

***Questions for discussion:***

- a) What are the key challenges facing the working class that you think we need to address in this forum?
- b) Given this, what issue/issues should be the focus of the forum?
- c) What should be the aims and objectives of the forum?
- d) Broadly, what form should the forum take? Eg.
  - mass based campaign structure
  - information dissemination
  - policy debates and formulation
  - adhoc support for community struggles
- e) What should be the relationship between the programme of the forum, and the programme of specific organisations?

**11.45 – 1pm**      **Plenary report-back and discussion**

Plenary will have to reach agreement on the focus and aims and objectives of the forum.

**1 – 2pm**            **LUNCH**

## **2 – 3.45pm      Commissions: Structures and the way forward:**

The commissions can make use of the summarised submissions when they discuss the following questions:

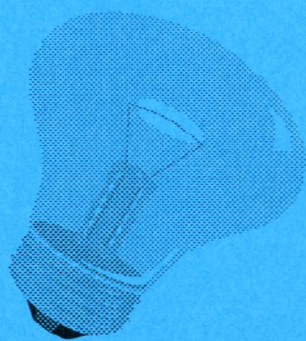
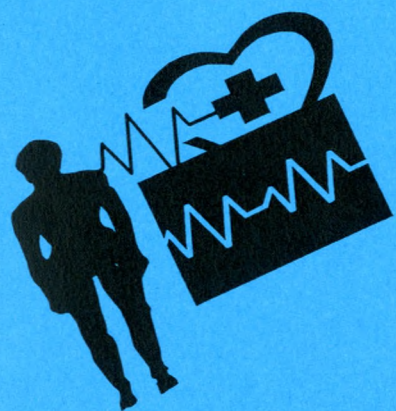
### ***Questions for discussion:***

- a) What structures do you think would best help us meet the objectives that we have decided on?
- a) What is the programme of action we need to carry out in order to take forward the aims and objectives we have agreed to?
- b) How can we mobilise and build support for the campaign?
- c) How should members of the forum relate to the forum, and how should the forum relate to member organisations?
- d) What should be the link between the forum and other campaigns eg. the anti-evictions campaign?

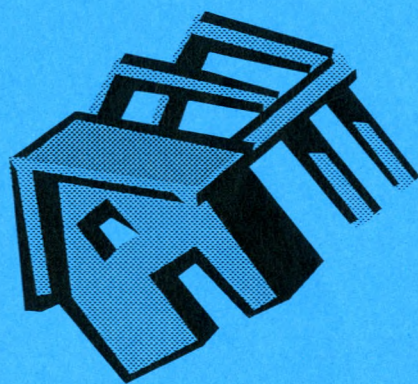
## **3.45 – 5pm      Plenary report-back and discussion**

Once agreement has been reached on all these issues, plenary should agree on a declaration which captures how we see the future of the forum.





# SUBMISSIONS





## 1. Summary for commission one (focus and aims and objectives)

Organisation	What focus should be	Motivation for this focus	Aims and objectives	General thrust of form forum should take
Nehawu	<p>Anti-privatisation</p> <p>Within their own structures, Nehawu will focus on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- retrenchments in public sector</li> <li>- outsourcing in sectors like welfare and private health</li> <li>- world bank loans to public hospitals</li> <li>- day hospitals incorporated into municipalities</li> </ul> <p>Need to link these issues to what forum is taking up</p>	<p>Should be all-encompassing structure dealing with all manifestations of privatisation and outsourcing in different sectors.</p> <p>In this way would be able to draw in unions and communities in all these sectors</p>	To deal with all manifestations of privatisation and outsourcing	<p>Should include as many affiliates/federations as possible as well as broad range of community organisations</p> <p>Forum should embark on joint action; release press statements; organise public debates</p>
ACRRA	<p>Deal with a range of different issues which highlight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the right of communities to a decent life (eg. access to water, housing, security etc) and</li> <li>• the problems confronting communities like privatisation and outsourcing, AIDs, disease, crime etc.</li> </ul>		<p>To act in a political capacity to hold local and/or national government to account</p> <p>To act in a legal advisory capacity</p>	Forum should be involved in advocacy and lobbying, as well as activism
PSTT	Local Government and specifically the unicity proposals and their implications		<p>To mobilise majority of Cape Town residents around local government issues</p> <p>To highlight contradictions in Council's strategy and to construct an accountability mechanism for council</p>	<p>Broad-based movement</p> <p>Connect with existing community orgs and networks – linking their specific issues to common themes</p> <p>Balance contributions different organisations can make to work of forum (resources, time etc)</p> <p>Forum should be involved in education; monitoring; and strategic and effective action</p>
CWG	Anti-privatisation	<p>Privatisation is a broad focus under which all other issues fall. It affects all sectors and all aspects of day-to-day lives. Through privatisation the burden is shifted onto the poor and poverty is deepened.</p> <p>It's a cornerstone of GEAR (neo-liberal policy)</p>	<p>To unite workers and communities around a common struggle</p> <p>Work towards national anti-privatisation campaign and build links with other anti-privatisation initiatives</p> <p>To build united front of mass organisations (unions and communities) against privatisation and against GEAR</p> <p>Build links internationally</p> <p>Expose impact of privatisation</p> <p>Facilitate dissemination of information</p>	<p>Militant mass-based campaign with sector structures</p> <p>Sector structures would focus on all key sectors</p> <p>Forum should be involved in campaign activities (direct action); education; research; monitoring; media activities</p>
ISM	Protecting/demanding our rights eg to adequate housing; sufficient water;	Our rights are being undermined by national government economic policy		

	social security Stay with existing name or adopt something like "Constitutional Rights Action Campaign"	which emphasises the ideology of the market, the "user pays" principle (leading to evictions and cut-offs), commercialisation, privatisation		
APDUSA	Anti-privatisation	Privatisation at national and local government level is affecting people in every aspect of their lives – including housing, electricity, health, education. It has very negative impacts on the working class and is deepening poverty	To oppose privatisation and commercialisation To unite widest spectrum of affected organisations To publicise and oppose social injustice through media and direct action To educate poverty stricken masses To work for democratic government Build links with groups in other parts of country To establish links internationally	Bring together wide spectrum of organisations of the poor majority Forum should be involved in production of media; direct action; education
CRM	Anti-privatisation	Narrow the focus to privatisation, but look at privatisation in all spheres. In this way able to concentrate resources	To unite working class in national militant campaign To fight for re-nationalisation Expose link between GEAR and privatisation Expose political parties and councillors who promote privatisation Actively support other struggles Link up with international groups Fight for workers who were retrenched to be given their jobs back	Mass-based campaign involving as many working class organisations as possible Forum should be involved in disseminate information through regular bulletin; direct action; legal interventions; fundraising

#### Summary of main differences in focus:

- Retain present focus/name (Local Government)
- Move to anti-privatisation forum – as the central issue covering all other issues
- Move to anti-privatisation forum – as a way of narrowing down focus
- Focus on protecting/demanding constitutional rights

## 2. Summary for commission two: (structures)

Way forum is presently structured: At the moment the forum is structured with a plenary (where all the organisations come together) and steering committee (which carries out the mandates of the plenary and convenes meetings)

Organisation	Structure suggestions
PSTT	Steering committee and plenary as is now New structures: sub-committees with different foci
CWG	Sector structures
Apdusa	General Council (like present plenary): meet once a month; all organisations represented; supreme decision-making body Executive Committee: has chair; secretary and treasurer. Must meet with activist forum two weeks before GC to get report and proposals which are then tabled at GC Activist forum: membership is open to any members of participating organisations (or individuals who are not members of organisations?). Hold weekly meetings. Plan and lead implementation of decisions of GC. Has subcommittees operating under it. Subcommittees under Activist forum: include organising; workshop (education); publications. Summitt: once a quarter
CRM	Programme of Action committee

### 3. Summary for commission two: (way forward)

Organisation	Programme of action
Nehawu	Bilaterals with other affiliates and federations to mobilise participation on and support for forum
PSTT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Run programme of workshops where different perspectives are debated/reflected upon</li><li>2. Highlight key contradictions in council's vision and plans</li><li>3. Construct accountability mechanism to monitor performance of council</li></ol>
Apdusa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Put in place agreed organisational structures as soon as possible</li><li>2. Formalise relations with Anti-privatisation forum in Gauteng</li><li>3. Meet with as many community organisations/civics as possible</li><li>4. Seek affiliation of as many organisations of poor, working class majority as possible</li></ol>
CRM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. March and rally last Saturday of every month</li><li>2. Continue with petition</li><li>3. Programme of Action committee needs to be established</li><li>4. Develop campaign slogans</li></ol>





# NEHAWU

National Education, Health &  
Allied Workers Union

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Cape Town

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## IKAPA METROPOLE REGION

**TO :** The LGTF Co-ordinator  
**ATTENTION :** Comrade Andre Adams  
**FROM :** Suraya Jawoodeen - Regional Secretary

### NEHAWU WORKSHOP FOR LGTF WORKSHOP

22 January 2001

NEHAWU would like to propose that the workshop as part of its assessment of the progress to date of the forum agree to specific changes for 2001. These would include : form and purpose of the structure and focus of the programmes. The IKapa Metropole region would strongly support a change in the form of structure of the LGTF. It should rather be called :

**the Anti-Privatisation Forum** - it should be an all encompassing structure that would deal with all the manifestations of privatisations and outsourcing.

An obvious model to benchmark against would be the Gauteng Anti-Privatisation Forum. It should then have more immediate relevance to different sectors within the Federation and the communities.

Bilaterals with other affiliates and the federation should become an urgent task for the forum as the federation regionally must be engaged to take a position and to support the work of the forum. In addition community representation should cover a broad spectrum from different townships.

NEHAWU will soon have to within its structures develop campaigns around the following issues:

- retrenchments in the public sector
- mass scale outsourcing in sectors like welfare, tertiary and private health
- world bank loans to public hospitals
- incorporation of the day hospitals into the local municipalities

The above would be the areas of focus NEHAWU would bring to the forum in order to link its campaigns with different layers of society.

The envisaged programmes of the new forum should include amongst other things:

- joint publicity statements by members of the forum
- different forms and levels of industrial action to highlight the issue of privatisation and outsourcing in different sectors
- public debates etc.

# **Comrades for a Workers' Government (CWG)**

## **Submission to the Steering Committee**

**19 January 2001**

Over the past few years, in different guises, the ANC government has implemented plans for widespread privatization and commercialization throughout South Africa. These plans are an integral part of the Gear strategy, the ANC government's homegrown structural adjustment policy.

Neo-liberal structural adjustment policies have been imposed worldwide. They are largely a response to the crisis in the world capitalist economy. In particular, transnational and national capitalist companies have suffered declining rates of profits over the past two to three decades. Debt-stricken countries – in Africa, South America, Asia, Eastern Europe - have been forced to turn to the World Bank and the IMF for further loans. These loans are conditional on the implementation of structural adjustment policies, including privatization and commercialization.

The main purpose of these policies is to shift the burden of the crisis of profitability onto the backs of the oppressed and exploited masses, especially the working class. Structural adjustment, including privatization and commercialisation, is a major cause of the increased poverty and the dramatic lowering of the living standards of workers and peasants worldwide. It has led to growing social and economic inequalities both between and within the countries of the world.

In South Africa, as elsewhere, privatisation and commercialization have contributed significantly to:

- ♦ massive job losses
- ♦ sharp declines in living standards
- ♦ a worsening of the housing crisis
- ♦ a deterioration in the provision of public services (health, water, electricity, sanitation, refuse removal, education, social services, etc)
- ♦ increased costs for services
- ♦ cuts in water, electricity and other services
- ♦ cuts in public subsidies (transport, education, housing, etc.)
- ♦ threats to public health and a lowering of workplace health and safety standards
- ♦ a rise in crime and gangsterism and a growing sense of alienation, despair and disintegration in working class communities
- ♦ an attack on our democratic gains:
  - the ANC government has introduced privatization without a semblance of a popular mandate and in breach of existing agreements with the unions;
  - through privatization, the government is trying to free itself of responsibility for providing a range of social and economic services to the working class;
  - workers and communities, seeking universal access to services, are now at the mercy of private companies, which are driven purely by greed and profits and lack any accountability to their 'customers';
  - local and international experience proves that privatisation goes hand in hand with unaccountability and corruption in government.
- ♦ a worsening of working conditions for millions of workers
- ♦ further fragmentation and division in the working class (permanent, casual, unemployed) as a result of privatization-related retrenchments and out-sourcing
- ♦ increased gender inequality and a further lowering of the status of women workers
- ♦ a weakening of trade unions and trade union rights
- ♦ a further undermining of already weak community organizations
- ♦ an overall weakening of the fighting capacity and unity of the working class and its mass organizations.

Under these alarming circumstances, both employed workers and impoverished communities throughout the country have no choice but to unite and resist these policies, as well as their implementation and effects.

However, over the past few years, the response to the mighty challenge of privatisation has been weak, fragmented and uncoordinated. The COSATU unions that organise public sector and parastatal workers have failed to effectively oppose privatization, while NACTU and the independent unions have hardly fared any better.

Privatisation has placed a great strain on the Alliance between COSATU and the ANC government. The leadership of COSATU and its affiliates has proceeded with hesitancy and failed to implement the Sixth COSATU Congress (held in 1997) resolution to conduct a nation-wide campaign against "elements" of Gear, including privatization. So far, SAMWU has embarked on the most militant anti-privatisation campaign. This has led to sharp clashes with ANC municipalities. Unfortunately, the SAMWU leadership too has tended to vacillate and, at crucial moments, even compromise the union's own positions, in order to avoid a head-on clash with the ANC government.

Outside of the efforts of SAMWU, little has been done to unite organized workers with communities facing privatization and its effects.

Much of the privatization programme directly breaches the National Framework Agreement between the government and the trade unions. More important, as has already been noted, privatization and commercialisation clearly represent a vicious and wide-ranging attack on workers and working class communities countrywide.

Despite formal democratic changes and an ANC government, workers face growing poverty, unemployment and social misery; and privatisation is a significant factor in these trends. The cholera epidemic, spreading from province to province, is directly related to water privatization and commercialization. The HIV-AIDS crisis adds greater urgency to the situation.

It seems clear that the time for hesitation and ambivalence is over. To avoid further ruin, a united, national campaign against privatization and commercialization is a burning necessity. This, in turn, could be a mighty step towards building a united front of struggle against Gear as a whole and its terrible effects on the working class.

SAMWU's anti-privatisation struggles in Nelspruit, Johannesburg and elsewhere provide a glimpse of what is possible with militant mass action by workers and affected communities and constituencies. The initiative of SAMWU (Western Cape Region) to broaden its anti-privatisation campaign and reach out to communities and community organisations is an important step in the right direction. In the Western Cape and nationally, SAMWU and its militant worker leaders must play a leading role in uniting workers and communities and building the campaign.

Comrades, the very physical, social and moral integrity of the working class is under threat. The capitalist system, with its Gear policy and privatization programme, is killing us - it must go!

In keeping with our name, we therefore see the anti-privatisation campaign as part of a struggle for a workers' government; in other words, to place the working class in power and open the road to socialism.

The Comrades for a Workers' Government will participate in such a campaign on the basis of the above perspective.



We therefore propose that:

1. The Local Government Restructuring Forum be reconstituted as an anti-privatisation campaign committee.
2. The aims of the Anti-Privatisation Campaign should be:
  - ♦ to build a militant, mass-based anti-privatisation campaign in Cape Town and the Western Cape as a whole.
  - ♦ to support the idea of a national anti-privatisation campaign and to build links with other anti-privatisation initiatives
  - ♦ to support the idea of building a united front of mass organizations against Gear
  - ♦ to support and build links with anti-privatisation struggles worldwide, especially in Southern Africa
  - ♦ to draw in all key unions affected by privatization and commercialization
  - ♦ to draw in communities facing privatization and its effects
  - ♦ to link union-based action with community-based action in a single campaign
  - ♦ to focus on all key sectors (municipal, housing, health, education, etc.)
  - ♦ to facilitate (through monitoring, research, education, media activities, etc.) the effective dissemination of information on the privatization plans of government (national, provincial and municipal)
  - ♦ to expose the impact of these plans on workers and communities.
3. We also propose the following for the planned workshop:
  - (a) that we identify the key sectors and constituencies that have not as yet participated in the Forum's meetings
  - (b) that we ensure the participation in the workshop of representatives of all the key sectors and constituencies affected by privatization
  - (c) that the aims of the workshop should be to:
    - ♦ further clarify the aims and content of the anti-privatisation campaign
    - ♦ draw up a plan of action for the next few months
    - ♦ agree on an effective organizational structure, in keeping with main aims of the campaign and the needs of the key sectors and constituencies.

## YOUTH for WORK PERSPECTIVE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION FORUM

### THE NAME OF THE FORUM

Youth for Work believes that the name of any initiative is very important. Its importance derives from the fact that a name of any initiative or movement represents the face of it. This becomes very crucial in the context of the local Government Transformation Forum as it has to sell itself to those people that it seeks to defend their interests of whom are the working class. **It is our belief that the name of the forum should be called Coalition for Free Services.** The rationale behind this new name, is that, the forum has to be pro-active by demanding for free municipal services. Moreover, it is our belief that communities and ordinary persons will associate themselves with the coalition as it addresses basic issues they are facing on a daily basis. It is our feeling that the present name-Local Government Transformation Forum is long and sounds technical and deals with complex issues. As a result, it might be difficult to sell the forum to ordinary folk in the street. Secondly, ours, is the fight against privatisation of municipal services, and, that is the overall objective of the Unicity. Youth for Work believes that we should not do what capitalists do, i.e. complicate matters and in the process confusing the working class as they are currently doing.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

- To raise awareness to communities and workers about the dangers of privatisation as they are in the Unicity proposals as well as in the broader context.
- To facilitate joint community and workers solidarity in action against privatisation and commercialisation of services.
- To establish and promote campaigns as a mobilising tool as a defense of communities and workers against privatisation.

### STRUCTURES OF THE FORUM

The above objectives and aims will not be realised unless there are mechanisms and systems to realise these objectives. Additionally, fighting privatisation is a big task of which will need legal backing, finances, co-ordination, propaganda etc.

### YOUTH for WORK PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- **Finance** – The task of the committee is to raise and manage funds in order to ensure that financial needs of the forum are met.
- **Campaigns** – The task and functions of this committee is to establish, coordinate and manage campaigns.
- **Legal** – The forum will face legal challenges as those in power will resort to legal means once their interests are challenged. It is therefore necessary to have a committee that will identify human rights lawyers who will be keen to defend people's interests.
- **Media** – The task of the committee will be to propagate the views and perspective of the forum including the regular publication, pamphlets, etc.
- **Research** – To do research on the nature of services provided by city council, the rates, quality, etc.

Initiated: Fax Pad Ref.138.	PAGE: <u>1</u> OF <u>3</u>
TO: <u>A. ADAMS</u>	FROM: <u>Simplicite</u>
CO: <u>SAMWU</u>	CC: <u>Youth for Work</u>
DATE: <u>07/02/2001</u>	PHONE NO: _____
FAX NO: _____	FAX NO: _____

## **THE FOCUS OF THE FORUM**

It is Youth for Work understanding that the forum exists in order to defend the interest of communities and workers against the onslaught of privatisation. The interest of the above group is under severe attack from forces that seek to advance the interest of big companies and multinational companies. The attack is carried out through international, national and local arrangements. Internationally, the presence of instruments of Globalisation (IMF/WB and WTO) as well as their influence over national governments cannot be underestimated. The GEAR strategy which is normally referred to as a "home-grown structural adjustment programme" is a testimony to that. The local arrangements such as Igoli 2002 in Johannesburg and Unicity in Cape Town are the implementations of GEAR at local level. **Where do we focus? We need to establish a focus!** In order for the forum to be sharp and effective, it ought to have a focus. As one Cde put it in one of plenary sessions of the forum, "Given our capacity, we can't be everywhere".

Youth for Work would prefer the forum to focus on privatisation/commercialisation of social services. We need to fight for free services to all. As we all know, the consequences of all these initiatives is the unaffordability of basic services that lead to water and electricity cut offs and people being evicted because they are unable to pay for the commercialised or privatised services.

## **RESPONDING TO GEAR AND GLOBALISATION**

Comrades, we have to admit that what we are facing and fighting at local level is the consequence of a national and global situation. In other words, the proposals contained in the Unicity are results of Gear strategy that is influenced by globalisation process. We all know that GEAR strategy emphasised the issues of privatisation, fiscal discipline, budget deficit, to mention only a few. Is this not what the Unicity seeks to accomplish by shifting local government from being a service provider to be a service assurer? There are various dictates of the central government policy of shifting government being the owner of assets to the assurer of assets, is this not what they mean by being making Cape Town a world class city.

The issue here comrades, is that we cannot keep quiet and fold our arms whilst GEAR is setting the tone for the whole of South Africa. Youth for Work believes that it will not be good for the forum to be silent about GEAR as well as instruments of globalisation while poor people are burying the brunt of their effects.

Many of us are aware of progressive campaigns and responses to GEAR and instruments of globalisation like IMF/WB and WTO. These campaigns and responses take the form of a call for people's budget, campaign against job losses, call for debt cancellation. These responses are at times led by trade union movement like Cosatu or its affiliates or civic bodies like SANGOCO, SACC and Jubilee 2000. Youth for Work believes that the forum should join these responses and be part of social movements in South Africa hopefully. Unity is strength!

## **CAMPAIGNS**

Campaigns are for the people and lobbying is for business. **The forum has to campaign for free services for all.** We need to rally behind the call Free Service To All, Service Is a Right. We have to demand for healthy environment, decent living standards and no to Privatisation.



The rationale behind these campaigns is that it seeks to enforce rights to basic services that are enshrined in the constitution as well as promises of free basic services that was made by President Mbeki before December 5 local government elections. Let us re-unite communities and workers by establishing and promoting these campaigns in the township. The campaign against privatisation seeks to ensure that jobs are not being lost as privatisation inevitable leads to that.

As mention above, the forum should support other campaigns that are being waged by other progressive social forces such as Cosatu, SANGOCO, SACC, Jubilee 2000, etc. These campaigns include debt cancellation, campaign against job losses, etc.

**The Struggle Continues!!**

# **International Socialist Movement**

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***LTGF submission 02.02.2001***

**The Local Government Transformation Forum (LGTF)** draws together diverse campaigning groups including, prominently, the municipal workers' union, Samwu. Samwu is one of the unions most directly affected by the restructuring, along commercial lines, which is currently occurring under the umbrella of the unicity proposals. Such restructuring includes privatisation and is dictated by the ideology of the marketplace, summed up at a national level in the government's Gear orientation..

Community groups involved represent responses on the ground to various effects of this marketplace, "user pays" policy. Prime among these effects are evictions and water and electricity cut-offs.

The LGTF therefore stands in opposition to the damaging effects on the working class of the government's commitment to *Laissez Faire* economics and the implementation of this ideology at a local level. It must be stressed here that privatisation is only one aspect, albeit an important one, of this process.

**What unites us** within the LGTF, therefore, is the damage now being done through the implementation of these economic policies and the damage we see likely in the future. We all see the need for united action; for the maximum possible solidarity among different sectors of the class threatened in various ways by these policies.

**The problem** is that there are many campaigns; many reactions to various aspects to the drive to commercialise, privatise, downsize and rationalise our communities, workplaces and jobs. We, as generally small, fragmented groups, have tended to concentrate our limited resources in a multitude of directions. We have reacted to what council or government has done or is about to do.

**Is there not a single focus** that can encapsulate most, if not all the campaigns? A focus which would make the LGTF (or whatever else we wish to call ourselves) proactive and which would provide a rallying point for the broadest possible involvement of trade unions, community, Civic and political groups?

We think such a focus is available in the constitution, specifically under Chapter 2, the Bill of Rights and, specifically clause 26 (1 & 2) and 27 (1 [b] & [c]).

These clauses read: Housing (26)

1. Everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing;
2. The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of this right.

Health care, food, water and social security (27)

1. Everyone has the right to have access to:  
[b] sufficient food and water;  
[c] social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance.
2. is the same as above.

Such clauses and others on matters such as education etc, run counter to the "user pays" philosophy and an economic policy based on competition and accumulation, especially in the area of social and municipal services. The focus we would therefore propose is one of PROTECTING/DEMANDING OUR RIGHTS.

We have a right to water, a right to shelter and these rights can be guaranteed by an efficient, effective and democratically accountable public sector which puts people before profits; human need before private greed.

That is our submission regarding the possible proactive orientation of the campaign. The name of the campaign seems of minor importance. LGTF is a bit of a mouthful, but it is really neutral. We could stay with it or adopt something like Cape Community Action Forum or even (if our above proposals are adopted) the Constitutional Rights Action Campaign or somesuch.



# **COMMITTEE FOR REVOLUTIONARY MARXISM [ CRM ]**

## **SUBMISSION**

### **CONSIDERATIONS ON PERTINENT ISSUES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP**

#### ***INTRODUCTORY REMARKS***

Privatisation is a major and serious attack on the working class. It leaves in its wake a bloodbath of retrenchments and other pains inflicted on the working class.

It is a vital component of GEAR and it is a betrayal of the working class by the ANC ( with the active help of the SACP ) who promised the workers a better life and jobs, jobs, jobs, in return for their votes.

The trade unions make loud noises against privatisation but failed thus far to embark on any serious, consistent or effective campaign to stop it. Let us face it, COSATU, the strongest union federation in the country, has the power to stop the country totally and thereby to force the government to stop privatisation. But instead the workers' power is reigned in by the union leaders only to be released in little short – term spurts that lead nowhere. The more privatisation progresses, the more noise the unions make. The more noise they make the more privatisation progresses, because the government and municipalities are confident that the unions are merely making empty threats. We say it again, the workers have the power to stop privatisation, but only if a decisive all – out struggle is unleashed. To this the CRM recommends that the campaign must propagate for and mobilise the entire union movement to support a general strike against privatisation. The General strike must not be for 2 or 3 days, for then the government and capitalists only hold their breath and sit it out and afterwards they continue with their agenda. No, comrades, the general strike must be indefinite. The entire country must stand still until the demands are met! Every activity now must be stepping stones towards the general strike.

It is important to unite great masses of workers in the campaign. But without a strong will to fight the government on this, the campaign will lead nowhere. We must face the truth that privatisation has advanced as far as it has because the union leadership lacks the political will to seriously take on the government. This is as a result of the tri – partite alliance. This alliance is the biggest stumbling block for the campaign because the two political parties in it support privatisation. The ending of this alliance is vital if the campaign is to be a real success.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN AS PROPOSED BY THE CRM

1. To unite the working class in a national militant campaign to stop privatisation
2. To fight for the renationalisation or remunicipalisation of privatised companies, assets or services
3. To expose the link between privatisation and GEAR
4. To expose political parties and independent councillors who promote privatisation and GEAR.
5. To actively support other struggles to defend and improve the living conditions and rights of the working class and the lower middle class.
6. To link up with similar international campaigns
7. To fight that workers who were retrenched as a result of privatisation be given their jobs back.

#### FOCUS OF THE CAMPAIGN AS PROPOSED BY THE CRM

The LGTF currently lacks focus as it is committed to fight against privatisation (at municipal level) as well as any other struggle. This lack of focus leads to diffuseness and a weak collective response. Lack of consistent follow – up on struggles can only be the order of the day.

We propose one focus, namely to campaign against privatisation. In this manner we will concentrate our resources and attention on this serious attack on the working class, with the best possible results. This does not mean that we turn

our backs on other struggles. On the contrary, we must support other struggles - but as the Anti – Privatisation campaign. Similarly, we must invite other campaign-structures to join our campaign against privatisation.

We are therefore calling for a narrowing of the focus to privatisation, and at the same time an expansion of the focus to include privatisation in all spheres of the economy.

Along the above, we believe that a name change for the campaign would be a necessity.

#### IMPORTANCE OF DRAWING ALL THE AFFECTED UNIONS INTO THE CAMPAIGN

Efforts must be increased to draw working class organisation into the campaign. Special emphasis must be placed on drawing in trade unions ( and trade union federations ) as they are the biggest and most organised organisations of the working class. However, we must work even harder to draw the unions directly affected by privatisation into the campaign. It is especially these latter unions who have the most direct stake in a successful struggle against privatisation.

#### WORKERS RETRENCHED AS A RESULT OF PRIVATISATION

The struggle is not over when workers are retrenched. To put more pressure on the privatising companies (and government), we should make a call on these retrenched workers to organise themselves as victims of privatisation and join the campaign in an organised form.

#### CAMPAIGN BULLETIN

We propose that the workshop discuss the bringing out of a campaigns bulletin to disseminate relevant information and to propagate the objectives of the campaign.

#### PROGRAMME OF ACTION PROPOSALS



Privatisation is not a straightforward single issue to respond to. It is a very complicated process. Different sectors are privatising, and privatisation is at different stages in different sectors. There are thus new developments all the time.

Therefore the Programme of Action must keep this dynamic situation in mind and the campaign must also be able to respond in an urgent manner to important new developments.

The Programme of Action will need to focus on general activities, responses to specific effects of privatisation, responses to any relevant new developments, and legal responses.

We propose the following for discussion:

1. A March and Rally on the last Saturday of every month in Cape Town. This will give us the opportunity to mobilise a growing show of strength over time.
2. The current petition needs to be completed but we need to set a high target of signatures, e.g., 100 000.
3. A Programme of Action Committee needs to be set up in order to:
  - Monitor developments on the privatisation front and recommend concrete responses to the plenary
  - To decide on and plan urgent responses to urgent developments in liaison with the Steering Committee Secretariat.

## EXPLOITATION OF LEGAL SPACE TO THE FULL

The most important aspect of our programme of action must be mass action by the working class. But we must exploit any and all avenues to further our cause.

In terms of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act ( 2000 ), there are procedures that municipalities must follow before any service is privatised. It also gives the community certain restricted rights and legal space if it opposes privatisation. It is our view that this space must be exploited to the full by the campaign. We propose that SAMWU is asked to make a presentation at the workshop on this ACT, its implications for privatisation, and who the campaign can exploit the provisions of the ACT.

#### **CAMPAIGN SLOGANS**

All organisations are free to raise their own slogans. Yet it would be very important for the campaign to discuss and try to agree on common slogans. The CRM is guided by the following slogans, which we propose for discussion at the workshop.

**DOWN WITH PRIVATISATION DOWN WITH GEAR!!**

**BREAK THE ALLIANCE – FORWARD TO A REVOLUTIONARY WORKING CLASS PARTY!!!**

**MOBILISE FOR A GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST PRIVATISATION AND GEAR!!!**

**WORKERS UNITE IN A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRIVATISATION AND GEAR!!!**

**SMASH CAPITALISM – FORWARD TO SOCIALISM!!!**

## FUNDRAISING

No mass campaign can operate without funds. We cannot always look for funds the moment when we need it. A fundraising committee needs to be set up. Fundraising includes requesting contributions from member organisations.

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2001.**

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**PSTT (Western Cape)**  
**Provincial Sanitation Task Team**

**SUBMISSION FOR LGTF WORKSHOP – 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2001**

**1. FOCUS & OBJECTIVES**

Strengthen the Forum as a catalyst for mobilising the majority of Cape Town residents<sup>1</sup> to challenge the (mis)interpretation of national policy rhetoric into local government (mal)practice.

Build a Broad-based Movement based on persistent challenging, by the LGTF, of the contradictions implicit in UNICITY proposal and marketing concepts, plans and actual cases in point.

**2. HOW TO GIVE EFFECT TO THAT**

Work with substance rather than ideology so that people are engaged in theorising actively, rather than being presented with someone else's theories that they either buy into or not. Embrace existing community organisation and networks and their priority issues, taking care to link specific impacts to common threads/themes. Involve different perspectives in a programme of reflexive workshops, held within the range of contexts represented at the forum plenaries.

Focus on Key Contradictions in documents, news outputs and marketing strategies of the UNICITY commission, council and consultants. Steering and Sub-Committees undertake tasks (with various foci), reporting back to plenaries regularly.

Construct an Accountability Mechanism to challenge and monitor the performance of city managers and their consultants. Expand particular organisation's agenda's (eg Unions) to align with the forum, so that each is stronger by genuine association.

Balance Contributions and Benefits by creating opportunities for member contributions of resources and their resourcefulness (where hardware is short). Avoid carrying passive passengers, so as to engender participant responsibility for results.

**3. PROGRAMME CONTENT**

Popular Education (as opposed to marketing) with a content of critical reflection through continuous questioning of policy rhetoric and related practical cases that demonstrate (practically) the misinterpretations and malpractices of city managers/institutions and the consultants for whom they are responsible.

Forum as a "Watchdog" operating through the shared skills, organisational linkages, individual time offered, effective communication, etc. enable by the forum.

Strategic and Effective Action is identified in plenaries and taken forward by Steering and Sub-Committees. Multiple strategies are adopted and supported rather than either/or.

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<sup>1</sup> From the horses mouth: "The 60% of Cape Towns population who live below or just above the poverty datum line...; Those who are either excluded, or vulnerable to exclusion.....", an extract from the summary of proposals circulated in January 2001 (p.6, para 7, *Building a Unified City for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, The UNICITY Commission).





# ATHLONE CRAWFORD RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

A. C. R. R. A.



The Secretary

P. O. Box 482,

Athlone, 7760.

Tel: (021) 696-9870 / 4191 / 8083

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What role we see the Forum ought to play.....

- Act in a political capacity iro holding Local or National Government accountable
- Act in a legal advisory capacity
- Advocacy
- Lobbying
- Activism

In respect of the following;

**Health care** as per the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, this should include factors like the right to water, to social security and the right to work for food as well as protection form disease.

**Housing** as per the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, this should include the right to adequate housing and the right to land

**Education** - i.e. the right to free and fair education

**Security** - all decent citizens right to protection.

Malnutrition

Evictions

Water Cut-offs

Corporatisation

Privatisation

AIDS  
Cholera  
Foot and Mouth Disease  
Other Viral Diseases  
Gangsterism & crime

Biological and Chemical Warfare

**SUBMISSION ON THE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION FORUM****Preamble**

The LGTF was established in direct response to the threat of the privatisation of municipal services that emerged in the first steps to implement the Unicity concept of local government for greater Cape Town. It was immediately seen that not only does this scheme threaten the jobs and livelihood of thousands of municipal employees and their families, but that its driving paradigm subjects the provision of essential municipal and social services to the ability to pay, which militates directly against the needs and interests of the poor majority as a whole.

It soon became apparent in the LGTF that the problem it sought to confront went beyond the privatisation of municipal services. A few examples of what people are faced with makes this glaringly obvious:

- Municipal Councils, Provincial Councils and the National Government have been absolving themselves of the responsibility of providing houses for the homeless millions of our country. Beyond a very limited state subsidy, anyone wanting a house now has to deal with privately-owned building societies and banks. The right to a home is further threatened by the occupier's ability to pay for municipal services. Evictions, resulting from the inability of families to pay rents or bond instalments or electricity or water charges, have now become the order of the day.
- In many areas the supply of electricity has already been removed from the aegis of local government and it resides in the hands of the national parastatal - ESKOM, which is itself earmarked for privatisation.
- Health care is increasingly being removed from the realms of state service to society, and it rests more and more in the hands of commercial business enterprises - medical aid schemes, private hospitals and clinics.
- Education too has now entered the arena of privatisation. "Public" schools must now charge increasing fees, without which they are unable to fulfill their most basic and essential role. Education is also being geared to meet the needs of the business class rather than that of society as a whole.

The implications and effects of this growing reality on the poor working class communities of greater Cape Town, which go beyond the particular threat of privatisation of municipal services, was driven sharply home by every new community organisation which entered the LGTF.

It has become evident, that in order to tackle the problems facing it in the most effective manner, the LGTF needs to define its aims and objectives clearly, according to the needs of the time and circumstances in which it has arisen. The LGTF sees itself as a democratic and representative alliance that is driven by the needs and interests of its actual and potential constituency - the poverty-stricken working class majority of greater Cape Town and those migrants from areas without who seek a better life here. In setting its aims and objectives the LGTF must therefore take into account the consciousness of these citizens of our country who wallow under the ugly impact of a state strategy

which bows to the interests of the business market before democratic and social necessity.

The need to establish the most effective internal structure with which to enter the struggle facing us and which has brought us together, follows as a necessary consequence.

In this light, the APDUSA submits the following proposals on the constitution of our Forum for consideration:

### **Aims and Objectives**

1. To oppose the privatisation and commercialisation of government services at local regional and national level, which includes housing, health, education, water, fuel and social amenities, on the basis that such services should be provided according to need and not the ability to pay.
2. To unite the widest spectrum of independent organisations of the deprived and downtrodden majority to give effect to the above.
3. To publicise and oppose all deeds of social injustice in the scope of our common interest, by all means possible, including public demonstrations and protests, as well by using all democratic channels and legal means that are available.
4. To educate and raise the consciousness of the poverty stricken masses on strategies of the government and ruling powers that are to their detriment and which only serve the interests of that rich minority who privately own the means for the creation and distribution of wealth in our country.
5. To work for democratically representative and accountable government at all levels, in the interests of the majority and society as a whole, instead of the business class alone.
6. To build links with groupings and alliances in other parts of the country and to promote the growth of the campaign in all parts of the country, including the rural areas.
7. To establish links with organisations on the international plane who have been involved in or are concerned with similar struggles. We should draw lessons from anti-privatisation campaigns across the world that have had both successes and defeats and we should share our common experiences to our mutual benefit.

### **Organisational Structure and Operation.**

#### **1. The Plenary Meeting**

A plenary meeting of the forum which is representative of all affiliates should be convened on a monthly basis at a minimum, with additional meetings as deemed necessary. The plenary meeting should be the supreme decision-making body of the forum.

Each affiliate should be represented by two accredited delegates who shall officially represent their organisations. Additional representatives and/or observers should not be excluded from proceedings at plenary meeting where they can be accommodated.

The agenda of plenary meetings should include minutes, correspondence, reports of the steering committee and sub-committees (see below), and matters that the plenary has itself decided upon.

## 2. Steering Committee

Initially, the steering committee should be comprised of one representative from each affiliate. (This structure has, up till now, been successfully employed in the operation of the Anti-Privatisation Forum in Gauteng). If it becomes unwieldy a suitably sized steering committee should be democratically elected by the Plenary. The steering committee should appoint a chairperson and a recording secretary who will officiate both at steering committee and plenary meetings, as well as a Communications Officer, a Public Spokesperson and a Finance Officer.

## 3. Sub-Committees:

These must be established in the areas of

- Publicity
- The promotion and organisation of campaigns and related activities
- Legal matters
- Education.

## 4. Finance

The Forum must establish means to raise funds on a regular basis to meet its financial requirements. The most obvious first step is to establish a monthly levy on all affiliates according to the ability to comply. Other fund-raising methods must be explored which may entail the creation of a fund-raising committee. It should be a sine qua non that the forum maintains its independence of any donor interests that are at variance with its own.

## The Way Forward

Before anything else, we need to focus on our most immediate requirements. In our view these are:

- After agreement, the necessary organisational structures, committees and sub-committees should be set up and put into motion as soon as possible
- We should move swiftly to formalise our relations and unity with the Anti-privatisation Forum (APF) in Gauteng.
- As already mooted, we must implement a programme to meet with as many community organisations and civics and their constituencies as is possible, in their own localities, to introduce the Forum to them, with the concomitant aim of raising the consciousness of those who we seek to represent on the full import of the programme to commercialise every aspect of social life.
- We must seek the affiliation of as many organisations as possible of the poor, working class majority who live within the area of greater Cape Town, as well as others who would support our aims and objectives.
- Lastly, we propose that the forum be renamed as The Anti-Privatisation Forum (Western Cape). We feel that there is no advantage to be gained in a drawn out debate on a more profound name. In the circumstances, the understanding of privatisation leads directly to the full scope of that which we seek to oppose. With this name we shall also identify ourselves directly with the initiative of those in Gauteng who have already made strides forward along the same road, in the interests of mounting a national campaign rather than one that is proscribed by local and sectional considerations.



**SUBMISSION ON THE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION FORUM****ADDENDUM**

In our proposal on the composition of the Steering Committee in our original submission, we refer to the structure of the Steering Committee of the APF (Gauteng). We have subsequently learnt that what we stated there is totally incorrect. In fact, the APF does not have a Steering Committee. In the light of fuller information that we have obtained from our Gauteng Branch which is aligned with the APF, we want to correct this error. At the same time we also believe that it may be useful for us to observe the unique way in which the APF (Gauteng) officially constituted itself at its first summit held in September last year. Since the information we obtained is not from official sources we cannot vouch for the total accuracy of the outline which we present hereunder and it is subject to verification, but we believe that it is essentially correct.

The APF is composed of the following structures:

The General Council

The Executive Committee

The Activist Forum

Sub-Committees established by and acting under the aegis of the Activist Forum

The Summit

1. The General Council

This is the equivalent of the Plenary Meeting of the LGTF. The General Council meets once a month. Each organisation may be represented by a maximum of five delegates although up till now this rule has not been rigidly enforced. The General Council is the supreme decision-making body of the APF, to which its other structures are answerable. Its decisions are passed on to the Executive Committee and the Activist Forum for execution.

2. The Executive Committee

The executive is elected by the General Council and is comprised, inter alia, of a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Executive officiates at meetings of the General Council and joint meetings of itself and the Activist Forum. The executive is not required to meet on its own but it is required to meet jointly with the Activist Forum two weeks before each General Council meeting. At these meetings the Activist Forum reports on its activities and tables any new proposals. These are reviewed and this forms the basis of the Executive Committee's report-back to General Council meetings.

### 3. The Activist Forum

This is the engine room of APF activities. It is made up mainly of those members who initiated the APF. Membership is voluntary and open to any member of the alliance. Meetings are held weekly. The Activist Forum plans and leads the implementation of decisions of the General Council, it monitors developments in the overall constituency of the APF and it pursues new ways and initiatives to extend the influence and build the strength of the alliance. It has also established sub-committees which operate under its control, to facilitate the work of the Forum. Some are: The Organising Committee, The Workshop Committee (Education) and (we believe) a Publications Committee.

The Activist Forum is, in effect, the working arm of the Executive Committee. It is a device that has been adopted to overcome potential problems that the Executive may face in the execution of duties assigned to it - the executive is democratically elected from members of constituent organisations that are spread across a very large geographical area. Individual members of the executive may therefore live far apart from one another and may find it difficult to communicate and meet as frequently as may be necessary for the efficient functioning of the APF. Their services to the Forum may also be limited by their commitments and duties in their own respective organisations. For such reasons the voluntary and self-constituted Activist Forum was officially accepted as a component structure of the APF and it was placed under the authority of the Executive Committee.

### 4. The Summit

It has been decided that a summit, along the lines of the first held in September last year, should be organised once per quarter.

We apologise for the error in our original submission and hope that this addendum will be of some value to our forthcoming workshop.

APDUSA (W.Cape Branch)  
5 February 2001

To dedicate ourselves to the transformation to the socialist state. A country where every citizen irrespective of race, religion or gender will have an equal state in developing the resources and potential of this country in the interest and wellbeing of all its inhabitants.

The requisites for such a commitment on the part of its citizens will be:

(1) Irradication of poverty, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, unaffordable education, illiteracy all discriminatory pradices, legal or otherwise, inefficient Public Transport Systems, a loaded and partial justice system, lack of direct participation and accountabillity in meaningfull decision making and an inadequate health system.

Quite a mouthful, but absolutely essential if we want to confront the present situation of decadence and chaos with a viably constructive alternative.

(A) It will mean that the present situation of Capitalist Control of the state and the resources of the country must be nationlised. In short it means a seigure of power and all that implies by the workers and the economically deprived masses.

(B) Unemployment, as the root cause of poverty, hunger and homeleseness can only be addressed by the nationalization of the land and its wealth generating potential.

(1) Provision of more jobs through a drastic shortening or reduction of the work week.

- (2) A total abolition of the profit factor as distinct from recapitalisation and development.
- (3) This will be as recipe for more employment, greater production without any reduction in wages.
- (4) It will mean the more efficient use of agricultural land where without the profit motive more emphasis can be put on feeding the nation and the distribution of unused land for subsistence farming to the lands hungry peasants.
- (5) A massive programme of public works, schools, decent and affordable homes, hospitals, etc.
- (6) The education system will have to be drastically overhauled to conform with the concept of an investment in the development and welfare of the country as a whole. This will entail upgrading the public schools to par with presentday private schools. Special emphasis will be on building schools in relation to the national requirements, the appointment of adequate teaching staff, equipment and scientific technology, wiping out illiteracy and promoting research.
- (7) Promotion and cultivation of cultural and sport recreational facilities and activities.
- (8) Irradication of crime, a floated police force and proliferation of jails by removing frustrations on development of potential, fulltime and rewarding employment and a decent and uplifting home and recreational environment.
- (9) A drastic revision of the present system of Government or as commonly referred to as the state, with the objective of its total abolition.



At present the constitution says that (theoretically) any person has the right to elect or be elected to Parliament. In practice the beurocratic and financial impediments makes this a pipe dream and a blatant misrepresentation.

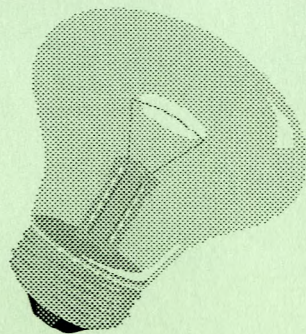
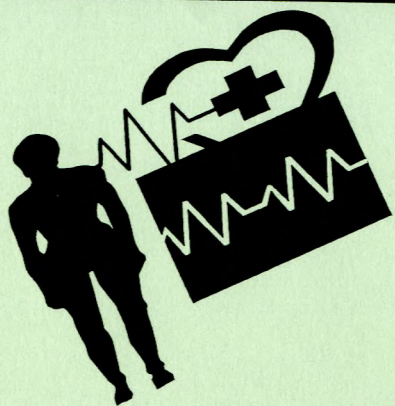
What we are experiencing is Government from the top down, totally removed from the aspirations of the masses and in no way accountable to those masses who elected them. Once every five years they will see the masses for re-election and after election they will get into bed with the bosses of commerce and industry who sponsors them.

What we propose is Government from the bottom up to be in touch with the needs of their communities who elected them and in case of default on their mandate to have the might and the power to recall them. Here we are talking of accountability.

There are many areas upon which we have'nt touched such as elaborating on public transport, communications etc, however if we are sincere in bringing about a situation of parity in distribution of the wealth and resources of this country; if we want to wipe out the extremes of poverty and oppulence this is the line along which we must think and devote our energies. There are no halfways. Our country must first off be developed in the interests of all its people. In that way we will encourage the population on our borders to follow in our footsteps.

However it is important that we get our message across to the whole population. For this we will have to put in place a powerful propoganda machanism or department. We will have to participate in the various struggles of communities, workers and students etc. to assist them and to draw

comparisons between our own objectives and the betrayal inherent in the status quo of Bergeiose Democracy.



Anti Privatisation  
Forum  
DECLARATION





Draft Declaration of the People Against Privatisation  
Anti-Privatisation Forum Council, 4 November 2000

As concerned residents and citizens of South Africa, united by a common vision of a better life for the poor and workers of the country and recognising that independence has not brought liberation from material bondage, we agree that privatisation or corporatisation of state owned enterprises and local government means adding hardship and suffering for the poor. The trend to run government like a business is robbing us of the democracy that was so hard fought for. By privatisation we mean any programme supporting profit-making by a few and commercialisation. These include public-private partnerships, corporatisation and outsourcing. All these forms of privatisation undermine democracy, making private bosses and not elected representatives responsible for service delivery. Basic services like provision of water and electricity have, as a result of this selling off of public property, become more expensive and therefore evermore not affordable by the majority of South Africans. Private business, by nature, only provides services for those who can pay.

By wanting more profit, private service contractors also want less cost. This is why so many jobs are being lost as fewer workers are expected to do more, work harder, for longer and for less pay. Privatisation is targeted at weakening workers by making employment flexible which makes union organisation more difficult. Without union protection, private service providers go on the offensive against workers. Business also cuts corners. Safety standards are reduced because they are costly, putting workers and people's lives at risk and harming the environment.

We remember instead the principles underpinning the RDP. These say that government's resources should be mobilised to provide all citizens with piped water, electricity, health services, housing and other means to live with dignity. Therefore, government should be the provider of essential services. The government has argued that it does not have the money to provide these services. But the issue is not if there is money or not but who controls it. The government's GEAR policy benefits those privileged by Apartheid and their new black alibis. GEAR has cut back the money given to local government by over 80% since 1990 which has forced privatisation plans like iGoli 2002. While R46,5 billion was spent this year on paying back the loans the Apartheid regime took out and R30 billion is going to buy arms, there is plenty of money that can be redirected to poverty alleviation and reconstruction. Privatisation is unnecessary, therefore, and a result of conditions that can be changed. We undertake to campaign for:

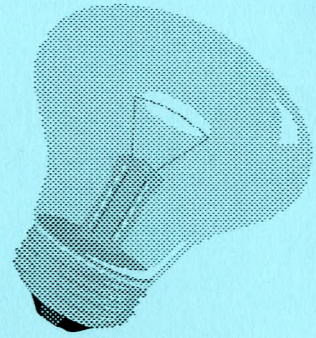
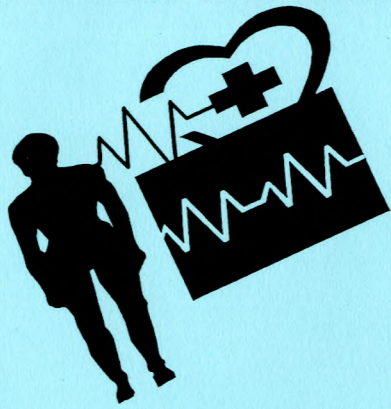
1. An end to all privatisation programmes like iGoli 2002 and the return of all privatised services and assets to the public sector, including outsourced and corporatised services,
2. The immediate end and reversal of retrenchments that are the inevitable result of privatisation,
3. The election of local government candidates who stand on anti-privatisation platforms,
4. The free supply of 50l of water per person per day,
5. The free supply of the minimum amount of electricity needed for health, hygiene, cooking and heating,
6. The introduction of a progressive block tariff system, ensuring free lifeline services cross-subsidised from the rich to the poor, from high-end users to low-end users,
7. The scrapping of arrears of the poor,
8. An end to rent evictions and the attachment of household goods,
9. An end to water and electricity cut-offs,
10. An increase in the subsidy from national government to local government,
11. The repudiation of the Apartheid debt,
12. Libraries, swimming pools and parks for communities who do not have them already,
13. Safe and humane payouts of pension and disability grants,
14. Police and prisons services that are democratically controlled and accountable,
15. A public broadcaster that serves the informational needs of the people and not the market,
16. Adequate support for the arts and cultural initiatives in local areas, and
17. Support for public works programmes to employ the unemployed at a living wage.



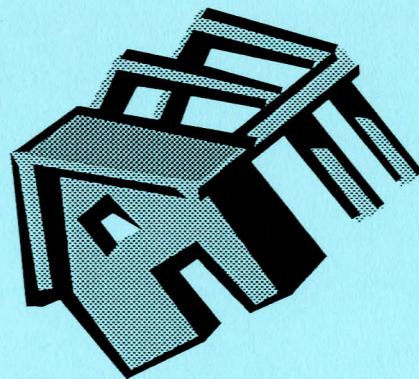
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In taking up these issues, our commitment is to:

- Community involvement in the reconstruction and development of society,
- The forging of a community-worker alliance for justice and equity, and
- Service delivery that is democratically controlled.



# Background & Founding Principles





## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION FORUM**

### **Background**

The local government Transformation Forum is an initiative started by SAMWU in the beginning of 2000. This initiative was prompted by the changes taking place in Local Government.

With the advent of the first democratic elections in 1994 there was a shift in the focus of local government. It was correctly identified that local government had to play an important role if there is to be any improvement in the quality of life of the majority of people especially the disadvantaged masses who received an inferior quality of municipal services and in most instances no service at all.

This increased role for local government and the state in particular was captured in the principles of the RDP. The RDP envisaged a strong interventionist role for the state to ensure transformation and a better life for all. However with the adoption of the government's macro economic strategy (GEAR) in 1996 there was a clear shift in the role of the state.

This minimized role for the state began to take shape in various legislation e.g. Municipal Partnership Act, Municipal Finance Act, Municipal Infrastructure and Investment Framework and now the Municipal Systems Act. These and other acts affecting the broader public sector allowed for the private sector to enter the terrain of delivering social services crucial to the transformation and the improvement in the quality of life of the majority.



The very nature of privatisation is such that it not only affects workers but the community at large. Therefore for any strategy that combats privatisation to be successful it would need a co-ordinated campaign that would unite the struggles of workers and the community.

It is with this in mind that SAMWU started initiatives such as the Anti-privatisation Forum in Gauteng and the Local Government Transformation Forum in Cape Town.

The Local Government Transformation Forum launched by bringing together organisations in opposition to the privatisation of municipal services irrespective of their political affiliations as long as they agreed with the following founding principles:

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## Founding Principles

- 
- 
- To fight for Service delivery to be based on people needs and not on their ability to pay.
  - To fight against Privatisation
  - To fight for a transparent and participatory Local Government
  - To fight for the Local Authority to be the provider of services
  - To ensure that Local Government is acceptable to the community
  - To inform and mobilise communities against Privatisation.