



# **ELECTIONS MANIFESTO**

**KEY DEMANDS FOR THE 2019 ELECTIONS**

# EQUALITY





# WORK



# LAND



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	5
A SOCIALIST VISION	6
<b>CHAPTER ONE</b>	<b>7</b>
EQUALITY & A FULL LIFE FOR ALL	8
<b>CHAPTER TWO</b>	<b>10</b>
UPROOTING CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION	11
<b>CHAPTER THREE</b>	<b>14</b>
LAND FOR COMMON GOOD	15
<b>CHAPTER FOUR</b>	<b>17</b>
THE FIGHT FOR DECENT LIVING	18
<b>CHAPTER FIVE</b>	<b>19</b>
SOCIALIST EDUCATION FOR EMANCIPATION	20
<b>CHAPTER SIX</b>	<b>22</b>
FREE & DECENT HEALTH CARE FOR ALL	23
<b>CHAPTER SEVEN</b>	<b>25</b>
INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY & PEACE	26
<b>CHAPTER EIGHT</b>	<b>28</b>
FIGHT FOR GEUINE DEMOCRACY	29
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>31</b>



# A SOCIALIST VISION

*To the voting working class of South Africa, in these elections, we, the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party invite ALL the working class – African, Black and White, men and women, employed and unemployed, working class youths, students, the rural poor, to vote for the SRWP as the only political party that truly represents their interests! The alternative is a continuation of the painful present!*

**Noting** that the history of all hitherto existing society has been a history of class struggles;

**Recognising** that we live in the epoch of imperialism and the decay and last days of the world capitalist system;

**Fully aware** that the South African capitalist system and state was imposed from without and continues to be sustained by imperialism;

**Conscious** of our historic and current experience of the brutal and totalizing nature of colonialism and how Black people in general and Africans in particular have historically been dispossessed, oppressed, dominated and racially marginalized by white supremacism in South Africa;

**Learning** from the experience of all former imperialist colonies and our post 1994 experience that it is impossible to resolve the national, gender, race and class question in South Africa and the rest of the post-colonial world without simultaneously defeating capitalism and imperialism and establishing socialism;

**We, the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party, guided by Marxism-Leninism, as a revolutionary tool in our struggles to educate, agitate, mobilise and organize the working class into our Party and in their historic mission to defeat imperialism and capitalism and to establish a Socialist South Africa, Africa and World, as a prelude to advancing to a truly free and classless society: to a Communist South Africa, Africa and Communist World!**

**We are committed, in the 2019 National Elections, to advance our struggle for a Socialist South Africa!**

# CHAPTER ONE

**“Capitalism is inequality. Capitalism is wealth for a few and poverty for many. Capitalism is the oppression and suppression of women and children, relying on the patriarchal family to reproduce itself. Capitalism is racism, relying on a racially defined organisation of labour.”**



# EQUALITY & A FULL LIFE FOR ALL

*In order to maintain exploitation, the working class is divided on the basis of sexism, racism, homophobia, xenophobia, by every means at its disposal. The super-exploitation of women, foreign nationals, people with disabilities and marginal groups helps to sustain the existing order and increase capitalist profits. It ensures that some workers remain subordinates of other workers.*

*We will abolish inequality by abolishing capitalism and all its social and cultural institutions. As, only conscious and deliberate transformation of all the economic and social activities of the population will cause social, cultural and political prejudices to die out.*

1. We shall ensure equal pay for equal work.
2. We will work to ensure that domestic work no longer be a woman's burden, by socialising it through public childcare centres, state-funded domestic services and public eateries.
3. Expecting mothers will receive 12 months maternity leave with full pay and free medical treatment. Expecting fathers can also take paternity leave.
4. We shall ensure that full citizenship rights are granted to all the working class, especially to all immigrants!
5. We shall work to abolish the colonial and racist boundaries which divide Africa and fight for a United Socialist Republic of Africa.
6. We shall defend the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and protect the right for equal treatment of all people, as their sexual orientation is a private affair!
7. We will guarantee life-long and integral education, skills acquisition and cultural access for all human beings. This will be achieved through the establishment of closer connections between instruction and socially productive work, the establishment of a network of institutions for out-of-school education, such as libraries, adult schools and free public access to universities, courses, lectures, cinematography, studios, etc.
8. Children, the elderly, and people with special needs will be provided care with love and special attention which they deserve.
9. We shall embark upon an ambitious programme to abolish the apartheid geography and human settlements. We shall replace this with integrated communities with advanced modern social facilities.
10. We will guarantee quality housing and high standard services for all.



11. The judicial system will be overhauled so that the organization of the court is simplified, made completely accessible to the population and all red tape in legal procedure be abolished.
12. The system of punishment through deprivation of civil rights will be replaced by a system of educational rehabilitation, with compulsory work without loss of basic rights.

**“All people must fight the scourge of capitalism together, for full equality of the sexes, races, nationalities, ethnicities, physical abilities and people of different sexual orientations and genders.”**



## CHAPTER TWO

**“ The enormous wealth of our society is produced by the labour of the majority population but is owned by and serves the elite few. Wealth should not be something locked away in the rich suburbs, squandered by a privileged minority but should become the common property of all. ”**



# UPROOTING CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION

*The principle contradiction in SA today is that between imperialist white monopoly capital, and the working class. This is evident by the fact that in an extremely rich country the majority who labour to produce the wealth do not benefit from it, living in extreme poverty. Despite having mineral wealth which is roughly worth R25 trillion and rich agricultural lands, we find that South Africa today is characterised by the following ugly situation:*

- A. Unemployment is up from the already shocking figure of 26.7% to 27.2%. The expanded rate, which includes discouraged work seekers, is up by 0.5% to 37.2%. The number of discouraged work seekers increased to 2.9-million people. 105,000 jobs were lost in the key sector of manufacturing. In every province except Gauteng and Western Cape, more people are unemployed than working.
- B. In 2015, 55,5% of the population - 30.4 million people - lived below the upper-bound poverty line of R992 a month. 40% lived below the lower-bound poverty line of R544 and 25.2% had to live below the food poverty line of R441, just enough for mere existence.
- C. About two-thirds of South Africa's wealth is held by the top 1% and about 90% by the top 10%". In 2017, 82% of all growth in wealth went to the top 1% and the bottom half saw no increase at all.
- D. South Africa's top 49 wealthiest men, and one woman, could use their collective wealth of R329 billion to pay 1 million people the new national minimum wage for eight years.
- E. On the same day the employment figures were published, BankservAfrica reported that for the second month running, the average South African salary declined, by 2.4% in June from the same month in 2017.

*The enormous wealth of our society is produced by the labour of the majority population but is owned and serves the elite few. Wealth should not be something locked away in the rich suburbs, squandered by a privileged minority but should become the common property of all. The working class under the leadership of the SRWP will:*

1. Abolish the extreme income inequalities currently defining South Africa.
2. The rich shall be properly taxed to fund programmes to eliminate unemployment, poverty and inequalities.



3. We shall implement legislation such as a general anti-avoidance tax act to halt base erosion, profit shifting and the loss of the country's resources to illicit financial flows, that not only reduces the tax base but more significantly perpetuates wage inequality.
4. We shall restructure personal income tax to ensure that those who can pay more make more contributions to the fiscus.
5. The SRWP shall ensure the provision of housing, water, electricity, healthy services and all basic services necessary for a healthy and happy human life.
6. The SRWP shall abolish the current National Minimum Wage and replace it with NMW linked to the actual cost of production of the life of a worker and their family.
7. We shall reduce working hours to ensure multiple employment, and guarantee enough rest, free and leisure time to promote all round development of the human being.
8. Abolish unemployment within five years; ensuring that all structures that produce precarious work are uprooted.
9. The SRWP shall nationalise all strategic industries, particularly the mines, the land and commercial farms, the banks, the big factories and the big businesses.
10. We will integrate all nationalised industry into a democratic socialist plan of production for human need and not profit. This will entail scrapping the ANC's neo-liberal National Development Plan and introducing a democratic socialist plan of production and development based on the unity of all economic activities, arising from the organisation of the entire population into a single system of communes/collectives.
11. The Socialist government shall nationalise the Reserve Bank, and transform it from profiteering apparatus to central accounting department.

*In the urgent situation of Eskom, we resolve to:*

1. Reverse the privatisation of government energy policy and sector.
2. Guarantee cheap, efficient supply of electricity to homes and industry.
3. We will guarantee that ESKOM and the working class at ESKOM, are made to feel treasured by protecting their jobs, providing them with continuous skilling, and ensuring that ESKOM remains a state institution to generate, transmit and distribute electricity.

4. Only a Socialist government can resolve the current ongoing crisis at ESKOM by removing the private profit motive and replacing this with scientific management based on socialist values to guarantee electricity supply to homes and industry.
5. The SRWP will have an energy policy which will guarantee that renewable and clean energy replace fossil fuels without destroying the livelihoods of those employed in the fossil fuels sectors.
6. We commit that there will be no load shedding in a Socialist government of the SRWP.

**“ The SRWP will abolish unemployment, poverty and inequality! We shall guarantee the right and duty to work, and full access to land. ”**



## CHAPTER THREE

“

**Without the working class abolishing the private ownership of land, and therefore abolishing capitalism, land will not become the common property that serves to benefit the majority.**

”





# LAND FOR COMMON GOOD

*Influenced by World Bank consultants, 'land reform liberals' and the safeguarding of the private property clause, the mid-1990s ensured the continual commodification of land. Today some of the key features of the land crisis include the following:*

- A. Extreme inequalities in ownership and access to land is the defining characteristic feature of the 'new' South Africa.
- B. Well over 20 000 evictions during 2017 alone. Additionally, Cape Town has seen the demolition of 26 000 informal structures at the hands of the Red Ants in the first six months of 2018.
- C. Lack of ownership of and, therefore, access to land by women and young people due to patriarchal discrimination.
- D. Unequal access to rural lands in general due to the monopoly land ownership being in the hands of traditional leaders. This oligarchy is maintained by inheritance rights.
- E. Challenges around the issue of title deeds and tenure amongst rural communities.
- F. Environmental and social abuse of farmland by chiefs, politicians and corporate landlords for profit accumulation.
- G. Lack of land for building within the cities.
- H. Lack of renting provision or regulation on high rates around purchase or lease of land.
- I. Ceaseless residential evictions and repossession of homes by the banking sector.

*Our position is simple: without the working class abolishing the private ownership of land, and therefore abolishing capitalism, land will not become the common property for the benefit of all:*

1. We will abolish private property ownership.
2. As a result, this will abolish the buying and selling of land as a commodity, the private rental system and traditional leaders' monopoly ownership.
3. We will abolish the apartheid distribution, demarcations and use of land.
4. We will expel imperialism by abolishing foreign corporate ownership of land.
5. We will nationalize and collectivise the land under the control of a workers state
6. We will immediately nationalize the 36 000 commercial farms and the agri-food industry under democratic working class control.

7. We will abolish all inheritance rights – a process that has systematically marginalised female children, in favour of male children, and their historic right to a decent life and opportunities.
8. The right of the working class and poor to occupy land which they deem fit. This provides people who are long suffering for decent housing to free themselves from the landlords who super-exploit them.
9. We will end all forced removals and evictions by local Municipalities and their Red Ants.
10. We will, as a transitional demand, give state assistance in the form of cheap loans and agricultural training to the 1,3 million small and subsistence farmers and we will immediately cancel their debt.
11. All of this will gradually abolish the distinction between urban and rural, through a more equitable distribution of the population over the country.



“

**We will abolish private ownership of all land! Land use will be scientifically planned, democratically managed, and access guaranteed to all.**

”

## CHAPTER FOUR

**“The brutal expropriation of land from African people, to make wage slaves, led to urban and rural living being organized according to the demand for reservoirs for cheap labour. This still prevails today.”**





# THE FIGHT FOR DECENT LIVING

*The brutal expropriation of land from African people with a view to make them wage slaves, led to urban and rural living being organized according to the demand for reservoirs for cheap labour. This organization of living remains today:*

- A. “Service delivery protests” mark the face of South African society. Millions of our people do not have access to basic services.
- B. More than 20% of our population does not have a place they may call a home.
- C. Electricity supply to the working class and poor areas is practically non-existent, and when there is electricity the quality of supply is well below par and inadequate. Those that do have access to electricity are forced to ration it.
- D. One in ten households in working class communities do not have access to running water and those that do, have access only through communal taps.
- E. In some communities, sewerage systems do not exist at all. In those that do, sewerage systems are badly constructed and often leak and seep through to infest neighbourhoods, which endangers human health.

*As such, we demand:*

1. An end to all water and electricity cut-offs!
2. The cancellation of all rents, rates and electricity arrears for working class communities.
3. A massive program of public works to build the five million houses needed to provide a decent and comfortable home for everyone. This must be a high quality home with adequate space.
4. Immediate creation and reconstruction of communal recreational and social facilities.
5. The provision of adequate and cheap electricity, water and sanitation to working class communities.
6. An end to tenders, outsourcing and privatization of public works. Build the capacity of local government to provide all services!
7. The building of tar roads to replace dirt tracks.
8. The provision of a publicly-owned, affordable and integrated public transport system, with an expansion of the rail network and scrapping e-tolls.

## CHAPTER FIVE

**“The current crisis in education is that it is based on capitalism and its drive for profit.”**



# SOCIALIST EDUCATION FOR EMANCIPATION

*The current crisis in education is that it is based on capitalism and its drive for profit. The children and youth of the working class are educated to prepare them for exploitation and oppression by the system.*

- A. Just under half of children who enroll in grade 1 will make it to grade 12.
- B. Roughly 20% of Grade 9, 10, and 11 pupils are repeaters, suggesting that they have been poorly prepared in the early grades of the school system.
- C. Around 6.9% of matric candidates will pass mathematics with a grade of 70% - 100%.
- D. One in three schools has a library and one in five schools has a science laboratory.
- E. Funding to higher education has decreased as the government has tried to cap a growing budget deficit. The proportion of GDP spent on higher education in 2015 dropped to 0.7%, which is low by international standards.
- F. This is part of a neo-liberal program adopted by the ANC in 1994 which agreed to not go beyond 25% of GDP when it comes to public spending. This is informed by the Washington consensus which pushes for privatisation and commodifying everything, including education. Universities on the other hand have consistently risen the fees.
- G. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), which is a debt sentence, is struggling to recover over R20 billion, as students from working class families struggle to pay back the loan.

*We therefore make the following demands:*

1. We demand free, quality, compulsory and equal education for all. In so doing, processes like NSFAS will be scrapped.
2. We will immediately nationalize all private schools, colleges and universities to end class apartheid in education.
3. We will provide free, healthy, quality meals for all learners and students from pre-school to tertiary level.
4. We will embark on an urgent program of building schools and improving facilities that are sorely lacking, particularly in the rural areas.
5. A program of introducing mother-tongue education so that no learners may be prejudiced by being forced to learn in a language they were not taught at home.



6. We will abolish the current racist, colonial and capitalist education and replace it with education for emancipation: a decolonized Socialist education. Racism, sexism, xenophobia, and all such similar discrimination shall be taught as criminal activities and offenses in all schools.
7. Adequate funding, excellent infrastructure, appropriate and emancipatory content and high-quality infrastructure shall be the hallmark of the new education system will be created for everyone.
8. Students, teachers and all Working in education shall be supplied with all the necessary resources and technologies, to perform to the best of their abilities.

**“ We will get rid of capitalism in education and in all of society. An educated and cultured population is a prerequisite for a Socialist society. ”**



## CHAPTER SIX

**“ The National Health Insurance is designed to rescue the profitability of the private health care system. ”**



# FREE & DECENT HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

*Health services today are marked by extreme inequality. Only about 9 million people use private healthcare while 45 million people use public healthcare. Yet the allocation of funds between the two sectors is nearly the same. It is characterised by the following:*

- A. The state health system has collapsed and the intended National Health Insurance system has been primarily shaped by and built in the interests of the private sector medical aids, medical aid administrators, private hospital-groups and the medical insurance industry.
- B. The NHI is designed to rescue the profitability of the private health care system, by granting them access to the entire population and paid for by the NHI.
- C. Health workers are poorly paid, facilities poorly staffed and amenities inadequate and this has led to demoralization within nurses, social workers and auxiliaries in particular.
- D. Labour brokers continue to be used to employ in the health profession.
- E. Volunteer workers, often the recipients of stipends funded by NGOs, are left exposed as precarious workers.

*As such:*

- 1. We will establish a universal, free, high quality, equally accessible national health service. This means removing all barriers to medical care such as abolishing consultation fees.
- 2. We shall nationalize the private health services, big pharmaceutical companies and private health resorts, and incorporate them into a single, high quality public national health service.
- 3. The SRWP will make equal access to primary and advanced health services available, freely, to all people in South Africa, regardless of nationality.
- 4. We will build new clinics and hospitals for mothers and children, and rapidly increase the supply of well trained nurses, clinicians, doctors and all other health professionals and specialists.
- 5. HIV and AIDS preventive, treatment and cure will be available freely for all.
- 6. The SRWP asserts that a healthy population is a necessary, happier, and a far much cheaper population.





**“ Capitalism treats human health as a source of profits. Even death provides funeral parlours with a source of profit. Socialism produces the conditions for equality, producing a healthy, happy and fun-loving population! ”**

## CHAPTER SEVEN

**“The world capitalist system thrives on a deep, long-term structural crisis.”**



# INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY & PEACE

*We face a global economy dominated by capital to which all other forms of economic activity - agricultural, industry, energy, construction and telecommunications - are subordinate. The world capitalist system thrives on a deep, long-term structural crisis which is characterised by the following:*

- A. Monopoly finance dominates with the money form of value.
- B. Wars are used as means of stimulating and protecting capitalist accumulation, as we have seen in the oil-rich Middle East.
- C. The threat of a Third World War increases with Russia and China posing a threat to US imperialist domination.
- D. The crisis of capitalism is seeing the rise of extreme right-wing politics, which are increasing xenophobia and homophobia.
- E. New forms of mass poverty are emerging in the face of massive wealth controlled by the few. The world's richest 1 percent, those with more than \$1 million, own 45% of the world's wealth. Adults with less than \$10,000 in wealth make up 64% of the world's population but hold less than 2% of global wealth.
- F. Environmental degradation is rapidly manifesting in resource scarcity, environmental disasters and destruction of vital ecosystems due to human-made global warming and climate change.

*As such, we must strengthen working class internationalism in the following ways:*

- 1. We must build a Pan African Socialist Revolutionary Workers organisation to unite the masses across Africa as part of the struggle for a United Socialist Republic of Africa and Socialist world.
- 2. We are determined to work to eliminate nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and all weapons the capitalist system uses to cause the working class to kill itself in wars.
- 3. We are determined to fight US imperialist aggression against Venezuela, Cuba, North Korea and against all Socialist countries of the world.
- 4. Organise strikes and boycotts against imperialist groups perpetuating oppression, exploitation and war for profit.
- 5. We will reject existing trade agreements that are premised on exploiting the working class and build relations based on genuine cooperation and solidarity in the interest of the working class.





**“World peace, progress and friendship are not possible in a world dominated by capitalism. Together with other Socialist formations, we advance peace, progress and friendship among the peoples of the world.”**

## CHAPTER EIGHT

**“ A democratic republic is the best possible political shell for capitalism. ”**



# FIGHT FOR GENUINE DEMOCRACY

*As Vladimir Lenin so clearly put it: “A democratic republic is the best possible political shell for capitalism, and, therefore, once capital has gained possession of this very best shell...it establishes its power so securely, so firmly that no change of persons, institutions or parties in the bourgeois-democratic republic can shake it.”*

- A. Capitalism is Corruption. The Bosasa exposures, the Gupta leaks, the Auditor General’s report and the Steinhoff debacle, among many others, clearly indicate that the capitalist system is a system of theft!
- B. Over and above the legal theft of surplus value from the labour of the working class the capitalists steal from the public purse and from each other to maximize profits and wealth!
- C. In the public sector the ANC government’s own self-assessment shows massive corruption with over 50% of government departments showing ‘non-compliance’ for financial management and over 75% ‘non-compliance with human resource management. This grossly underestimates the real state of public sector corruption!
- D. ‘Tenderpreneur’ corruption and looting are institutionalised in the South African state.
- E. Capitalist democracy in post-apartheid South Africa is a system where once in five years workers are asked to vote for one capitalist party or another. It is really a system of the dictatorship of the capitalist class .
- F. All the parties in parliament are Capitalist parties who legislate for capitalist interests. While they fight each other their ultimate goal is to strengthen our liberal Constitutional Democracy which is a Capitalist Democracy, capitalist dictatorship!

**We Say:**

1. We will end the tender system, outsourcing and privatisation and capacitate both national and local Government to provide services to people. We shall develop the public sector and grow its capacity to serve!
2. We shall confiscate the assets of the rich and corrupt ‘Tenderpreneurs’, and ensure worker and community oversight over the arrest and prosecution of these thieves.
3. To ensure that the interests of the working class are provided for we need and demand a Socialist Government which will legislate on behalf of the working class! Capitalist parties represent the interests of a small minority of the population.
4. During the transitional period, members of the owning class should not hold a position in any branch of the workers government. The power must belong entirely to the working class.



**“ Parliamentary democracy will not advance the struggles for the abolition of class society. Only a Socialist Workers State is the only true democratic state. ”**



# CONCLUSION

We need a Socialist government that takes care of the interests of the majority of people!

We fight for a Socialist Workers State where democratic councils of the working class in the workplace, communities, and industries are the rulers of society. This state will be a Workers Democracy that lays the foundation for the construction of Socialism and Communism!

*All these demands we make, knowing full well that the working class must conquer economic, social and political power and become the state, for these demands to be met. We pledge our loyalty to ourselves, as the working class!*

*In these elections, We, the Socialist Revolutionary Party invite ALL the working class of South Africa – African, Black and White, men and women, employed and unemployed, working class youths, students, the rural poor, to vote for the SRWP as the only political party that truly represents their interests! The alternative is a continuation of the painful present!*

Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party (SRWP)  
2019 Election manifesto,  
April, 2019.



# **EQUALITY WORK LAND**

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