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# The Freedom Charter

as adopted at the Congress of the People on 26 June 1955



## ZULU

I CHARTER YENKULULEKO (Njengokwamkelwa kwayo kwimibungano agumbi: 26 June 1955)

BONKE ABANTU BAYOBA NEGUNYA KWEZOMBISO!  
 BONKE EZZWE ZYOKUBA NAMALUNGELO ALINGANAYO!  
 BONKE ABANTU BAYOKWABELANA NGOKULINGANAYO EMNETHWENI WEZWE  
 UMLABA UYOKWABELANA NGOKULINGANAYO KULABO ABAWUSEBENZAYO!  
 WONKE UMUNTU UYOPHATHWA NGENDELELA EFANAYO KWEZOMETHO!  
 WONKE UMUNTU UYOBA NEGUNYA LOKUSEBENZA AMALUNGELO OBUNTU!  
 KUYOBA NEMISEBENZI NOKUYIKOLEKA EMSEBENZISI  
 AMATHUBA OKUPUNDA KANYE NAMASIKO AYOVULEKA!  
 KUYOKUBA NEZINDA WOZOKULALA (IZINDLU), NOKUYIKOLEKA KANYE  
 NENTOKOMALO!  
 KUYOKUBA NOKUTHULA NOBUGANE!  
 MAKHHE BONKE ARABATHANDAYO ABANTU BABO KANYE NITWE LABO, BASHO  
 KHONA MANJE, NINGOBA NATHI SISHO LAPHA.  
 LENKULULEKO SYOYIVELA SIMUNYE, SITHASENI, KUYOYONKE DAPHO YETHU  
 KZI SIZIYE AMALUNGELO ETHU ENKULULEKO.

## TSONGA

YAKWA BA TIFANALO TA NISHUNKYO NILAHU BI AMUKETWEK HAKONA EKA  
 NIKHELELELANO YA VANHU NI TI 26 KHOTAVUKA 1955.  
 VANHU HINXWAVO YA TA VA NI MIFU MELELO WO FUMA KU BI HAVA  
 XHILAWUPLAWU YA HAKA, MUKHOVO KUNGE HINXWU.  
 TINKAKA HINXWATO TI TA VA NI TIFANALO TO FANA, TI THELE TI THELE TI  
 HLAYISEKA KU RINGANA EHANI KA MAVU.  
 VANHU HINXWAVO YA TA AVERWA KUFUTO RA TIKO.  
 TIKO BI TA AVERWA HINXWAVO LAVA YA NGA BI THELELA, LESWATU KU  
 HINXSWA MAKWANGA, MIFUMO NA WONA WU SA PHUNYA SWETWANA BI  
 THELO RA VURU.  
 MAVU WU SA FUMA VANHU KU RINGANA, A KU NGA HA YA TA KU BOHWA KU  
 NGA SINGWE.  
 VANHU HINXWAVO YA TA VA NI TIFANALO TA YONA.  
 HILAWU LE G SWELAKA TIFANALO LINTYILA NI NI NI NI.  
 LINTYI NI KU HLAYISEKA SWI TA VA FONA, LAHA VANHU VA NGA TA  
 HAKWANA KUZANA LOFO YA TIKHA KONTINO YO LOKA, VA THELE VA  
 HLAYISEKA KU RINGANA EKA MINTYIHO FANYO.  
 TINKELA TO DYONZANA NI TA MIFUMO TI TO, PHULELA, NASWONA DYONZANO NI TA  
 VA YA MANA MANI, NI THUSA YINGA HAKELTWE.  
 KU TA VA NI TINDI, KU HLAYISEKA NI KU TSHAMONJA KAELE, UNYANA NI  
 UNYANA U TA TSHAKA LAHA A LAVAKA EONA.  
 KU TA VA NI KU RULA NI VUNGHANA, AFRICA-DZONGA BI TA TIKARHANTZA KU  
 RHULA KA AGAVA, NI KU HEENA MADZOLONGA BI KU YULAVURISANA, KU  
 NGA BI NA NYUMI.  
 HINXWAVO LAVA VA EHANZAKA VANHU NI TIKO RA YONA A VA VILE LINTYI  
 LANDZELALA, HILAH NA HINA BI YULAKA HADONA LAHA, KU TSHUNKYKA  
 LOKU BI BI KARE BI PHUNANA, BI EALA BI YA TSHUNKYKA.

## VENDA

THEMDELONZWIFA YA MBOPHOLOWO (Sa rwa rwa vhothwa lha Gerngano la vhothwa  
 ngo la 26 Juni 1955).

VHATHU VHA DO PHWA MAANDA A U DIKHETHELA MUVHUSO.  
 TSHALAZO THE DZI DO VHA NA PFANALO DZILINGANANO.  
 VHATHU VHO THE VHA DO WANA TSHEPIDA TSHA LUPFUMO LU RE SHANGONI  
 MAVU A DO KHETHEKANYIWA NGA U LINGANA VHUKATI HA AVHO VHA  
 NO A SHUMA.  
 VHO THE VHA DO LINGANA PHANDA HA MULAYO.  
 VHO THE VHA DO DIPHANA NGA THENDELO DZO TEAHO MUNWE NA MUNWE  
 A RE MUTHU.  
 HU DO VHA NA MUSHOMO NA TSIRELEDZO.  
 MINANGO YA PFUNZO NA MVELELE I DO VULUWA.  
 HU DO VHA NA MADZULO, U TSIRELEDZEA NA MUTAKALO WA MUYA.  
 HU DO VHA NA MULALO NA VHUKONANI.  
 ROTHE RINE RA FUNA VHATHU VHO THE NA SHANGO LAVHO KHA EL, SAMUSI BI  
 TSHI KHOU AMBA AFHA, MBOPHOLOLO HEYI BI DO I LWELA, BO DHA ROTHE,  
 VHUTHILONT HASHU HOTHU U SWIKELA BI TSHI DO KUNDA RA WANA  
 MBOPHOLOWO YASHU.

## TSWANA

LOKHALO IWA DITSHWANLO TSA KGOLOLOSEGO  
 Jasta le amohetwe sebokeing se sehlo sa batho mohla 26 June 1955.

BATHO BA TLA NEWA TITLA E E TLETSENG YA GO NNA LE SEANI MO PUSONG,  
 NOKOKO OTLIE A SETSHABA A TLA NNA LE DITITLA KA BOTLALO MO GO TSHITHE  
 TSE DI AMANANG LE MOLA.  
 BATHO BOHLE BA TLA NEWA TITLA YA GO ITUSA KA BOTLALO MO DINGONG  
 LE LINTYI LA NAGA.  
 KEMISO O TLA INTLELELA O BE O THUSE BADDU BA NAGA GO E DIRISA KA MOO BA KA  
 ITHUSANG KA TENG.  
 MOAG O TLA DIBUYA MO BATHONG BOTHE GO SA E GITLOLOI WI.  
 DINGATHIHO IF DINGATHIHOLO TSHITHE TSA BATHO DO TLA FENYKA KHA  
 BOTHEBA TLA NEWA TITLA YA GO LERANA BA PELE GA MOLA.  
 BATHO BOTHE BA TLA NEWA DITSHWANLO TSE DI TLETSENG TSA GO  
 DIRA BA HURETTE.  
 KEMISO O TLA INTLE DINGODO TSHITHE TSA THUTO LE BOTHEBIHO GOE BI TSE BI  
 DIRISWA KE BATHO BOTHE KA MORWA O O KGOLOFATSIANG  
 MINTO O TLA LAMELA BATHO BOTHE KA MATLO, TSHOMANG LE THOKO AMO  
 MEBENAGA YOHHE TLA DIRISWA KA MOO CO TSHITHELANG  
 AFRICA-BORWA E NNE NAGA E E IKEMETSENG KA BOTLALO MME E SEKHELE  
 KUTWANO LE BOTLALO LE DINAGA TSA BA-GEANI.  
 A BOTHE BA BA RATANG BATHO LE NAGA YA BONA BA BUE JAANONG JAAKA RE  
 BIA MO BA RE: RE TLA LWELA DINGOLOLOSEGO TSE BI EMANE THOKO  
 BOTHELO IWA RONA BOTHE GO ITHELELA RE BONA KGOLOLOSEGO.

## SOUTHERN SOTHO

LENGOLO LE PHATLALATSANG DITOKELO  
 TSA TOKOLOHO

(Le amohetwe sebokeing se sehlo sa batho mohla 26 Phupjane  
 1955)

BATHO BA TLA NEWS MATLA A TLETSENG A HO BA LE KABELO MMUSONG  
 BATHO BA MEFUTA YOHLE BA TLA BA LE DITOKELO TSE TLETSENG HAM  
 MOHO LE TSHIRELETSO MOLAONG.  
 BATHO BOHLE BA TLA BA LE KABELO E TLETSENG MORUONG WA NAHA,  
 NAHA E TLA AROLELWA BOHLE BA TLANG HO E SEBETSA NME BA THUSWA  
 KE MMUSO.  
 BATHO BA TLA LEKANA PELA MOLA HO SE LEFEMO KAPA KGETHOLLO.  
 KGATLELO LE KGETHOLLO BI TLA FENSWA MME BATHO BA TLA FUWA  
 DITOKELO TSA BOTHO KA BOTLALO.  
 BASEBETSI BA TLA NEWA TSHIRELETSO LE DITSHWANLO TSE TLETSENG  
 HOKE BA SEBETSE KA BOKETLO.  
 KIKGOWE TSA THUTO BI TLA BULELWA BOHLE MME BATHO BA KOOHA-  
 LEITSE HO NTSHEKA PELE DITALENTE TSA BONA TSA THUTO.  
 MMUSO O TLA HLOKOMELA HOKE BATHO BOHLE BA NA LE MATLO ESILE BA  
 PHELA KA BOKETLO.  
 AFRICA-BORWA E TLA BA NAHA I IKEMETSENG KA BOTLALO E BUSANG KA  
 TOKA MME E PHEDISANA KA KUTWANO LE DINAGA TSE BAPHELENG LE  
 YONA.  
 A BOTHE BA RATANG BATHO LE NAHA YA BONA BA BUE MMHO JWALEKA  
 HA RE RE:  
 RE TLA LWANELA DITOKOLOHO TSENA, RE THUSANA BOPHELONG BOHLE  
 BA RONA HO FHELELA RE FUMANA BOKOLOHO.

## XHOSA

UXWEBU I WAMALUNGELO ENKULULEKO (Njengokwamkelwa kwayo  
 kwimibungano ya Basu ngomhla 26 June 1955)

ABANTU BAYA KULAWULA  
 ZONKE IZINDI ZIYA KULINGANA.  
 ABANTU BAYA KWALULULANA NGOBUTHEBI BELINDWE.  
 UMLABA LUYA KWALULULANA NCOUMTINGANA PHAKATHI KWALO  
 BASTINDI KUWO.  
 BONKE ABANTU BAYA KULINGANA NOKWABELANETHWENI.  
 BONKE ABANTU BAYA KONWAPHELA UMANTU.  
 KUYA KU AKHO UMISEBENZI NOKHUSILELO.  
 RINGANZO ZEMPHINDO I EZONUNYI ABANTU BAYA KUYI LERA.  
 KUYA KUBAHO IZINDI, UMISEBENZI NOKHUSILELO.  
 KUYA KUBA KHO UKOLO NOBUHELELO.  
 BONKE ABANTU ABATHANDA ABANTU BABO KANYE NITWE LABO MAFATHI  
 NJENGOKO SINTSHO ABHA NGOKU BATHI  
 TIYA KULIHWELA EZI NYOLOO ZINA FULULA, TSHAMONJE, UROMI BETHU  
 BONKE, DESHUPHUMELELE IDABI LINTYI LITOKO.

## N. SOTHO

MOLA O WA DITOKOLO TSA TOKOLOHO  
 YEO E AMOGETSWEGA KOPANESENG (KOPANANONG) YA SETSHABA YEO  
 LEBEO E SWERWE KA DI 26 JUNI 1955

SETSHABA SE TLO BUSWA KE MOETAPELE YO SE MO KOETHILEGO GOBA  
 MOETAPELA YO SETSHABA SE MO RATAGO.  
 DIHLOPHA KA MOKA TSA SETSHABA BI TLO BA LE DITOKELO TSE SWANAGO  
 GOBA DITOKELO TSE LERANAGO.  
 SETSHABA KA MOKA SE TLO ABELANA MAHUMO A LEFASE LA GABO BONA  
 NAGA KA MOKA E TLO ABELWA BOHLE BAO BA E SONE ISLO.  
 MOLA O TLO TLEMA SETSHABA KA MOKA KA GO SWANA.  
 SETSHABA KA MOKA SE TLO IPHINA KA DITOKELO TSA SONA.  
 GO TLO BA LE MESOMO LE TSHIRELETSO GO SETSHABA KA MOKA  
 MENYAKO YA THUTO LE SETHO E TLO BULELWA SETSHABA KA MOKA KA GO  
 SWANA.  
 GO TLO BA LE MADULO A KGOITSOFAZAGO, GO SWANA LE DINTLO,  
 TSHIRELETSO LE BOKETLO SETSHABENG KA MOKA.  
 SETSHABENG KA MOKA GO TLO BA LE KHUTSO LE SETSWALLE SA NNETE.  
 BOHLE KA MOKA BAO BA RATAGO SETSHABA LE LEFASE LA GABO BONA BA  
 BOLELA KA LENTSU LE TEE BA RE: RE TLO LWANELA DITOKOLOHO TSE RE DI  
 NYAKAGO KA MO RE KA KGOAGAGO KA GONA BOPHELONG KA MOKA BIJA  
 RENA GO FHELELA RE FENYA GOMME KA HWETSA TOKOLOHO YA KGOINTHE.

Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here:  
 THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGH-  
 OUT OUR LIVES UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY.

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as adopted at the Congress of the People on 26 June 1955



## PREAMBLE

We, the people of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know:—

That South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people;

That our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;

That our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;

That only a democratic state, based on the will of the people can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;

And therefore, we the people of South Africa, black and white, together — equals, countrymen and brothers — adopt this FREEDOM CHARTER.

And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing nothing of our strength and courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

ISSUED BY THE  
RELEASE MANDELA COMMITTEE  
16 FLOOR, PORTLAND PLACE,  
37 JORISSON STR., BRAAMFONTEIN  
2017, JOHANNESBURG.  
PRINTED BY SHAM'S PRINTERS,  
BENONI

## THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws.  
All the people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country. The rights of the people shall be the same regardless of race, colour or sex.  
All bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government.

## ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!

There shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and races.  
All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride.  
All people shall have equal rights to use their own languages and to develop their own folk culture and customs.  
The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and intolerance shall be a punishable crime.  
All apartheid laws and practices shall be repealed.

## THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be returned to the people.  
The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole.  
All other industries and trade shall be controlled to assist the well-being of the people.  
All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

## THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!

Restriction of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided among those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger.  
The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers.  
Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land.  
All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose.  
People shall not be robbed of their cattle and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished.

## ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW

No one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without fair trial.  
No one shall be condemned by the order of any government official.  
The courts shall be representative of all the people.  
Imprisonment shall be only for serious crimes against the people, and shall aim at re-education, not vengeance.  
The police force and army shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the helpers and protectors of the people.  
All laws which discriminate on the grounds of race, colour or belief shall be repealed.

## ALL SHALL ENJOY HUMAN RIGHTS!

The law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children.  
The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law.  
All shall be free to travel without restriction from countryside to town, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad.  
Pass laws, permits and other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

## THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY!

All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers.  
The state shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits.  
Men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work.  
There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers.  
Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work.  
Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

## THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED!

The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life.  
All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, films, and contact with other lands.  
The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace.  
Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children.  
Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit.  
Adult literacy shall be aided by a mass state education plan.  
Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens.  
The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished.

## THERE SHALL BE HOUSES; SECURITY AND COMFORT!

All people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security.  
Unused housing space to be made available to the people.  
Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry.  
A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state.  
Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children.  
Slums shall be demolished and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres.  
The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state.  
Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all.  
Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished and laws which break up families shall be repealed.

## THERE SHALL BE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP!

South Africa be a fully independent state, which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations.  
South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation — not war.  
Peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all.  
The people of the protectorates — Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland — shall be free to decide for themselves their own future.  
The rights of all the peoples of Africa to independence and self-government shall be recognised, and shall be the basis of close co-operation.

Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here:  
**THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGH-  
OUT OUR LIVES UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY.**



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