

Let us study cooperatives, Insurance, Building Societies and finally Banks.

While doing all this we must save our money as we can and educate our children, as best we can. We shall thus prepare them to face the problems of race and colour relations of the people and of South Africa as a whole with better mental equipment. In short they will be enabled, in a larger measure than ourselves to play their full part, make their contribution and render fuller and greater services to their South Africa as befit citizenship.

LEGAL AID.

85 Toby Street  
Sophiatown  
Johannesburg  
22/11/1945.

Liberty Printing  
325 6th Street, Asiatic Bazaar  
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Gentlemen:

I received a sample copy of your finished booklet, "Zenzele" and your account for £ 4.0.0. although the goods have not been delivered.

I regret, however, to inform you that I cannot accept the work as shown by the sample in which not only the paper the set-up but also the names, addresses and some of the designation of committees are wrong.

Such booklet is of no use to us.

In view of the fact that I have allowed you over two months to complete the printing of 100 booklets and yet during that time you have turned out something most unsatisfactory I have, therefore, no option but to cancel the order and give the work to a printer who can do the work properly and with dispatch as the booklet was due to be in the hands of members some time ago.

Yours faithfully,

(2)

We must remember that generally speaking people talk and criticize the most at conferences do the least on the field as we have mentioned <sup>investment of Africans there are</sup> certain things that we are grateful for instance, for the first time in the history of our country, the Viceroy - the ~~Office Administrator~~ <sup>the Government</sup> and ~~the Premier~~ <sup>the non European</sup> recipients of awards for bravery and among them was Shelochebani Majazi who was many times wounded but carried until he dropped from loss of blood, carrying, falling, Europeans from the firing line - and to borrow the expression from the jaws of death and out of the month Hell. Job Masego who sank a ship ~~single handedly~~ was also there



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15th December, 1945.

The Chairman,  
African Drought Relief Fund Committee,  
c/o Dr. A. B. Xuma,  
104 End Street,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your circular letter of appeal  
we have pleasure in enclosing herewith our cheque for  
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We are,

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A.N.C.

16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1948

ABX-4512/6a

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2 Minutes.

3 Business arising from minute

4. Provincial Reports: Transvaal  
Natal

6 & ③ Replis to Resolution ① Free St  
S. Cape.

5 & ② Financial Report

7 & Propaganda Report.

8 Youth League Report

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16/12/1945  
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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS  
CONSTITUTION OF 1943.

Whereas the spirit of the South African National Congress - an African Organisation established at Bloemfontein on the 8th January, 1912 - has always been that its constitution may and should be amended modified simplified improved or brought up to date in accordance with the requirement and the demand of times and circumstances;

And whereas it was found desirable and proper that the name of the said organisation be slightly changed by the omission of the word "South" in the amended constitution passed and adopted in 1918 (herein after referred to as the 1918 constitution);

And whereas although the 1918 constitution of the African National Congress (section 148) stipulates that the objects of the African National Congress shall not at any time be capable of being rescinded revised altered amended or added to; yet it is obvious that this provision refers only to the substance of the objects; consequently, the objects can be re-stated, condensed or improved upon as far as the wording expression or language is concerned;

And whereas it is at present the feeling of the majority of the members of African National Congress that the 1918 Constitution be now amended, condensed or simplified, but not entirely abolished or repealed;

And whereas at Bloemfontein in December, 1943, the Conference of the African National Congress passed and adopted a Constitution (Hereinafter called the 1943 Constitution) which has caused and is causing a general discontent and dissatisfaction among the members of the said organisation on the grounds inter alia: that this 1943 constitution does not indicate clearly its continuity with past constitutions of the African National Congress (which constitutions are highly treasured in the hearts of most Africans); and that this 1943 constitution contains other several defects and serious omissions;

And whereas it is highly expedient and desirable that the errors defects and omissions of the 1943 constitution be rectified;

Now therefore this Conference of the African National Congress sitting at Bloemfontein this 16th day of December 1945, decides and resolves to amend the 1943 constitution as follows:—

1. OBJECTS (Section 2)

- (a) To combat eradicate and discourage the feeling of tribalism and promote the spirit of national unity and solidarity among African people.
- (b) To strive and work for the elementary and inalienable right of Africans to full citizenship in the land of their birth.
- (c) To oppose with constitutional or unconstitutional means all or any discriminatory or oppressive laws made passed or directed against Africans.
- (d) To advance, protect and defend the interests of the African people politically, economically, socially, educationally and morally.

SECTION 3 (a) (Membership)

- (b) Substitute "African" for "any person".  
Insert "African" between "any" and "organisation". After "reason", add "provided that such reasons be given if desired or requested by the majority of delegates in a National Conference of the African National Congress.

SECTION 4. (Branches) Instead of "not less than two committee members" say, "not more than 5 committee members".

SECTION 5. (Provincial Conference) at the end of sub-section (a) and after "Province", add: "The names of Provincial Congresses shall be altered as follows :-  
'The Natal Native Congress' shall be 'African National Congress (Natal)'; 'The Orange Free State Native Congress' shall be 'African National Congress (O.F.S)'; The Transvaal Native Congress' shall be African National Congress (Transvaal)'; 'The Cape Native Congress' shall be African National Congress (Cape).

SECTION 6. (Provincial Committee) (a) (Replace the words, "not less than 15 Committee members" by the words "not more than 15 Committee members".

(b) At end of paragraph and "Conference" add "failure so to do shall expose the National Executive to a vote of no confidence at the opening of next Conference".

SECTION 12.

(a) Instead of "shall have power to frame rules" say, "shall frame rules". After "Congress" add "Such rules to be published for the benefit of all members within twelve months after the National Executive in question.

(b) Delete "shall have power to frame rules", and substitute "may frame rules".

SECTION 16. For "General", put "Miscellaneous" and before "Congress" at beginning of paragraph put (a)

(a) ~~No person shall be elected as an official or member of Executive Committee in the National or Provincial Congress or in the branches thereof who is a member of political parties or other political organisations, unless such a person binds himself to resign forth with from the political party or organisation concerned in order that he may devote himself wholly to Congress Work.~~

(c) The provisions of the 1918 constitution which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution shall be deemed to have been herewith repealed.

(d) If any matter arises on which this constitution is silent recourse shall be had to the relevant provisions if any of the 1918 Constitution.

(e) Three or more branches situated in the same area or region can arrange for and hold regional Conferences or meetings as often as they think fit.

(f) The Provincial President and Provincial Executive Committee shall be elected every two years.

CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

1. NAME. The name of the organisation shall be the African National Congress.
2. OBJECTS: The aims of Congress shall be :-
- (a) To protect and advance the interest of all African in all matters affecting them.
  - (b) To attain the freedom of the African People from all discriminatory laws whatsoever.
  - (c) To strive and work for the unity and co-operation of the African people in every possible way.
  - (d) To strive and to work for the full participation of the African in the Government of South Africa.

3. MEMBERS:

- (a) Individual Bodies: Any person over 17 years of age who is willing to subscribe to the aims of Congress and to abide by its Constitution and rules may become an individual member upon application to the nearest Branch.
- (b) Affiliated Members: Any organisation whose aims are in harmony with the aims of Congress may become an affiliated body upon application, in the case of a Provincial or local organisation, to the Provincial Committee and in the case of a National Organisation, to the Working Committee.

The Executive reserves the right to refuse an application without giving reasons.

4. BRANCHES:

- (a) Branches may be formed with the approval of a Provincial Committee in any locality within its Province.
- (b) A Branch shall consist of not less than 20 individual members.
- (c) Each Branch shall hold an Annual General Meeting at which it shall elect a chairman, a secretary, treasurer and not less than two committee members.

5. PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE:

- (a) The Provincial Conference shall be the highest organ of Congress in each Province.
- (b) An annual provincial conference shall be held in each of the provinces of the Union of South Africa. Special provincial conferences may be convened at such other time as the provincial committee may deem fit, and shall be convened upon the requisition addressed to the Provincial Committee, of branches and/or affiliated organisations representing at least one-quarter of the total number of delegates entitled to be present at a Provincial conference.
- (c) Each branch shall be entitled to be represented at the provincial conference by one delegate for every twenty members or in the proportion laid down by the provincial conference from time to time.
- (d) Each affiliated shall be entitled to be represented at the provincial conference by one delegate for every 100 members or in the proportion laid down by the provincial conference from time to time.
- (e) No branch or affiliated body shall be represented by more than 10 delegates at a provincial conference.
- (f) The provincial conference in each province shall be responsible for the affairs of congress in that province subject only to the general supervision and control of the National Executive Committee and the working committee.

6. PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE:

- (a) The annual provincial conference shall elect a provincial committee consisting of a president and 11 committee members of whom the president and not less than 5 committee members shall be resident within 50 miles of the provincial headquarters designated from time to time by the provincial conference.
- (b) The provincial committee shall elect a secretary and a treasurer from amongst its members resident as provided in the foregoing section.
- (c) The provincial committee shall meet at least once in every 3 months and at such other times as it deems necessary. It shall be the executive body of the provincial conference and shall administer the affairs of Congress within the province between provincial conference, and shall convene provincial conferences at the times provided herein.
- (d) The provincial committee shall submit an annual report of the Congress organisation work and finances in the province to the provincial conference and the working committee not later than 6 weeks before the annual national conference. On failure on the part of any provincial committee to function in terms of this constitution, the working committee may convene a provincial conference to elect a new provincial committee and may form a committee to carry on congress work in the province during the interim period.

7. NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

- (a) The national conference shall be the supreme body of Congress and shall determine its general policy and programme.
- (b) An annual national conference shall be held once a year at a time and place decided upon at the preceding annual national conference. Special national conferences may be convened at such other times as the national executive committee may deem fit, and shall be convened upon requisition addressed to the working committee by two or more provincial conferences.
- (c) The provisions of clauses 5(c), (d) and (e) shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the election of delegates to the national conference.

8. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- (a) Once every three years the national conference shall elect a national executive committee consisting of a national president, a national secretary and a national treasurer, and not less than 15 committee members.
- (b) The N.E.C. shall meet on the day of its election and thereafter at least once in 6 months and at such other times as it may be convened by the working committee.
- (c) The N.E.C. shall be responsible for the activities of Congress between national conferences and shall supervise and review the work of the working committee.
- (d) The N.E.C. shall submit to the annual national conference full report of the work, organisation and finances of Congress during the preceding year which report shall be made available to provincial committees, branches, affiliated members not later than one month before the date of the annual conference.
- (e) Provincial Presidents shall be ex officio members of the national executive.

9. WORKING COMMITTEE:

- (a) At the meeting of the N.E.C. held on the day of its election the N.E.C. shall appoint a working committee of not less than 7 persons who shall be persons resident within

50 miles of the national headquarters designated by the national conference from time to time.

- (b) Members of the working committee shall be chosen in the first place from amongst members of the N.F.C. having the necessary residential qualification and in the event of there being being fewer than 7 so qualified, the remaining members of the working committee shall be chosen from amongst Congress members in general who have the requisite residential qualifications
- (c) The national president shall ex officio be a member of the working committee. The president shall appoint an assistant national secretary for the working committee.
- (d) Between meetings of the N.F.C., the working committee shall enjoy the full executive powers of the N.F.C. and shall carry into effect the policy and programme laid down by the national conference, convene national conferences and meetings of the N.F.C. as provided herein. It shall remain responsible to the National Executive Committee.
- (e) The working committee shall meet once in every month and at such other times as it may deem necessary.
- (f) The working committee shall place before every regular meeting of the N.F.C. a report of its activities and of the work, organisation and finances of Congress in general. The working committee shall take steps to publish a report of the proceedings of all national conferences within three months after after the termination of such conferences.

#### 10. FINANCE:

- (a) Every individual member shall upon applying for membership and thereafter at the beginning of each year pay to the branch concerned a subscription of 2/6d  
There shall be no reduction in the subscription to be paid by members joining in the course of the year.
- (b) Affiliated bodies shall upon application and thereafter at the beginning of each year pay to the provincial committee or the working committee, as the case may be, a sum representing one-fiftieth of the ordinary subscriptions or dues collected from its own membership in the preceding year.
- (c) Affiliated bodies shall submit a constitution and an annual financial statement.
- (d) Each branch shall pay to the provincial executive committee two-thirds of the subscription received by it and the provincial executive committee shall pay to the working committee one-half of the income received by it.
- (e) Funds of Congress shall be raised through membership fees, subscriptions, levies, donations and through functions and entertainments.
- (f) All such funds shall be deposited at a recognised bank or post office savings bank immediately they are received at the branch, provincial or national office.
- (g) Branch committees, provincial executive committees and the working committee shall keep full and proper records of all income and expenditure and shall present annual financial statements to the branch, provincial conference, and national conference as the case may be. The working committee shall take steps to have a regular audit of its accounts and of the accounts of provincial committee, where the provincial committee fails to do so.

11. DISCIPLINE: Every Committee of congress shall have the power to take such disciplinary action as it may deem fit against any member within its jurisdiction who acts in breach of the constitution or rules of congress, violating its decisions or behaving in a way which is prejudicial to the interests of congress or of the African people, provided that there shall be a right of appeal against disciplinary action to the provincial conference and in the case of a decision of the working committee of the N.F.C. to the national conference.

12. RULES:

- (a) The N.E.C. shall have the power to frame rules or approve rules framed by the working committee not inconsistent with this constitution for regulating all matters connected with congress.
- (b) Each provincial conference shall have power to frame rules not consistent with this constitution for regulating the affairs of congress within its own province, which rules shall come into operation only with the previous sanction of the working committee.

13. DECISIONS: All decisions, save amendments to the constitution, taken by bodies or congress, including the election of office bearers and committees shall be taken by majority vote.

14. VACANCIES:

- (a) The office of a member of <sup>a</sup> congress Committee shall be vacated by resignation, death, expulsion or removal as a disciplinary measure.
- (b) Such vacancy shall be filled by co-optation by the committee.

15. AMENDMENTS: Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting at a national conference provided that three months' notice of proposed amendments shall have been circulated prior to such national conference, to the provincial affiliated bodies.

16. GENERAL: Congress shall have perpetual succession and the power, apart from its individual members, to acquire, hold and alienate property, enter into agreements and all things necessary to carry out its aims and objects.

-----00900-----

(Sgd) A. B. XUMA  
PRESIDENT - GENERAL

(Sgd) JAMES A. CALATA  
SECRETARY GENERAL

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

BLOEMFONTEIN,  
16th December, 1943.  
ABX/ARM.

A.N.C. 1945

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

(RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE WHICH MET AT BLOMFONTEIN FROM 14TH DECEMBER, TO 17TH DECEMBER, 1945).

(1945)

1. That it be an instruction to the National Executive Committee to set up small committees of Inquiry, responsible to the National Executive, to investigate and report on the policies of the Transvaal peri-urban Areas Board, the Natal local Health Commission and the Cape Divisional Council respectively and the relation of these bodies with the Native Affairs Department, in its administration of certain Provisions of the Native Land and Trust Act of 1936, and to keep a close watch over the outcome of a Conference recently held in Durban the Native Affairs Commission, the Natal Provincial Administration, and the Corporation of the City of Durban, and all such Conferences, and such Committees so set up shall report to the National Executive from time to time.
  
2. (a) The African National Congress fully supports the residents of the Umlazi Mission Reserve in their opposition to the proposed incorporation of the said Mission Reserve within the jurisdiction of the Durban Corporation, under the Municipal Housing Scheme. The Umlazi Mission Reserve was set aside for the benefit of the African people, and any act calculated to deprive those Africans of their long-established land rights would be a breach of faith that would undermine the confidence of the people in the Trust System in particular and the Government in general.
  
- (b) The African National Congress appeals to the Minister of Native Affairs to protect these Africans against these threats. And generally this Conference instructs the National Executive to take up with the Government the question of arbitrary ejection or removal of Africans from places they occupy, and that where removal is unavoidable, adequate compensation must be paid.
  
3. (a) The African National Congress whilst in sympathy with measures to combat soil-erosion learns with fear and consternation that no provision has been made for settling hundreds of African families now under notice to quit European Farms on which they have resided for years, in the Weener District, in consequence of the need for the reduction of livestock and over-population.
  
- (b) In view of the foregoing resolution, Congress makes an urgent appeal to the Prime Minister for the implementation of the provisions of the Native Land and Trust Act of 1936, by the acquisition of more land in order to settle African families evicted from European owned farms in pursuance of measures taken to combat soil-erosion.
  
- (c) Congress, further makes an urgent appeal to the Minister of Native Affairs to take immediate steps to create areas for the settlement of Africans evicted in this way, and further, Congress instructs all branch officials to obtain a full list and details concerning evictions taking place within their areas, and to advise all people evicted to report to the nearest Native Commissioner's office together with their families and possessions and to remain at such office until

provision is made for their settlement.

4. Congress is firmly convinced that the system of farm labour as practised in the country is primitive and un-economical, wasteful and unproductive, and in the interests of the labourers, the present system should be scrapped.

Agriculture should be treated on the same basis as secondary industries as far as the proper regulation and adjustment of labour conditions is concerned.

5. This Congress fully supports the representations made to the Government by the members of the Native Representative Council for reconsideration and readjustment of the emoluments of African chiefs commensurate with their status and responsibilities. The present scale is not only inadequate, but tends to breed dishonesty and to lower the prestige of chiefs.
6. That it be an instruction to the Provincial Executive Committees to acquaint themselves intimately with conditions governing allotments in Trust Lands, the size of the land per family, the relationship between the Superintendents of Trust lands and the chiefs, and to make proper representations in connection therewith to the Native Affairs Department.
7. That in all areas set aside for African occupation, trading rights be reserved for Africans on the Principle of Africans being encouraged to trade in their own areas, and that in the event of a Non-African seeking new trading privileges in such areas consultation with the chiefs, and general opinion of the residents be first had, and a grant of any such privileges be determined in accordance with the wishes of the residents.
8. That the Provincial Executive (Natal) be directed to make a special study of the Natal Code of (Native Law with a view to a modification of its provisions in their application to areas inhabited by communities, which have adopted civilised habits, and are living under urbanised conditions, and generally to determine the extent to which women in such areas may be emancipated, and submit its findings thereon for the consideration of the next Annual Conference.
9. Congress is convinced that the denial of the right to obtain liquor to Africans, whilst such privileges are granted to other sections of the population makes Africans the victims of the illicit Liquor Traffic. In order to combat this illicit Liquor traffic, and to save the African from exploitation, Congress appeals to the Government to amend the Liquor Laws in such a way as to make it lawful for Africans to get Liquor.
10. The African National Congress is deeply appreciative of the work that is being done by various women's Organisations such as the Daughters of Africa, Zenzele, the Unity Clubs, the National Council of women etc., and directs all its branches throughout the Country to encourage and support social work in all its forms for the upliftment of the African people.
11. The African National Congress draws the attention of the Government to the inconvenience and hardship caused to African Litigants who have to attend at the Courts of Native Commissioners in the district by lack of suitable waiting and sleeping accomodation and feeding arrangements, and urges the Government to take immediate steps to remedy the situation.

12. The African National Congress deploras the attempt being made in Natal to prevent African herbalists from carrying on their logitimate activities in order to protect European Vendors of patent medicines.
13. This Conference welcomes the cessation of hostilities and pays tribute to the magnificent record of bravery of the African soldiers and the part they played in this war and accords them a warm welcome home. Conference notes with regret that South Africa, in spite of the part played by the African soldiers in the bloodiest war of all history, is not disposed to change its Native Policy and therefore Conference resolves to strive for the implementation of the principles of the Atlantic and United Nations Charter.
14. That all branches of Congress hold monthly general meetings and submit a monthly report of their activities to the Provincial Head-quarters. >
15. That this Conference protests strongly against the action of the police in interfering with peaceful demonstrations of African people who make these peaceful demonstrations to impress their legitimate demands upon public opinion. Conference strongly disapproves of the harsh police methods like the use of fire-arms and indiscriminate shootings as happened at Springs. —
16. The African National Congress supports the idea of the establishment of voluntary organisations among Africans for the purpose of doing welfare work in connection with African blind deaf, and dumb, cripple, mentally defective, and other persons in need of care, and urges the Department of Social Welfare to subsidise adequately the work of such agencies.
17. That Congress urges the Government to disallow or prohibit any contract of service between a European parent which involves the services of children under the age of 18. —
18. (a) That this Congress rejects the idea of forming African Juvenile Service Battalions as proposed by the Utility Corporation.
- (b) That Congress urges the Government to establish vocational technical schools for the training of African Youths. *page 1*
19. That more land be made available by the Government in Rural and urban areas for sale to Africans. J
20. (a) The African National Congress has learnt with grave concern about the conditions of distress in the *various* Natal areas where the loss of stock by the population has been tremendous and where, in some areas, there is actual starvation. —
- (b) Congress urges the Government to take immediate steps to relieve distress in drought stricken areas, and to extend to all areas the relief measures which have been adopted by the Government for the Ciskei.
- (c) In this connection Congress desires to place on record its high appreciation to the "GUARDIAN" for organising the African Food Fund which has brought relief to many in the Native Areas, and thus saved valuable African lives. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Indian National Congress (Natal), for its generous and timely contribution to the African food....

## Food Fund.

21. That Conference reiterates its decision to support the African Trade Unions Movement in its fight for :-
- (a) Full recognition of African Trade Unions under the Industrial Conciliation Act.
  - (b) A Minimum wage of £3 per week for Industrial and farm labourers and increase of farm workers wages in cash or kind.
  - (c) The African Peasants and farm workers, having a right to be organised into strong farmers and Peasants Unions and for effecting such organisations.
22. This Conference urges the Government to embark upon a comprehensive health for the African population by seeing to it that hospitals and clinics are established in all Native Areas and that Health facilities are extended in all African Locations and Townships.
23. The African National Congress reiterates its former resolutions demanding the immediate abolition of Pass laws in all their forms.
24. That the powers of the Advisory Boards be extended. ?
25. That Congress appeals to the Native Affairs Department to urge local authorities to permit home-brewing in all locations as provided for under the law.
26. That the Executive be requested to submit evidence to the Penal Reform Commission on the subject of Penal Reform in so far as it relates to African Prisoners. }
27. That Congress urges the Government :-
- (a) To assume responsibility for the financing of African Education
  - (b) To finance African Education on a per caput basis.
  - (c) To appoint African teachers, principals and Inspectors in African Schools.
  - (d) To adopt regulations governing African schools accordingly. Adequate protection to teachers against arbitrary action by Managers, Superintendents or Grantees of Schools
  - (e) To improve the salaries of African teachers.
  - (f) To introduce free compulsory education for every African child up to Std VI. or the age of 16 years.
  - (g) To increase facilities for the University Education of Africans in South Africa.
  - (h) To improve the content of Native Education.
28. Congress urges parents and teachers in all communities to take advantage of the school-feeding scheme, for which funds have been provided by the

## Government.

29. This Conference of Congress urges Congress members everywhere to co-operate with voluntary agencies in the establishment of night schools to combat illiteracy.
30. The African National Congress supports the resolution of the Native Representative Council requesting the Government :-
- (a) To grant the Council powers to legislate.
  - (b) To extend the individual vote to the Northern Provinces, and
  - (c) To increase the number of African Representatives in the Council, the House of Assembly and the Senate.
31. (a) The African National Congress desires to register an emphatic protest against the attempt by the European Press and certain sections of the European public, to represent the recent increase in crime along the Reef as being peculiar to the African, and to make this pretext for a demand upon the Government for the intensification of oppressive measures against the Africans.
- (b) Conference considers that an unbiased examination of the facts would reveal that this increase in the incidence of crime, is a result of the social and economic conditions under which Africans are compelled to live in this country.
- (c) Conference therefore, urges the Government to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry on which Africans should be directly represented, to investigate the whole question of crime and further to improve educational facilities, Housing, economic conditions, and to remove the restrictive laws which prevent the African from leading a normal life in the country of his birth.
32. That the Municipal Franchise should be extended to all rate-payers in urban areas irrespective of colour or race.
33. That the right to own property in free-hold be extended to Africans in both urban and rural areas.
34. (a) The African National Congress condemns the system of migratory labour as well as the compound system, and
- (b) Resolves that large employers of labour such as the Chamber of Mines, the South African Railways and Harbours etc., should be required by law to employ workers living in close proximity to their places of employment under family conditions as the present system of keeping responsible men away from their families for extended periods of time results in social disintegration, and in the lowering of the wage standards.

35. This Conference of the African National Congress is highly perturbed and disappointed by the reported conclusions of negotiations between the Government and the Building Workers Trade Unions, whereby it was agreed to leave in abeyance the question of training Africans as artisans in the building industry. Conference regards the Agreement as not being in the interests of South Africa, and as capitulation to and appeasement of reactionary demands by white labour. In the interests of the country as a whole, Conference asks the Government to proceed with the scheme for the training of Africans Artisans, and that Congress appoints an influential deputation to press the claims of the African people.

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ISSUED BY THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE:-

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Rosenberg Arcade,

58 Market Street

JOHANNESBURG.

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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE WHICH MET AT  
 BLOEMFONTEIN FROM 14TH DECEMBER, - 17TH DECEMBER, 1945.

1. That it be an instruction to the National Executive Committee to set up small committees of inquiry, responsible to the National Executive, to investigate and report on the policies of the Transvaal peri-urban areas board, the Natal Local Health Commission and the Cape Divisional Council respectively, and the relation of these bodies with the Native Affairs Department in its administration of certain provisions of the Native Land and Trust Act, of 1936, and to keep a close watch over the outcome of a Conference recently held in Durban between the Native Affairs Commission, the Natal Provincial Administration, and the Corporation of the city of Durban, and all such Conferences, and such Committees so set up shall report to the National Executive from time to time.
- (a)
2. (a) The African National Congress fully supports the residents of the Umlazi Mission Reserve, in their opposition to the proposed incorporation of the said Mission Reserve within the jurisdiction of the Durban Corporation, under the municipal Housing Scheme. The Umlazi Mission Reserve along with other Mission Reserves, was set aside for the benefit of the African people, and any act calculated to deprive these Africans of their long-established land rights would be a breach of faith that would undermine the confidence of the people in the Trust System, in particular and the Government in general. The African National Congress appeals to the Minister of Native Affairs to protect these Africans against these threats.
- (b) And generally this Conference instructs the National Executive to take with the Government the question of the arbitrary ejection or removal of Africans from places they occupy, and that where removal is unavoidable adequate Compensation must be paid.
3. (a) The African National Congress whilst in sympathy with measures to combat soil-erosion learns with fear and consternation that no provision has been made for settling hundreds of Africans families now under notice to quit European farms on which they have resided for years in the Weener District, in consequence of the need for the reduction of livestock and over-population.
- (b) In view of the foregoing Resolution, Congress makes an urgent appeal to the Prime Minister for the implementation of the provisions of the Native Land and Trust Act of 1936, by the acquisition of more land in order to settle African families evicted from European owned farms in pursuance of measures taken to combat soil-erosion.
- (c) Congress farther, makes an urgent appeal to the Minister of Native Affairs to take immediate steps to create areas for the settlement of Africans evicted in this way, and farther, Congress instructs all branch officials to obtain a full list and details concerning evictions taking place within their areas, and to advise all people evicted to report at the nearest Native Commissioner's office together with all their families and possessions, and to remain at such office until provision is made for their settlement.
4. Congress is firmly convinced that the system of farms labour in vogue in the country is primitive and uneconomical, wasteful and unproductive, and in the interests of the farming industry, as well as of the labourers, the present system should be scrapped.

agriculture should be treated on the same basis as secondary industries as far as the proper regulation and adjustment of labour conditions is concerned.

5. This Congress fully supports the representations made to the Government by the members of the Native Representative Council for a reconsideration and re-adjustment of the emoluments of African chiefs commensurate with their status and responsibilities. The present scale is not only inadequate, but tends to breed dishonesty and to lower the prestige of the chiefs.
6. That it be an instruction the Provincial Executive Committee to acquaint themselves intimately with conditions governing allotments in Trust Lands, the size of the land per family, the relationship between the Superintendents of Trust Lands and the chiefs, and to make proper representations in connection therewith to the Native Affairs Department.
7. That in all areas set aside for African occupation, trading rights be reserved for Africans, on the principle of Africans being encouraged to trade in their own areas, and that in the event of a non-African seeking new trading privileges in such areas, consultation with the chief, and general opinion of the residents be first had, and a grant of any such privileges be determined in accordance with the wishes of the residents.
8. That the Provincial Executive of Congress (Natal) be directed to make a special study of the Natal Code of Native Law with a view to a modification of its provisions in their application to areas inhabited by communities, which have adopted civilised habits, and are living under urbanized conditions, and generally to determine the extent to which women in such areas may be emancipated, and submit its findings thereon for the consideration of the next Annual Conference?
9. Congress is convinced that the denial of the right to obtain liquor to Africans whilst privileges are granted to other sections of the population makes Africans the victims of the illicit liquor traffic, and to save the African from exploitation. Congress appeals to the Government to amend the liquor laws to amend the liquor laws in such a way as to make it lawful for Africans to get liquor.
10. The African National Congress is deeply appreciative of the work that is being done by the various women's organisations such as the Daughters of Africa, the Zenzele, the Party Clubs, the National Council of Women etc., and directs all its branches throughout the Country to encourage and support social work in all its forms for the up-lift of the African people.
11. The African National Congress draws the attention of the Government to the inconvenience and hardship caused to African litigants who have to attend at the Courts of the Native Commissioners in the country districts by the lack of suitable waiting and sleeping accommodation and feeding arrangements, and urges the Government to take immediate steps to remedy the situation.
12. The African National Congress deplores the attempt being made in Natal to prevent African herbalists from carrying on their legitimate activities in order to protect European vendors of patent medicines.
13. This Conference welcomes the cessation of hostilities and pay tribute to the magnificent record of bravery of the African soldiers and the part they played in this war and accords them a warm welcome home.

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