

# The Freedom Charter

as adopted at the Congress of the People on 26 June 1955

## PREAMBLE



We, the people of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know:—  
That South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people;  
That our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;  
That our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;  
That only a democratic state, based on the will of the people can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;  
And therefore, we the people of South Africa, black and white, together — equals, countrymen and brothers — adopt this **FREEDOM CHARTER**.  
And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing nothing of our strength and courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

1955  
26 JUNE

ISSUED BY THE  
RELEASE MANDELA COMMITTEE  
1st FLOOR, PORTLAND PLACE,  
37 JORESEN ST., BRAAMFONTEIN  
2017, JOHANNESBURG;  
PRINTED BY SHAM'S PRINTERS,  
BENONI

## THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws.  
All the people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country. The rights of the people shall be the same regardless of race, colour or sex. All bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government.

## ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!

There shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and races;  
All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride;  
All people shall have equal rights to use their own languages and to develop their own folk culture and customs;  
The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime;  
All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.

## THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people;  
The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;  
All other industries and trade shall be controlled to assist the well-being of the people;  
All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

## THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!

Restriction of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger;  
The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers;  
Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land;  
All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose;  
People shall not be robbed of their cattle and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished.

## ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW

No one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without fair trial;  
No one shall be condemned by the order of any government official;  
The courts shall be representative of all the people;  
Imprisonment shall be only for serious crimes against the people, and shall aim at re-education, not vengeance;  
The police force and army shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the helpers and protectors of the people;  
All laws which discriminate on the grounds of race, colour or belief shall be repealed.

## ALL SHALL ENJOY HUMAN RIGHTS!

The law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children;  
The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law;  
All shall be free to travel without restriction from countryside to town, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad.  
Pass laws, permits and other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

## THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY!

All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers;  
The state shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits;  
Men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work;  
There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers;  
Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work;  
Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

## THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED!

The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life;  
All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas, and contact with other lands;  
The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace;  
Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children;  
Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit;  
Adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass state education plan;  
Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens;  
The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished.

## THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT!

All people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;  
Unused housing space to be made available to the people;  
Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry;  
A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state;  
Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children;  
Slums shall be demolished and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres;  
The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;  
Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all;  
Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished and laws which break up families shall be repealed.

## THERE SHALL BE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP!

South Africa be a fully independent state, which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations;  
South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation — not war;  
Peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all;  
The people of the protectorates — Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland — shall be free to decide for themselves their own future;  
The right of all the peoples of Africa to independence and self-government shall be recognised, and shall be the basis of close co-operation.

Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here:  
**THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY.**

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## ZULU

I CHARTER YENKULULEKO (Njengokwamkelewa kwayo kwintshangano agomihla 26 June 1955)

BONKE ABANTU BAYOBA NEGUNYA KWEZOMBUSOI  
ZONKE IZZIWZE ZYOKUBA NAMALUNGELO ALINGANAYO!  
BONKE ABANTU BAYOKWABELANA NGOKULINGANAYO EMNOTHWENI WEZWE  
UMHLABA UYCKWABELWANA NGOKULINGANAYO KULABO AWABUSENZAYO!  
WONKE UMUNTU UYOPATHWANGENDLELA EFANAYO KWEZOMTHETHO!  
WONKE UMUNTU UYOBA NEGUNYA LOKUSEBENZISA AMALUNGELO OBUNTU!  
KUYOBZA NGESSENZI NOKVIELEKA EMESEZINI!  
AMATIBUA OKUFUNDA KANYE NAMASIKO AYGULEKA!  
KUYOKUBA NEZIDAWO ZOKUHLALA (IZNDLU), NOKUVIELEKA KANYE  
NETOKOMALO!  
KUYOKUBA NOKUTHULA NOBUGANE!  
MAGIKE BONKE ABATHANDAYO ABANTU BABO KANYE NEZWE LABO, BASHO  
KHONA MANJE, NJENGORA JATHI SISHO LAFA:  
LENKULULEKO SIYOVUWELA SIMUNYE, SIPHASENE, KUYOYONKE IMPilo YETHU  
SIZE JUZE AMALUNGELO ETHU ENKULULEKO.

## ISONGA

TMALWA BA TIMFANO TA NTSHUNXEKO HILAHIA RI AMUKERIWEK HAKONA EKA  
NTHLENGELETANO YA VANHU HI TI 26 KHOTAVUXIKA 1955.  
VANHU HENKWOVA TA VA NI MPEMELI SIG WO FUMA KU TII HAVA  
XIRAWUHLARTA XALAKA, KUHLOVO KUMZE RIMBEWI.  
TINXAKA HENKWOVA TI TA VA NI TEFANO TO FANA, TI THILE TI THLELA TI  
HILAYISEKA KU RENGANA BHANSKA NAWU.  
VANHU HENKWOVA TA AVERIWA RIUWOU RAIKO.  
TIKO BI TA AVENTA HENKWOVA LAVA VA NGA RI THLELA, LESWAKU KU  
HENKWA MULWANGA, MUMO NA WONA WU TA PFUNETA SWISIWANA HI  
THELO RAVUHLI.  
NATU WU TA SUMA VANHU KU RENGANA, A KU NGA HA VI NA KU BOHIWA KU  
NGA SENGIFEL.  
VANHU HENKWOVA TA VA NI TEFANTO TA VONA.  
XILAWU LEVYEPERI TA TII UNDO LETI YITA HEBEWA.  
MINTSHO MI KU HILAYISEKA SWA TA VA HONA LAJHA VANHU VA NGA TA  
HANZENWA KUHLO, UNDO VA THILE, KUHLO YO SAWA, VA THLELA VA  
HILAYISEKA KU RENGANA MULWHO YALEYO.  
TENDLU TO DYZENZA, TA SHUZO IT TO, IYUFRA, NASWONA DYONDEO YITA  
VA YA MANI NA MANI, VI THLELA VYNGA HUZERIVI.  
KU TA VA NI TENDLU, KU HILAYISEKA NI KU TSASHISEKA KAHLA, UN'WANA NI  
UN'WANA UT TSASHA LAJA A LAVAKA KONA  
KU TA VA NI KU RULWA NI VUNGHANA, AFRIKA-DZONGA RI TA TIKARHATELA KU  
RHULA KA MISAWA, NI KU HEZISA MADZOLONGA KU VULAVURISANA, KU  
NGA RI NA NYIMI.  
HENKWOVA LAVA RA RHANDZAKA VANHU NI TIKO RA VONA A VA VULE LESWI  
LANDZELAKA, HILAHIA NA HINA HI VULAKA HAKONA LAJA: KU TSASHENKA  
LOKU HI RI KARHI HI PFUNANA, HI KALA HI YA TSASHENKA.

## VENDA

THENDELONZWYA WA MBOPHOLOWO (Sa zve zva vhothiwa kha Gvuhangano la vhathe  
aga is 26 Juwi 1955).

VIHATHU VHA DO FHIWA MAANDA A UDIXKETHELA MUHVUSO.  
TSIKA DZOTHE DZI DO VHA NA PEANOLO DZI LINGANAHO.  
VHATHU VHOOTHE VHA DO WANNA TSHPIDA TSA LUPFUMO LU RE SHANGONI.  
MAVU A DO KHETHEKANYIWA NGA U LINGANA VHUKATI HA AVHO VHA  
NO A SHUMA.  
VHOOTHE VHA DO LINGANA PHANDA HA MULAYO.  
VHOOTHE VHA DO DIPHINA NGA THENDELO DZO TEAO MUNWE NA MUNWE  
A RE MUTHU.  
HU DO VHA NA MUSHOMO NA TSIRELEDZO.  
MINANGO YA PFUNZO NA MVELELE I DO VULIWA.  
HU DO VHA NA MADZULO, UT TSIRELEDZEA NA MUTAKALO WA MUYA.  
ROTHE RINE RA FUNA VHATHU VHOOTHE NA SHANGO LAVHO KHA RI, SAMUSI RI  
TSI KHOU AMBA APHA: MBOPHOLolo HEYI RI DO I LWELA, RO IMA ROTHE,  
VHUTSHILONI HASHU HOTHU SWICKELA RI TSI DO KUNDA RA WANA  
MBOPHOLOWO YASHU.

## TSWANA

LOKWALO LWA DITSHWANELO TSA KGOLOLESO

Jaka le amogetse ka Kopanong ya Setshaba ka di 26 Seembosigo 1955.

BATHO BA TLA NEWA TETLA E TLETSENG YA GO NNA LE SEABE MO PUSONG.  
MOKOKO OTLHE A SETSHABA A TLA NNA LE DITETLA KA BOTLALO MO GO TSOTLHE  
TSE DI AMANANG LE MOLAO.  
BATHO BOTLHE BA TLA NEWA TETLA YA GO ITHUSA KA BOTLALO MO DIKUNGONG  
LE LERUO LA NAGA.  
MMUSO O TLA LETLELAE O BE O THUSE BADIRI BA NAGA GO E DIRISA KA MOO BA KA  
ITHUSANG KA TENG.  
MOAO O TLA DIRISIWA MO QATHONG BOTLHE GO SA KGETELOLWE  
DQGATELELO LE DKGOLOLELO TSOTLHE TSA BATHO DO TLA FEDISWA MME  
BOTLHE BA TLA NEWA TETLA YA GO LEKANA FA PELE GA MOLAO.  
BADIRI BOTLHE BA TLA NEWA DITSHWANELO TSE DI TLETSENG TSA GO  
DURA BA ITUMETSE.  
MMUSO O TLA BULA DKGORO TSOTLHE TSA THUTO LE BOITIREDI GORE DI TLE DI  
DIRISIWE KI BATHO BOTLHE KA MOKWGA O KGOTSOFATSANG.  
MMUSO O TLA LAMELA BATHO BOTLHE KA MATLO, TLHOMAND LE THOKGAMO  
MME NAGA YOTLHE E TLA DIRISIWA KA MOO GO TSHTWANELANG.  
AFRIKA-BORWA E NNE NAGA E E DEMETSENG KA BOTLALO MME E SEKEGELE  
KUTLWANO LE BOTSLANO LE DINAGA TSA BAAGISANI.  
A BOTLHE BA BA RATANG BATHO LE NAGA YA BONE BA BUE JAANONG JAAKA RE  
BUA MO BA RE: RE TLA LWELA DKGOLOLESO TSE RE EMANE THOKO  
BOTSHO JWA RONA BOTLHE GO FITLHELA RE BONA KGOLOLESO.

## SOUTHERN SOTHO

LENGOLO LE PHATLALATSANG DITOKELO  
TSA TOKOLOHO

(Le amohetswe sebokeng se seholo sa batho mohla 26 Phupjane  
1955)

BATHO BA TLA NEWS MATLA A TLETSENG A HO BA LE KABELO MMUSONG  
BATHO BA MEFUTA YOHLLE BA TLA BA LE DITOKELO TSE TLETSENG HAM-  
MOHO LE TSHERELETO MOLAO.  
BATHO BOHLE BA TLA BA LE KABELO E TLETSENG MORUONG WA NAHA.  
NAHA & TLA AROLELWA BOHLE BA TLANG HO E SEBETS A MME BA THUSWA  
KE MMUSO.  
BATHO BA TLA LEKANA PELA NOLAO HO SE LEENO KAPA KGETHOLLO.  
KCATTELO LE KGETHOLLO DI TLA FEDISWA MME BATHO BA TLA FUWA  
DITOKELO TSA BOTLHE KA BOTLALO.  
BASEBETS A TLA NEWA TSHERELETO LE DITSHWANELO TSE TLETSENG  
HORE SE BSETSE BA BOIKETLO.  
KIGKORO TSA THUTO DI TLA BULELWA BOHLE MME BATHO BA KGOTHA-  
LLETSWE HO NTSHETSA PELE DITALENTE TSA BONA TSA THUTO.  
MMUSO O TLA HLOKOMELA HORE BATHO BOHLE BA NA LE MATLO EBILE BA  
PHELA KA BOIKETLO.  
AFRIKA-BORWA E TLA BA NNA E IKEMETSENG KA BOTLALO E BUSANG KA  
TOKA MME E PHEDISANA KA KUTLWANO LE DINAGA TSE BAPILENG LE  
YONA.  
A BOHLE BA RATANG BATHO LE NAHA YA BONA BA BLE MMHO JWALEKA  
HA RE RE:  
RE TLA LWELA DITOKGLUHO TSENA, RE THUSANA BOPHELONG BOHLE  
BA RCNA HO FIHLELA RE FLUMANA BOLOKOLOH.

## XHOSA

UXWEBU LWAMALUNGELO ENKULULEKO (Njengokwamkelewa kwayo  
kwintshangano ya Banu ngomihla 26 June 1955)

ABANTU BAYA KULAWLA.  
ZONKE IZZIWZE ZYI KULANGANA.  
ABANTU BAYA KWALUHLU ELANA INGBUTYEBE BELIZWE.  
UMHLABA UYA KWALUHLU ANGOKULINGANA PHAKATHI KWABO  
BASEBENZA KWUO.  
BONKE ABANTU BAYA KULU KAYA NGOKI KENTHETHWENI.  
BONKE ABANTU BAYA KUMA ASCLA UGUN-  
KLYA KUBAKHO UMSEBENZI NGOKI SELEN.  
HINGCANGO ZEMFUNDU NEZOBENTU HABAO YO ZIYA KUVULEKA.  
KLYA KUBAKHO JZINDLU, UKHESLEKO NGKELPHILA KAKHLE.  
KLYA KUBA KHO UNOLO NOBUHLOEO.  
BONKE ABO BANTU ABATHANDVA ABANTU IRIZU NEZIWE LABO MARATHI  
NJENGOKO SISITHO APA NGOKI BATHI.  
SIYA KUZILWELA EZI NTUBO ZEN KULLULEKO, SIBAMBIANE, UBOMI BETHU  
BONKE, DESILIPUMELELE IDABI LENKULLLEKO.

## N. SOTHO

MOLAO WA DITOKELO TSA TOKOLOGO

YE O ANOGETSWEGO KONKRESING (KGOTSOFATSAGO) YA SETSHABA YEO  
EBEGO E SWERWE KA DI 26 JUNI 1955.

SETSHABA SE TLO BUSWA KE MOETAPELE TO SE NO KGETHILEGO GOBA  
MOETAPELA YO SETSHABA SE NO RATAGO.  
DIHLOPHA KA MOKA TSA SETSHABA DITLO BA LE DITOKELO TSE SWANAGO  
GOBA DITOKELO TSE LEKANAGO.  
SETSHABA KA MOKA SE TLO ABELANA MAHLIMO A LEFASE LA GABO BONA  
NAGA KA MOKA E TLO ABELWA BOHLE BAO BA E SOMETSEGO.  
MOLAO O TLO TLEMA SETSHABA KA MOKA KA GO SWANA.  
SETSHABA KA MOKA SE TLO IPHSINA KA DITOKELO TSA SONA.  
GO TLO BA LE MESOMO LE TSHERELETO GO SETSHABA KA MOKA.  
MENYOKA YA THUTO LE SETHO E TLO BULELWA SETSHABA KA MOKA KA GO  
SWANA.  
GO TLO BA LE MADULO A KGOTSOFATSAGO, GO SWANA LE DINTLO.  
TSHERELETO LE BOIKETLO SETSHABENG KA MOKA.  
SETSHABENG KA MOKA GO TLO BA LE KHUTSO LE SETSWALLE SA NNTE.  
BOHLE KA MOKA BAO BA RATAGO SETSHABA LE LEFASE LA GABO BONA  
BOLELA KA LENTSU LE TEE BA RE: RE TLO LWELA DITOKLOGO TSE RE DI  
NYAKAGO KA MO RE KA KOGONO KA GONA BOPHELONG KA MOKA BJA  
RENA GO FIHLELA RE FENYA GOMME RA HWETSA TOKOLOGO YA KGONTHE.

Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here:  
THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGH-  
OUT OUR LIVES UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY.

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