

**AL26**

# Million Signature Campaign

Briefing Document

- Framework

Rev "A 426"

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- Brief history - campaigns - strength & support
- its policies - declaration
- Why the M.S. Campaign now - objectives

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- why?

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## ③ The Approach

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persuading the person.  
Conclusion

- how to say it

- details of proper conduct and attitude.

(PTO)

- The Constitution or Kourulof Bills  
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Why we reject them?

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(7) ~~You~~ Last message to people  
We meet

- how they can help - local level

- support UDF

- what they must do in relation to anti constitution or K.B. campaign

Anti-SAIC

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

THE CAMPAIGN

BACKGROUND

Democracy means that all adult citizens of a country have the right to vote for or be elected to one parliament. In South Africa there is no such democracy. The "parliament" is elected by Whites only. Africans, Indians and Coloureds have never had the right to sit in the S A parliament.

Over the decades various White governments created a range of "dummy" institutions (or so called votes) in an effort to placate and divert the struggle for a democratic S A e.g. before 1960 vote for White representatives in Parliament or Senate, the Bungas in the Transkei, the Native Representative Council 1935. None of this worked.

In the mid - 50's and early 60's apartheid took another form. The Coloureds were removed from the voters roll; bantustans were created; the S A I C (initially National Indian Council) was nominated; in the mid - 60's local advisory bodies like the L A Cs, Management Committees and Urban Bantu Councils (now Community Councils) were nominated and then elected.

The S A I C must be viewed in this context. It is an institution created by the government to divert the struggle for a democratic S A and divide the struggle along ethnic lines. Those who believe in a unitary, non-racial, democratic S A are compelled to oppose the S A I C.

ANTI-S A I C CAMPAIGN

The campaign against the S A I C is being conducted by Anti-SAIC committees in Natal, Transvaal and the Cape. The leading political organisation in the campaign is the Natal Indian Congress. These committees include and have the support of many other organisations such as DHAC and its affiliates; sports organisations like Southern Natal Soccer Board; trade unions; student organisations; religious organisations like MYM etc.

EVENTS TO DATE

The campaign in the Transvaal is getting massive support. In Lenasia, over 3 000 people attended the first meeting of the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee. Almost every house in each city and town is being visited.

In Natal a massive drive to visit every home in the greater Durban area is on the way. The Anti-SAIC has its own newspaper - People's Unity. About 100 000 copies of each paper and pamphlet are distributed in all areas.

A national conference held on October 10th and 11th was attended by over 120 organisations and some 500 delegates from all parts of the country. A resolution rejecting the SAIC was unanimously accepted, as was a declaration reaffirming the Freedom Charter and calling for a national convention.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN

1. To ask people not to vote and thus demonstrate our rejection of separate government bodies and apartheid as a whole.
2. To demand equal rights for all on the basis of the Freedom Charter.
3. To build our unity necessary to solve our problems.
4. To build greater unity with other oppressed groups.
5. To popularize the idea of building or strengthening our own democratic organisations.

HOUSE TO HOUSE VISITS

For the campaign to be effective it is important for us to reach out to every family. This is the only way to ensure that our message and policy reaches the maximum number of people effectively.

The candidates in almost all the areas are not holding public meetings but are using house visits as their main form of canvassing. There is evidence that some people are being threatened that they "will be charged" if they do not vote.

/It....

, therefore necessary for us to go to each and every house  
efute the views of the SAIC candidates. It will give us  
opportunity to :

clear up any wrong ideas people have about the Anti-SAIC  
Committee, the Campaign and about not voting;

understand better the attitude of the Community to the  
SAIC, the NIC and our problems.

E APPROACH

INTRODUCE YOURSELF

I am Sally. I am from the Anti-SAIC Committee. I would  
like to take up a few minutes of your time to discuss the  
SAIC elections.

(If person does not know about the election, explain what  
the SAIC is, that there is an election on November 4; that  
they might be approached by candidates to vote).

If there are other adults in the house could you call them  
as well.

We are asking people not to vote on November 4 - what are  
your views on the SAIC?

IT IS NOT ILLEGAL (YOU CANNOT BE CHARGED) IF YOU DON'T VOTE

Remember you will not be breaking any law if you don't vote.  
You cannot be charged. Our lawyers have checked this.  
Some SAIC candidates are going around threatening people  
that they will be charged if they don't vote.  
Please tell others in your family and at work, that they  
will not be breaking any law if they don't vote.

(Give the pamphlet)

DON'T VOTE - THE REASONS

The SAIC is created by the government, they are paid by the  
government, therefore they work for the government. Some of  
them earn R550 per month - one Chairman R1 500 per month.  
The executive earns R1 275 per month.

For 17 years they have been able to do very little about  
most of our problems :

Group Areas Act - people still being moved  
High rents/raes - they keep going up  
food prices - very high  
facilities and amenities - most areas still have virtually  
nothing.

/They.....

attitude

(PTC)

They have no power. They cannot make new laws. They cannot change laws. They cannot force the government or City Council to do anything - the SAIC is not supported by the majority of our people.

The government created this body to bluff our people that we actually have a say in the country - we don't.

The best way we can show that we do not want useless bodies like the SAIC is by not voting.

4. HOW DO WE SOLVE OUR LOCAL PROBLEMS

From our experience in Phoenix, Chatsworth and other places (eg the rent boycott) we know that only when we are united can we get anything from the City Council.

The LAC's have shown that they are useless.

Our aim should be to form strong residents/community organisations in every area which is loyal to the people not the government or City Council.

We can do without the LAC and SAIC.

Both the LAC and SAIC in fact interfere in the work of our organisations when we try to negotiate with the government and the City Council for lower rents/rates etc.

5. OUR FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

From the time of Mahatma Gandhi the Indian Community has always been led by one organisation - the Natal Indian Congress.

Only the Congress can lead the community and make sure that we live in peace and safety with all other communities in S A.

Please read this pamphlet and other newsletters you will get and discuss how we can make the congress a strong organisation.

6. REMEMBER ON NOVEMBER 4

We must show that the Indian Community will not be bought off and misled.

We must not vote.

We must not believe the lies of SAIC candidates that we will be charged if we don't vote.

7. OUR ATTITUDE

We must be polite, not become impatient with people who might disagree,

We don't enter into any arguments - if a person cannot be persuaded excuse yourself.

Make a note of the address, we will arrange for a Senior Anti-SAIC person to visit the house.

On leaving thank them for their co-operation.

Tell them we will be coming back to them in the next few months.

8. FINALLY

Ask people to read PEOPLE'S UNITY and other publications of the NIC and Anti-SAIC committee. Watch for adverts in the paper. Move on .....there's lots more to do! COMRADELY GREETINGS!

attitude

(PTC)

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