

6.1.2

LOCATION ADVISORY BOARDS' CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION,
HELD IN THE STIANNE'S HALL, KABAH LOCATION, UITENHAGE,
ON DECEMBER, 18th., 19th., 20th. and 21st. 1942.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- 1/42. REPRESENTATION OF AFRICANS IN COMMITTEES: That the Government and municipal councils be respectfully asked to consider the advisability and necessity of Africans being directly represented on commissions and committees appointed to enquire into and/or deal with matters affecting Africans - Congress submits that such a step would eliminate doubts and suspicion in the minds of the African people and bring about confidence and better results of closer co-operation between constituted authority and the populations.
- 2/42. EMPLOYMENT OF AFRICANS IN MUNICIPAL SERVICES: That whilst Congress thanks those municipalities who are making full use of Africans in their services, feels that more and more responsible positions, especially in those services that are financed out of the Native Revenue Account, should be thrown open to qualified Africans as is now being done by the Government Native Affairs Department. Further, Congress urges that these positions be properly graded and the conditions of service be clearly defined.
- 3/42. SOCIAL SERVICES: (a) That this Congress places on record its appreciation of the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Social, Health and Economic conditions of Urban Natives and sincerely trusts that the Government will take the necessary steps to put into effect the improvements recommended.
- (b) That better provisions should be made for the separate housing of juveniles in the Courts while they are awaiting trial and that the guardians of such children should, as far as possible, be present when their children are being tried.
- (c) That Old Age Pensions be extended to Africans so as to relieve the hardship to indigent and old Africans who are to-day a burden on people, the majority of whom are already living below the bread-line.
- (d) That Congress once again emphasize the necessity of members of Advisory Boards making a close survey of the social conditions of the African people in their respective areas, studying the different phases of such public services as the care of children, working mothers and their children, care of the indigent, aged and crippled etc with a view to having these services established and properly organised where they do not exist.
- 4/42. JUVENILE AFFAIRS BOARDS: That in the interest and welfare of youth and as a means of assisting Bantu youths in the urban areas in the same manner as is done to European and Coloured youths, Clause 294 of the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Social conditions of Urban Natives regarding the establishment of Juvenile Affairs Boards, should be put into operation. Congress feels that much success would be gained by including competent Africans as members of these Boards.
- 5/42. THE COLOUR BAR PRINCIPLE: That Congress humbly requests the Government to remove the application of the "Colour Bar" principle especially in industry and social welfare services, as it is not only subversive to the progress of the country as a whole in all respects but is also a negation of the true principles of democracy for the maintenance of which this country is fighting.
- 6/42. DISCRIMINATING LAWS : That whenever local authorities frame regulations designed to ensure and maintain law and order, such regulations should apply to all sections of the community without discrimination.
- 7/42. WAGES OF AFRICANS IN THE SMALLER TOWNS: That while Congress records appreciation at the effect of the Wage Board Determinations in making some improvements on conditions of services including those of African workers in those towns where these apply, Congress urges the Government to consider the smaller towns and to extend the activities of the Wage Board to include unskilled labour therein.

- 8/42. HEALTH SERVICES: (a) That Congress considers that the time has arrived when there should be established in all locations clinics and other health services, and the employment of qualified district nurses, more especially in view of the success of those institutions in the locations where they are established.
- (b) That in view of the rapid and alarming increase of tuberculosis especially among industrial Africans, urgent and special consideration be given by the Government to make funds available for clinical services and after care of these cases; and that the invalidity grant be extended to include African sufferers.
- (c) LOCATION AMENITIES: That in the interest of Public Health the local authorities be approached to consider the adjustment of the unsatisfactory position of many locations through the lack of proper and modern sanitary conveniences, hardened roads that are free from dust, proper lighting of the streets and the homes. Congress feels that the assistance of the Department of Native Affairs should be asked and that the Inspectors of Urban Locations should include these in their programme when they visit the different Locations.
- 9/42. ADVISORY BOARDS : (a) That Congress respectfully urges the Department of Native Affairs to request those municipalities, government and provincial departments who have adopted the policy of stopping their employees from assisting their people by accepting nomination as members of advisory boards, to consider the adjustment of this unsatisfactory situation. These men and women, are, in many instances the only able and competent leaders in their respective communities and in any case there is nothing in the Act which makes them ineligible.
- (b) That municipalities should afford members of advisory boards all facilities for making them more efficient in representing their people by giving all necessary information such as reports etc; and that members of advisory boards should enjoy certain privileges in recognition of the voluntary services they give to the community and the council.
- 10/42 QUALIFICATIONS OF LOCATION SUPERINTENDENTS: That in view of the fact that the responsibilities of the office of the location superintendent have increased considerably owing to the progress of the locations and the residents thereof Congress feels that the time has now arrived of appointing only those men who are academically qualified, having a thorough knowledge of men and matters generally. Furthermore Congress respectfully points out that the present policy of granting licences to these officials only on the strength of their knowledge of the vernacular and seniority in the municipal service, is wrong and such qualification only is most inadequate.
- 11/42. SECURITY OF TENURE IN LOCATIONS: (a) Congress is opposed to the prevailing system of sub-economic housing for Africans being based only on the leasehold principle, and respectfully asks that this system be altered so that houses in the locations may be sold on a freehold basis and instalment therefor be in proportion to the average wages of the Africans in that district.
- (b) That in view of the fact that quite a number of Africans find themselves, for reasons beyond their control, having to change their places of employment beyond the area of jurisdiction of the municipality where the their location is situated, that such residents should not lose their residential qualification solely for that reason.
- 12/42. TRADING RIGHTS: That Congress re-iterates previous resolutions urging for trading rights as provided for in the Act, and asks that the Department for Native Affairs make an appeal to the municipalities concerned to remove the unjust discrimination of not allowing the African to trade with his own people in areas set apart for him. This applies more especially to the locations of the Orange Free State.
- 13/42. EDUCATION: (a) That in view of the increasing demand for trained social and health (nurses etc.) workers etc and the great demand for Secondary Education by Africans, the Provincial Administrations and local authorities be approached to provide more bursaries for suitable young men and women. Congress believes that such workers would, when qualified, be of great service to the community in solving social and health problems of the locations.

EDUCATION -continued. (b) That the Provincial Administrations be asked to open facilities for the training of teachers in crafts, domestic science, physical culture etc so that these trained teachers may be employed in those centres where such specialisation would be possible.

14/42. POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION AND SOCIAL SECURITY: That in any programme of post war reconstruction and social security, it is only just and equitable to request the Prime Minister that the African should have consideration and be given an opportunity of making his own representations to such committees as may be appointed before such a programme has been finally dealt with.

12/42. MENDI MEMORIAL. That Congress accepts the invitation of the Mendi Memorial Committee to interest itself in the movement by sending two representatives to serve in that Committee.

16/42. CONGRESS ORGANISATION: (a) That the Constitution of the Advisory Boards' Congress of South Africa be revised by a Committee composed of Messrs R.H.Godlo, J.Kokozela, and A.J.Sililo.

(b) That the revised Constitution should provide for Associate Membership and that members of the Representative Council elected to represent the Advisory Boards be accepted as Associate Members as from the 1st January, 1943.

(c) That the Executive Committee should hold a Mid-year meeting.

(d) That the President of Congress Mr.R.H.Godlo be the convener of the "Action Committee" that is specially elected to go into matters that have exercised the minds of delegates for some time and that this Committee be empowered to take whatever action it may deem necessary.

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