

Programme of action

1948?

The fundamental principles of the programme of action of the African National Congress are inspired by the desire to achieve national freedom.

By national freedom we mean freedom from white domination and the attainment of political independence.

This implies the rejection of the conception of segregation, apartheid, trusteeship or white leadership which are all in one way or another motivated by the idea of white domination or domination of the whites over the blacks.

Like all other people the African people claim the right of self-determination.

Both this object in view and in the light of these principles we claim and will continue to fight for ^{political rights tabulated on page 8 of our Bill of Rights} - such as

- (1) the right of direct representation in all the governing bodies of the country - national, provincial and local; and we resolve to work for the abolition of all political-differential institutions or bodies specially created for Africans. e.g. local or district council, advisory Board, native Representative Council, and present form of parliamentary representation.
- (2) To achieve these objectives, the following programme of action is suggested: -
 - (a) the establishment of a single, united and active political organisation behind which every African man, woman and child should be organised;
 - (b) the creation of a national fund to finance the struggle for national liberation;
 - (c) the appointment of a committee to organise an appeal for funds and to devise ways and means therefor.
 - (d) the regular issue of propaganda material through the press or otherwise
 - (e) in order to implement our resolve to work for the abolition of all differential political institutions we accept the principle of boycotting these institutions and we undertake a campaign to educate our people on the issue and to

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addition to employ the following weapons: boycott, strike, civil disobedience, non-co-operation and such other means as may bring about the accomplishment and realisation of our aspirations.

3. Preparation and making of plans for a national stoppage of work for one day as a mark of protest against the reactionary policy of the Government.

4. Appointment of a council of action whose functions should be to carry into effect rigorous and with the utmost determination of the programme of action.

5. As a programme for immediate action, ^(a) organisation of protest meetings against the refusal of the Minister of Education to provide funds for the feeding of African school children during the first quarter of 1948.

(b) boycott the Education Commission appointed by the present Government with intent to whittle down the content and quality of ^{African} education.

6. Congress realises that ultimately the people will be brought together by inspired leadership, courage and boldness even to the extent of suffering imprisonment or death for the cause. Congress calls upon African leaders to live up to this high and ^{sacred} national call.

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