

I. EXECUTIVE REPORT TO THE GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS YOUTH LEAGUE
SOPHIATOWN BRANCH HELD ON THE 2ND AUGUST 1956.

AFRIKA! AFRIKA! AFRIKA! ① P. R. N. 35

Sons and Daughters of AfriKa, before delivering the Annual Report of the ANCYL (Sophiatown Branch), on behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish to thank you all for the interest you have shown in assembling here at this hour of the day. I wish to thank you for the consistent active part you have played in this protracted struggle for liberation from white domination, thus keeping the liberatory movement unique and enabling this report over the sequence of strenuous periods of hardships and sacrifices not less than a year. At this moment I want to put a light in the Youth that has assembled here, that one of the main aims of the C.Y.L. is "to assist, support and reinforce the A.N.C. in its struggle for National Liberation of the African People".

We must make note of the major factor being the desire for freedom that embraces not only we of Sophiatown but mainly the majority of the people of the African Nation of South Africa. This desire captures a man as an individual and calls for his love for his family; his love for his people; his love for his country and finally deposits the man on organizational level thus the liberatory movement. It is precisely this love that must be spread and practised among our people so that the liberatory movement can gain momentum and win freedom in our lifetime.

We, the Youth, have many years to live under the hardships that are being imposed upon us daily by the Govt. of white domination, and if we do not play our part in the struggle for liberation, we ~~will~~ ^{will} lose the future of our people and our country to the despotic rule of white domination. We have age advantage, --- the strength and knowledge advantage let us construe our love for the Black Nation by playing our part in the struggle.

But how strong are we from the blows we have suffered in the past year? Whilst our struggle does not begin with the "Native Resettlement Act" which means the robbery of the Africans of their homes, our last term begins with the battle against the complete mental enslavement of the African i.e. "Bantu Education Act".

Friends, earlier I had said one of our main aims is to assist, support and reinforce the ANC in its struggle for National Liberation of the African people. We are the Vanguard of the ANC. When the ANC takes a decision we the C.Y.L. are by no means exempted from that decision.

In Dec, 1954, the ANC National Conference ⁽²⁾ met at Durban Natal and took a decision to boycott Bantu Education by withdrawing children from schools. (And of course, this action calls for the direct participation of the youth.)

An Anti-Bantu Education Committee was formed to campaign against the Verwoerd's measure. School children were organised to ^{stage} an Anti-Bantu Education Demonstration. Boycott started and people were active in pickets but were later victimised by the Police and charged for public disturbances. These, the ANC cared for. Immediately after the beginning of the boycott hundreds of children were expelled from school for participating in the boycott, then a counterblow resulted by ~~forming a~~ cultural club at the then Congress Hall in Meyer Street.

~~The Police were~~
The Govt was later engaged in another means of forging the battle by sending Special Branch Police to the corner of the Hall. Following intimidation the owner of Hall rescinded the use of the hall from Congress as a whole. This lack of venue was a serious blow because for a long time there was no venue and ANC struggled alone in obtaining a venue.

Then we were called upon to make the COP assembly a success. Thousands of demands were collected and hundreds of delegates were organised for this mighty COP assembly that was held at Kipton, Johannesburg. Here too, the youth was called upon to play its part. But while doing this task, we forgot the CYL organizational aspect. We only confined ourselves to the duty of campaigning for the COP assembly.

In March 1956 the ANCYL called a National Conference in Johannesburg. This was held at Anderson Hall, Anderson St. It is in this conference that a Special National Conference was decided upon. Here at the Johannesburg conference a National Working Committee was formed. Cow branch was well represented. Delegates to this conference print from their pockets. Shortly the Transvaal called its conference which was held at Sophiatown.

~~15th March 1956~~ (SEE ATTACHED COPY) PAGE X

These are our past activities.

Let us get onto the job by putting constructive criticism. Organizationally we only have forty one paid up members. We have this low membership because we have not extended this knowledge to the ordinary youth. We have kept in the ranks of the youth. We have failed to strengthen the CYL membership. But it must be strengthened. How can we strengthen it? We can strengthen it by catering for the ordinary sporting and social youth. By having interests in their activities they in turn will have interest and confidence in the CYL movement. Let us not only weigh our strength by judging it mighty few politically conscious youth but by politicizing the mass youth.

Oppression is coming in one upon the other in different form. Today it is permit system in Sophiatown. It is directed to the youth for the labour of the youth is denied by the whiteman. It is through this permit system now that the Govt. is determined to solve the needs of the farmers and the miners. There is also the extension of pass laws to the ^{the bright line of colour} what are we going to do.

3
Let us pledge ourselves more determinedly to strive hand in hand for the liberation of our people by leaving no stone unturned in our locality, time and history are in favour of us therefore let us not surrender.

We have confidence in the Leadership of the A.N.C. (Sop.).
Let us say together :-

- Forward to the women's protest of the 9th AUGUST 1956!
- Forward to the Special National Conference of the C.Y.L.
- Forward A.N.C.

PAGE "X"

46
To the National Annual Conference of ANCYL our Branch was represented by twenty one delegates (21), and to the Transvaal Conference of the ANCYL our branch was represented by

a Mass Youth Education Rally was held at ^{Boksburg Loc.} Germiston on the 15/4/56. This should have been held at Germiston but was banned by the local Municipality. Our Branch was well represented by Members paid out of their pockets. Here, as the Location is Municipal controlled and uses permit system, some of our people were wrongly arrested but later released for they had permits.

Benoni was also visited by members of our Branch, in commemoration of the Bantu Education Boycott when our leader "M. E. Monare" was victimised for playing an important part in this struggle. Here also people paid for themselves.

All these visits were per decision of our Provincial Leadership of the ANCYL.

Recently we were invited by the Newcastle Branch of the ANCYL. As this place needs no financial aid for transport a good number of us attended.

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 Polysbaal 61, Sophiatown.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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