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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS YOUTH LEAGUE.

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE (CAPE).

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
HELD AT QUEENSTOWN : 9TH - 11TH/10/1954
BY : T. T. TSHUME, ACTING PRESIDENT.

MR. SPEAKER, SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE SOIL, AND FRIENDS,

Before I confine myself to the task of delivering my presidential address to this great conference of Congress Youth League, I wish to join Mr. Speaker in welcoming all, delegates and friends who have come from all parts of the Cape Province to attend this remarkable conference of the ANCYL.

We have today assembled here at Queenstown with one aim of finding ways and means by which we can rid the world of fascist, tyranny and to build a better, a free world, a world where poverty and insecurity would be unknown, a world where the common people would find a place under the sun.

It is also very interesting to note that our last venue of the 1953 conference was at this very same place.

The African National Congress Youth League is very grateful to the Congress authorities of Queenstown as well as to the people of Queenstown who have volunteered and greatly sacrificed to bear this heavy responsibility of becoming hosts to this ANCYL conference.

With these/.....

With these words, on behalf of the ANCYL, I wish to thank all the people of Queenstown and Congress officials who have taken the responsibility of preparing for the conference at a time when the economic situation is made unbearable to Africans.

We meet at a time when the whole country is passing through a series of crisis, the outcome of which is unpredictable, but will certainly have a tremendous influence on the future of our country and all its people. The last session of the white parliament has passed two acts which have robbed the African people with their last hope. These are the Bantu Education Act, and the Native Resettlement Act.

BANTU EDUCATION ACT : The name itself shows that this is no education at all. It is only something to indoctrinate our children to accept the so-called Supremacy of the White race. To substantiate this, I must quote the fact that up to this very day, a large part of education syllabus in European schools, consists essentially, of what the illiterate and savage British, Germans, French and Dutch tribes were taught by Romans and what Romans had to a large degree learnt from the Egyptians.

As I do not wish to waste much of your time, it is sufficient for me to say that Education has now been taken away from the African people. This was the only hope of every African parent to give to his child so that the child would not suffer same hardships suffered by parents.

NATIVE RESETTLEMENT ACT/....

RENT QUESTION: In terms of a regulation issued by Mr. Verwoerd, Africans living in municipal townships throughout the Union are to pay "Economic" rentals as from the 1st October, if the total family income irrespective of the size of the family in the Household exceeds £15. per month. This regulation must be seen as part of the Government's deliberate, vindictive, campaign against the Urban African working class, of the Union, to drive down their living standards to a level with those prevailing on the platteland, and to force thousands of families out to the farms and the mines. To thousands of families living on the Border-line of existence, this regulation, in conjunction with recent increases in transport and other living costs, spells ruin and starvation.

How can I pay more? That is the question. Dr. Verwoerd says I must pay more rent because my family income is more than £15. a month. "Well let us assume that it is true that I get £3. per week and that my elder son earns £2.5. a week. Our income is therefore over £22. per month. But what is £22. a month for a family of five people in these days of high cost of living? When fares have gone up and prices of food stuffs, clothing and school books are so high, when bread alone costs some of us much as £2.7.6. a month and when meat is so scarce that we are now and then compelled to buy mutton at 3/- a pound.?"

A family cannot come out on £22. a month. On this question of high rentals this conference has to make a resolution. There must be UNITY. Every effort must be made to obtain the widest possible unity in each area and each township of Congress Youth League branches, trade Unions, Women's league, Churches, sporting, Ministers, Teachers, and all other sorts of societies and individuals must come together and oppose the rent increases.

WAGES: The African trade unions must demand £1 a day to be paid to all workers to meet the high cost of living. Some form of action must be taken to demonstrate to the government that the toiling masses cannot pay the high rentals.

NATIVES RESETTLEMENT ACT: As far back as 1905 up to 1912, Townships were established as places where Africans too could acquire, buy and hold landed properties in their own names in the same way as other Non-African citizens of the Union of South Africa do. This act is now legalising a day-light robbery of such places, from their owners, so that Africans enjoy no security.

It was at a time like this when African people were rooted out of their land, that our mother organisation, the ANC was founded. It was an effect like this that made sons and daughters of Africa to think of a way by which the African people could be saved from such a plight, and founded an instrument. To-day, sons and daughters of the soil, prosperity is calling upon us to use this instrument that has been founded for us, in order to save South Africa from the disastrous road/which the Nationalist government is leading South

A. Africa. INCREASE OF RENTALS.. RENT QUESTION: A.

Nevertheless, I am confident to say that the people of South Africa are looking forward to a bright and a happy future. The ANCYL expects every young man and woman to do his/her duty.

PEOPLES' LEADERS BANNED AND EXILED: The banning of tireless and patriotic sons of Africa in the liberatory organisations, trade unions and peace-movements, including our National Secretary, Duma Nokwe and the National Secretary of our mother Organisation, Mr. Walter Sisulu, is not an isolated incident, but falls/.....

but falls in as one of an onslaught against the rights and liberties of the people. They are not coming out of strength or power, but out of fear. The oppressor is afraid of the people. These are tactics to try to disarm the people. I wish to warn the authorities that, we of the ANCYL are not going to be deterred from our struggle for FREEDOM IN OUR LIFE TIME, hence this Provincial Conference to-day. We know for a fact that our leaders' political convictions cannot be changed by mere bans and banishments. The day will come when the people of South Africa will call upon the leaders to march with us into FREEDOM.

It is with great regret that I have to report that the Nationalist government has further ^{taken} ~~took~~ a serious action against our organisation, and exiled our President, Alcot Gwentane together with our former General-Secretary, Lengesi. The families of these sons of Africa are left in despair and helpless, ^{ness} whilst they are persecuted and humiliated in the far Eastern Transvaal farms.

In this connection, I wish to warn the Nationalists that the olden days of White Supremacy survival have past. Even the greatest dictator in the world, Adolph Hitler of Germany could not succeed nor survive with his Nazism philosophy.

By taking this action the Nationalist government is seeking to put the ANC and its policy on trial.

Throughout the/.....

Throughout the years of her existence, the ANC has consistently worked for a more democratic and progressive South Africa. Our organisation has attempted to bring about the extension of civil liberties, peace and friendship to all sections of the people, to secure the removal of undemocratic and discriminatory legislation. In contrast to the Nationalist party and other parties that worked for nazism, that resort to violence and terrorism, the ANCYL has opposed fascism oppression and race hatred.

In this hour of trial the ANCYL calls upon all those who oppose racialism and dictatorial minority rule, all who wish to restore South Africa's reputation in international relations to rally around Congresses. The Congresses appeal to members, friends, and supporters and those who love liberty to assist to the utmost in the defence of the leaders who are deprived of freedom of, movement, speech, assembly, and ultimately put into concentration camps. The defence of our leaders, our organisation, is the defence of democratic liberties for all.

The youth of South Africa demand their citizenship rights. They demand :

- (1) Free and compulsory education for all children irrespective of colour or race.
- (2) that education of an African be financed from the General Revenue.

(3) adequate/.....

- (3) adequate facilities for Primary, Secondary, Professional, Technical and University education.
- (4) that the African youth be given the type of education which will enable him/her to meet on equal terms with other peoples of the modern world.
- (5) equal pay for equal work, and educational qualifications for all people irrespective of their race or colour.
- (6) establishment of hospital^{and} clinic facilities in Urban and Rural areas.
- (7) right to be appointed and hold office in the civil service and in all public employment branches on the same terms as Europeans.
- (8) establishment of adequate facilities for sport fields and cultural amenities.
- (9) Security of home ownership for all people.
- (10) reduction of high taxes.

THE WORKING YOUTH: There is no doubt that the African youth is the ~~the~~ source of industrialisation in this country.

Whilst the liberation movement is fighting for political rights and problems of economic rights and justice, the trade union movement which serves as the working class instrument, concerns itself with bread and butter, wages, working conditions, pensions, and other issues affecting workers.

~~It should/.....~~
It should/.....

It should be of the greatest importance, therefore, that the working youth join the trade unions. It should also be understood that without the trade union movements there can be no strong and powerful national liberation movement.

The trade union movement is completely opposed to any government assuming the power of legislating to have[^]retrospective effect on any matter beneficial to workers.

The trade union members are not only workers, but also citizens of our country, and everything that happens in the country is of greatest importance to them. The economics and politics of our country are, therefore, closely inter-related and cannot be considered in isolation.

FUTURE OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN OF S.A. We in the ANCYL appeal and demand for^asecure~~x~~ and bright future of the African people, the youth, and children, the younger generation of S.A.

We demand that all patriotic countrymen be united, that they insist and intensify the freedom struggle and RESIST APARTHEID in S.A., and OPPOSE WHITE SUPREMACY. The people of S.A. must be free. The youth and children of S.A. must be given full opportunity to choose their own line of thought by the light of their own reason. The generation of the nation must be saved, be free and enjoy all citizenship liberties. Africa must not go along the old road of dictatorship.

We dare cry loudly to all the people of the whole country to halt the slaughter of youth and children in their fatherland/.....



fatherland, to put an end to dictatorship and fascism in S.A.

Shedding of blood and crying of tears has been and is being suffered by African youth in this country. Terrible devastation in man-power, materially and spiritually has been suffered. In Kenya, today, death has become daily bread of an African youth.

MASS YOUTH LEAGUE CAMPAIGN: Addressing the National Youth Conference at Uitenhage on the 26th June, 1954, the Secretary - General, Walter Sisulu said that the Youth League is the product of the mother organisation, the ANC. Congress Youth League, therefore, should prosecute Congress work.

In the past years, the ANCYL has been more or less regarded or treated as a petty bourgeoisie party and much time had been wasted in discussing conflicting opinions of ideology. The youth in Urban and Rural areas was almost ignored. Thousands of African youth went into action during the Defiance of unjust laws campaign, but our organisation failed to call upon these patriotic sons and daughters of Africa to enrol as Congress Youth League members.

The National Head Quarters have now, therefore, directed all provinces and branches to convene mass youth conferences and hold festivals and other cultural gatherings where youth would gather and rally around ^{the} Congresses.

Very soon, we hope, Mass Youth Conferences will be convened in this Province. At the Mass Youth Conference political organisations, trade unions, churches, cultural and musical/.....

musical clubs, football and boxing clubs, teachers associations and many other associations, and other sporting and cultural clubs, will be required to delegate their members to this great conference of the youth.

EFFECT OF DEFIANCE OF UNJUST LAWS CAMPAIGN: Never before in S.A. has any attempt been so made ^{as} to present to Youth a brief constructive exposure of the filthy conditions under which the average youth live, as during the years of the Defiance of Unjust laws campaign.

Today even the youth in the country-side ^{are} ~~is~~ conscious of race humiliation, exploitation and white supremacy being preserved in S.A.

CRIME AND THE SO-CALLED AFRICAN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: According to the Capitalist mouth-piece, the cause of crime is the "uncivilised barbaric Native" and the police force is therefore strengthened. Thousands of Africans are thrown into jail and still the crime wave continues.

Why do some of our youth living and playing in slum areas resort to begging and stealing? Are they born bad? Is it the nature or custom of our African citizens?

It has ^{been} found that all parts of the capitalist world are faced with the problem of "crimes of youth". The truth is that if a child is hungry he or she will steal bread. And if he can steal bread, why no other things? Beside this motivating force, there are other causes.

If there/.....

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If there are no parks in which to play, youth will play in the streets. If circumstances are against them to form up teams to play football, they will form other games for other ends, which would, perhaps, be a great nuisance to the public.

If filthiness was replaced by secure and clean living conditions in desirable environments - by an efficient educational system by adequate recreational facilities, there would no need for stealing, drunkenness and dishonesty. These conditions must be altered if the youth of S.A. are to be free from the bogey of crime and that of delinquency.

OUR PROGRAMME OF ACTION: Our task is great and our policy is definite and clear. There is no doubt that through our struggle, the domestic situation in S.A. has revealed factors ^{that will lead to} leading to a bright future for the people of S.A. But at the same time, grave difficulties still exist and the most grave difficulties are still to be ^{borne} borne by the people of S.A. Those who can only see the bright side of things will not be able to fight well for the realisation of our organisation's policy.

In the 42 years of her history, the ANC has been able to create a great force out of the African people. In this respect, our accomplishments are obvious and indubitable. Yet certain defects still exist in our work. Those who see only the good results and not the defects will not be able to fight well for the realisation of our organisation's policy.

The development and progress of the Congresses originated in the determined fight against dictatorship and fascism that repudiate/.....

that repudiate the universal truth of democracy.

The political-thought - education inside our Congress Youth League should be intensified. All key Congress workers throughout the land should be made to understand that the close union of theory and practice is a project feature by which the Congresses are distinguished from all other political parties. Therefore, the mastery of democratic thought-education is the principal factor in consolidating the Congresses in their political struggles.

Congress Youth Leaguers, therefore, should take pains in getting political education. Much time should be spent in studying political struggles of other progressive countries. We must learn from the past. We should learn from the achievements and mistakes of the various national liberatory movements and struggles of the other people who were oppressed in other countries.

We must remember that we are not the only people who are suffering national oppression. Taking from a historical point of view, we will notice that all nations, races, or tribes have, each at some time or another been dominated and humiliated by another nation, or races or tribes. And all people who have been oppressed have had their national liberation movements. If we look in Europe for example, we find the struggles of the Poles, the Irish, the Czechs and various nationalities which inhabited Tsarist Russia. In Asia we still have the fresh peoples struggles and movements of Koreans, Chinese, Indo-Chinese,

Burmese/.....

Burmese, Persians, Indonesians etc.

Even in the continent of Africa, therefore, we have national liberation movements in Tunis, Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco, Nyasaland, Kenya, Gold Coast and Southern-Rhodesia etc.

Another project feature by which the Congresses can be distinguished from other retrogressive parties or organisations is the very close relationship between them and the great majority of the people. In the Congresses we begin by devoting ourselves to serving the people of S.A. determined not to desert them for a single moment, serving the interests of the people and not the interests of any particular group or individual, and holding ourselves responsible to the people.

Congress members must always be ready to uphold truth, because all truth is in conformity with the people's interests. Congress members must always be ready to rectify what is wrong, because what is wrong means what is against people's interests.

The experience of our past years' struggle has taught us that all correct tasks, policies and working style are in conformity with the demands of the people in a particular time and place, and they are never separated from the people. All mistaken tasks, policies and working style are not conforming to the people's demands, and are unconnected with the people.

Dictatorship, discrimination, racialism and fascism are undesirable because they are the cause of disorder and threat to peace and friendship. Such things should be rectified.

Congress members/.....

Congress members should understand that every thing a congress member says or does is judged by its conformity with the major interests of the majority of the people or its acceptibility by the majority of the people.

In Congresses, the most effective means of resisting the contaminating influence of political microbes is the constant review of Congresses work, always with a view to widening the democratic practice, the ability to take criticism and self-criticism without any draw-back. Correct serious criticism and self criticism is never forbidden.

We in the ANCYL are confident that our case is just and we are always ready to sacrifice and follow the leadership of the mother organisation, the African National Congress. We are not willing to part company with any wrong idea, view point opinion, or measure that does not conform to the people's demands.

Sons and daughters of the soil, as soon as this conference is over we will go out, to defeat the oppressor in our fatherland and build up a new Africa, in accordance with resolutions taken in conferences and according to our programme of action.

CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE: A paper on this great Peoples Congress will be read and discussed in this conference. Nevertheless, we in the Congress Youth league uncrompromisingly back the four progressive organisations, ANC, S.A.I.C., C.P.O. and COD which have sponsored the Congress of the People.

The success/.....

The success and failure of the Congress of the People depends on the willingness, faithfulness, and political nonconsciousness of the people of S.A. Wisdom or foolishness that might be decided at the Congress of the People, I place in your responsibility.

For the first time in the history of S.A. the freedom charter will embody the demands of our people. The people of S.A. will, for the first time come together with one object of discussing their demands, and draw them to be written in the Freedom Charter. The Congress of the People calls on all workers of the land, black and white to formulate their demands.

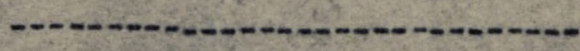
Thousands of Freedom Volunteers, as has already been directed by the President-General, Mr. A.J. Lutuli, who is the National Volunteer-in-Chief, will be required to spread and preach this Freedom news and resist apartheid. We must speak together of Freedom. Let us organise together for the Congress of the People.

There is no way back. We will have to fight uncompromisingly for our Freedom. We have nothing to lose, but our chains and shackles.

The African National Congress calls upon you, citizens of S.A., to rally still more closely around our National liberation movement, around our great leaders.

Our is a righteous cause. The enemy will be routed. Victory will be ours.

AFRIKA !! AFRIKA !! MAYIBUYE !! MAYIBUYE !!



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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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