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LABOUR PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE HELD AT OUDTSHOORN
ON 27/28 DECEMBER 1977

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THEME: "POLITICS FOR PROGRESS"

- 1. Opening devotions were conducted by Rev Stanley Green.
- 2. Conference rose and observed the customary silence as a mark of respect to departed members.
- 3. Mr M B Savahl, CPRC Representative for the Outeniqua Constituency, extended a warm welcome to all present, especially the guest speakers, Mrs S D Nene and Professor SBE Bhengu.

Mr Savahl paid tribute to the delegates for the sacrifice made to attend conference and expressed the hope that pettiness would be abandoned and that we would move forward as one.

- 4. The National Chairman introduced the invited guests and briefly sketched the achievements of Mrs Nene and Prof Bhengu.
- 5. ANNUAL ADDRESS AND OFFICIAL OPENING BY L S LEON, LEADER OF THE PARTY

At the request of the National Chairman Mr Leon delivered his address (copy attached to the official minute) and declared the Twelfth Annual Conference of the Party officially open.

Inthanking Mr Leon for his excellent analysis of the situation obtaining in South Africa today, Mr D Curry paid tribute to his leadership of the Party. The support shown for Mr Leon at public meetings was ample evidence of his acceptance by the people.

6. REMARKS BY THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, REV H J HENDRICKSE

Rev H J Hendrickse underline the warm welcome extended to the guest speakers, leadership and delegates and then proceeded to deal with the economics of the situation as affecting South Africa.

7. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

- PARTY OFFICERS AND CPRC MEMBERS - L S Leon Rev H J Hendrickse D M Curry
 F E Peters P J Kleinsmidt W S Miller
 E E Abrahams Miss L D Boezak Mrs M Coetzee
 D T Cairncross L V du Preez C W Hendrickse
 R Lackay E M S le Fleur J C Oosthuizen
 J Nash C J Reed M B Savahl A Stanley
 D Young

- REGIONS: Cape Peninsula (4) Gordonia (3) South Cape (1) Western Cape (4)
 Eastern Province (4) Natal (4) Transvaal (4)

- BRANCHES: Arcadia (4) Bethelsdorp (3) Bishop Lavis (1) Carnarvon (3)
 Bloemfontein (1) Bridgetown (2) Esselin Park (4) Eshove (2)
 Extension 7 & 8 (2) Genadendal (2) Belerivale (4) Hillside (1)
 Jansenville (4) Kenhardt (1) Kleinskool (4) Krynab (1)
 Kraaifontein (2) Malmesbury (4) Missionvale (2) Nederburg (1)
 Oudtshoorn (4) Parkside (3) Pretoria (3) Ravenshead (4)

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|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Riversdale (3) | Robertson (1) | Salsonville (3) | Salt River (2) |
| Schauderville (3) | Sedgefield (2) | Somerset East (1) | Silvertown (2) |
| Sparks Estate (1) | Stellenbosch (2) | Uitenhage (4) | West End (4) |
| Wentworth (4) | Windvogel (4) | Springs (1) | |

Apologies were received from C H Ebrahim, S A Solomon and N S Middleton.

RESOLVED

That this National Conference of the Labour Party of South Africa pledges its continued support for Mr Norman Middleton in his hour of need and calls for the immediate withdrawal of the charges against him.

8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

That Messrs W Dietrich, C Reed, C Redcliffe, N Isaacs, L Dewrance, M Lewis, E Abrahams, E Smith, J Ferrus and L du Preez constitute the Resolutions Committee.

9. NATIONAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Mr F E Peters presented his annual report a copy of which is attached to the official minute.

DISCUSSION ENSUING, it was

RESOLVED

- a. That Labour Party members of Management Committees form a group to meet at least twice a year and report back to conference; that Labour Party members of Management Committees carry out the policy of the Party at all times in the Association of Management Committees and local Management Committees.
- b. That the Finance and Administration Committee be empowered to formulate a programme of action to reorganise the Party at National level in conjunction with Regions and branches and that the National Secretary act as convener with powers to call any meeting of persons or formations of the Party to implement the above proposal.
- c. The report of the National Secretary draws attention to the ineffective functioning of a number of the Regions and branches within the organisation, and this Twelfth Annual Conference calls upon the defaulting members and officials of such branches and Regions to take immediate steps to put their house in order. It further calls upon the CPRC members concerned to shoulder their due share of this responsibility.

FURTHER RESOLVED

That the report be accepted with sincere appreciation to the National Secretary.

10. ADDRESS BY MRS S D NENE ON "THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN POLITICS"

Mrs S D Nene addressed conference on the above subject which earned her a standing ovation (copy attached to the official minute).

DISCUSSION ENSUING, it was

RESOLVED

That/..

That the Labour Party of South Africa, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination, accepts at this Twelfth Annual Conference the principle of full participation of womankind in every area of the liberatory struggle and calls upon the women of the branches and regions of the Party to establish women's groups so that the full potential of the people can be harnessed in the struggle for freedom.

FURTHER this conference supports the proposed meeting of women of the Party with the Women's Brigade of Inkatha.

- 11. In expressing appreciation to Mrs Nene for the sacrifice made in delivering her inspiring address, Mrs T C Hendrickse was particularly grateful for the guidance offered to women on how to become involved and the challenge to stand side by side with the men in the struggle for liberation. In this connection the large number of women present at conference was encouraging.

CONFERENCE ADJOURNED AT 6.15 PM

WEDNESDAY 28 DECEMBER 1977

12. ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR S M E BHENGU ON "POLITICS OF THE SITUATION"

Professor S M E Bhengu delivered a challenging address (copy attached to the official minute) which was enthusiastically received by conference.

DISCUSSION ENSUING, it was

RESOLVED

- a. That the Labour Party of South Africa takes urgent steps to meet with Inkatha leaders with a view to forming a co-ordinating committee immediately, aimed at unifying the strategy of the two movements at all levels as a first step towards total unification of strategy of all such liberatory movements.
- b. That the Labour Party of South Africa rejects outright the new constitutional proposals of the Government. This National Conference of the Party ratifies and endorses the action of its executive who acting on a mandate from the masses, have already openly rejected the proposals and called for a single South African Parliament representative of all the people of South Africa. And to this end demands the holding of a National Convention representative of all South Africans in order to draw up a new constitution.

- 13. In thanking Professor Bhengu for his presence and inspiring address, Mr L Dewrance emphasised the challenge to all organisations involved in the liberatory struggle to consolidate their efforts and strategy; to approach their task with sincerity and to convey the message to the masses.

Item 14 and 15 were considered in committee and the proceedings thereof are recorded in the in committee minutes.

16. REPORT BY MEMBERS OF THE CPFC EXECUTIVE

Since the members of the CPFC Executive had tabled reports as recently as 19 November 1977 at the meeting of the National Executive Committee held at Johannesburg, and since very little of significance had developed between then and Conference, it was

RESOLVED

That such reports be dispensed with.

17. RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted as a result of general discussions:

- a. Conference fully alligns itself with the move by many overseas investors to withdraw financial interests and investments from this country and calls on all other overseas investors to do likewise so that freedom and equality of opportunity can be achieved and supports economic sanctions as a means of Blacks obtaining their liberation
- b. Conference calls upon churches to challenge the economic system that denies human dignity and human rights and furthermore calls upon the churches to examine their investments in companies operating on a discriminatory basis thus perpetuating white baasskap.
- c. Conference calls upon Blacks to withdraw their money and/or investments from banks and firms who have bought defence bonds.
- d. Conference resolves that any cosmetic action within industry, whilst continuing to support the policy of apartheid, is not and never will be acceptable to the Black people.
- e. Conference notes that external pressures can be extremely significant in the changing of attitudes and is having an extremely pressurising effect on the white system of apartheid.
- f. This conference welcomes the increasing pressures from overseas but believes that an arms embargo is mere tokenism and an edging around the power of overseas countries to bring about social change.
- g. Conference demands that Industry immediately ceases to use white immigration labour at the expense of providing employment for Black South Africans.
- h. The Labour Party expresses its deepest concern at the passing away of Steve Biko and abhors the circumstances surrounding his inhuman treatment in detention and his resultant death. This conference further resolves to dedicate itself to the furthering of his aims which are part of the Labour Party's objectives. It further calls for an investigation into the role played by those medical authorities who were involved and demands the appointment of a judicial commission to enquire into and report on the circumstances surrounding the deaths of all those who have died in detention. Conference further holds the Nationalist Government and its policies responsible for these deaths.
- i. The Labour Party of South Africa deplores and takes strong exception to the strong arm and intimidatory tactics used by the Nationalist Government in its attempts to suppress the rightful struggle for freedom and justice, by its banning and detention of many of the leaders of the oppressed, as well as freedom seeking organisations.
- j. Conference abhors the inhuman tactics employed by the Nationalist Government in removing the fingo people of Humansdorp by force from their rightful place to one completely unsuited to their way of life.

Conference further resolves that the Fingo people of Grahamstown be allowed to live where they are now domicile.
- k. The Labour Party of South Africa, in the light of what took place in 1977, extends an invitation to Chief Gatsha Buthelezi to open the 1978 session of the CPAC and, in addition, to open the 1978 Congress of this Party.

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- l. The Labour Party of South Africa allies itself with the call from enlightened opinion that "Bantu Education" be abolished and that one educational system for all South African students be established in its place.
- m. The Labour Party of South Africa calls for the introduction of free and compulsory education for all South Africans, and for the establishing of integrated schools in which the youth of the country can learn to live and grow up together.
- n. The Labour Party of South Africa calls for the abolition of discriminatory procedures in the allocation of finances for the education of the youth of South Africa, demanding that an equal amount per capita per annum be spent by the government on every South African pupil.
- o. The Labour Party of South Africa condemns any moves that the authorities might be making towards establishing separate Teachers' Councils for the racial groups of South Africa and demands that one such Teachers' Council, as already legally set up, apply its provisions to all teachers within the country.
- p. The Labour Party of South Africa expresses its strong condemnation of the inability of the authorities to keep pace with the demands of school accommodation, particularly with reference to Black needs. It calls for the allocation of sufficient finance to make up the backlog in the school building programme, and to keep pace with the needs as these are determined from time to time.
- q. The Labour Party of South Africa reiterates its firm belief that the two evils affecting education in this country are (i) a racially differentiated education system and (ii) a racially differentiated funding of this education. It calls for the abolition of both these evils in the interests of South Africa, repeating its demand for an integrated educational system from pre-school level to the university.
- r. Conference strongly deprecates the attitude of the news media, including the SABC and SABC TV, by creating the impression that the Black masses support government policy which in fact is a complete distortion of the factual position. Conference further more deplores the co-operation of Black journalists who wittingly and unwittingly aid and abet government policy by disseminating news to the Black masses via the "extras" in the news media.
- s. The Labour Party of South Africa sends fraternal greetings to all liberatory movements in Southern Africa and wishes them well in their fight for true liberation.

18. ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

The undermentioned persons were unanimously elected to office:

- L S Leon Leader of the Party.
- D M G Curry Deputy Leader of the Party.
- Rev E J Hendrickse .. National Chairman.
- N S Middleton National Vice-Chairman.
- F E Peters National Secretary.
- W S Miller National Assistant Secretary.
- A Stanley National Treasurer.
- R Lackay National Trustee.

20. VOTES OF THANKS

On behalf of Conference, Mr L S Leon, Leader of the Party, expressed sincere appreciation to the guest speakers for accepting our invitation to participate in the proceedings at conference and to Mr M B Savahl and his team and all others concerned for their contribution to the success of the Twelfth Annual Conference of the Labour Party of South Africa.

19. RESOLVED

That the Thirteenth Annual Conference of the Labour Party of South Africa be held at Bloemfontein on dates to be decided upon by the Finance and Administration Committee.

21. Conference ended at 9.45 pm with prayers.


NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

03-06-1978
DATE

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