

Root out corruption, says Mayor

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ANTI-GRAFT: Mayor Thabo Manyoni assures Samwu delegates corruption would be crushed.
Picture: Thami Soqwithi

Maryna van Wyk

All elements of corruption would have to be rooted out within the local government system to ensure better audit results.

Thabo Manyoni, executive mayor of the Mangaung metro municipality said at the opening of the 10th National Congress of the South African Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) in Bloemfontein yesterday that the recent report of the auditor-general mainly characterised by the adverse audit opinion implying non-compliance of municipalities, was a matter of great concern that must be given high priority by the Samwu congress.

“(As) Much as the trade union movement remains vigilant in defending the working class against the onslaught of capitalism, we must also take a lead in ensuring the realisation of clean audit by 2014 as well as improved service delivery in pursuit of a better life for all.”

Manyoni welcomed the delegates, especially the women in the audience during Women’s Month, from all municipal jurisdictions in the country and said they were the protagonists of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) - build a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society.

Manyoni said every municipality has played a significant role in the reconstruction and development effort of the country. “This union has made great strides in providing the local sphere of government with sound leadership - currently leading almost every municipality in our land.”

He said unity and cohesion of the progressive forces was inevitable to achieve a better life for all. Manyoni said as progressive partners in local governance, local government and Samwu consensually agreed that foregoing constitute an “ideal municipality”, contrary to the current state of municipalities. “In this, Samwu has a meaningful role to play in our endeavour to create an accountable, effective and efficient local government system as well as a developmental state,” he said. “We need to reflect sharply on the implications of this ever-changing environment of the Alliance and the fundamental strategic objectives we pursue. A consciousness on our reconstruction and development agenda will enable us to remain steadfast on our constitutional mandate of delivering basic services to our citizenry.”

Manyoni thanked Samwu and Salga (SA Local Government Association) of which he is chairperson, for the peaceful environment they demonstrated during the negotiations for the 6.5% wage increase this year and said a lack of political stability within municipalities and other local governance related crises can be blamed on the adversarial relationship between municipal administration and organised labour. “We have to strive for good progress and cooperation in all the proceedings of Local Labour Forum (LLF). This requires basic negotiation skills and robust orientation labour relation matter for participants at the LLFs.” Manyoni said as progressive partners in local governance, local government and Samwu consensually agreed that foregoing constitute an “ideal municipality”, contrary to the current state of municipalities.

“I am pleased that so many delegates have managed to come and participate at this Congress and start the debates on how to reverse the dubbing of the local sphere of government as the most corrupt and come with alternative ways of accelerating service delivery.”

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