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POLICY DOCUMENT OF AZASM
(AZANIAN STUDENT MOVEMENT)

PREAMBLE

Whereas we, the Azanian Student Movement, adopting the vibrant revolutionary ideology of Black Consciousness (B.C.),

and recognizing that ideology is a dynamic force and that we are ever conscious that revolutionary ideology must relate to the national conditions in a given society,

Therefore resolve:

that AZASM will take into account the HISTORICAL and NATIONAL peculiarities of the oppressed and exploited of Azania.

1. BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS

AZASM acknowledges that the ideology of B.C. has developed from the experiences of the oppressed Black people of Azania. We therefore assert that this ideology is a living reality amongst the majority of the people of AZANIA.

We understand the ideology of Black Consciousness as :

- a) A framework whose internal dynamics give form to the entire nature of Black aspirations.
- b) An irreversible process of self-understanding and self-assertiveness of the Black people of Azania in the face of oppressive socio-political structures imposed by the white racist government.
- c) A firm expression of the will of the Black working class to assume full control of the power structures of a democratic, anti-racist, non-exploitative government.
- d) A philosophy that relatively translates itself into active opposition to government policies bent on estranging the Black people from themselves: an active resistance to every form of injustice meted out to Black people.
- e) A philosophy that gives direction to the Black people in an attempt to re-orientate their entire value system.
- f) A philosophy that grasps Black solidarity as an imperative element that militates against any form of sectionalism, and one that ensures a united effort towards changing the status-quo.
- g) A philosophy that understands that Black workers, who constitute them most oppressed and exploited class in this society, are the vanguard of the liberation struggle.
- h) A philosophy that seeks to create a just society where the value of persons shall be held supreme.

2. SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT

We believe that the entire country of AZANIA is an indivisible unit which is the sole property of the Black people. Hence, we categorically reject the policy of separate development which arises from the myth that the Black nation is composed of separate units.

The Azanian people will demand back, with all the power at its command, any alienated portion of the Azanian soil; and, Bantustan human-dumping-grounds will be reintegrated into a unitary state of Azania.

3. CLASS AND RACE

We recognise the fact that in South Africa race is a class determinant. We recognise further that the Black working class constitutes a people racially discriminated against and economically exploited. We believe that the Black working class, inspired by Black Consciousness, constitutes the vanguard of the liberation movement.

4. RELATIONS WITH ORGANISATIONS

AZASM recognizes the role played by the historical movements, and further maintains that the Azanian People's Organization (AZAPO) is the authentic overt liberation movement for the Black people and shall act as the mother-body of all Black Consciousness organizations. AZASM will further forge working relations with Organizations of the oppressed and the exploited which are working toward a democratic, anti-racist and socialist AZANIA. In its relationship with other organizations AZASM shall retain and maintain its independence and direction in terms of policies, principles, programmes, ideologies.

5. EDUCATION

We regard the education policy of the white-settler regime as ethnic, de-humanizing and bent on relegating Black people to perpetual serfdom, while at the same time trying to create an elite class within the Black Nation. We recognise that education should be geared towards total liberation and we pledge to tirelessly strive towards this end.

6. SPORT AND CULTURE

We regard the sporting and cultural isolation of white South Africa as a progressive strategy. In this regard, AZASM pledges to actively encourage the formation of Black sporting and cultural bodies which are anti-colaborationist. The dominant culture prevalent in our society today is that of the capitalist ruling class, whose values and attitudes are imposed on us. Therefore, we pledge to work towards a progressive national culture which is socialist in content and geared towards the needs of the Black working class.

7. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We recognise that the majority of the Black people, having been saturated with oppression and exploitation, have had their confidence, self-awareness, and self-reliance sapped. We recognise that community projects are a viable and effective method of promoting self-awareness and self-reliance. We are aware of the dangers of these community projects becoming reformist, and pledge to vigilantly maintain the proper revolutionary direction.

8. TRADE UNIONS

We acknowledge Trade Unions as instruments that can bring about the re-distribution of power, provided that they go beyond the problems of management and labour. So, to this end, AZASM pledges to help in the formation of Black Con. (BC) orientated Trade Unions and to support those which are already existing.

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