

SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH

The Freedom Charter

as adopted at the Congress of the People on June 26, 1955

Provisional: We, the people of South Africa, declare for our country and all that wish to know:

That South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people.

That our people have been victimised of their knowledge to build liberty and justice for a form of government founded on inequality and injustice. That our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities.

That only a democratic state, based on the will of the people, can ensure to all their birthright without discrimination of colour, race, sex or belief. And therefore, we the people of South Africa, black and white, together equally, unanimously and brotherly adopt this Freedom Charter. And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing nothing of our strength and courage, until the democratic changes set out here have been won.



Every youth a
Congress member!

The people shall govern

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and stand as candidates for all the bodies which make laws.

All the people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country.

The rights of the people shall be the same regardless of race, colour or sex.

All bodies of authority, like, advisory boards, councils and commissions shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government.

All national groups shall have equal rights

There shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and men.

All national groups shall be protected by law against threats to their race and national pride.

All people shall have equal rights to use their own language and to develop their own folk culture and customs.

The preaching and practice of racism, that is colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime.

All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.

The people shall share in the country's wealth

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people.

The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and company industries shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole.

All other industries and trade shall be controlled by laws for the well-being of the people.

All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to export all goods, skills and professions.

The land shall be shared among those who work it

Discrimination of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land distributed among those who work it, to furnish housing and food for all.

The state shall help the peasants with implements, seeds, tractors and dams to arable the soil and water the fields.

Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land.

All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose.