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C O N S T I T U T I O N

1. PREAMBLE

We South African citizens, united by a common belief in the right of all people to freedom and equality, proclaim our support for the thirty articles of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation.

We proclaim our belief that the doctrines of "apartheid", white supremacy, trusteeship and segregation, like all other doctrines of racial discrimination, are inimical to the peace, happiness and prosperity of South Africa.

We proclaim our conviction that racial conflict and national oppression are linked with international conflict and war in a chain of cause and effect which threatens the advancing standards of life and liberty of all mankind.

We therefore found this association to advocate the principles of equality and the brotherhood of men, to strive for the maintenance of world peace and the ending of national discrimination and oppression, and to win South Africans to support a programme of extending rights and liberties for all our people.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTS

(a) The Association shall work to secure for all South Africans, regardless of race, creed or colour, the rights laid down in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights", with particular reference to

(i) Equal civil liberties:

the freedom of thought, speech and press;
the freedom of movement and assembly;
the freedom of organisation and religion.

(ii) Equal political rights:

the right to vote in and to stand for elections to state and local law-making bodies.

(iii) Equal economic opportunities

the opportunities to qualify for and engage in all trades, crafts, occupations and professions;
the opportunity to acquire and own land and property.

(iv) Equality of social status:

in every field of state and administration, public activity, education, culture and recreation.

(b) The Association shall work to secure friendly international relations based on the equality and independence of all nations, and negotiation to settle international disputes, in order to secure a prolonged era of world peace.

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- (c) The Association shall give active support to, and cooperate with any individual, group, party or movement working for or having the same or similar aims and objects, and shall take such other action as it deems fit to further its aims and objects.

3. NAME

The name of the Association shall be

4. PROPERTY AND STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) All movable and immovable property, finance, equipment, etc., of the Association shall be vested in the National Council, who shall stand possessed of the same and shall apply and dispose of the same for the benefit of the Association, in conformity with the Constitution.
- (b) The Association shall have the power to institute, conduct, defend, compound or abandon any legal proceedings by and against the Association or its officers or otherwise, concerning the affairs of the Association; and also to compound and allow time for payment or satisfaction of any debts due, and of any claims or demands by or against the Association.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Membership of the Association shall be open to all South Africans over the age of 17 who
- subscribe to the aims and objects of the association, support its policy and programme, abide by its constitution and rules, and are admitted to membership by any branch or committee of the Association.
- (b) Membership shall cease upon resignation, duly accepted by the Branch Committee, or upon expulsion by the National Council for any breach of the conditions of membership, or for conduct detrimental to the interests of the Association. In the event of expulsion, members shall have the right to be heard on appeal by the National Conference of the Association, whose decision shall be final and binding.

6. LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

No liability shall attach to any member of the Association other than in respect of his or her unpaid subscription and any money he or she may be owing to the Association.

7. ORGANISATION

The Association shall be guided by democratic practices and concepts in all its affairs. All decisions shall be reached by majority vote, except as provided in clauses 13 and 14 of this Constitution, after full and free discussion. All officials and committees of the Association shall be elected by secret ballot.

8. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- (a) The highest authority of the Association shall be the National Conference, which shall meet at least once in every year at such time and place as shall be decided by the National Council.
- (b) The basis of representation at the National Conference shall be determined from time to time by the National Council so as to ensure fair and equal representation of the whole membership.
- (c) A special session of the National Conference shall be convened by the National Council upon requisition by not less than one-third of the branches of the Association.
- (d) The National Conference shall be empowered to decide upon the policy, programme, activities and functions of the Association, and to make such decisions and establish such rules and standing orders as it deems necessary to further the aims and objects of the Association.
- (e) The National Conference shall elect from amongst the members of the Association a President and Secretary, and as many members of the National Council as it deems sufficient, all of whom shall reside within convenient distance of the headquarters for the ensuing year.

9. HEADQUARTERS

The National Conference shall from time to time determine the situation of the headquarters of the Association and of the National Council.

10. NATIONAL COUNCIL

- (a) The National Council shall consist of the President, the Secretary, and the members elected to it by the National Conference, together with two members elected by each region of the Association.
- (b) The National Council shall be empowered to decide upon, manage, direct and regulate all the functions and activities of the Association, its committees, regions, branches and members, in accordance with the decisions and directives of the National Conference.
- (c) The National Council shall be empowered, as it deems fit, inter alia:
 - (i) to create committees and sub-committees of the Association;
 - to delegate any of its powers and duties to such committees or individuals, as it chooses;
 - to appoint and discharge officials other than the President and the Secretary;
 - (ii) to appoint and discharge employees and to fix the terms and conditions of their appointment;
 - to take action against members, branches or regions by way of expulsion, suspension or dissolution to enforce the policy, constitution and rules of the Association;

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to co-opt members wherever a vacancy occurs amongst the members elected by the National Conference;

to summon special sessions of the National Conference at any time;

to receive and to authorise the expenditure of money on behalf of the Association;

to institute, defend, conduct or abandon any legal proceedings by or against the Association, its officers or members;

to open and operate a banking account in the name of the Association, and to keep such books of record as the National Conference decides;

and generally to do all such things as it deems fit and necessary to further the aims and objects of the Association.

- (d) All decisions made and actions taken by the National Council shall be of force and effect unless and until set aside by the National Conference of the Association.
- (e) The National Council shall once each year present to the National Conference a report on its affairs, and on the affairs of the Association, together with accounts of revenue and expenditure and a balance sheet.
- (f) A quorum of the National Council shall be one-third of those members who are elected by the National Conference.
- (g) Nothing in this clause shall override the powers of the National Conference to exercise any or all of the functions of the National Council.

11. BRANCHES

- (a) Wherever five or more members of the Association reside or work in convenient distance of one another, the National Council shall establish a branch of the Association.
- (b) Branches of the Association shall regulate and conduct their activities and affairs in accordance with the constitution, and in accordance with such regulations as the National Council may from time to time lay down.
- (c) The National Council shall delegate to branches such of its powers under this constitution as it deems necessary, and shall make regulations, in accordance with this constitution, for the conduct, powers and management of branches.

12. REGIONS

Where three or more branches of the Association are situated in close proximity to one another, the National Council may establish Regions of the Association, and shall make such regulations in accordance with this constitution for the establishment, conduct and powers of Regions and Regional Committees as it deems necessary, and shall delegate

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to Regions, Regional Conferences and Regional Committees such of its powers under this Constitution, as it sees fit.

13. DISSOLUTION

The dissolution of the Association may only be effected by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at a National Conference of the Association. On dissolution the funds, effects and property of the Association shall be disposed of in a manner to be decided by the National Conference of the Association.

14. CONSTITUTION

This constitution, or any part thereof, may be amended, rescinded or added to by resolution passed by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at a National Conference, provided however that one month's notice of all amendments to this constitution shall be given in writing to all branches before such National Conference.

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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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