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RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE N.E.C.

In term os the suggested draft constitution presented by the Eastern Cape branches of the A.N.C. there is provision for the N.E.C. at its discretion to frame rules and regulations not inconsistent with the constitution for the efficient cundust and administration of Congress. In this statement we merely wish to make clear the kind of rules and regulations we were thinking of and the scope they would cover.

Generally speaking the scope of the rules and regulations would cover : -

- (i) The conduct of branch affairs e.g. meetings of the branch and their frequency, meetings of executive, finance, formation and control of street committees or other units of the branch etc.
- (ii) Nature and formation of organs of local Congress govern- ment. This would include the setting up of organs to co-ordinate the efforts of the branches on a regional or provincial basis. The manner in which such co-ordination must be effected. The number and designation of such organs and their officials etc.
- (iii) Matters pertaining the conduct of the affairs of the National Headquarters e.g. practices governing the banking of monies, the issue of membership cards to the branches etc.

WHY RULES AND REGULATIONS? The question may be asked as to the need for this type or rule or regulation. First of all the form of Rules and Regulations makes for certainty and uniformity of practice. But this is achieved by means of rules that are univrsal but are flexible and can be altered without re- quiring a two-thirds majority as would be the case if they were provisions of the constitution. We want to avoid the practices of the organisation and the manner in which it is run being subject to the whims and foibles of individuals or even of committees of the organi- sation. Hence the need for Rules and Regulations that can be ascer- tained easily and yet are not entrenched in such a way as to make it difficult to alter them if necessity arises. The idea was that such rules and regulations would be drawn up by the N.E.C. and become immediately effective but would be table at the next National Con- ference after they are drawn up or amended. Also such rules would be best made annexures to the constitution which would then be a docu- ment of great educative value both to individual members and to those with branch responsibilities or even higher responsibilities in Congress.

The Rules would have to cover such points as these : -

BRANCHES :

- (i) The frequency of branch meetings.
- (ii) The sending of minutes of the branch executive to the National H.Q.
- (iii) The sending of regular reports of branch activity to the National H.Q.
- (iv) The making of financial reports by the branch Treasurer to the local executive onco a month and (ii) to the general branch membership at least once a quarter with a copy to the N.E.C.
- 2. (v) The custody/.....

- (v) The custody of finances - the banking of such monies at a stipulated time after receipt - the prohibition of monies being kept in the homes of officials. The manner in which monies may be drawn etc.
- (vi) The times of holding annual general meetings of the branch ( we suggest November each year for all branches)
- (vii) Rules relating to membership cards. The sending of counterfoils to H.Q. monthly together with the quota for H.Q. That members should obtain membership cards simultaneously with the payment of membership fees.
- (viii) Rules relating to applications for membership. We suggest that the practice of new members signing application forms in which details such as place of employment and trade Union affiliation etc. are included would be valuable.

ORGANS OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION. Rules here would deal with the formation of Regional Co-ordinating bodies within boundaries fixed by the N.E.C. - the method of co-ordination through regional conferences consisting of delegates elected by branches and the election of standing committees and their functions.

N.E.C. Rules would provide for resolutions presented by branches for submission to the National Conference to be circulated to the branches prior to conference to enable delegates to obtain proper mandate from their areas.

- (ii) The N.E.C. report to be sent to branches prior to conference in order to give branches to study report and to be enabled to make intelligent contributions and criticisms at national conference.
- (iii) Main N.E.C. resolutions flowing from report and Presidential address should be similarly placed before the branches prior to conference to enable profound and serious contributions to be made by branch delegates.

METHODS OF ELECTION OF N.E.C. The rules governing the ballot system and how it will be applied to N.E.C. elections to be clearly set out in the rules.

FINANCE: Quota should be sent to the H.Q. addressed to the Treasurer - General. Receipts for money received must be sent as soon as money is received. Money must be deposited as soon as received. Monies must be drawn by means of chaques signed by the Treasurer-General and Secretary - General or some official designated by the N.E.C.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: The N.E.C. must supply these to branches in January each year. A first instalment equal to one quarter of the membership of that branch in the previous year to be sent.

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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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