

# ANC YOUTH LEAGUE INDUCTION MANUAL



**“Building Strong Branches for Economic  
Freedom in Our Lifetime”**

**"Every Youth League  
Member An Organiser, A  
Commissar ....."**

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“Every Youth League Member An Organiser, A Commissar .....”

## CHAPTER ONE: THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE

**The ANC Youth League** is the political youth organisation of the ANC. It is established from the constitution of the ANC as the youth organ of the ANC, whose main objective is the mobilisation of youth behind the banner and vision (creation of a non racial, non sexist, democratic and prosperous society) of the African national congress.

Since its inception in 1944 the YL has positioned itself as a **political home of the South Africa’s youth**. It exists as an autonomous structure within the ANC. This means it is able to develop and implement own programmes, convene congresses and run its administration. This is done within the broad policy direction and political leadership of the ANC. Throughout its history the ANC Youth League has always mobilised South Africa’s youth behind the African national congress and its programmes.

### **Autonomy of the ANC Youth League.**

The Constitution of the ANC Youth League says *“The ANCYL shall function as an autonomous body within the overall structure of the ANC of which it shall be an integral part. It shall be based on the political and ideological objectives of the ANC”*. The ANC Constitution says, *“The Youth League will function as an autonomous body within the overall structure of the ANC, of which it will be an integral part, with its own Constitution, rules and regulations, provided that these shall not be in conflict with the Constitution and policies of the ANC”*.

The Constitutions of both the ANC and ANC YL are recited as a form of giving a sense of the autonomous, but not independent relationship between the ANC YL and ANC, yet the relationship is in no way a mere Constitutional relationship. The autonomy of the ANC Youth League is a vital political relationship, which can never be reduced to a Constitutional relationship and sacrificed in the course of the revolution. Autonomy of the ANC Youth League is not a by the way issue, but a revolutionary organisational practice which if ignored, could undermine the impetus and energy that young people should impact in any radical political, economic and social change of society.

The autonomy of the ANC Youth League and generally young people in all revolutions is elementary to a revolution’s progress and success. Revolutions are by their very nature activities of young people, and marginalising young people merely into a preparatory arrangement within revolutionary movements stifles the political and ideological development of such movements. History proves that almost all if not all national liberation and revolutionary movements that do not have autonomous youth formations degenerate into insignificance with the passage of time. So reducing autonomy into a constitutional matter without politics is a political blunder with massive consequences. That is why the autonomy of the ANC YL to formulate

novel ideological and political tactics within a broader strategic vision should forever be protected. Autonomy of the Youth League should not just be reduced to organisational autonomy of organising own meetings, but not taking own decisions. It should fundamentally mean the right of the Youth League to formulate independent political, ideological and strategic perspectives in the cause of struggle and independent capacity and ability to robustly advocate for such perspectives.

Addressing this question, the early 1990s ANC Youth League Provisional National Committee said in a perspective that was subsequently adopted by the KwaNdebele re-launching congress in 1991 that, ***“The youth can only effectively participate in the liberation of our country and get involved in the building of a democratic South Africa on the basis of the totality of knowledge and experience handed over to it by older generations. At the same time young people should not be encouraged merely to copy or assimilate what is handed over to them. They should do that through an investigative and critical approach. Real education in struggle on the part of the youth cannot be separated from their independent political involvement. A profound appreciation by the youth of the democratic ideals we are fighting for is better consolidated if verified by their independent experience in struggle. Autonomy of the League offers the opportunity for the realization of the boundless resources of energy, enterprise, initiative and free application of the creative potential of our youth”***.

Those who argued for the formation of the ANC Youth League in the early 1940s, notably former ANC President Joshua T. Gumede, argued that the YOUTH LEAGUE had to be formed because that was the only way to make the ANC live forever. By its very nature the ANC Youth League has to be youthful, re-energize and radicalize the ANC and those who are opposed to its ideals should never be tempted to liquidate the ANC Youth League, nor destroy its leadership. The ANC Youth League is an integral part of the ANC, but an autonomous organisation. It does many things, some of which will not be comfortable with the older generation.

Many generations before this generation defended the autonomy of the ANC Youth League and this generation owes it upon these generations to protect and defend the autonomy of the ANC Youth League. This generation of Youth League owes it upon the generations of Walter Sisulu and subsequently Peter Mokaba to defend the autonomy of the ANC YOUTH LEAGUE. A possible respond to the 1940s ANC Youth League call for defiance of the apartheid system could have been disciplinary action against the Youth League leadership, but its autonomy allowed space for measured discussion which took the ANC forward. When former Presidents Robert Resha and Nelson Mandela called for armed struggle, it was not policy of the ANC, yet they were allowed space to raise why the ANC had to take armed struggle. In all efforts to defend the autonomy, it should be understood that autonomy of the ANC YL is a political matter.

### **Twin Tasks**

Therefore the **twin tasks** of the youth league today, is the mobilisation of youth behind ANC vision and programme for the construction of a non-racial, non-sexist,

democratic and prosperous society. Secondly is to champion (and place central youth development to the nations agenda) youth development both in the ANC and in society. Thirdly is to ensure that the Freedom Charter objectives are realised in totality.

Informed by the above the ANC Youth League tasks are underpinned by the need to deepen democracy, champion youth development and advocate for the realisation of economic freedom. The **role of the YL** remains that of being a political school for the training and the education of young revolutionary democrats, whose task is to continue with the process of fundamental transformation of South Africa in favour of millions of ordinary people both black and white.

### **The African National Congress**

The African National Congress (ANC) was formed in 1912 in part as a response to this deal among the colonisers, as well as the defeat of the Bhambatha Rebellion of 1906 which marked the end of armed resistance against colonial occupation. It was also a product of new forms of African resistance across various parts of the country and the globe.

Starting off with petitions to the colonial powers, the ANC over the years developed ever more militant forms of struggle, and finally adopted armed struggle and formed Umkhonto WeSizwe in 1961, a year after its banning. Combined with armed actions, the ANC and other resistance movements used international mobilisation, underground organisation and mass mobilisation to challenge colonialism and its apartheid derivative. In these various terrains of struggle, workers, the rural masses, women, youth, students, the religious community, the intelligentsia, professionals and other sections of society played a critical role. As during the wars of resistance and the anti-slave revolts, they displayed selflessness and heroism that will remain an inspiration to future generations.

As a result of generalised mass revolt, a situation was reached in the late 1980s in which the system of white minority domination could no longer be sustained. Yet at the same time, the liberation struggle at the head of which was the ANC had not as yet amassed sufficient strength to overthrow the apartheid regime.

Elements within the South African ruling class and its international allies started to weigh the implications of continuing popular revolt -and its culmination in the overthrow of the apartheid regime - on their interests within the country and the region. While it had always accepted the human and material cost of protracted struggle, the ANC had, as a matter of abiding principle, sought a more humane resolution of the conflict without compromising the basic objectives of struggle.

So the ANC is:

1. *Mass National Liberation Movement and governing political Party, which does not only lead government, but the entire society towards the creation of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.*
2. *Multi class/multi-strata movement with a bias or leaning towards the black working class, and the rural and urban poor—as the major motive force for*

genuine liberation.

3. In the 1969 Strategy & Tactics of the ANC, liberation was understood as follows: **“In our country - more than in any other part of the oppressed world - it is inconceivable for liberation to have meaning without a return of the wealth of the land to the people as a whole. It is therefore a fundamental feature of our strategy that victory must embrace more than formal political democracy”**.
4. The 2010 National General Council of the ANC re-affirmed the “multi-class character of the ANC, with its bias towards the working class and the poor and that the ANC continues to be the strategic centre of power, the leader of the Alliance, a disciplined force of the left, and a mass movement with an internationalist and an anti-imperialist outlook.

### **Relationship with the African National Congress**

The ANCYL is a voluntary youth organisation and youth mass organ of the ANC. It functions as an autonomous body within the overall structure of the ANC of which it is an integral part. It is based on the political and ideological objectives of the ANC in whose formulation we participate.

**Structurally the ANCYL** is part of the ANC at all levels (national, provincial, regional, sub-regional, zonal and branch levels). Through its chairperson and secretary the YL attends ANC NEC, PEC, REC and BEC meetings as ex-officio members with full speaking and voting rights. The participation is extended to ANC subcommittees (which formulate and process issues) through delegated committee members. This enables the YL to fully take part and influence the ANC.

**Politically the ANCYL is the youth organ of the ANC** charged with the mobilisation of youth behind the vision of the ANC and as well champions the youth interests in the ANC and society in general. In line with our role as the political and a training organ for Cadreship and leadership for the movement the ANCYL also has a responsibility to build and dynamise the ANC at all levels. This include production of new, vibrant and creative ideas and how the movement tackles problems confronting society and the consolidation of the National Democratic Revolution.

This is where the ANCYL engages the ANC leadership and membership in terms of its views and how the ANCYL thinks things should be done. This can be done through bilaterals, ANC subcommittees, workshops, councils, conferences and even through our ex-officios who represent the ANC YL in the decision-making structures of the ANC. After this process and once decisions have been made the YL is part and bound by such a product as it is part of the process that led to those decisions.

Members of the ANC Youth League over the age of 18 are obliged to play a full part in the general political life of the ANC, including being full members in good standing. A member of the ANC Youth League is not be eligible for any position as office bearer of the ANC or to attend ANC conferences, or any gathering of the ANC (unless under 18 yrs), unless s/he is a full card carrying member of the ANC.

where the ANC does not exist, it is the task of ANC Youth League members to establish the ANC (and the same goes for the ANC structures).

**The branch of the ANC YL is a basic and most important unit of the organisation** as this is where the organisation exists. It is at the point where the organisation is in daily contact with the youth and their daily struggles, which the league must lead to resolve them. This simply means the branches that exist, lives and operate with and amongst the youth to resolve their problems and better their conditions.

### **Establishing a branch of the youth league**

The branch is established by a minimum of 100 valid and card-carrying members of the ANC Youth League. This should happen after the Regional Executive Committee (REC) or Organiser established Task Team (to facilitate and oversee recruitment) has fully accounted and notified the REC (or Provincial Executive Committee where there is no REC) that a branch will be launched. The launch is normally conducted by the Regional Organiser or REC member deployed. The key and primary task of the ~~deployee~~ is to run a pre-Annual General Meeting induction, meant to ensure that all members understand what the ANCYL is, how it operates and what it means to be elected into the ANCYL Branch Executive Committee.

This is then followed by the AGM, which should necessarily have the following features:

- Quorum of 50% plus 1 Member of the recruited membership in the branch.
- Political input by the Regional Executive Committee
- Elections of the 13 Member branch executive committee, of which procedures shall be explained by those deployed.

It must be clearly understood that the branch of the youth league is made-up of both the BEC and the membership. Branches are launched in Municipality Wards and Institutions of Higher Learning.

### **Regional Executive Committee**

In line with Municipality demarcation, the ANC has structured itself in line with both the District and or Metros to form new regions. The ANC Youth League has also followed the same route and has established regions based on these boundaries. The REC is a leadership structure of the ANC Youth League in a particular region and its powers and duties are clearly spelt out by section 12.2 of the YL constitution.

The REC is elected by the regional congress, which is made-up of all branches in good standing in the region. Once elected the REC assumes the full leadership and authority of the ANCYL in the region. This includes the task of implementing the Programme of Action (POA) and resolutions of the regional, provincial and the national congresses. Part of responsibilities of the for the REC is to champion the course for youth development in the region and represent the ANC Youth League in both structures and programmes of the ANC in the region.

## **Provincial Executive Committee**

The PEC is elected at a provincial congress constituted by branch delegates from all the regions in the province. As a structure the PEC is made-up of directly elected members and representatives of the regions. This then constitutes the leadership authority of the organisation in the province. Like the REC, the PEC has a responsibility to provide leadership over the structures of the YL in the province. This is normally guided by the resolutions of the national and provincial congresses, which constitute the POA for the period ahead. Key responsibilities for the PEC is to lead youth development, building the youth league and ensure effective participation of youth league structures in the ANC in the province.

It is the responsibility of the PEC to ensure that all structures in the province function properly and engage in organisational work and programmes as adopted. Part of this includes providing leadership to the broader societal youth. The PEC through its chairperson and secretary attend both ANC PEC and PWC as ex-officio members. They also represent the province in the ANCYL national executive committee.

## **National Executive Committee**

The NEC is the highest leadership structure of the ANC Youth League in between the organisation's National General Council and National Congresses... The NEC is elected after every three years in a National Congress, which is constituted by all branches of the ANC Youth League in good standing in the entire country and Provincial Executive Committees as delegates with speaking and voting rights. The NEC is made-up of directly elected members and representatives of the provinces. Key to its responsibility is to provide leadership to the youth of the country in relation to youth development and as well the role of the youth in the transformation of our country. This will be through various programmes that the NEC will adopt and pursue from time to time. The National Executive Committee is the main custodian of the ANC YL Congress resolutions and all organisational perspectives, particularly the Constitution.

## **CHAPTER TWO: BRANCHES OF THE ANC YL (MAKING THE BRANCH WORK)**

### **Functioning of the Branch**

Every branch of the youth league has the same basic structure, which is defined by the constitution (2008) as amended by the 23rd National Congress. This is sometimes affected by the local conditions, which may require some changes here and there. The following is a guide to help branches function effectively:

The following is a basic structure of the youth league branch:

- Branch executive committee
- Branch sub-structures
- Branch general meetings

### **Branch executive committee**

The BEC is elected by the annual general meeting/Branch Congress (to renew mandate) or a branch launch if it for the first time the branch is officially constituted. The BEC consists of chairperson, deputy chair, secretary, deputy secretary, treasurer and eight (8) additional members. Like all structures Of the ANC Youth League, the BEC should be constituted of a minimum of 50% female comrades.

### **Duties of the branch include the following**

- Coordinate general activities of the youth league in the area
- Work closely with the ANC branch of your area
- Look after the funds and property of the youth league in the area
- Carry out organisational and publicity work of the YL in furtherance of its policy programmes and decisions.
- Be in touch with the political developments in the country and your area
- Develop strategic plan for the branch, by analysing our priorities and programmes and plan on how to localise them
- Ensure that the YL is on the fore front in tackling problems the confront the youth and the community in general
- Develop a strong core of activists in the branch by involving them in the subcommittees and campaigns work of the branch.
- Identify stakeholders and work with them to pursue youth interest.
- Ensure political awareness amongst the youth in your locality and engage in some social campaigns.

The BEC must work as a collective and always enhances unity in the organisation. It must encourage frank and open discussion on any issue before it. It must always strive for collective decision making about major issues. The BEC needs to ensure that all members of the BEC are assigned key responsibilities and tasks, which they are expected to carry out in a disciplined and accountable manner.

After its election the BEC must assign additional members specific duties and responsibilities to ensure full and effective functioning of the BEC. This will range



from organising, political education, membership and fundraising.

In relation to **key portfolio positions** as elected by the AGM/Branch Congress or branch launch, those elected should be assigned the following responsibilities:

#### **Chairperson**

- Lead the branch and chair all BEC and branch meetings.
- Together with the secretary must convene meetings and ensure its effectiveness.
- Represent and become the face and the mouth piece of the YL programmes and its policy.
- Represent the YL in the BEC of the ANC.
- Together with both the secretary and treasurer take care of the youth league Branch finances.

**Deputy Chairperson** – deputises the chair, act in the absence of the chair and or is assigned specific responsibilities to perform as key focus areas.

#### **Secretary**

- Coordinate and ensure implementation of the branch adopted programme of action.
- Ensure that BEC subcommittees functions as expected.
- Together with the chair convene BEC meetings and as well finalise its Agenda.
- Send out notices and circulars for both BEC meetings and BGMs.
- Keep the minutes of BECs and all records of the youth league.
- Deal with correspondences and respond to invitations.
- Write report on the state of the branch to the BEC/BGM and as well as REC, PEC and the NEC.
- Coordinate the general focus and needs of the branch.

**Deputy Secretary** – deputises the secretary, act in the absence of the secretary and or is assigned specific responsibilities to perform as key focus areas.

#### **Treasurer**

- Ensure that a branch account is opened and is managed properly.
- Manage all the income and expenditure of the branch and provide regular reports to the BEC and BGM.
- Lead and ensure that the branch has a sustainable fundraising strategy and programme, which enables the branch to fund its activities.

#### **The branch executive committee members should lead by example through;**

- Public image of the youth league as the voice of the masses of our youth.
- Know local situation and issues (ability to feel the pulse of our people and their area).
- Deeper knowledge of ANC and YL policies and programme as well as the ability to interpret these policies through local conditions.
- Discourage division, gossip and destructive behaviours.

- Be punctual and reliable.
- Encourage participation of everyone in all the activities of the youth league in the area.
- Be open and accept criticism, and as well as respect for leadership in a manner that still enables your ability question the leadership on any other issue.
- Work hard to build the ANC youth league in your area and throughout the country.

**Some of the bad and divisive tendencies that members should desist from include;**

- Be part of factions and conflicts in the branch.
- Drink before any branch and community events or meeting.
- Misuse of organisational money or resources.
- Make false promises or tell lies.
- Miss organisational programmes without good reason.
- Discourage members who want to work on something

**BEC Sub-committees**

The BEC is expected to establish sub-committees to enhance capacity and functioning of the BEC. Each member of the BEC must be assigned to lead a subcommittee or portfolio. Part of their membership can include non-committee members to ensure broadened participation.

Amongst others the following sub-committees must be established at branch level

**Campaigns**

- Coordinate mass work around issues such as HIV/Aids, anti-crime, letsema etc.
- Ensure that broad membership is involved in the campaign.
- Work with all stakeholders and ensure mass mobilisation behind ANCYL Campaigns.

**Organisational development**

- Develop clear action plan on building the youth league and membership targets.
- Focus on recruitment of new members
- Through the secretary manage membership and keep clear membership Records.
- Facilitate political education sessions and workshops, this must also include any other issue the BEC would like to empower either itself or the membership.
- Ensure that each BEC discusses current political issues (both with the organisation and in the country) to enhance understanding of members

**Communication and publicity**

- Ensure an efficient flow of information within the branch.

- Produce together with the campaigns committees of specific campaign posters.
- Promote the programmes of the branch through its work, print and as well as electronic media.
- Engagement must also include communicating policy positions of the movement.

#### **Finance and fundraising**

- Led by the treasurer this committee is charged with developing a clear fundraising strategy and action plan for the branch.
- Involve general membership and non YL members to assist in this regard

#### **Youth development**

- The primary task is to drive youth development through the BEC.
- Ensure development and coordination of a thoroughgoing youth Development programme led by the youth league.
- All key stakeholders and government must be engaged to access opportunities.
- Liaise with the local youth units on the work it does for youth in the particular area.

#### **Education and training**

- Engage with all matters of education in the area and maintain close working relations with all schools in the area.
- Ensure that the branch engages and develops clear programmes on issues of education and related aspects.
- Engage with all stakeholders in the education sector and in society.

#### **Branch General meeting**

Branch general meetings must be convened at least once a month on a suitable date. This can be held during the week or over the weekends. The BGM should be precise and effective in dealing with its agenda that must be processed by the BEC before the BGM.

The venue for the meeting must always be highly accessible, i.e. school or community hall. The following are issues that the BGM must deal with;

- Discusses and makes decisions on campaigns and activities.
- Elect and mandate delegates/representatives to regional, provincial and National congresses.
- Receives report on work and activities undertaken by the BEC.
- Discusses key political issues of the day (local or national)

The BEC should ensure the following at the general meeting

- There is a clear agenda and the purpose of the meeting is explained.
- Guest speaker to speak on current political or social issue is invited and must encourage questions and discussions.

- BGMs must always serve to ensure discussions that are empowering to members and as well enable the branch to be informed in its decisions making process and members should politically and ideologically benefit in attending general meetings.
- The rest of the agenda is focused on the programme and reports are kept short.
- Clear proposals and summary must be presented to help focus discussions and decision making by the BGM.
- As part of adopting the programme the BEC must always encourage members to volunteer for tasks.
- Membership recruitment and renewal must always be part of all branch general meetings.

**The BEC should not;**

- Allow the Branch executive committee to dominate the meeting.
- Maintain order and discipline for the duration of the meeting.
- Deal with administrative issues and reports in a manner that will bore people.
- Allow any form of disruptions

## CHAPTER THREE: PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND CAMPAIGNS

### Programme of action (coordination and implementation)

Programme implementation and as well as campaigns are very crucial for the life of a branch. It through activities that the branch as mandated by the BGM is able to engage with problems and interest of youth in their particular area. Most importantly that provides the space for the YL to lead young people through programmes that seeks to improve their living conditions and well as themselves.

How the branch approach this aspect is not only important in relation to its success, but its ability to mobilise masses of youth behind it. In this example we look at one of the ways in which effective coordination, mobilisation and successful implementation can be achieved.

### Developing a branch POA

In properly convened BGM the BEC must

- Having thoroughly assessed the local situation (at the BEC meeting) the BEC must then present to the membership a brief report on situation and challenges of youth in the branch
- Identify and propose key programme areas that must be prioritized
- Engage the BGM in terms of membership input on key camping to pursued
- This must also clarify the role of the membership in the campaign
- Once this has been adopted the BEC is the charged with the task of leading the implementation

With the BGM adopted POA the BEC is then tasked to develop a clear action plan and run campaigns as agreed by the BGM:

- Running a campaign
- Improving sporting facilities/complex
- Campaign steps

#### a) Identify campaign objectives for the short, medium and long term

- **Long term:** fully functional and well-equipped sport complex in our area.
- **Medium term:** commit municipality to maintain and upgrade the facility.
- **Short term:** stop vandalism of the facility Clean the sporting facility  
Repair the damaged areas

#### b) Decide on action for each of the objectives

E.g. stop vandalism;

- Meet with the stakeholders that use the facility to support the programme.
- Raise awareness against vandalism.
- Commit municipality to proved security for the facility.
- Clean the sporting facility.
- Mobilise volunteers for the cleaning.

- Ask local business to donate the cleaning material required.
- Organise municipality to provide tractors and refuse bags.
- Repair the damages/
- Commit the municipality to undertake repairs/
- Business and sponsors to donate for the material required.
- Raise contributions from all sporting association in the area

**c) Set out timetable for the campaign**

**E.g. Phase one – week one**

- Prepare for the meeting with stakeholders to secure their commitment.
- Produce posters and pamphlets on awareness against vandalism.
- Prepare for the community and youth meetings to promote the campaign.
- Arrange with the municipality to commit on issues security, cleaning and upgrade of the facility.
- Engage with business and sponsors around the cleaning material

**Phase two – week two**

- Meet and engage all stakeholder (sporting associations) on the campaign and their buy-in.
- Put up posters and pamphlets (in key centres) in promotion of the campaign.
- Hold community meeting and mobilise everyone behind the campaign and set a date for the cleaning.
- Encourage the community to promote awareness against vandalism of the facility.
- Raise funding from sponsors and business for the purchase of cleaning material.
- Agree with the council on the tractor and the refuse bags.
- Get a council commitment to secure and upgrade to facilities.
- Hold a meeting with volunteers and the municipality on the arrangements for the cleaning day.
- Logistical arrangements for the day must also be attended to

**Phase three- week three**

- Undertake the cleaning operations at the facility
- Undertake repairs together with staff as provided by the municipality particularly on areas that needs specialised skill.
- Make sure that all the dirt and old equipment removed is disposed of and clear signs for garbage bins and directions are clearly visible.
- The security to guard the facility is on duty

**d) Work out a budget.**

- This will in the main involve: - catering for the volunteers, cleaning material, printing of posters, organising a community meeting etc

**e) Allocate tasks and responsibilities for each task in each phase**

**E.g. Phase one; -**

- Write invitations to all identified parties (Cde Pule)
- Produce posters and pamphlets (Cde Thabile + Her team)
- Organise mass meeting (Refiloe + Her team)
- Meeting with the council (Cde Mpho + Teboho)
- Organise volunteers and cleaning material (Cde Thabiso + His team)

**f) Implement the campaign (E.g. Activities as described above)**

- A campaigns team will meet regularly to assess the progress and make necessary changes to the campaign phases.
- Thorough review of the report as provided by various unit/committees heads.

**g) Assessment of the campaign against its objectives**

**E.g. short term: -**

- The cleaning campaign was successful
- Vandalism has stopped, with community and sports bodies behind the project
- The municipality has repaired damaged areas and has assigned caretaker to the facility

**Medium term: -**

- Municipality has agreed to upgrade the sport facilities and work with the community.
- The upgrade will only be undertaken if vandalism is completely stopped

**Long term: -**

- We still need to do more work and ensure that vandalism is completely stopped.
- That the municipality start with the upgrade work and the community is continuously encouraged to own the facility and protect all the time.

**Other issues: -**

- To what extent did we manage to involve our entire membership in the campaign?
- What impact has the campaign had in relation to the profile and image of the ANCYL?
- What inroads have we made into the sporting community?
- Have we been able to attract new members into the organisation?

**h) Identify areas of follow-up and way forward**

**Sporting community: -**

- The YL should maintain contact with sports bodies to take care of the facility
- Ensure that no vandalism takes place

**Vandalism and upgrade: -**

- Keep the community informed of the upgrade progress made and the level of vandalism, so as to expose the effects of the campaign

## **5. Chapter five (attached samples)**

Drafting an agenda (sample)

### **ANC YL RETHLABILE BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING Held on 26 June 2010 – Masakhane Community Hall**

1. Opening and welcome.
2. Roll call and apologies.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Correspondences.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting.
  - Matters arising (progress report on decisions of the last meeting)
6. ANC BEC report.
7. Campaigns committee report
8. Membership report
9. Preparations for the BGM
10. Youth development
  - Special presentation on the council draft resolution on local youth unit
11. Any other business (announcements etc)
12. Closure

**End**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANC YL RETHLABILE BEC MEETING Held 14 February 2004 at ANC Offices at 16H30**

#### **1. OPENING**

The meeting started at 16H30 and was chaired by comrade Mpho the branch chairperson, who welcomed everybody present in the meeting. However the chair Emphasized to Comrades the need to ensure punctuality and discipline towards branch executive committee meeting. This was raised in relation to the emerging tendency of comrades to arrive late for the BEC meeting.

Roll call and Apologies:

**Present:**

Julius Malema  
Andile Lungisa



Vuyiswa Tulelo  
Steven Ngobeni  
Pule Mabe  
Floyd Shivambu  
Clifford Motsepe  
Maropene Ntuli  
Lindiwe Gunuza

**Apologies:**

Kenetswe Mosenogi—Writing Exams  
Millicent Tingwe—Attending Legislature

**Absent:**

Vusi Mhlongo

**3. AGENDA**

The Agenda was adopted after the following addition.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting we read and adopted as true reflections of the previous meeting

**Matters arising**

**ANC BEC report:** the outstanding report (written) of the ANC BEC meeting is finalised and is a separate agenda item.

**Meeting with local soccer association:** letter has been written and the meeting is scheduled for 21 February 2004. The chair and sub-committee will represent the YL in this meeting

**5. ANC BEC report**

The report of the ANC BEC was presented and discussed. The meeting noted the programme as adopted by the ANC. The meeting further agreed that the YL secretary will engage with the ANC branch secretary to ensure that the YL is fully integrated into the programmes.

The report was adopted.

**6. Campaigns committee**

The head of the campaigns committee presented the action plan and anti-crime plan. This campaign will focus on the problems of Slovoville which is recently experiencing serious wave of petty-crime. In its nature the programme will ensure that the YL works with the community and the police service in pursuing this campaign.

The meeting also agreed that a BGM must be convened to mobilise our

membership in relation to this campaign.

7. **AOB**

Announcements: that comrade Vuyiswa has a family function the 19 February 2004. As result she has organized a function and members of the BEC are invited.

8. **Closure**

## CHAPTER FOUR: ORGANISATIONAL DEMOCRACY

Organisational democracy is fundamentally the culture of broader and equal participation in organisational decision making process. This includes equal rights for all members to elect and be elected in all structures of the organisation. This democracy further includes the rights and obligations as provided for in the Constitution of the ANC YL. In the Congress movement, organisational democracy is understood within the following principles, contained in a 1997 perspective and resolution of the ANC on Organisational Democracy and Discipline:

- a. Elected Leadership
- b. Collective Leadership
- c. Consultation
- d. Powers of National Congress
- e. Mandates, Accountability and Reporting
- f. Criticism and Self Criticism
- g. Democratic Centralism

It is important to highlight that this perspective on organisational renewal is going **back to basics** to re-assert the principles of organisational democracy because of the challenges the ANC Youth League is facing. The autonomy expatiated above should be exercised within these principles of organisational democracy.

**Elected leadership** refers to the principle and practice that says, Leadership of the ANC Youth League is elected at all levels, and re-elections are held at regular intervals. Within this principle, an emphasis should constantly be made that no single individual must become irreplaceable. In addition, elected leadership can be recalled before the end of their term of office if they are not disciplined. Members, according to the constitution, have a right to take part in elections and be elected to any committee, structure, commission or delegation of the ANC League.

**Collective leadership** refers to the principle that ANC YL has leadership collectives, instead of a single leader, at all levels of organisation - BECs, PECS, the NWC and the NEC. The constitution sets out the powers of each of these structures and they are expected to operate as a collective. This means that there must be continuous and ongoing consultations on matters affecting the ANC YL. In addition, it means that all members must take responsibility to explain and ensure the implementation of decisions taken by these collectives. Collective leadership also means that leadership skills, experience and knowledge must be shared.

**Consultation** refers to the reality that the structures of the ANC Youth League are set up in such a way that it allows for meetings at regular intervals. The ANC branch is the basic unit of the organisation and membership participate through monthly meetings and branch Annual General Meetings (AGMs). Furthermore, branches are represented at other structures of decision-making such as regional and Provincial Councils and Conference and, finally, at the highest decision-making body of higher structures through a system of ex-officio representation at all levels of the ANC YL. For example, all provinces and Leagues have representation on the NEC.

Consultation is not an end in itself. We have consultations to ensure that there is popular support in the ANC YL for certain decisions and policies and are able to explain them to others and to the public in general. Consultation is also part of ensuring that as a liberation movement we remain true to our calling that our people should shape their own destiny, and that the ANC YL is the correct vehicle through which to do this.

**Powers of National Congress** means that the National Congress of the ANC YL is the highest decision-making body of our unitary organisation and can ratify or change any decision or policy adopted by structures at other levels. National Congress consists of mandated individuals from all constitutional structures of the movement at all levels of organisation. That is why we have discussion papers before Congress, general meeting, PGCs and other forums to discuss issues and to elect our delegates to Congress.

**Mandates, Accountability, Reporting** speaks to the reality that in the context of the above, our organisational structures should provide elected members with mandates to guide them when they represent us in various structures of the ANC YL and elsewhere. When we elect Youth Development Officers, MPLs, MPs or councillors, we should have policies and broad strategies for how we want to transform a particular sector, and the role our cadres should play and combine towards this process.

This is not say that we do not encourage individuals deployed to express their views, nor that those elected to leadership position. All members of our organisation are expected to think for themselves, to be able to raise and debate their ideas at any time, and to be able to take initiative to further the goal of our struggle. We expect leadership to lead our movement, ensuring that we respond to challenges and that we implement our programmes. However, when there is a need to change in strategy or policy, we expect leadership and elected representatives to consult and get fresh mandated on the new direction.

**Criticism and Self-Criticism** refers to the fact that ANC YL does not believe that any of our members are beyond criticism. Our movement and our strategies are also not beyond criticism. This means have regular evaluations, questions must be asked and constructive criticism encouraged. We must also have a cadreship and leadership who are humble and prepared to listen to constructive criticism. Part of being a cadre also means an ongoing process of self-criticism, evaluation, learning improving our strategies, tactics and policies as a movement.

Most of us would broadly accept the above. However, the challenge is to integrate this understanding into the work of our constitutional structures. For example, should the NEC, PECs, RECs have, at least once a year, a session built into their regular constitutional meetings to assess themselves as leadership collectives and the strengths and weaknesses of individual cadres who serve on these collectives?

**Democratic Centralism** is derived out of the fact that the ANC YL is a unitary and national organisation. Its operations are guided by the principles of democratic centralism which includes the following:

**a) Decision of the majority prevail**

After debate and discussion on a particular issue in the correct structures, a decision is taken which is binding on all members of the ANC. Even if an individual has motivated or voted for a different position, that individual will have a responsibility to implement and defend the decision that has been taken. This approach presents a number of difficulties. One of the central problems with this approach is the following question:

**b) Decisions of higher structures bind lower structures.**

As a unitary organisation, this principle applies. Because of this there is the provision for ex-officio representation of lower structures in all higher structures in all higher structures of the ANC. The NEC is the highest decision-making structure between national conferences and therefore has the overall responsibility of ensuring that conference resolutions are implemented, that the constitution is upheld, that it leads lower structures and maintains the character, discipline and unity of the ANC YL and that national interests are balanced with sectoral and geographical consideration and interests.

**c) Responsibility of leadership and cadres**

The nature and character of the ANC YL means that cadres and leaders must take their responsibilities and rights seriously. For example, leadership collectives at all levels often have to take decisions in the interest of the movement which may be unpopular. A leader who is part of such a collective has the responsibility to understand the motivations for such decision and explain it to the membership and the public in general.

This also means that leadership collectives must be in touch with popular sentiment in our structures as well as with public opinion. In this way, when decisions are taken, the movement can take along its support base and not make errors of judgement which may backfire.

Cadreship must display strength of their convictions to raise matters and problems in forums where they have the opportunity to do so, even if this may risk individual promotion. The interest of the organisation must be placed above self-interest. Leadership, on the other hand, must ensure that there is a climate that allows for the open debate and raising issues and deal with victimisation should this arise. The responsibility for the democratic character of the ANC is the responsibility of both leaders and cadres.

Our cadreship and our leadership must strive for personal attributes such as commitment, dedication, loyalty, respect for others, modesty, incorruptibility and critical, independent thinking. Overall, the membership of the ANC Youth League should be schooled in these principles and forever be expected to live through them.

The ANC Youth League should constitutionalise principles of organisational, more especially the essence of the ANC Youth League as a unitary organisation. This will go a long way in guaranteeing the sanctity of the ANC Youth League being unitary organisation, which adheres to principles of organisational democracy. As much as rights and obligations of members are constitutional, the principles of organisational democracy should also be included in the constitution of the ANC Youth League.

## CHAPTER FIVE: ORGANISATIONAL DISCIPLINE

The most outstanding acknowledgment in the ANC and entire national liberation movement is an observation that ***“Discipline is a weapon of struggle and transformation. It does not exist for its own sake, but to safeguard the unity of the movement, ensure that it is able to fulfil its historic mission and achieve its objectives”***. This is so profound and goes to the heart of our organisational values and principles, because all our objectives and political programme can be undermined if we are not ready to exercise maximum discipline.

As a political matter and again going back to basics, discipline entails that all members are able to adhere to the principles of organisational democracy and adhere to all the Constitutional obligations outlined in the ANC YL Constitution. All ANCYL members are obliged to:

- a) pledge their unswerving loyalty to the ANCYL and place themselves under its overall discipline;
- b) carry out decisions, duties and directives with diligence;
- c) organise, participate and contribute positively to all ANCYL activities and to contribute to the strengthening of its organic unity;
- d) rally all youth to support and unite behind the ANCYL and actively participate in the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa;
- e) protect the ANCYL and its property at all times by exercising maximum vigilance;
- f) exercise discipline and exemplary behaviour at all times and maintain harmonious relations with all members of the ANCYL and the community in general;
- g) combat all forms of tribalism, regionalism, nepotism, and other forms of discrimination based on race and sex as well as combating factionalism and malicious gossip within our ranks;
- h) initiate and participate in activities aimed at promoting international solidarity, peace and social Justice;
- i) Every member of the ANC Youth League above the age of 18 shall be obliged to join the ANC.

These principles and obligations have got to be re-emphasised because members tend to take them for granted and treat organisational process and protocol as something that is a side issue. At all times, members should be guided to respect and abide by these obligations.

As a broad principle, organisational discipline means that members of the organisation should not engage themselves in divisive and factional activities. This should not be misunderstood as meaning that members should not canvass and lobby each other of political, ideological and leadership matters of the organisation. Members should appreciate that once decisions are taken and once leadership is elected, lobby groups become factions, which do not have interests of the organisation.

The matter of factionalism should be addressed because lobby groups in the organisation are getting institutionalised with various names, budgets, paraphernalia, coordinators, Lawyers and meeting venues. In most instances, the budgets for factional purposes and activities exceed the budgets for normal organisational work. It is conspicuously very difficult to draw a thick line between a lobby group and a faction, but at organisational management level, certain issues should be guided so that they do not seem like acceptable practices in the movement. This includes a complete illegalisation of factional materials and paraphernalia being used in organisational meetings. It should be punishable for members to wear or display factional materials such as t-shirts, caps, posters in organisational meetings at all levels.

These kinds of factional offences should be dealt with a standard way across all branches, regions and provinces of the ANC Youth League. The National Executive Committee should issue out guidelines, including a minimum sentence of how branches should administer disciplinary process of members who wear and/or display factional materials and paraphernalia in organisational gatherings. This approach is necessary and avoids a situation where one member would be given a harsher sentence, whilst the other gets a lighter sentence for similar offences.

As a matter of administering justice, the ANC Youth League should effect necessary Constitutional amendments to pre-condition automatic expulsion for all members of the organisation who take the organisation to Court for internal organisational matters and commit other offences such as attending meetings of the organisation under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This should be effected because allowing internal organisational matters to be adjudicated by Courts will degenerate the organisation into total insignificance, where it will only those who have access to legal support who will impose Court decisions in the organisation. The Constitutional amendment should classify actions that require automatic dismissals.

The National Executive Committee should as empowered by Article L of the ANC Youth League Constitution, should make the necessary amendments to the Rules of Disciplinary Procedure to ensure that they are beyond doubt aligned to the Constitution and gives powers for automatic expulsion for some of the offences. The amendments should also empower the National Executive Committee to establish an appellate structure from within the NEC to avoid a situation where Congresses of the ANC Youth League will deal with appeals of disciplinary actions.

## **CHAPTER SIX: POLITICAL PROGRAMME OF THE ANC YL**

The African National Congress Youth League exists to mobilise young people behind the vision of the ANC, and champion their interests. The strategic vision of the ANC is clearly and more cogently articulated in the Freedom Charter. The role of the ANC YL happens in a dynamic way, which includes giving new energy and ideas to the ANC. Members of the ANC YL should be organizers and commissars for the attainment of Freedom Charter ideals and should at all times be ready to mobilise and agitate society behind that vision, whilst capable to articulate the Freedom Charter without failure.

Organisational renewal, growth and development should forever be understood with a clearly defined political programme. The emphasis on organisation democracy and discipline is not the ultimate end, but methods and amour that should guide and help the ANC Youth to attain its objectives. The ANC Youth League’s 1948 Basic Policy Document made a clarion call that, “political democracy remains an empty form without substance unless it is properly grounded on a base of economic and, especially, industrial democracy”.

The political programme of the ANC Youth League towards the centenary of the ANC is summed up as that of attainment of **“ECONOMIC FREEDOM IN OUR LIFETIME”**. This simply means that all the economic clauses of the Freedom Charter should be given practical meaning and implemented in our lifetime. The people sharing in the country’s wealth should not just be a clarion call, but should be turned into a concrete programme, which includes Nationalisation of Mines, banks and monopoly industries. Perspectives in that regard are developed.

This generation of the ANC Youth League carries a responsibility to defend the freedom charter and ensure that all its aims and objectives are realised and implemented. Efforts to undermine the meaning of the freedom charter should be isolated from the ANC, and should not even be supported for leadership responsibilities from within the organisation. This is a matter the ANC Youth League should not be ashamed of because reality is that the ANC requires determined and ideologically clear adherents and proponents of the Freedom Charter to take us forward. Those who continue to account to imperialist forces should be isolated from the organisation because they have potential to undermine our future.

What members should appreciate is that all the issues we are raising on economic freedom in our lifetime are elementary to the success of the revolution and continued support for the ANC. This programme constitutes our future and we should do everything to defend the principles because this generation will inherit the ANC which cannot blame past injustices for massive inequalities and suffering of our people. Our generation will have to take full responsibility on why young people do not have jobs and why there are no proper houses for all our people.

So in summary, attainment of economic freedom in our lifetime means that we should do everything we can to make sure that the ANC government utilises the mandate of the people to realise all the economic clauses of the Freedom Charter.

## **RESOURCE MATERIAL**

- **ANC YL Constitution 2008**
- **ANC Constitution**
- **ANC Strategy and Tactics**
- **Freedom Charter**
- **ANC Youth League Previous Congresses Resolutions**
- **ANC Branch Manual**
- **ANC YL Basic policy document**



# The Freedom Charter

*As adopted at the Congress of the People, Kliptown, on 26 June 1955*

***We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world 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 all the people;  
that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;  
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 all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;  
And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together equals, countrymen and brothers adopt this Freedom Charter;  
And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

***The People Shall Govern!***

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and to stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws;  
All 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 minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities 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 races;  
All people shall have equal right to use their own languages, and to develop their own folk culture and customs;  
All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride;  
The preaching and practice of national, race or 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 South Africans, shall be restored to the people;  
The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the Banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;  
All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist the wellbeing of the people;  
All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

***The Land Shall be Shared Among Those Who Work It!***

Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it to banish famine and land hunger;  
The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers;  
Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land;  
All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose;  
People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished.

***All Shall be Equal Before the Law!***

No-one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial; No-one shall be condemned by the order of any Government official;  
The courts shall be representative of all the people;  
Imprisonment shall be only for serious crimes against the people, and shall aim at re-education, not vengeance;  
The police force and army shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the helpers and protectors of the people;  
All laws which discriminate on grounds of race, colour or belief shall be repealed.

***All Shall Enjoy Equal Human Rights!***

The law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children;

The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law;

All shall be free to travel without restriction from countryside to town, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad;

Pass Laws, permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

***There Shall be Work and Security!***

All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers;

The state shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits;

Men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work;

There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers;

Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work;

Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

***The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall be Opened!***

The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life;

All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands;

The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace;

Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children; Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit;

Adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass state education plan;

Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens;

The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished.

***There Shall be Houses, Security and Comfort!***

All people shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;

Unused housing space to be made available to the people;

Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no-one shall go hungry;

A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state;

Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children;

Slums shall be demolished, and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres;

The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;

Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all:

Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished, and laws which break up families shall be repealed.

***There Shall be Peace and Friendship!***

South Africa shall be a fully independent state which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations;

South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation - not war;

Peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all;

The people of the protectorates Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland shall be free to decide for themselves their own future;

The right of all peoples of Africa to independence and self-government shall be recognised, and shall be the basis of close co-operation.

Let all people who love their people and their country now say, as we say here:

**THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY**

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