

EXPENSES AND OFFICERS.

XVII. The travelling, board and lodging expenses incurred by the following Officers - President, Senior Vice President, General Secretary, Organising Secretary, Treasurer in connection with their attending the Annual General Conference shall be paid from the General Fund of the Organisation.

DUTY OF GENERAL EXECUTIVE.

- XVIII. The General Executive Shall:
- (a) Attend to the collection and disbursement of all moneys under control.
 - (b) Hold supervision over all Branches and subordinate Committees.
 - (c) Call Conference together annually, and before its dissolution appoint the venue for its next meeting.
 - (d) Upon the written request of the majority of the Branches the General Executive shall call an extraordinary conference within thirty days.
 - (e) The General Executive shall grant permission for the formation of new Branches.
 - (f) It shall also attend to the general advancement of the Organisation.

ANNUAL REPORT.

XIX. Each Branch shall render annually a Report of its transactions to the General Executive two months before the Annual General Conference, failing which a fine of two shillings and six pence shall be imposed.

REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE.

- XX. Branches shall be entitled to representation at General Conference on the following basis:-
- Up to 99 members.....2 delegates.
 - 100 to 149 members.....3 delegates.
 - 150 to 249. Members.....4 delegates.
 - 250 and over members.....5. delegates.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

- XXI. (a) If the General Conference is of opinion that any Officer or member has succumbed to influences detrimental or hostile to the general welfare of the Organisation, it may by resolution suspend or discharge such Officer from office, or entirely deprive such member or Officer from the privileges of membership.
- (b) Any member dealt with under the above clause has the right of appeal as laid down in clause XII.

BRANCH FUNCTIONS AND ENTERTAINMENTS.

XXII. A Branch shall have the right to give concerts, etc for the purpose of raising funds, provided that a certified statement of all receipts and expenditure be submitted to the General Executive.

YEARLY FUNCTIONS IN AID OF GENERAL FUND.

XXIII. That each Branch may give a concert, tea-meeting, social or other function during the month of February in each year and that the proceeds of such functions be donated to the General Fund of the Organisation.

SPECIAL FUNDS/.....

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XXIV. That an amount equivalent to 15% be deducted from the gross amounts raised in connection with any special fund. Such a percentage to be credited to the General Fund for administrative charges.

PURCHASING OF LANDED PROPERTY.

- XXV. (a) Branches are hereby empowered to purchase and hold landed property in their names.
(b) That all properties shall be vested in the name of not more than three (3) Trustees.
(c) No Branch shall be permitted to purchase any landed property without the sanction of the General Executive at Headquarters or of the Conference.
(d) No landed property owned by any Branch shall be mortgaged or sold or in any way alienated without the consent of the General Executive at Headquarters or of the Conference.
(e) In the event of a Branch ceasing to exist for a period of twelve months, the property shall become the property of the African Peoples' Organisation in general, and its final disposal & shall be left in the hands of Conference.
(f) Whenever any Branch disposes of its property, the proceeds of such a sale shall be handed to the National Executive who shall hold same in trust for the Branch, and such proceeds shall be utilised for the purpose of another property or such other purpose as agreed upon by the General Conference.

FINANCE.

- XXVI. (a) That all moneys received be banked in the name of the African Peoples' Organisation. The names of the President, Treasurer and one Trustee should always appear on cheques.
(b) On no account may moneys be spent without the consent of the General Executive.
(c) No moneys exceeding £5 shall be in possession of the Treasurer for more than 48 hours.
(d) A bond of fidelity to be taken out by the Treasurer.
(e) The Treasurer shall be required to present an Annual Balance Sheet duly audited at the Annual General Conference.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

- XXVII. The A.P.O. is committed to a policy of promoting the economic development of the Coloured people by:-
(a) Economic thrift and business enterprise.
(b) Sponsoring the establishment of Building Societies, Insurance Companies, Co-operative Societies, etc.,
(c) A fund shall be established for these purposes.

ARREARS.

XXVIII. Any member failing to pay his Annual Subscription etc., in accordance with the Bye Laws of his Branch, shall not be permitted to join any other Branch, until he has financially cleared himself with the Branch he is leaving.

RESOLUTIONS/.....

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XXIX. All Resolutions for consideration of the General Conference shall be forwarded at least thirty days before Conference assemblies, and it shall be the duty of the General Secretary to frame and Agenda paper, and send same to all Branches a fortnight before Conference assemblies.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

XXX. Any Amendments or Alterations to this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the General Secretary, at least one month before the date of the General Conference, who on receipt of Such notice shall send copies to all Branches for consideration.

WHITE MAN!

You bade me leave my country life,
And say goodbye to mother dear,
For your glittering rattling life
Where "give and take" rules supreme.

You herded me with cheerful smiles
Into dark bowels of your mines,
Where many a sable arm did smite
To unearth treasures for your spleen.

And bye and bye my soul did strive
To prove me human like all men,
And with God's gospel you did come
To meet this need in 'poor lost me'.

God's gospel with me held awhile -
(Killing my future, making passive my present,)
Giving much promise of a land -
A land whose reign is colourblind.....

I saw Jim die, prayed for and hid,-
A straight godly sort o' fellow.....
Many a swarthy chap was hid ~~sinner~~
Since then, and still we drop like kine.

It seems but yesterday when good,
Large-hearted Sixpence was buried;
Ugh! many more of such as he
Have passed into the silent Void!"

All these bring us no word at all
From the land you've painted for us.
So, God's gospel is half a call
To the man your life has made us.

You said I was ambitious when
I worked with zeal upon your theme
Of "good-boy, good-pay", and then
You sang for me another hymn:-

"You have to go to school, John,
There learn to read, write and count;
You'll live and be like Boss, John,
When taught to read, write and count."

'My God! what a life this is for
Me - depressed barbarous serf!'
Working tooth and nail I hoped on,
Starved to death for master's wisdom.

Bye and bye I left my college
An adept in words and figures;
And to town I turned for foliage,
Now armed with Whiteman's art -wisdom.

What happens to me next is told:

By the mine clerk who is silenced
With rations that choke his true soul;
By the private clerk whose wisdom
Earns for him a shameful reward;
By the tradesman whose fault of skin
Wins for him only untoward
Remarks, and a crippled wage;
By the office-boy who lives on
Mere flattery and luncheon crumbs;
By the factory-boy - able 'un,
Whose skin is hindrance to his wage;
By the store-boy, a typical slave,
In modern employ - civil land!
By the dark face who toils to save
Dear Boss's life behind the wheel;
And by that most common fellow -
The cycle-kicker - fastest horse
of funny massa, who swallows
Self, pentup feelings and free-will.

And last of all, by no means least:
By the black fellow of title,
Who walks the streets of big cities
In shabby shoes and tawdry dress.
This brainy fellow, like all blacks,
Must give his lot for white exploit,
Else he must go with bag that lacks
As "spolit kaffir!" is his good pay.

By,
Wm. Don J. Thabede

The above attempt at seeking redress for my fellowmen and I who are part and parcel of the gigantic commercial and industrial set-up of South Africa, through the medium of poesy, was written by me in December 1936 and published by the Forward sometime early in 1937 by the kindness and sympathy of the then Editor, Mr. Davey.

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