

(B)

Suggested Amendments to the Constitution of the South African Refugee Organisation (SARO) Desired by the South African Committee for World Refugee Year (SANCWRY) on the latter's acceptance of SARO as the National Organisation for Refugee Work.

1. Name. To remain as at present (i.e. SARO), but once the constitution has been changed the question of a possible change in name to the South African National Council for Aid to Refugees (SANCAR) to be carefully considered. The present W.O. registration number of SARO to be retained.
2. Aims and Objects. These to be radically changed from those of both SARO and SANCWRY. The following suggestions might form the basis of discussion.
 - a) To focus the interests of individuals and groups in S.A. on the world refugee problem.
 - b) To promote, assist, subsidise and support measures for the solution of the problem, on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves.
 - c) To solicit and/or encourage financial contributions from government and voluntary agencies and from the general public for these purposes.
 - d) To prevent indigency and social maladjustment among refugees wherever possible, and to assist in the general welfare of indigent refugees and their families, ~~wherever~~ whether in S.A. or in other territories.
 - e) To co-ordinate and correlate the work done on behalf of refugees by various organisations and associations in S.A.
 - f) To provide assistance to refugees in the Republic of S.A. by way of establishing transit camps for their reception, temporary housing and rehabilitation where possible.

(Delete item 2. of SARO's present constitution as unnecessary).

3. Area of operation - as in SANCWRY's constitution.
4. International Affiliation. A clause to affiliate SARO with the recognised international refugee organisation.
5. Membership. Amend to provide for -
 - a) Individual Members (minimum sub. R1 p.a.?)
 - b) Organisational members:
 - i. National organisations, min. sub. R10, three representatives.
 - ii. Provincial organisations, min. sub. R5, two reps.
 - iii. Local organisations, min. sub. R1, one rep.
 - c) Branch Members - each duly constituted local branch of SARO to be represented by 5 members at the General Meeting, financial contribution to be decided.
6. Meetings. To be held at least once per year, with proviso that Extraordinary General Meetings may be called at request of not less than 20 members. (See SARO constitution par. 14).

7. Voting. As in SARO constitution pars. 6 & 15.
8. Officers. Similar to present SARO constitution.
9. Executive Committee. To be elected at A.G.M. for one year but eligible for re-election, to administer affairs of SARO on behalf of members. Officers plus 11 members, meet at least quarterly, quorum one quarter, powers and duties (including employment of paid staff etc) to be clearly defined. It be competent for Executive to appoint small Steering Committee (Dagbestuur ?) to meet more frequently and administer day by day affairs of the organisation.
10. Headquarters. Johannesburg for time being.
11. Property and Trustees. To be clearly defined and covered.
12. Finance. Along the lines of SARO constitution par. 17 and SANCWRY constitution par. 9.
13. Sub-committees. As SARO constitution par. 18 a) & b).
14. Amendments to Constitution. As SARO constitution par. 14.
15. Dissolution. As SARO constitution par. 21, a) (omitting last sentence) and b).

S. I. Freder

THE REFUGEE ORGANISATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
C O N S T I T U T I O N .

1. NAME:

The name of the Organisation shall be
THE REFUGEE ORGANISATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTS:

- (a) To focus the interest and attention of individuals and groups in the Republic of South Africa on the World Refugee problem.
- (b) To promote, assist, and subsidise and support measures for the alleviation or solution of the problem on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves.
- (c) To prevent indigency and social maladjustment among refugees wherever possible, and to assist in the general welfare of indigent refugees and their families whether in South Africa or in other territories.
- (d) To co-ordinate and correlate the work done on behalf of refugees by various organisations and associations in South Africa.
- (e) To provide assistance to refugees in the Republic of South Africa including the establishing of transit camps for their reception, temporary housing and rehabilitation where possible.
- (f) To provide general liaison on behalf of refugees with the Government and such organisations as UNHCR, ICEM etc.,
- (g) To solicit and/or encourage financial contributions from Government and voluntary agencies and from the general public for these purposes.

3. AREA OF OPERATION:

The Organisation shall operate in the Republic of South Africa and the mandated territory of South West Africa.

4. CENTRAL COUNCIL:

- (a) The affairs of the organisation shall be directed by a Central Council with Headquarters as provided for in clause 10 of this Constitution.
- (b) The Central Council may establish Constituent Associations as considered necessary from time to time.
- (c) The Central Council shall consist of:-
 - (i) One elected representative from each Constituent Association with the proviso that the Central Council may at any time give greater representation to Constituent Associations in the event of expansion/
in support

in support of their activities.

- (ii) One representative from any National Organisation which has been accepted for organisational membership, of the Refugee Organisation of South Africa.
- (iii) One representative from any Government Department or Provincial Council which is willing to accept membership.
- (iv) Up to ten persons chosen by the Central Council on the recommendation of the Executive Committee for their specialised knowledge of or interest in the work for refugee relief.
- (d) The Central Council shall meet not less than once in every calendar year and a quorum shall consist of not less than one quarter of its members.

5. OFFICERS:

- (a) The Officers of the Refugee Organisation of South Africa who shall be elected by the Central Council shall consist of the following:-

Hon. President

One or more Hon. Vice-Presidents

The President and Vice-Presidents shall be ex-officio members of the Central Council and all its Committees.

- (b) The Officers of the Central Council who shall be elected at its Annual General Meeting from amongst its members, shall consist of:

Chairman

Two Vice Chairmen

Hon. Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee shall administer the affairs of the Organisation on behalf of the Central Council and shall carry on the work of the Council in such manner as it may think necessary and proper subject, however, to the general policy of the Council and to such special instructions as may be laid down or given by it from time to time. The Executive Committee shall have power, on behalf of the Council to collect and receive monies by way of bequests, donations, grants, collections or in any other manner; To appoint a Secretary and other full-time officials and clerks and to terminate their services; To enter into contracts and agreements for the use and benefit of the Council; To invest any money belonging to the Council in such manner as shall be considered advisable.

The Members of the Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Central Council together with seven (7) members elected by the Central Council from amongst its members.

The Executive Committee may appoint from its members a General Purposes Committee to administer the day-by-day affairs of the organisation.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every

calendar quarter and a quorum shall consist of not less than one quarter of its members.

7. AFFILIATION:

Affiliation of the organisation to appropriate national or international bodies may be applied for as considered necessary by the General Council

8. CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATION:

The General Council shall initiate or encourage the establishment of Constituent Associations of the organisation in the various Provinces to foster its aims and objects as set out in clause 2 of this constitution.

Such associations shall recruit members of the organisation on the following basis:-

- (a) Individual members who shall pay a minimum annual subscription of R2.00
- (b) Organisational members who shall pay a minimum annual subscription of R2.00
- (c) Any other type of membership which the Constituent Assn., wishes to introduce with the approval of the Central Council.

Constituent Associations shall draw up their own Constitutions which shall be approved by the Central Council

9. VOTING:

At all General and Executive Committee meetings a majority of votes shall be decisive. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.

10. HEADQUARTERS:

The Headquarters of the Organisation shall be situated in Johannesburg until such time as the Council may determine.

11. PROPERTY & TRUSTEES:

The Council shall appoint three Trustees who shall hold on behalf of the Council such property and funds as the Council may direct and such trustees when duly authorised thereto by the Executive Committee shall have the power to buy and sell and take and give transfer and delivery of property and invest funds as directed by that Committee.

12. FINANCE:

- (i) The Treasurer or Secretary shall receive and account for all monies paid to the organisation.
- (ii) Proper books and accounts shall be kept and shall be audited by an auditor who shall be appointed by the annual general meeting.
- (iii) All monies received shall be deposited to the credit of the Organisation's Banking Account promptly, and all payments if over R2.00, unless otherwise duly authorised shall be made by cheque which shall be signed by any two of the following
Chairman, or Treasurer and Secretary or one other person authorised by the Executive Committee.

- (iv) The Central Council shall decide on the operation of the Organisation's Banking Account unless provided for in this Constitution and shall direct the policy of the allocation of funds.

13. SUB-COMMITTEES:

- (a) The Executive Committee may from time-to-time appoint special sub-committees for such purposes as may be considered necessary, such sub-committees may include persons who are not members of the Executive Committee.
- (b) The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be an ex-officio member of all sub-committees.

14. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION:

- (a) This constitution may only be amended by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present at any meeting of the Central Council.
- (b) Written notice of amendment proposed by any member of the Council setting forth in detail the proposed amendment shall be sent to the Secretary who shall notify all members at least one month prior to the meeting of the Central Council at which such amendment is to be discussed and such proposal shall be included in the agenda of such meeting.

15. DISSOLUTION:

- (a) The Organisation may be dissolved if at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting of members convened for the purpose of considering such matters are in favour of dissolution. Not less than 21 days notice convening the meeting shall clearly state that the question of dissolution of the organisation and the disposal of its assets will be considered.
- (b) If upon dissolution of the organisation there remain any assets whatsoever after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, such assets shall not be paid to or distributed amongst its members but shall be given to such other registered Welfare Organisations or Welfare Organisation preferably having similar objects as may be decided either by the members at the General Meeting at which it was decided to dissolve the Organisation.

16. ENABLING CLAUSE:

The members of the South African National Committee for World Refugee Year are hereby empowered to serve as the Central Council described in Clause 4 of this Constitution for the purpose of setting up the organisation provided for herein and having due regard to the terms of the dissolution clause No. 15 of the Constitution of the S.A. National Committee for World Refugee Year. This arrangement is to be effective for a period not exceeding one year as from the date of registration of The Refugee Organisation of South Africa.

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.