

Ed. INK S. ANC.
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CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

1. NAME:

The name of the organisation shall be the African National Congress, hereinafter referred to as the "Congress".

2. AIMS AND OBJECTS:

The aims and objects of the Congress shall be:-

- (a) To organise the African people into a powerful and effective instrument for national liberation and freedom.
- (b) To attain the freedom of the African people from all discriminatory laws whatsoever.
- (c) To promote and protect the interests of the African people in all matters affecting them.
- (d) To strive for the attainment of universal adult suffrage and the creation of a united democratic South Africa.
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- (e) To support the struggle for national liberation and independence in Africa and the rest of the world.

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3. MEMBERSHIP:

- (a) Membership of the Congress shall be open to any person above the age of 18, who accepts its principles, policy and programme and is prepared to abide by its constitution and rules.
- (b) Any person desiring to be a member of the Congress shall apply to the secretary of the nearest branch or to any member of the Congress authorised to receive applications for membership. Such secretary or member shall immediately submit the application for consideration by the local branch committee, or in the absence of a branch committee such application shall be made to the provincial secretary who shall refer it to the provincial executive committee within whose jurisdiction the applicant resides.
- (c) The branch committee or provincial executive committee, as the case may be, shall have power to accept or refuse any application for membership submitted to it, provided that the acceptance or refusal of any application by any organ of the Congress shall be subject to review by the next higher organ.
- (d) Upon any application for membership being granted by a branch committee or provincial executive committee, a membership card, signed by the Treasurer-General, and endorsed by the secretary of such branch or provincial executive committee, as the case may be, shall, on payment of the prescribed subscription, and subject to the results of any review instituted in terms of sub-clause (c) above, be issued to the applicant.

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4. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The Congress shall consist of the following organs:-

- (a) The National Conference, which elects the National Executive Committee.
- (b) The Provincial Conferences, which elect the provincial executive committees.
- (c) The Regional Conferences, which elect regional committees.
- (d) The branch meetings, which elect a branch committee.

5. DECISIONS:

Decisions of the majority shall be binding on all members and those of leading bodies shall be binding on subordinate bodies,

- (a) decisions of the National Conference and those of the National Executive Committee shall be binding on all members of Congress;
- (b) decisions of a provincial conference and those of a provincial executive committee shall be binding on all members of the Congress in the particular province concerned;
- (c) decisions of a regional committee shall be binding on those members of the Congress whose branches are constituent parts of that regional committee; and
- (d) decisions of a branch meeting or of a branch committee shall be binding on all members of that branch.

6. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS:

(a) RIGHTS: A member shall have the right -

- (i) to take part in discussion and formulation of the policy of the Congress;
- (ii) to criticise any official or decision of the Congress; such criticism shall be made to members of Congress or at a properly convened meeting of the members of the Congress;
- (iii) To take part in the election and to be elected to any committee, commission or delegation of the Congress; and
- (iv) to submit proposals or statements to his branch and to his provincial executive committee.

(b) DUTIES: A member shall have the duty -

- (i) to take an active part in the work of his branch;
- (ii) to understand thoroughly and to carry out the policy, aims and programmes of Congress;
- (iii) to raise the level of understanding of the political, economic and social problems of South Africa;
- (iv) to explain the policy and programme of the Congress to the people;
- (v) to combat any propaganda which is detrimental to the interests of the Congress;
- (vi) to observe discipline and to submit loyally to the decisions of the majority or to decisions of the higher committee; and
- (vii) to inform his branch committee before leaving his area, and to report to branch secretary of the area to which he has moved.

7. AUXILLIARY BODIES:

1. WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

Male and female members shall enjoy equality of status in the Congress. Women members shall, in the same way as men members, be entitled to take part in elections for and to be elected to any position or office in the Congress. But in recognition of the special disabilities and difficulties to which African women are subjected, and because of the peculiar problems facing them, and with a view to arousing their interests and facilitating their organisation, there shall be established a women's organisation to be known as the African National Congress Women's League. The League shall -

- (a) Be under the political direction and control of the Congress, and shall follow the policy and programme of the Congress;
- (b) Recruit and organise the African women into a strong organisation which shall act as an auxiliary force to the Congress in the struggle for national liberation;

- (c) Take up special problems and issues affecting women;
- (d) Carry on propaganda against apartheid and discriminatory laws among African women;
- (e) Have its ~~own~~ constitution and its ~~own~~ membership cards, provided the constitution is not in conflict with the aims and objects of Congress.

2. ORGANISATION FOR YOUTHS:

For the purpose of drawing the youths into the struggle and preparing them for leadership, the Congress shall organise the African youths into an organisation for youths to be known as the African National Congress Youth League, which shall:-

- (a) Mobilise the African youths and mould their political and social outlook in accordance with the Congress principles;
- (b) Promote social and cultural activities among the young people;
- (c) Popularise the policy, programme and decisions of the Congress among the youths; and
- (d) Have its own constitution and its own membership cards.

8. NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

The supreme ruling and controlling body in Congress shall be the National Conference. It shall:-

- (a) Consist of delegates from the branches of the Congress, elected by branch general meetings on the basis of one delegate for every twenty members; provided that the number of delegates from any one branch shall not be more than ten. Members of the National Executive Committee shall attend ex officio and shall have the right to speak and vote;
- (b) Be held once a year. Special National Conferences may be called at such times as the National Executive may deem fit, and shall be called on requisitions addressed to the National Executive Committee by two or more provincial conferences.

9. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

The National Conference shall:-

- (a) Decide and determine the policy and programme of the Congress;
- (b) Receive and discuss the reports of the National Executive, which shall include the Presidential Address and the Treasurer-General's Report, the Provincial Executive Committees, the African National Congress Women's League, and the African National Congress Youth League;
- (c) Lay down the basic principles and policy, examine and, where necessary, revise the programme and constitution of the Congress;
- (d) Have the right and power to review, ratify, alter or veto any decision taken by any of its constituent bodies or units of the Congress;
- (e) Elect the President-General; the Deputy President, the Secretary-General, the Treasurer-General and eight other National Executive Committee members. Members of the National Executive Committee shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-election. Nomination shall be by delegates at the Conference, and elections of all officials and members of the National Executive Committee shall be by ballot;
- (f) Have the power to elect or appoint any Commission or Committee and assign specific tasks and duties to such commission or committee.

10. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The National Executive Committee, which is elected by the National Conference once every three years, shall:-

- (a) Consist of the President-General, the Deputy President-General, the Secretary-General, the Treasurer-General, eight other members, the provincial presidents of the Congress and the national presidents or national secretaries of the African National Congress Women's League and the African National Congress Youth League who shall be ex officio members of the National Executive Committee;
- (b) Meet on the day of its election to appoint the National Headquarters, the National Speaker, the Deputy National Speaker, the National Chaplain and two National Trustees; and shall thereafter meet at least twice a year. The National Speaker, the Deputy National Speaker, the National Chaplain and the two National Trustees need not be appointed from among the members of the National Executive Committee;
- (c) Appoint the National Organising Secretary;
- (d) Appoint from amongst its members the National Working Committee of not less than seven persons residing within a radius of fifty (50) miles of the National Headquarters;
- (e) Carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Conference;
- (f) Issue and send directives and instructions of the provincial committees, regional committees and to branches;
- (g) Supervise, direct and control the work of the Congress generally;
- (h) Be responsible for ensuring that provincial committees and provincial officers of the Congress discharge their duties and functions properly and efficiently;
- (i) Supervise the work of the auxiliary bodies;
- (j) Manage and control all national property and funds of the Congress;
- (k) Submit annual reports to the National Conference;
- (l) Do all things necessary in furtherance of the policy and programme of the Congress.

11. NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE:

The National Working Committee is a sub-committee of the National Executive Committee. It shall be appointed in terms of section 10 (d), and shall, between meetings of the National Executive Committee, enjoy the full executive powers and authority of the National Executive Committee. It shall:-

- (a) Meet at least once every week;
- (b) Carry out decisions and instructions of the National Conference and the National Executive Committee;
- (c) Conduct the current work of the Congress and ensure that the provinces carry out decisions and instructions of the Congress;
- (d) Issue propaganda and educational material to the provinces and
- (e) Submit a report to every National Executive Committee meeting.

12. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICIALS:

(1) President-General:

The President-General is the head and chief directing officer of the Congress and the leader of the house in a National Conference. He shall:-

- (a) Present to the Annual Conference a comprehensive statement of the state of the nation and the political situation generally;
- (b) Make pronouncements for and on behalf of the National Executive Committee outlining and explaining the policy or attitude of the Congress on any question;
- (c) Preside over meetings of the National Executive Committee and conduct the business in conformity with the Constitution, bye-laws and rules of procedure adopted by the National Executive Committee;
- (d) Be an ex officio member of the National Working Committee;
- (e) Have a casting vote only.

(2) Deputy President:

The Deputy President shall assist the President-General and deputise for him whenever necessary.

(3) Secretary-General:

The Secretary-General is the chief administrative officer of the Congress. He shall:-

- (a) Keep the Minutes of the National Conference, the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee, as well as other records of the Congress;
- (b) Conduct the correspondence of the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee and send out notices of all conferences, National Executive and National Working Committee Meetings;
- (c) Convey the decisions and instructions of the National Conference, the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee to the Provincial Committees, regional committees and branches of the Congress, and shall see to it that all units of the Congress carry out their duties properly;
- (d) Prepare yearly reports on the work of the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee, and such other documents as may from time to time be required by the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee.

(4) Treasurer-General:

The Treasurer-General is the chief custodian of the funds and property of the Congress. He shall:-

- (a) Receive and bank all monies on behalf of the National Executive Committee, and shall, together with the two National Trustees, operate a banking account;
- (b) Keep such books of account as may be necessary to record clearly the financial position of the Congress;
- (c) Submit annually to the National Conference a report showing the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet of the Congress for the past year, and shall submit periodical reports to the N.E.C. and the N.W.C.;
- (d) Be responsible, together with the President-General and the Secretary-General, for working out plans and schemes for raising funds for the Congress, and shall direct and take an active part in a campaign for raising funds.

(5) National Trustees:

National Trustees shall see to it that the funds of the

Congress are properly used and that there shall be no unnecessary and unwarranted expenditure. They shall lock after the property of the Congress.

(6) National Speaker:

The National Speaker shall preside over and sign Minutes of all National Conferences. In his absence the Deputy Speaker shall preside at such Conferences.

(7) National Chaplain:

The National Chaplain shall lead the delegates in prayer at National Conferences and shall conduct the National Service or otherwise provide spiritual leadership for the organisation.

(8) National Organising Secretary:

It shall be the duty of the National Organising Secretary, acting in consultation with and under the direction of the Secretary-General, to organise the Congress nationally and to strengthen the organisational machinery throughout.

13. PROVINCES:

For organisational purposes the country shall be divided into provinces. A province shall be determined and defined by the Congress.

14. PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE:

The Provincial Conference shall:-

- (a) Be the highest organ of the Congress in each Province;
- (b) Be held annually in each province. Special provincial conferences may be convened at such other times as the provincial committee may deem fit, and shall be convened upon the requisition addressed to the Provincial Executive Committee of branches or regional committees;
- (c) Consist of:-
 - (1) Delegates from local branches of the Congress in the province who shall be elected by local branch meetings on the basis of one delegate for every twenty members; provided that no branch shall be represented by more than 10 delegates; and
 - (ii) members of the Provincial Executive Committee who shall attend ex officio and shall have the right to speak and vote;
- (d) Carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Conference, the National Executive Committee or the National Working Committee;
- (e) Receive and consider reports submitted by the Provincial Executive Committee;
- (f) Elect the Provincial President and eleven other members of the Provincial Executive Committee. Provincial Presidents or Provincial Secretaries of the African National Congress Women's League and the African National Congress Youth League shall be ex officio members of the Provincial Executive Committee;
- (g) Carry out the policy and programmes of the Congress in the province.

15. PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Provincial Executive Committee which is elected annually by the Provincial Conference shall be the administrative body of the Provincial Conference. It shall:

- (a) Consist of the Provincial President, the Provincial

Vice-President, the Provincial Secretary, the Provincial Treasurer, the Provincial Presidents or Secretaries of of the African National Congress Women's League and the African National Congress Youth League and eight other members of the Provincial Committee;

- (b) Meet on the day of its election to elect the Provincial Secretary, the Provincial Treasurer, the Provincial Assistant Secretary and the Provincial Working Committee, and shall thereafter meet at least once every three months;
- (c) Appoint the Provincial Organiser, two Provincial Trustees, the Provincial Speaker and the Provincial Chaplain all of whom need not be members of the Provincial Executive Committee;
- (d) Carry out the decisions and instructions of -
 - (i) the Provincial Conference, and
 - (ii) the National Executive Committee or the National Working Committee;
- (e) Manage and control the property and funds of the Congress in the Province;
- (f) Submit reports to the National Executive as often as required on the state of organisation, the financial position of the province and such other matters as may be specified;
- (g) Organise and establish Branches and Regions in the province;
- (h) Enforce the Constitution of the Congress in the province;
- (i) Make efforts to give members of the Congress in the Province political education;
- (j) Carry out the policy and programme of the Congress, and do all things necessary to further the interests, aims and objects of the Congress.

16. PROVINCIAL WORKING COMMITTEE:

The Provincial Working Committee is the sub-committee of the Provincial Executive Committee. It shall consist of not less than seven members who reside within a radius of 50 miles of the Provincial Headquarters, and shall:-

- (a) Enjoy the full executive powers of the Provincial Executive Committee between meetings of the Provincial Executive Committee;
- (b) Perform the duties and functions of the Provincial Executive Committee;
- (c) Give a full account of its stewardship to the Provincial Executive Committee.

17. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS:

- (a) With the exception of clause (8), the provisions of section (12) shall, with necessary alteration of details, apply to duties and functions of provincial officials of the Congress.
- (b) The Assistant Provincial Secretary shall assist the Provincial Secretary and shall deputise for that official whenever necessary.

18. REGION:

18. REGION:

Any three or more branches in a given area may, for the purpose of co-ordination of activities and better organisational efficiency, be formed into a region.

19. REGIONAL COMMITTEE:

Whenever a region has been established the branches forming such a region, shall, at a properly convened meeting of representatives of such branches, elect a regional committee. The regional committee shall:-

- (a) Meet at least once a month;
- (b) Co-ordinate the work and activities of the Constituent branches;
- (c) See to the implementation of the instructions of the Provincial Executive Committee or the Provincial Working Committee.

20. BRANCHES:

- (a) The basic unit of organisation in the Congress shall be the branch;
- (b) The branch shall consist of a minimum of twenty members;
- (c) Every new branch shall apply to the Provincial Executive Committee for registration;
- (d) The branch shall-
 - (i) Meet at least once every month; and
 - (ii) Elect at an annual branch general meeting a branch chairman and six other branch committee members.

21. BRANCH COMMITTEE:

The branch committee shall:-

- (a) Meet on the day of its election to elect the branch secretary, branch treasurer, and one branch trustee whose duties and functions shall be similar to those of the Provincial trustees, and thereafter shall meet at least once every week;
- (b) Carry out propoganda and organisational work among the people in its area in pursuance of the policy, programme and decisions of the Congress;
- (c) Take up the grievances and demands of the people;
- (d) Instil in the people the spirit of self-reliance and organise them for collective and united action as a necessary instrument in the solution of their political, economic and cultural problems;
- (e) Build and increase the numerical and political strength of the Congress within its area;
- (f) Submit reports on its work to the branch meetings every month and to the Provincial Executive Committee every quarter;
- (g) Carry out such instructions as may from time to time be issued by the Provincial Executive Committee or the Provincial Working Committee.

22. CONGRESS FUNDS:

- (a) The funds of the Congress shall be derived from the

following sources:-

- (i) Membership subscriptions;
 - (ii) Membership levies;
 - (iii) Donations and Collections;
 - (iv) Concerts and functions, etc.
- (b) The basic membership subscriptions for the Congress shall be -
- (i) One shilling (1/-) a month for members living in urban areas; and
 - (ii) Sixpence (6d) a month for members living in rural areas.
- (c) The National Executive Committee may, subject to confirmation by the National Conference, fix higher membership subscription rates for members earning more than £30.0.0 per month.
- (d) All subscriptions shall be payable in advance.
- (e) The National Executive Committee may impose a national levy on all members of the Congress. All monies derived from a national levy shall be paid into the national treasury.
- (f) The Provincial Executive Committee may with the prior approval of, and subject to such conditions as may be laid down by the National Executive Committee, impose levies on all members of the Congress in their respective provinces. All monies from Provincial levies shall be paid into the provincial treasuries.
- (g) All levies, national and provincial, shall be for stated periods and specified amounts.
- (h) One-third of all subscriptions paid by members of a local branch shall be divided equally between the Provincial Executive Committee and the National Executive Committee.
- (i) The Provincial Executive Committee shall pay to the National Executive Committee an agreed proportion of all monies received by them through donations, collections, concerts, functions, etc.
- (j) Proper records shall be kept of all monies received and expended by branch committees, regional committees, Provincial Executive and National Executive Committee, such records shall be examined periodically and audited financial statements and balance sheets shall be placed before the annual branch meetings, the annual Provincial Conferences and the Annual National Conference.

23. DISCIPLINE:

- (a) A branch committee, a provincial executive committee and the National Executive Committee shall have power to reprimand, suspend, expel, or take any other disciplinary action against a member for breach of the Constitution or conduct detrimental to the interests of the Congress or the African people.
- (b) Any higher organ of the Congress shall have power to reprimand, re-organise, suspend, dissolve, dismiss or take any other appropriate disciplinary action against any lower organ under its jurisdiction for breach of the Constitution or conduct detrimental to the interests of the Congress or the African people.
- (c) Before any disciplinary action is taken against any member

or organ in terms of clauses (a) and/or (b) of this section, such member or organ shall, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances justifying the contrary, be given an opportunity to appear before the relevant tribunal and there admit, deny or otherwise account for the conduct complained of.

- (d) Any member or body of members against whom disciplinary action has been taken by any organ of the Congress shall have a right to appeal to the next higher organ. The National Conference shall be the final court of appeal.
- (e) When a member is suspended, the committee suspending him shall state the period and conditions of such suspension.
- (f) A member who fails to pay his subscription for a period of six months and who does not pay his subscription after he has been personally spoken to about the matter by a representative of his branch committee shall be lapsed from membership.
- (g) All cases of suspension, dismissal, expulsion or dissolution by way of disciplinary action shall be fully reported to the Provincial Executive Committee and the National Executive Committee.
- (h) No case of expulsion shall be published in the press without the consent of the Provincial Executive Committee.

24. QUORUM:

- (a) A third of the members shall form a quorum for all meetings of any committee of the Congress,
- (b) Fifteen members or 50% (fifty per cent) of the branch membership, whichever is the lesser, shall form a quorum of all meetings of a local branch,
- (c) Delegates from 50% (fifty per cent) of the total number of branches in a province shall form a quorum for all provincial conferences,
- (d) In the case of National Conference, delegates from two provinces, representing at least 50% (fifty per cent) of the total membership of the Congress, shall constitute the quorum.

25. VACANCIES:

- (a) The office of any member of a committee of the Congress shall be vacated by resignation, suspension or expulsion,
- (b) Vacancies occurring in any committee of the Congress shall be filled by co-option, provided that not more than one-third of the members of a committee may be co-opted.

26. RULES:

- (a) The National Executive Committee shall have power to frame rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, relating to the control and administration of the affairs of the Congress within its province, provided that any rules and regulations so framed shall not become operative until they have been approved by the National Executive Committee.

27. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION:

This Constitution may be amended by resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the delegates present and voting at a National
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Conference. Notice of such a resolution shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General not later than three months before the date of the National Conference. The National Executive Committee shall circulate all proposed amendments to the Constitution to Provincial Executive Committees and all branches to the Congress throughout the country.

28. GENERAL:

The Congress shall have perpetual succession and the power, apart from its individual members, to acquire, hold and alienate property, enter into agreements and all things necessary to carry out its aims and objects.

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CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

1. NAME. The name of the organisation shall be the African National Congress, herein called "Congress"
2. Objects The aims of Congress shall be:
 - (a) To protect and advance the interests of the African people in all matters affecting them.
 - (b) To attain the freedom of the African people from all discriminatory laws what so ever.
 - (c) To strive and work for the unity and co-operation of the African people in every possible way.
3. MEMBERS
 - (a) INDIVIDUAL BODIES:- Any person over 17 years of age who is willing to subscribe to the aims of Congress and to abide by its constitution and rules may become an individual member upon application to the nearest branch.
 - (b) Affiliated members:- Any organisation whose aims are in harmony with the aims of Congress may become an affiliated body upon application, in the case of a Provincial or local organisation, to the Provincial Committee and in the case of a National organisation to the working Committee. The Executive reserves the rights to refuse an application without giving reasons.
4. BRANCHES.
 - (a) Branches may be formed with the approval of a Provincial Committee in any locality within the province.
 - (b) A branch shall consist of not less than 20 individual members.
 - (c) Each branch shall hold a general meeting at which it shall elect a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and not less than two Committee members.
5. PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.
 - (a) The Provincial Conference shall be the highest organ of Congress in each Province.
 - (b) Annual Provincial Conference shall be held in each Province of the Union of South Africa. Special Provincial conference may be convened at such other times as the Provincial Committee may deem fit, and shall be convened upon the requisition addressed to the Provincial Committee, of branches or of affiliated bodies organisations representing at least one quarter of the total number of delegates entitled to be present at a Provincial conference.
 - (c) Each branch shall be entitled to be represented at the Provincial conference by one delegate for every 20 members, or in the proportion laid down by the Provincial conference from time to time.
 - (d) Each affiliated body shall be entitled to be represented at the Provincial conference by one delegate for every 100 members or in the proportion laid down by the Provincial conference from time to time.
 - (e) No branch or affiliated body shall be represented by more than 10 delegates at a Provincial conference.
 - (f) The Provincial conference in each Province shall be responsible for the affairs of Congress in that Province subject only to the general supervision and control of the National Executive Committee and working Committees.
6. PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.
 - (a) The annual Provincial conference shall elect a Provincial Committee consisting of a President and all Committee members of whom the President and not less than

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than 5 Committee members shall be resident within 50 miles of the Provincial Headquarters designed from time to time by the Provincial conference.

- (b) The Provincial Committee shall elect a Secretary and a Treasurer from among its members resident as provided in the foregoing section.
- (c) The Provincial Committee shall meet at least once in every 3 months and at such other times as it deems necessary. It shall be the Executive body of the Provincial conference and shall administer the affairs of Congress within the Province between Provincial conferences, and shall convene Provincial conference at the times provided herein.
- (d) The Provincial Committee shall submit an annual report of the Congress organisation work and finances in the Province to the Provincial conference and to the working Committee not later than six weeks before the Annual National Conference. On failure on the part of any Provincial Committee to function in terms of this constitution, the working Committee may convene a Provincial conference to elect a new Provincial Committee and may form a Committee to carry on the work of Congress in the Province during the interim period.

7. NATIONAL CONGRESS.

- (a) The National Conference shall be the supreme body of Congress and shall determine its general policy and program.
- (b) An Annual National Conference shall be held once a year at the time and place decided upon at the preceding National conference. Special National conference may be convened at such other times the National Executive committee may deem fit, and shall be convened upon requisition addressed to the Working Committee by two or more Provincial conference.
- (c) The Provisions of clause 5 (a), (b) and (c) shall always *matatis mutandis*, to the election of delegates to the National Conference.

8. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

- (a) Once in every three years the National conference shall elect a National Executive Committee consisting of a National President, National Secretary, National Treasurer and not less than 15 Committee members.
- (b) The National Executive Committee shall meet on the day its election and thereafter at least once in six months and at such other times as it may be convened by the Working Committee.
- (c) The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for the activities of Congress and National conferences and shall supervise and revise the work of the Working Committee.
- (d) The National Executive Committee shall submit to the Annual National conference full report of the work, organisation and finances of Congress during the preceding year which report shall be made available to Provincial Committees, branches and affiliated members not later than one month before the date of the Annual National conference.
- (e) Provincial President shall be Ex-Official member of the National Executive.

9. WORKING COMMITTEE:

- (a) At the meeting of the N.E.C. held on the day of its election, the National Executive Committee shall appoint a working Committee of not less than 7 persons who shall be persons resident within 50 miles of the National Headquarters designated by the National conference from time to time.
- (b) The members of the working Committee shall be chosen in the first place from amongst members of the N.E.C. having the necessary residential qualification, and in the event of there being fewer than 7 so qualified, the remaining members of the Working Committee shall be chosen from amongst Congress members in general who have the requisite residential qualifications.
- (c) The National President shall ex-officio be a member of the working Committee. The President shall appoint an assistant National Secretary for the working Committee.
- (d) Between meetings of the N.E.C. the working Committee shall enjoy the full Executive powers of the N.E.C., and shall carry into effect the policy and programme laid down by the National conference, convene National conference and meetings of the N.E.C., as provided herein. It shall remain responsible to the N.E.C.
- (e) The Working Committee shall meet once in every month and at such other times as it may deem necessary.
- (f) The working Committee shall place before every regular meeting of the N.E.C. a report of its activities and of the work, organisation and finances of Congress in general. The working Committee shall take steps to publish a report of the proceedings of all National conferences within three months after the termination of such conference.

10. FINANCE:

- (a) Every individual member shall upon applying for membership and thereafter at the beginning of each year pay to the branch concerned a subscription of 2/6. There shall be no reduction in the subscription to be paid to members joining in the course of the year.
- (b) Affiliated bodies shall upon application and thereafter at the beginning of each year pay to the Provincial Committee or the working Committee as the case may be, a sum representing one fiftieth of the ordinary subscriptions or dues collected from its own membership in the preceding year.
- (c) Affiliated bodies shall submit a Constitution and Financial Statement.
- (d) Each branch shall pay to the Provincial Executive Committee two thirds of the Subscription received by it and the Provincial Executive Committee shall pay to the Working Committee half of the income received by it.
- (e) Funds of Congress shall be raised through Membership Fees, Subscriptions, Levies, Donations, and through functions and entertainments.
- (f) All such funds shall be deposited at a recognised bank or Post Office Savings Bank immediately they are received at the Branch, Provincial, or National Office.
- (g) Branch Committees, Provincial Executive Committees and the

working Committee shall keep full and proper records of all income and expenditure and shall present Annual financial statements to the branch, Provincial conference and National conference as the case may be. The working Committee shall take steps to have a regular audit of its accounts and of the accounts of Provincial Committees, where the Provincial Committee fails to do so.

11. DISCIPLINE:

Every Committee of Congress shall have the power to take such disciplinary action as it may deem fit against any member within its jurisdiction who acts in breach of the constitution or rules of Congress, violated its decisions or behaved in a way which is prejudicial to the interests of Congress or on the African people, provided that there shall be a right of appeal against disciplinary action to the Provincial conference and in the case of a decision of the working Committee of the N.E.C., to the National conference.

12. RULES:

- (a) The N.E.C. shall have the power to frame rules or approve rules framed by the working Committee not inconsistent with this constitution for regulating all matters connected with Congress.
- (b) Each Provincial Conference shall have power to frame rules not inconsistent with Constitution, for regulating the affairs of Congress within its own Province which rules shall come into operation only with the previous sanction of the working Committee.

13. DECISION:

All decisions saving amendments to the constitution taken by bodies or Congress, including the election of office bearers and Committees shall be taken by majority vote.

14. VACANCIES:

- (a) The office of a member of a Congress Committee shall be vacated by resignation, death, expulsion or removal as a disciplinary measure.
- (b) Such vacancy shall be filled by co-option by the Committee.

15. AMENDMENTS:

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting at a National Conference provided that three months notice of proposed amendments shall have been circulated prior to such National conference to the Provincial affiliated bodies.

16. GENERAL:

Congress shall have perpetual succession and the power apart from its individual members, to acquire hold and alienate property- enter into agreements and all things necessary to carry out its aims and objects.

(Sgd.) A.B. XUMA
PRESIDENT-GENERAL, A.N.C.

(Sgd.) JAMES A. CALATA
SECRETARY-GENERAL.

Bewysstuk No.

Gekry by

1067/B PEACE!

Pages No.

A CALL TO THE PEOPLE

NS 24

Africa needs food. Africa needs schools and hospitals and homes for the people. Africa needs freedom.

Here is a continent that has suffered for centuries. It has been laid waste and looted by Slave Traders and "empire builders".

Today like a giant awakening the peoples of Africa are arising to claim their birthright of freedom and progress, to claim their place as equals among the nations.

FOR THIS, AFRICA NEEDS A WORLD AT PEACE.

What does war mean today ?

Since the end of Hitler's war in 1946, there has been no peace. Soldiers from Europe and America have been fighting in Malaya, in Kenya, Korea, Algeria, Morocco, Cyprus, Vietnam.....Fighting for what ? To prevent the people in these countries in Asia and Africa from governing themselves as it is their right to do. And now war threats are being made over Suez !

THESE WARS MUST BE STOPPED !

TO DESTROY US ALL.

All wars must be stopped.

The terrible new weapons science has produced threaten all people. No-one, anywhere in the world is safe. It is possible that the use of Hydrogen bombs create enough destructive power to kill every living thing.

Even the tests of these terrible weapons, if they go on much longer, may poison the very air we breathe, and cause invisible radiation that may destroy human fertility and bring mankind to an end.

TO 12, 000, 000 SOUTH AFRICANS.

Black and White, we make this call:

Let us come together to stop war !

Let us demand for our own sakes, and for the generations to come - -

That the Nations should reduce Armaments !

That all Hydrogen bomb and nuclear weapon tests be STOPPED AT ONCE !

THAT THESE WEAPONS SHOULD BE BANNED BY ALL COUNTRIES !

That all present wars be ended, and that all people - including those of Africa - be allowed freely to choose their own form of Government !

Let us see that the vast resources and energies being squandered on war preparations are used instead to fight poverty, ignorance and disease !

LET US WIN FREINDSHIP BROTHERHOOD PEACE AMONG ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD -

2, 500, 000, 000 BROTHERS AND SISTERS !

NS 26.

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DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

1. NAME:

The name of the organisation shall be the African National Congress, hereinafter referred to as the "Congress".

2. AIMS AND OBJECTS:

- (a) To promote and protect the interests of the African people in all matters affecting them.
- (b) To struggle for the removal of all discriminatory laws and practices.
- (c) To strive for the attainment of universal adult suffrage in South Africa.
- (d) To organise the African people into a powerful and effective instrument for national freedom and for the creation of a united democratic South Africa.
- (e) To support the struggle for national independence and democracy in South Africa and the rest of the world.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

- (a) Membership of the Congress shall be open to any person above the age of 17, who accepts its principles, policy and programme and is prepared to abide by its constitution and rules.
- (b) Any person desiring to be a member of the Congress shall apply to the Secretary of the local branch or to any member of the Congress authorised to receive applications for membership. Such Secretary or member shall immediately submit the application for consideration by the local branch executive committee or, in the absence of a local branch, by the local regional committee, or, in the absence of a local regional branch, by the provincial executive committee within whose jurisdiction the applicant resides.
- (c) The branch, regional or provincial executive committee, as the case may be, shall have power to accept or refuse any application for membership submitted to it, provided that the acceptance or refusal of any application by any organ of the Congress shall be subject to review by the next higher organ.
- (d) Upon any application for membership being granted by a branch, regional or provincial executive committee, a membership card, signed by the Treasurer-General, and endorsed by the Chairman of such branch, regional or provincial executive committee, as the case may be, shall, on payment of the prescribed joining fee and annual subscription, and subject to the results of any review instituted in terms of sub-clause (c) above, be issued to the applicant.

4. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE:

- (a) The Congress shall consist of the following organs:
 - (i) The National Conference.
 - (ii) The Provincial Conference.
 - (iii) The Regional Conference.
 - (iv) The Branch Meeting.
- (b) The powers, duties and functions of the above organs shall, in between conferences or meetings of the organs, and subject to necessary ratification, be exercised and performed by the National Executive Committee, the Provincial Executive Committee, the Regional Executive Committee and the Branch Executive committee respectively.
- (c) Auxiliary Bodies:

There shall be established a Youth organisation and a Women's organization to be known as the African National Congress Youth League and the African Congress of young men and young women.

/s/.....

~~National Congress Women's League, respectively, each of which shall function as an integral part of the Congress and under its supervision, direction and discipline of Congress.~~

5. NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

- (a) The supreme ruling and controlling body in the African National Congress shall be the NATIONAL CONFERENCE which shall exercise jurisdiction over the whole country and shall be constituted as follows:-
- (i) Delegates from the provincial branches of the Congress, elected by local branch meetings on the basis of one delegate for every twenty-five members, provided that the number of delegates from any one local branch shall not exceed ten;
 - (ii) Delegates from the provincial branches of the African National Congress Youth League ~~and the African National Congress Women's League~~, elected by ~~their respective~~ provincial conferences on the basis of one delegate for every twenty-five members; provided that in respect of each provincial branch of the Congress, the total number of delegates representing ~~both the Youth League and the Women's League together~~ shall not exceed ~~50%~~ (fifty per cent) of the number of Congress delegates from such provincial branch;
 - (iii) Provincial Presidents, Provincial Secretaries and Provincial Treasurers;
 - (iv) Members of the National Executive Committee.
- (b) The National Conference shall be held in the month of December, of each year; provided that special national conferences may be held at any time in the discretion of the National Executive Committee or at the request of lower organs of the Congress representing at least 50% (fifty per cent) of the total Congress membership.
- (c) The National Conference shall -
- (i) decide and determine the policy and programme of the Congress;
 - (ii) review, ratify, alter or ~~veto~~ ^{refer to it} any decisions taken by any of the constituent bodies or units of the Congress;
 - (iii) elect the National Executive Committee and if necessary establish other committees and sub-committees or subsidiary bodies for such purposes as the Conference may decide; and generally
 - (iv) do all things necessary to further the aims and objects of the Congress

6. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- (a) The National Executive Committee shall be elected by the annual National Conference once every three years, and shall consist of the following officials and members who shall be elected from a list prepared by the out-going N.E.C. from nominations submitted by the provincial conferences:-
- (i) President-General
 - (ii) Deputy President
 - (iii) Secretary-General
 - (iv) Treasurer-General
 - (v) Eight other committee members.
- (b) The N.E.C. shall appoint a (National Organising Secretary) from among its members.
- (c) The following officials shall be ^{ex officio} members of the National Conference:
- (i) Provincial Presidents
 - (ii) Provincial Secretaries
 - (iii) National President and National Secretary of the A. N. C. Y. L.
 - (iv) National President and National Secretary of the A.N.C.W.L.

- (d) The N.E.C. shall meet on the day of its election to appoint the National Headquarters, the National Organising Secretary, the National Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the National Chaplain, and shall thereafter meet at least twice a year.
- (e) The N.E.C. shall -
 - (i) carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Conference;
 - (ii) supervise, direct and control the work of Congress generally;
 - (iii) manage and control all national property and funds; and
 - (iv) do all things necessary in furtherance of the policy and programme of Congress;
 - (v) submit an Annual Report to the Annual National Conference.

7. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICIALS:

- (a) THE PRESIDENT-GENERAL: The President-General is the head of the Congress and the leader of the house in a National Conference. He shall present to the Annual Conference a comprehensive statement on the state of the nation and the political situation generally.
- (b) DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The Deputy-President shall assist the President-General and deputise for him during his absence.
- (c) SECRETARY-GENERAL: The Secretary-General is the chief executive and directing officer of the Congress. He shall keep the minutes of the National Conference the N.E.C. the N.W.C., as well as other records of the Congress. He shall prepare Annual Reports on the work of the N.E.C., the Provincial Branches of Congress, the A.N.C.W.L., and the ...N.C.Y.L. and shall prepare such other documents as may from time to time be required by the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee.
- (d) NATIONAL ORGANISING SECRETARY: It shall be the duty of the National Organising Secretary, acting in consultation with and under the direction of the Secretary General, to organise the Congress nationally and strengthen the organisational machinery of the provincial branches.
- (e) TREASURER-GENERAL: The Treasurer-General is the trustee of the funds and property of Congress. He shall receive all monies on behalf of the National Executive Committee and shall together with the President-General, Secretary-General or any other authorised member of the National Executive Committee operate a banking account on behalf of the Congress. He shall sign and issue all membership cards of the Congress upon request by provincial branches. He shall keep such books of account as may be necessary to record clearly the financial position of the Congress, and shall submit annually to the National Conference a report showing the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet of Congress for the past year. He shall submit periodical reports to the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee.
- (f) NATIONAL SPEAKER: The National Speaker shall preside over all National Conferences. In his absence the Deputy Speaker shall preside at such Conferences.
- (g) NATIONAL CHAPLAIN: The National Chaplain shall lead the delegates in prayer at National Conferences and shall conduct the National Services.

8. THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE:

- (a) There shall be a National Working Committee (N.W.C.), consisting of the four officials mentioned in Clause 6(a) above, together with the Organising Secretary, the Provincial Presidents and the Provincial Secretaries.
- (b) In between meetings of the N.E.C., the N.W.C. shall exercise the same powers and perform the same duties and functions as the N.E.C.
- (c) The N.W.C. shall submit a full report to the N.E.C. once every three months.

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RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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