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VAAL STUDENT MOVEMENT OF AZANIA
(1964)

PREAMBLE

Whereas we, the Black students in the Vaal Triangle, forever recognize the following:

- (1) The deterioration of the parent-child relationship in our Black communities.
- (2) The disintegration of accepted norms and system of values in these our Black communities.
- (3) The laxity and disinterest of our communities, both student and worker, in matters affecting them directly and indirectly.
- (4) and further noting
- (4) As students we are a transient entity in whose hands the continued survival, existence and progress of the Black Nation lies.
- (5) The education of the said, above, in this country is a process of systematic elimination aimed at subjugating the Black Nation to perpetual serfdom.

Further realizing

- (6) The need for a student movement based on the ideology of AZANIAN PEOPLE, viz BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS, and asserting that BC is the only ideology which can lead these OUR COMMUNITIES to repossess the land that rightfully belongs to them, and further believing that the Black workers are the most oppressed class in our country and AND ALWAYS conscious that the students must organise themselves as an intergral part of the Black Nation.

AND having as our goal the intensifying of Black student-worker solidarity.

AND WE FURTHER PLEDGE OURSELVES THAT "IN THIS OUR VENTURE WE SHALL STRIKE ALLIANCES WITH ALL BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS ORGANIZATIONS AND RESERVE THE RIGHT TO THE ALLIANCES WITH OTHERS."

THEREFORE RESOLVES

- (1) To found a student organization which will express and manifest the aspirations of the Black students in the VAAL TRIANGLE.
- (2) To ensure that this regional organization sees itself as part of the Black Nation and the Black liberation struggle.

SECTION 1

NAME

The name of the organization shall be the VAAL STUDENT MOVEMENT OF AZANIA HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS VASMA.

SECTION 2

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- (1) To create a forum for students to articulate and express their aspirations as part of the Black nation.
- (2) To mobilise and unite students around the liberatory ideology of BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS.
- (3) To reorientate the entire value system of the students in the Vaal Triangle and the Black Nation.
- (4) To instill in the entire student community a sense of responsibility towards the Black community.
- (5) To work towards the total eradication of the racist exploitative and oppressive system of this country and ushering in of an egalitarian, anti-racist society.
- (6) To encourage the involvement of students in the problems facing them as well as those that are facing the Black community in general.
- (7) To expose the inferior status of women in the white capitalist society and to actively campaign against the specific and multiple oppression and exploitative dispositions of Black Women by the white in South Africa.

SECTION 3

MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership shall be open to every Black student at both secondary and tertiary institutions, in the Vaal Triangle.
2. Every member shall subscribe to the aims and principles, policy, goals and philosophy of the organization.
3. No membership shall be granted to those students or individuals whose interests are in conflict with those of the organization.
4. Membership shall be by individual application.
5. Every member shall pay membership fee and a monthly subscription fee which shall be determined from time to time by the EXECUTIVE
6. Membership shall be renewable annually.
7. Any member whose interests have been subsequently proven to be in conflict with those of VASMA shall be forthwith be expelled from the organization.

SECTION 4

STRUCTURE

The structure of VASMA shall be as follows: The REGIONAL STUDENT CONGRESS
REC OR The REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SEC OR The STUDENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
LEC OR The LOCAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 5

THE REGIONAL STUDENT CONGRESS

The supreme and highest governing and policy-making body of the organization shall be the RSC and it shall meet annually at a place and time determined by the PROVIDED THAT:

- a) The Council may convene a special session of the RSC wherever the Council sees it necessary and desirable to do so.
- b) The RSC shall comprise of every member of VASMA and every branch shall be represented by two (2) delegates, members of REC and LEC.
- c) The RSC shall have the power and authority to take decisions by majority vote of those present at CONGRESS in all aspects in the policy, principles, VASMA's finance, and discipline, and all other and such decisions shall be binding on the organization and all its formations providing that the RSC shall have the power and authority to abrogate, amend, rescind and/or alter its own resolutions and/or decisions on constitution, policy, principles, aims, objectives and goals by two-thirds majority of members attending the session.
- d) Voting shall be restricted to those members specified in (b) above.

SECTION 6

COMPOSITION OF THE STUDENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 1) Members of REC
- 2) Branch chairpersons and secretaries from each branch.
- 3) Members of LEC.

SECTION 7

DUTIES OF THE SEC

1. To receive and consider reports of the REC.
- 2) To evaluate progress of VASMA.
- 3) (a) To regularly scrutinize the financial position of VASMA.
(b) To review the financial records of the TREASURER.
- 4) To convene the RSC.
- 5) The SEC shall be empowered to appoint task committees to deal with various aspects affecting Black students and the wider Black community
- 6) The SEC shall be empowered to take any punitive action against any member who is guilty of misconduct.
- (i) SEC shall appoint an acting chairperson in the event where the current chairperson is unable to execute his duties.

SECTION 8

MEETINGS OF SEC

- 1) The chairperson of the local executive hosting the meeting shall chair.
- 2) The COUNCIL SHALL meet twice a year at a venue determined by REC.
- 3) Failure by a member of the COUNCIL to attend two (2) consecutive without adequate reason shall lead to automatic suspension from the COUNCIL.

SECTION 9
COMPOSITION OF REC

- 1) President
2. Vice-President: Tertiary Institutions
3. Vice-President: Secondary Institutions
4. Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Publications Secretary
7. Projects director

SECTION 10

DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT.

1. He shall be the chief executive officer of VASMA.
2. He shall represent VASMA nationally and internationally.
3. He shall be responsible for the guidance and principles of VASMA.
4. He shall be responsible and report to the RSC, REC and SEC.

DUTIES OF VICE-PRESIDENTS.

- 1.1 They shall perform the duties and functions which are otherwise performed by the President.
2. They shall assist the President in the execution of his duties, functions and responsibilities.
3. Each Vice-President shall be directly responsible for the co-ordination of student affairs in Secondary and Tertiary institutions.

Appointment of the Acting President or Vice-President

In the event of the President or one of the Vice-Presidents being unable to either temporarily or permanently to perform their duties, the REC shall appoint a member of the SEC to act as President or one of the Vice-Presidents who shall hold office until the President or one of the Vice-Presidents is able to assume his duties or until a new President has been elected.

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

1. The secretary shall act as the chief administrative officer of VASMA.
2. He shall be the custodian and see to the safe-keeping of all the properties of VASMA unless the REC decides otherwise.
4. He shall be responsible for the keeping of all records of VASMA.

DUTIES OF THE TREASURER.

1. He shall be responsible for the keeping of the books of accounts.
2. He shall cause an annual balance sheet to be prepared and certified by the Auditors approved by REC.
3. He shall present an audited financial report to the REC and the RSC.
4. He shall prepare and submit a financial report to the SEC.

DUTIES OF THE PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY.

1. He shall be responsible for all VASMA's material and other needs reconcilable with his office.
2. He shall be responsible for the compilation of a resource center for VASMA.

DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL PROJECT S CO-ORDINATOR

1. he shall be the co-ordinator of local co-ordinators.
2. he shall be responsible in conjunction with local co-ordinators for the establishment of branches.
3. he shall be co-ordinating officer of VASMA.
4. he shall be responsible for the institution, formulation of various methods of approaching the students.
5. he shall a) at least once every two months hold a meeting with the local co-ordinators inquire into the progress of the organization.
b) record the proceedings and report to the REC.

SECTION 11

ELECTION OF THE REC

1. The REC shall elect the REC annually which will meet at least once in every one (1) month.
2. the term of office by the full time staff shall be extended for two years. Each year the CONGRESS shall have the power to ratify the position.
3. The REC shall have the power to appoint the task committees in different fields.

SECTION 12

Branches

1. The Regional Organizer shall, subject to the approval of the REC establish branches in consultation with the Regional Co-ordinator.
2. A branch shall consist of at least twenty (20) members or any such number that the REC may decide upon.
3. Delimitation of branches shall be determined by the Regional Co-ordinator in consultation with the Local co-ordinator.
4. Election of the branch executive shall be held annually.
5. Each branch shall supervise over all aspects and activities of VASMA within the area of its jurisdiction.
6. Each branch shall submit to the REC or the RSC for consideration recommendations concerning the principles, aims objectives and goal VASMA.
7. Each branch shall elect delegates to the Regional Congress.
8. Each branch shall have an executive committee comprising of :
 - a) Chairperson
 - b) Vice-chairperson
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) Organizer

SECTION 13

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BRANCH EXECUTIVE.

The CHAIRPERSON shall:

1. Be the head of the branch.
2. Be the chief executive member to whom the branch shall be responsible
3. Wherever possible represent the branch.
4. Carry out aims and objectives of the organization: VASMA.
5. Preside at all meetings of the branch.
6. Within the policy of the organization, in consultation with at least one member of REC in addition to the President, issue a press statement pertaining to the branch only.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON shall:

- 1) Assist the Chairperson in the execution of his and duties deputies if for him should be for some reason be unable to carry out his duties
2. Be responsible with other members of the executive for the maintenance of the branch.

The TREASURER shall :

1. Be responsible for the funds of the branch and shall keep a register of all the assets and liabilities of the branch.
2. Deposit funds of the branch in a bank to be decided by the branch executive.

THE SECRETARY shall:

1. Be
- 1) Be responsible for the safekeeping of books, records and properties of
- 2) Be responsible for the secretarial work of the branch.

THE ORGANIZER shall::

- 1) Be responsible for the recruitment of membership for the branch.
- 2) Be responsible for the conscientization of the members.
- 3) Initiate and maintain all projects that may be embarked on.
- 4) Be responsible for the involvement of the members in projects and related activities.

SECTION 14

QUORUM

- SEC :A third of branch delegates will constitute a quorum.
REC :A simple majority present will constitute a quorum.
RSC :A third of the members of the congress will constitute a quorum.

Branch Executive Meetings:A simple majority will form quorum.

Branch general meetings:A third of the members will constitute a quorum

SECTION 15

VOTING

- 1) Voting at all meetings and/or sessions shall be by show of hands unless the chair person/presiding officer decides otherwise.

SECTION 16

NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS

A member of the SEC and Regional shall be notified of meeting not less than fourteen days before such a meeting takes place.

SECTION 17

FINANCES

1. Funds shall be deposited with the bank determined by the REC.
2. The REC shall frame and prescribe regulations and procedures to be adopted and followed by all formations of VASMA with regard to finances
3. The treasurer shall be in charge of finance and fund-raising.
4. All financial transactions carried out in the name of VASMA shall bear the signature of the treasurer and one member of the
5. VASMA shall appoint a recognized firm of auditors who shall be allowed to inspect the financial reports.
6. Books and/or records of VASMA shall be audited annually prior to RSC.
7. VASMA shall be a body corporate capable of managing its own assets liabilities.

SECTION 18

PROPERTY

1. VASMA shall be empowered and entitled to sell, purchase, hire, lease, mortgage, pledge and in any way alienate or deal with both, moveables and immovables acquired by its formation. The properties of VASMA shall be registered in its own name or the trustees appointed for the purpose by the executive in the event of the law requiring this, on behalf of VASMA.

SECTION 19

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

VASMA shall, may sue or be sued in its own name, and appoint its own legal advisers. The president shall be authorized to institute and defend all legal proceedings by and on behalf of VASMA.

SECTION 20

DISOLUTION

1. The REC shall should the need arise, convene an emergency RSC which shall on the matter.
2. In the event of any assets left upon dissolution the REC shall be empowered to distribute such assets to any Black organization it deems fit.
3. Three months notice should be given to all branches before such a meeting can take place.

SECTION 21

AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 21

AMENDMENTS

All the provisions may be repealed, amended or added to in any manner by a two-thirds majority of the delegates present and voting at NSC.

SECTION 25

INTERPRETATION OF TEXT

unless inconsistent with the context;

1. BLACK shall be interpreted as those who are by law or tradition economically, socially, and politically discriminated against as a group in the South African society, and identify themselves as a unit in the struggle towards the realization of their aspirations.
2. Words importing masculine gender shall also denote feminine gender
3. Executive shall mean the Regional executive Committee of VASMA.
4. SEC shall mean the S Student Executive Council of VASMA.
5. PRESIDENT shall be the P President of VASMA.
6. STUDENT is any B Black person who is registered at any Secondary or Tertiary institution.
7. In the event of any dispute or disagreement from the meaning or interpretation of ~~the text~~ any section, word or words of this constitution, the final arbitrator shall be the congress.

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