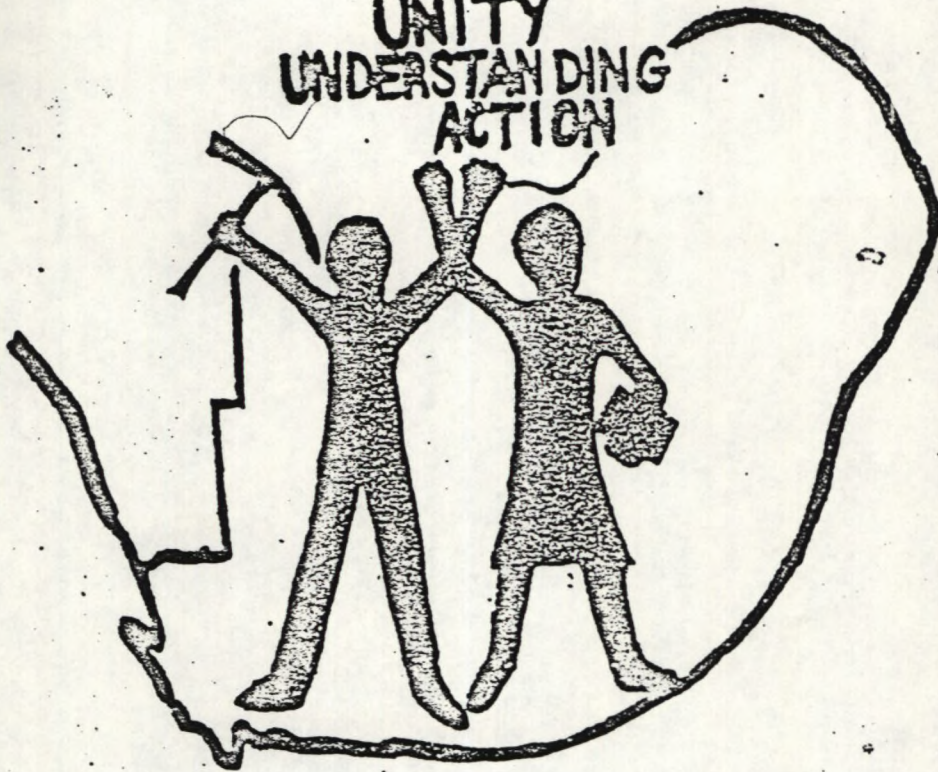


Alan Gangsle 3-

AYCO

UNITY
UNDERSTANDING
ACTION



Alexandra - Youth Congress

JOHN MALCOLM

CONSTITUTION & POLICY

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO US

THEME 1983/4

Youth Involvement For Change

AYCO CONSTITUTION

CLAUSE ONE

Preamble

We the youth of Alexandra living in South Africa, regarding ourselves as members of the oppressed and exploited society and realizing that the youth is the most creative and energetic part of society, fully commit ourselves to the realisation of a non-racial democratic society. We therefor resolve to form this organisation hereinafter referred to as AYCO.

CLAUSE TWO

Name

The Name is Alexandra Youth Congress.

CLAUSE THREE

Aims and Objectives

1. To unite all the youth in Alexandra.
2. To respond to the demands and aspirations of the youth, whether they be cultural, economical, political or religious.
3. To normalise relationships between parents and the youth.
4. To create a spirit of trust understanding and love among the people.
5. To encourage the youth to strive for dynamic systems of education and complete their academic education, whether part-time or full-time.
6. To directly involve ourselves in relevant community projects.
7. To represent the youth of Alexandra on all relevant national fronts e.g. DPSC, DESCOM, UDF, etc.
8. To establish meaningful links with all progressive people / organisations committed to the realisation of a truly non-racial democratic society.

CLAUSE FOUR

Membership

1. Membership shall be open to all who fall within the accepted definitions of the youth.
2. Members shall subscribe to the policy, principles, aims, goal and programme of AYCO.
3. No person or organisation shall be given membership if he/she/it contradict with the principles of AYCO.
4. Membership shall be by individual, group affiliation and associate.
5. On admission to membership a person may be requested to pay membership fees and subscriptions
6. Membership may be lost through resignation or expulsion.
7. If any membership fees or subscriptions are paid, they shall not be refundable in the event of expulsion or resignation
8. On admission to membership a member may be compelled to carry AYCO membership card

A. Affiliate membership

1. Affiliate membership shall be open to all youth groups and/or organisation (cultural clubs, students organisation, church groups etc.)
2. On acceptance of membership an affiliate organisation may be required to pay membership fee as may be determined by the AGM of AYCO.
3. Affiliates shall attend all meetings of AYCO with full participatory voting rights.
4. Members of affiliate may be elected to temporary sub-committees.

B. Associate Membership

1. Associate membership shall be open to persons who accept the aims and objectives of AYCO yet do not fall within the accepted definition of youth.
2. Associates shall be kept informed of all activities of AYCO and shall be invited to meetings of AYCO when deemed desirable by the members of AYCO
3. They shall however have no voting rights.

C. Membership fees

Membership fees shall be decided upon by the members of the Executive Committee in consultation with the Executive members of the affiliate organisations from time to time.

D. Subscription fees

Members may be required to pay periodical subscriptions as may be determined by the General Council and the Congress of AYCO.

E. Rights and duties of membership

1. To attend all meetings called by the organisation except those of committees in which one may not be serving.
2. To participate freely in discussions, debates, planning and adoption of decisions of the congress, council, etc.
3. To observe and comply with decisions and resolutions of the majority regardless of whether one was initially for or against same.
4. To vote at meetings and congresses.
5. To elect and be elected to positions of authority in the organisation.
6. To strive constantly to explain and popularise the policy and implement the programme of the organisation.
7. To oppose factionalism and to defend the organisation at all times of need.
8. To promote the interest of the organisation at all centres of its activities.
9. To demand the fulfilment of what is contained in the constitution and all resolutions, decisions and agreements of the organisation.

CLAUSE FIVE

Structure

A. Annual Congress

1. The Congress shall be the supreme policy body of AYCO.
2. The Congress shall be constituted as follows:
 - (a) Members of the Executive Committee (EC)
 - (b) Members of the Co-ordinating committee (COC)
 - (c) Two delegates from all affiliated groups or branches.
 - (d) Associates and other members of AYCO as observers.
3. The Congress shall elect members of the EC by majority vote.
4. The Chairperson shall have both deliberate and casting vote at the congress.
5. In addition to the congress, further meetings of the congress shall be convened in the following circumstances:-
 - (a) When the EC so resolves by majority vote
 - (b) When one-third of the affiliates or branches petition the EC for a meeting of the congress.
6. The congress shall have power to review the overall progress and activities of AYCO since the previous congress.
7. The congress shall have power to ratify all decisions taken at branch or executive level.
8. The Congress shall adopt or amend the constitution on the basis of a simple majority vote.

B. General Council

1. Once groups have affiliated, chairpersons and secretaries of same together with the entire Executive Committee of AYCO shall constitute a G.C. An affiliate group may delegate any member to attend a meeting of the Council should the chairperson and /or secretary fail to attend such a meeting.
2. The G.C. shall be the highest organ of authority between the Congresses.
3. The G.C. shall meet at least once after three months to review reports from the E.C. of Ayco and its affiliates.
4. The GC shall convene the Congress of Ayco.
5. The G.C. shall discuss, review and ratify decisions and recommendations of the Ayco E.C.
6. The G.C. shall respond timely to new problems and formulate correct responses towards such problems.
7. The G.C. shall have the power to suspend any member for serious misconduct and/or violation of the constitution or policy.

C. The Executive Committee

1. Shall be the administrative body of AYCO
2. Shall consist of:-
 - (a) The President
 - (b) The Vice- President
 - (c) Secretary General
 - (d) Assistant Secretary
 - (e) Publicity Secretary
 - (f) Treasurer
 - (g) Organiser
 - (h) Four additional members who shall serve in the various sub-committees.
3. All members of the EC shall serve for a period of one year and may be re-elected.
4. Members of the EC shall be the members of AYCO..

D. The Co-ordinating Committee

1. Shall consist of fifteen members.
2. Shall have seven sub-committees viz:
 - (a) Cultural and education committee
 - (b) News gathering and distributing committee
 - (c) Sports committee
 - (d) Religion committee
 - (e) Fundraising committee
 - (f) Projects committee
 - (g) Young Women's committee
3. Each of these sub-committees shall have a Chairperson and an Organising Secretary
4. The Organiser shall be a member of this committee.

CLAUSE SIX

Duties of Committees

1. The Executive Committee

- (a) Shall run the affairs of the organisation (AYCO)
- (b) Shall review the progress of the organisation e.g. the affiliates and activities.
- (c) To ensure the adherence to principles, policies and programme of AYCO.
- (d) Shall liaise between the co-ordinating committee, affiliates, etc.
- (e) To execute all duties as decided at the Congress.
- (f) Shall supervise all the activities and duties of the co-ordinating committee (COC).
- (g) The EC shall give its progress report to the Congress on a regular basis as well as the reports of sub-committees and affiliates.
- (h) The EC shall meet from time to time as it requires the proper running of the organisation.
- (i) All members of the EC shall be required to attend all meetings, except those who will be out on missions of the organisation.
- (j) A member of the EC who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the EC without valid reason shall immediately cease to be a member of the EC.

2. The Co-ordinating Committee

- (a) Shall run the day to day activities of AYCO.
- (b) Shall be bound by the decisions of the EC.
- (c) Shall supervise all activities of and sub-committees.
- (d) Shall in consultation with the EC organise seminars, debates, symposiums and workshops for the membership.
- (e) Shall meet from time to time as it requires the proper running of all sub-committees.
- (f) All meetings of the COC shall be convened by the organiser of AYCO, EC and the co-ordinating secretary.
- (g) All decisions taken at these meetings shall be endorsed after proper consultation with the EC of AYCO.

CLAUSE SEVEN

A QUORUM

- (1) One third of the membership at ordinary meetings.
- (2) A quorum at Congress and GC shall be a simple majority of all qualifying members and delegates with EC members having one vote each.
- (3) If within thirty minutes of the appointed meeting time, a quorum is not formed, the meeting shall stand adjourned for no longer than a week and no sooner than two hours.

B. Discipline

1. A member may be disciplined by GC or any affiliate executive, only after such member has been afforded the opportunity to present his/her case. Affiliates shall, when necessary, be disciplined by GC or Congress.
2. There shall be right to appeal against the decision of affiliate executive to GC. Notice of such an appeal shall be given within seven days of the decision of the affiliate executive, with the understanding that the affected individual is notified of the said decision on the same day it was taken.
3. All disciplinary action shall be geared towards correcting, and not destroying individuals or affiliates.
4. The extreme forms of discipline shall be suspension and expulsion to be counter-checked by the EC and ratified by the GC.

C. Dissolution

1. The President, acting on the instruction of GC, shall convene the emergency Congress which will deliberate on and vote on the issue for dissolution by the two thirds of the majority.
2. The organisation assets shall be distributed to such organisations and bodies as decided by the GC.

D. Constitution

Any amendments to the constitution can only be made by the two thirds of the majority at either GC or Congress.

E. Definitions

1. GC shall mean General Council.
2. EC shall mean Executive Committee.
3. Congress shall denote Annual Congress
4. COC shall mean Co-ordinating Committee
5. AYCO shall mean Alexandra Youth Congress

F. Elections/ Meetings

Voting at all meetings and or at sessions of the organisation shall be ruled by the presiding officer.
The majority of the meeting must be construed to mean a simple of all qualifying members present at the meeting.

CLAUSE EIGHT

Finance

1. AYCO shall be empowered to open a banking account at a bank or building society.
2. All cheques shall be signed by the treasurer and two executive members.

Functions and duties of officers

A. President

1. Shall be the leader and chief executive officer of AYCO.
2. Shall preside at all meetings of congress, Executive Committee and General Council.
3. Shall represent the organisation in Alexandria and beyond.
4. Shall be one of the signatories for the withdrawal of money and opening of new banking accounts.

B. Vice -President

1. Shall be the main assistant to the president in execution of the duties and functions of the organisation.
2. Shall deputise for the president in the event of the latter being absent.

C. Secretary-General

1. Shall be chief administrative officer of the organisation for the supervision co-ordination and administration for day to day activities of the organisation.
2. Shall be secretary of the Council and the Congress.
3. Shall maintain a register of names of members of the organisation should the Council direct or consider it necessary.
4. Shall issue invitations to Congress, Council and Executive Committee meetings.
5. Shall record the business of the Congress, Council and Executive meetings.
6. Shall consistently correspond with affiliates or other organisations.
7. Shall be one of the signatories for withdrawal of funds and /or opening up new banking accounts for the organisation.

D. Assistant Secretary

1. Shall be the chief assistant of the secretary general.
2. Shall do all the duties and functions of the secretary general in the latter's absence

E. Treasurer

1. Shall receive and bank all money belonging to the organisation within two days of receipt of such monies.
2. Shall keep and maintain accounts, books, financial documents, vouchers, reports and stock cards of the organisation.
3. Shall be responsible for making all payments of AYCO and for keeping copies of all receipts thereof.
4. Shall prepare and present to the Executive Committee, Council and Congress up to date accounts of income and expenditure of the organisation at the end of each financial period/year.
5. Shall be responsible for fundraising projects
6. Shall be one of the signatories in the event of withdrawal of funds or opening up of new banking accounts for the organisations.

F. Publicity Secretary

1. Shall be responsible for gathering, analysing, publishing and disseminating all information about the situation in Alexandria and beyond.
2. Shall be responsible for the preparing, editing and issuing of AYCO press statements, publications and for arranging press conferences as may be directed by the Executive Committee.
3. Shall be responsible for propagation and defence of the policy and programme of AYCO through the press the organisation or any other approved media.
4. Shall be head of the AYCO Newsgathering Committee.

G. Organiser

1. Shall be responsible for the establishment and re-organisation of branches and affiliates.
2. Shall ensure the implementation of the resolutions, decisions and directives of the organisation
3. Shall co-ordinate activities of the organisation.
4. Shall establish contacts with individuals and set up meetings between AYCO and other organisations and/or individuals.
5. Shall liaise between branches/affiliates and the organisation.
6. Shall be responsible for organising meetings and venues for the organisation.
7. Shall be responsible to the organising committee.
8. Shall supervise all AYCO projects.
9. Shall be head of the organising committee.

THE NON-RACIAL DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLE

South Africa is a capitalist society. A society where the minority dominating classes acquire all the wealth and hold political power. On the other hand the majority dominated classes are exploited and denied political and economic power.

In this society, apartheid through the migrant labour, pass laws, group areas, lack of real voting rights and unequal education which entrenches domination.

We as the youth, part of the dominated suffering under apartheid, see ourselves as part of the struggle for a society free from exploitation and oppression. Our struggle is for a society where the people shall govern. We reject the present system of government.

EDUCATION

The education system in South Africa is at its very roots, unequal and reproduces inequality because it gears individuals for specific roles in society. It also ensures the continued existence of a divided labour force which serves capitalism.

We envisage for a society where free and compulsory education cease to be a privilege but a right and one that is democratically determined to teach people to love one another, maintain the culture and dignity and honour human brotherhood. We therefore support the demands of all progressive student organisation for a non-racial democratic education system.

SPORT

In this country, sport is used to ensure white South Africa's continued participation in international sport. We reject the concept of multinational sport.

We reject the present emphasis on competitiveness in sport, because we feel that sport should be a medium to develop good relations between people and to develop people both physically and mentally. We support the call of all of the progressive organisations in South Africa and abroad for total isolation of the present South Africa on all sporting levels. We reject all rebel tours from and into South Africa. As an anti racial organisation, we will recognise non-racial sport from grassroots level.

CULTURE

We reject the attempts of the dominating classes to dictate its culture on us. We are striving for the development of a culture which expresses

aspirations and the interests of the dominated classes. Culture for us means all organised forms of expressing social relations e.g. sport, drama, writing, art, music, etc. We support the call to boycott all tours of international figures who condone South Africa's policy and who perform in and visit South Africa.

DIALOGUE /ALLIANCES AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

We believe in discussion with, and the establishment of good working relationships with all organisations whose principles are not in conflict with ours, and with other organisations, only when necessary. We maintain that genuine and meaningful change will only be brought about by the will and power of the people.

GOVERNMENT CREATED INSTITUTIONS

We reject all organisations or government created institutions which promote the system of apartheid, oppression and exploitation. We reject any direct or indirect dialogue with these organisations or bodies because they will never lead us to liberation and will never take the place of our people's organisation.

RELIGION

We do not recognise the kind of religion introduced by the colonialists with the aim of keeping the oppressed inferior and subservient to the oppressor. We recognise reality and identify it with social problems of the oppressed.

CLASSES

We outrightly reject the government's strategy of granting concessions to a sector of our society as an attempt to create a middle class in order to render our struggle ineffective. We do not recognise these concessions and groupings of our people into classes and ethnic groups. We fight as a single group and with paramount working class interest in this society. Our struggle is to build a single nation with the government of the people.

ALUTA CONTINUA

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