

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1.

NAME: The name of the Organisation shall be the African Youth League.

Article 2.

POLICY:

- a) The African Youth League is an independent, self-governing League of youth controlled by no political party but helping all parties and bodies which serve the cause of the liberation of the Africans.
- b) The A.Y.L. stands against discriminatory laws, e.g. Land laws, Native Bills, Urban Areas Act, Masters & Servants Act, & Trading laws.
- c) The A.Y.L. initiates and supports movements for legislature and other measures to improve the social and economic status of African youth.
- d) The A.Y.L. stands for free, compulsory state education.
- e) The A.Y.L. stands for the abolition of colour bar in apprenticeship and for the reduction of the period of apprenticeship.
- f) The A.Y.L. stands for equal pay for equal work and a living wage for workers.
- g) The A.Y.L. is against land restrictions and land owning.

Article 3.

OBJECTS:

- a) To foster the spirit of Trade Unionism among the Youth and help the trade unions to organise youth labour.
- b) To develop cultural, social, recreational activities among our members and youth generally.
- c) To encourage the growth of sports and physical culture through activities with sports organisation.
- d) To carry out colourful propaganda for our aims and objects and generally in the interests of youth by means of pageants, theatre performances, films, rallies and other methods.

Article 4.

MEMBERSHIP:

- a) The membership of the A.Y.L. is open to all African youth between the ages of 14 and 30 irrespective of religion or walk of life who are willing to pay dues and support the aims of the movement.
- b) A member is accepted after filling in an application form and being initiated by a vote at the local branch meetings or through any such ceremony as may be adopted by the branch.

Article 5.

BRANCH:

- a) The branch is an association of members in any given town, dorp, village or farm, location or township, and consists of 15 members.
- b) Branches have the power, within the limits of the constitution to conduct their own business and procedure according to the wishes and interests of their members.
- c) Branches may be organised into groups, brigades, teams or any other form as may be deemed advisable for the carrying out of branch activity.
- d) Branches shall acquire suitable premises, according to the membership and finance, education, socials, sports recreational and other desirable activities for members and friends so that branches become youth centres in their areas catering for all the healthy interests of youth.

Article 6.

LOCAL AUTONOMY.

Branches have powers within the defined policy of the A.Y.L. to develop their own campaigns and local policies.

Article 7.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

- a) The conference shall meet once a year and shall be the highest authority of the A.Y.L. It shall decide upon all matters of general policy and principle.
- b) Every branch and the National council has the right to submit resolutions for the conference agenda. All resolutions shall be circulated to branches at least six weeks prior to conference.
- c) Final resolutions and amendments together with printed report of National Council shall then be circulated to each branch for discussion at least three weeks prior to conference.
- d) Every branch is entitled to send delegates to the conference on the basis of

one delegate for each 25 members or part thereof and shall contribute to the expenses of fares which shall be pooled in accordance with the number of delegates.

- e) Delegates are elected at the branch business meeting by ballot. Members are eligible for election as delegates to annual conference after three months membership. A branch which has existed for less than three months prior to conference may be represented by application to National Council.
- f) All decisions of conference (except amendments to the constitution and election of officers) shall be reached by ordinary majority vote.

Article 8.

SPECIAL CONFERENCES:

Special National conferences with same powers as annual conferences, maybe called by National Council or at the request of not less than one-third of the total number of branches.

Article 9.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Amendments to the constitution may be adopted by a majority vote of at least two thirds at annual conferences or by a two thirds majority in a membership ballot

Article 10.

NATIONAL COUNCIL:

The election of the National Chairman and Secretary shall be by secret ballot. Each branch shall have the right to make a nomination for chairman or secretary. Being defeated in election the nominee becomes a nominee for the National Council.

- b) The National Council shall have the power to suspend members or organisations of the A.Y.L. or members of the National Council.
- c) The National Council may regulate their own procedure and may delegate any of their powers to a committee of their members.

Article 11.

OFFICERS:

The National Council shall appoint from its members a national organiser, an editor of the A.Y.L. newspaper. The chairman, secretary, organiser, and editor, shall be members of the Executive Committee.

Article 12.

MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS:

- a) Each member shall pay not less than 6d. (Urban areas) and 3d. (Rural areas) per month in membership dues. Of these monies the branch may keep half and must forward the other half to the Executive Committee. Under no circumstances can money due to this committee be used for any other purpose.
- b) Branches shall have the power to impose voluntary levies on themselves for the purpose of high rent, extra membership facilities, but on no account can membership contributions be fixed at a figure higher than that laid down in clause (a) of this article.
- c) A National levy of 3d. per member shall be paid, the proceeds of which shall be donated by the National Council to the forming of a branch and used to help in its development.
- d) Members who are two months in arrears with their contributions shall, after having due notice, be suspended. Such members may be re-admitted after payment of a small fine to be decided upon by a branch committee.
- e) Members who are not clear with their contributions shall not be elected as delegates to any conference or committee.
- f) Branches two months in arrears of contributions shall be suspended.

Article 13.

FINANCE:

- a) Branches shall issue quarterly balance sheets of all finance.
- b) The National Council shall issue a balance sheet to each annual conference.

Article 14.

EXPULSIONS:

- a) A member may be expelled either -
 - i) By a two thirds majority vote of his branch.
 - ii) By a decision of the national council, provided that every member shall have the right to be heard before the body meeting to discuss his expulsion and shall receive at least two clear weeks notice of such a meeting.
- b) A member expelled by his branch may appeal to the National Council.
- c) Decisions of the National Council shall be subject only to appeal to the next annual conference.

Article 15.

AFFILIATIONS TO A.Y.L.

Youth organisations which wish to be united with or affiliated to the A.Y.L. may do so after joint consultation and agreement with the National Council. In event of such affiliation being effected dues payment shall be decided by a joint commission and endorsed by the annual conference.

Article 16.

PUBLICATION:

- a) The A.Y.L. shall issue a weekly paper for youth known as "Inyaniso" for which all youth may write.
- b) Power shall be vested with the National Council to publish any other newspaper (fortnightly or monthly) bulletin, periodical pamphlets, as are necessary.

Article 17.

ANTHEM:

The National anthem, "Nkosi Sikelela i Afrika" shall be sung at the close of all meetings.

Article 18.

BADGE:

The A.Y.L. shall have an official badge.

Article 19.

FLAG:

The National conference shall consider the flag question.

ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN
YOUTH LEAGUE.

African Theatre Guild (Producers, Actors, singers, musicians, playwrights etc. wanted.)

Study classes. (Elementary, advanced, specialised.)

Debates, Lectures, Book reviews.

Sports, Football, Athletics.

Concerts, Dances, Film shows, Art exhibitions.

Camps, Hikes, Picnics.

Service Brigade - paper selling, hospital visiting.

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