

In this respect, the scheme envisaged the establishment of small manageable units, united under and controlled by a sub-committee consisting of leaders of each unit, which sub-committee will, in turn, be responsible to the branch committee. In addition to this scheme the following recommendations were also adopted for implementation by the provinces:

1. (a) That every secretary of the African National Congress from the highest to the lowest must undertake a compulsory course of training for at least 3 months.
- (b) That every member of the Executive must undertake a course of theoretical, political and organisational training for at least 2 months.
- (c) That every Freedom Volunteer must undertake a course of political and organisational training for at least one month.
- (d) That before elections are conducted members must be informed of these conditions.
- (e) That every member of the Congress be required to know fully the policy and programme of the African National Congress.
- (f) That all instructions must be read in the Executive meetings and then at the general members' meetings.
- (g) That reports are compulsory, at least a monthly report in the case of a branch, and a quarterly report in the case of a province. This also applies to the working committee reporting to the National Executive Committee.
- (h) That anybody who deliberately distorts or undermines the policy and decisions of the Congress should be dealt with immediately.
- (i) That it be the accepted duty of all branches to build up a powerful mass youth organisation which must be subordinate to the branch and also the womens' section.

We need to emphasise that these far-reaching changes in the structure of our organisation are essential for efficient supervision and administration, and for proper co-ordination between the branches and the provincial office. Your executive has already taken steps to implement some of the provisions of these changes, but we regret to report that due to lack of co-operation and consultation by some branches it has not been possible to complete our work in this direction.

LOCAL ISSUES:

There is a tendency on the part of some branches to push Congress into the background when local issues arise in the areas where the people live. It is hardly necessary to stress that if such a tendency is allowed to develop, Congress is likely to find itself unpopular among the people, and will cease to become the peoples' organisation. Branches must realise that the day-to-day problems of the people in their respective residential areas, are part and parcel of the whole struggle, and failure to give a clear lead on such problems is to throw Congress into isolation and to deprive it of its status as the mouth-piece of the oppressed people in South Africa.

As an organisation of the people Congress is expected to be vigilant and unfailing in its lead against issues which affect the

people. No issue, however small, should escape the attention of Congress so long as it is an issue which cuts across the interests of the people and in which the local branch is expected to give the lead. In this way branches will be able to win the confidence of the people, and the way will be opened for Congress to move forward and take its rightful place as an organisation destined to lead the people to freedom.

RECRUITING:

It is clear from the reports of the branches that there is a serious decline in membership .. Is it because the African people are losing interest in the African National Congress, or is it because we have not created conditions that make the people feel the need of being members of Congress? We believe that the answer to this question should be found in our failure to create an efficient machinery for membership drives; our failure to utilise every occasion as an opportune moment for recruiting new members into Congress.

It is important that, in all meetings of Congress, a call be made upon the people to join Congress, and that particular care be taken by branches, early in the year, to see that old members renew their membership. It is a harmful practice to neglect the drive for membership during the first part of the year, as is the case with some branches. Such a practice makes the members not to treat their membership to Congress seriously, and a tendency is being developed in which people come to think of their Congress membership when the time for conferences is near.

Needless to mention that these are practices that tend to weaken the organisation, and are not an education to members in regard to the significance of membership of their organisation.

FINANCE:

It has to be acknowledged that, year after year, the major part of our work has been seriously handicapped by lack of funds. The membership fees, due to the headquarters, are hardly sufficient to carry out some of the tasks which are expected of the provincial office. It becomes necessary, therefore, that a collection of funds from the people should be embarked upon from time to time. This activity is essential for the maintenance of our organisation. And there is no doubt that the people will always be willing to give funds if they are satisfied that there is activity and that the leadership is sincerely and militantly fighting for their cause.

Since it is part of our activities to raise funds for our organisation, and realising that no organisation can continue to function without funds to maintain itself, it is necessary that this conference should give serious consideration to new methods of raising funds. It should be remembered that, in as much as the national office depends on the provinces for funds, the provincial office also depends on the branches for funds.

WOMEN IN THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS:

Women have played an increasing rôle in the struggles of the past year. And it has been a year in which the government's attacks have been felt directly and strongly by women.

The major issues that have been in the forefront month after month have been those that women feel most keenly - issues affecting the home, the children, the family.

At the beginning of the year, women in the Cape, in areas of the Transvaal and other places were brought face to face with the true meaning of the Urgan Areas Act, when they were deported from their homes. Women who had lived in urban areas for fifteen years or more - in some cases all their lives - were torn from their families and sent

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to country areas. As a result the Womens' Anti-Pass Action Committee was set up in Cape Town to fight the expulsions.

The forced removals from Western Native Township began early in the year, and women also played a part in this campaign.

Later in the year the Site and Service scheme again brought home to thousands of women the realities of apartheid and life under the Nationalist Government.

Women played a notable part in organising and participating in the Congress of the People. More women took part in the Congress itself than ever before at any such public event. Through the Federation of South African Women, accommodation was provided for 2,000 delegates, chiefly in and around Kliptown. Before the Congress of the People, the Federation held a meeting in Johannesburg at which women framed their demands for the Freedom Charter, and had an opportunity of saying what kind of South Africa they would like to see. Their demands, headed "what we women want", were, in one form or another, embodied in the Freedom Charter.

The Women's League itself, however, has not kept pace with the situation. In too many instances it is still regarded simply as an auxiliary to the A.N.C., an organisation which exists for the convenience of feeding and housing delegates to conferences, or for taking action when called on to do so by the men. Even leading members of the Women's League constantly defer to the men, or run to them for a "lead" on various issues.

The Womens' League is part of the A.N.C., but it can only be successful in drawing hundreds of thousands of women into political activity when women feel themselves capable of (and are permitted to) taking the initiative in all forms of activity. Women need special attention and training to assist them to become leaders of the people. They must be helped to overcome the manifold handicaps of custom and law that keep them in a backward position; and also they need special assistance from the men in practical ways of the assistance that men can give as husbands and fathers - to enable them to have the time and opportunity to take part in public affairs. It is time that we learned we can never win liberation without the wholehearted participation of the women. We must therefore create the conditions which will make it possible for women to play their part. Men who are active A.N.C. members must spend time explaining to their wives and women relatives and drawing them into activity. They must be prepared to sacrifice some time to their families, so that their womenfolk are sometimes released of the multifold household burdens, and given an opportunity of becoming active. Most of all, men must fight constantly in every possible way those outmoded traditions or customs which make every woman inferior, and by personal example must demonstrate their belief in the true equality of all human beings, men and women alike.

Through the Federation of South African Women, members of the Womens' League have been enabled during the past year to cooperate in political action with women of other races. Such cooperation can only serve to strengthen and build our own organisation, and it is hoped it will be strengthened and extended in the future.

The approaching national conference of the Womens' section of the A.N.C. will be a great coming of age and all the Congress units must pledge to assist in the successful convening of this conference in all possible ways.

YOUTH LEAGUE.

The African National Congress Youth League is another important and indispensable organ of the African National Congress.

At the beginning of this year the Youth League organised a mass conference of youth from all walks of life on the Bantu Education question. This conference was a success. Unfortunately there was no follow up by more intensive

organisation and propazanda.work.

In May this year, the Youth League held its Annual Provincial Conference. This Conference came at a time of intense political activity in the entire liberatory movement, and it was attended by large numbers of youth. Resolutions adopted at this conference dealt with the Peace Movement the Trade Union Movement and the organisation of the Youth League into a mass National Organisation for the youth of our country. If successfully implemented these resolutions should advance the Youth League on the correct lines of development.

The Youth League in the Transvaal is still in a very poor state of organisation. It lacks the rudimentary forms of machinery to implement its tasks. and it lacks a clear programme of organisational activity. There are 16 branches of the Youth League in the Transvaal, and the most active branches of the Youth League are in areas where Congress itself is active. It is nevertheless remarkable that there are Congress branches that have no Youth League Branches. This is a reflection on our standard of organisation and political consciousness.

It is the duty of Congress to see that this state of affairs is set right. There are enormous possibilities of the Youth League taking its proper position as an effective organ of the Youth and becoming the champion of their rights.

The energies of the African Youth which are at present misdirected and exploited must be channelised into paths beneficial to the entire movement for the freedom of the people. The Youth League must be shaped to become the spearhead of the liberatory movement of which the A.N.C. is the vanguard.

ON WITH THE STRUGGLE.

In the coming year our organisation must be tightened up so that it can cope with the mighty tasks which lie ahead of us. On all sides of us are supporters: those who look to Congress for a lead in the fight for a better life. These supporters must be brought into our ranks; Congress membership must grow. The branches must develop local initiative and the people will turn to them and follow them. In the past many branches have shown great local initiative: in Germiston against the removal of the location to Natalspruit; in Klerksdorp against the location regulations. These have been heroic local struggles by the people, as the bus boycott by the people of Evaton. The people of Lady Selbourne are threatened with their removal and, as in the Western areas of Johannesburg, with the loss of freehold rights. In the countryside African squatters are being harrassed as never before, turned off the land, sent packing with only their track passes. Peasants are struggling to keep alive on their tiny patches of land, are fighting cattle culling. Congress is the organisation of these people. They look to us for a lead, they look to us to fight for their rights. We must see that we don't fail them. Our policy is the answer: Our will is to fight until freedom is ours!

MAYIBUYE!

MAYIBUYE!

AFRIKA!

AFRIKA!

TOKOLOHO

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NAKO

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RONA!

INKA LILEKO

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IXESHA!

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7. This Conference in acceptance of, and in response to, our President's Address as well as the report of the National Executive, resolved to widen its co-operation with the trade union movement and hereby calls upon the National Executive Committee to form a sub-committee for the purpose of co-ordination of activities and better organisational efficiency with the trade unions and furthermore to allot a portion of the funds in its treasury to the trade union movement as a positive contribution towards the strengthening of trade unionism among Africans. In this connection, Conference calls upon the National Executive to instruct all provincial organs to contribute to the treasury of the co-ordinating committee.

8. Conference insists that the correct policy to be observed towards Bantu Education is one of fighting an uncompromising consistent battle against the implementation of the Bantu Education Act and therefore resolves upon total rejection of Verwoerd's evil Act as the moral and spiritual enslavement of our children. To defeat this Act it calls upon African parents to make preparations to withdraw their children from primary schools indefinitely as from April 1, 1955, until further directive from the National Executive Committee. Furthermore, Conference calls upon the National Executive Committee to keep a vigilant eye on the situation and issue directives from time to time that will give a disciplined lead to our opposition as well as to approach individual sympathetic societies for their support.

9. As the people in the rural areas are constantly threatened with the imposition of oppressive regulations under the Native Trust and Land Amendment Act against their will, Conference resolves that the Resist Apartheid Campaign should be extended to these areas and an intensified campaign of resistance be launched immediately as some districts in the so-called Native Reserves have already been affected.

10. Whilst we realize the invalidity of the proclamation of the increased rentals that was imposed upon us by the Government, Conference feels that the economic rentals will be re-imposed in one form or another and calls upon the National Executive Committee to prepare plans for mass action in opposition to such an eventuality.

Bewysstuk No.
Gekry by..... *Jacob Mafusa*
Deur..... *S. S. B. B. B.*
Te..... *3338 Bachelors Bfhr*
Datum..... *5-12-55*
Verwysings No.

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Z.K.M. 19

RESOLUTIONS OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1954

1. This Conference declares its unqualified support for the great Congress of the people sponsored by the National Organisations of this country. In this connection Conference enjoins all National Organisations, Church movements and associations to support, join in and participate in the great Campaign for the calling of the mighty Congress of the People having as its aim the drawing up of a Freedom Charter embodying the aspirations of the people of South Africa for a future free, united, multi-national, democratic community in which oppression and exploitation will be a thing of the past. The organisation of the Congress of the People is a common task in which all democrats can participate. Therefore, Conference pledges its support for the Call for 50,000 Freedom Volunteers issued by the Peoples' President, Chief A.J. Lutuli, to gather the demands of the people and to ensure that the Congress will be the most representative assembly in the history of our country.

2. That Conference expresses its full confidence in the present leadership of the African National Congress which has led the movement and the people in their struggles during the past five years and which continues to point the way forward to freedom. That the National Conference of the African National Congress pledges itself to adhere strictly to the forward-looking, democratic and dynamic policy of freedom for which our leadership and organisation are being persecuted, banned and exiled. Conference calls upon the National Executive to make use of the Extraordinary Powers granted to it at the National Conference of 1952 so as to preserve our present leadership and ensure that we continue to be led and guided by the political leadership of our own choice whatever eventuality may arise. In this respect, Conference views with very serious concern the unwarranted acts of the Minister of Justice, Mr C.R. Swart, in depriving the liberatory movements of their democratically-elected leaders and the deportation powers which have recently been used against some of our leaders.

3. This Conference rejects in toto the Native Policy of the United Party because it views it as indistinguishable from the heinous Apartheid Policy of the Government and other Native policies that have been propounded and even practised in the past.

4. This Conference salutes the people of the Western Areas of Johannesburg for their solidarity in the fight to defend their homes and properties and calls upon all Africans and indeed all people of South Africa to centralise our national effort against the Natives Resettlement Act in the Resist Apartheid Campaign which shall have as its pivot the Western Areas of Johannesburg. Therefore Conference re-affirms the decision of the African National Congress to oppose and resist this act of legalised robbery.

5. Conference realises that the problems of Kenya cannot be solved by intimidation and violence perpetrated upon peaceful peasant populations. Consequently, the British Government must be urged in the long-term interests of all the people in Kenya to end the emergency in Kenya and produce a healthy atmosphere and to this end to:

- (a) Release Jomo Kenyatta and all other persons charged with political offences and held in concentration camps all over Kenya,
- (b) Remove the ban on the Kenya African Union as a prelude to the return of normal political life in the country,
- (c) Stop all military measures against the peaceful population of Kenya and withdraw unnecessary troops from the territory,
- (d) Arrange a round-table conference of all parties and groups in Kenya to decide the early transfer of power to a democratic government in which the mass of the people in Kenya genuinely have confidence.

6. This Conference of the African National Congress meeting at a time when there is no major conflict in the world after the Geneva Conference and the Indo-China Armistice, salutes the struggle of the World Peace Movement and asserts its faith in the peaceful co-existence of the peoples with their varying political systems through the principle of negotiation. Therefore, Conference condemns the plans of the ruling clique of America to precipitate a Third World War through the creation of war pacts such as N.A.T.O. and S.E.A.T.O., and whole plan to rearm German Nazis. This Conference considers

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that the modern weapons praised by war-mongers are inhuman and maintains that the energy in atomic and hydrogen bombs should be diverted to the peaceful reconstruction of the world.

7. This Conference in acceptance of, and in response to, our President's Address as well as the report of the National Executive, resolved to widen its co-operation with the trade union movement and hereby calls upon the National Executive Committee to form a sub-committee for the purpose of co-ordination of activities and better organisational efficiency with the trade unions and furthermore to allot a portion of the funds in its treasury to the trade union movement as a positive contribution towards the strengthening of trade unionism among Africans. In this connection, Conference calls upon the National Executive to instruct all provincial organs to contribute to the treasury of the co-ordinating committee.

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ke hasefapano
se ka ntisa
ke tla ke phehele
Hoba hanfinyane
le Morena.

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enyolohanga
Ekenang holimo
Moo ho khanyang
Mangeloi amatle
ahochle ankisa
Ahochle ankisa
Ho Morena.

Bewysstuk No.....
Gekry by..... W.S. Lame
Deur..... J. J. Hugo
Te..... Queenstown
Datum..... 27/10/56
Verwysings No.....

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Journal - no: 2000
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No. _____
Given by *E. P. Mordaka*
J. Smith 2/18/55
To *Secretary of the African National Congress*
27/9/55

Collection Number: AD1812

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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