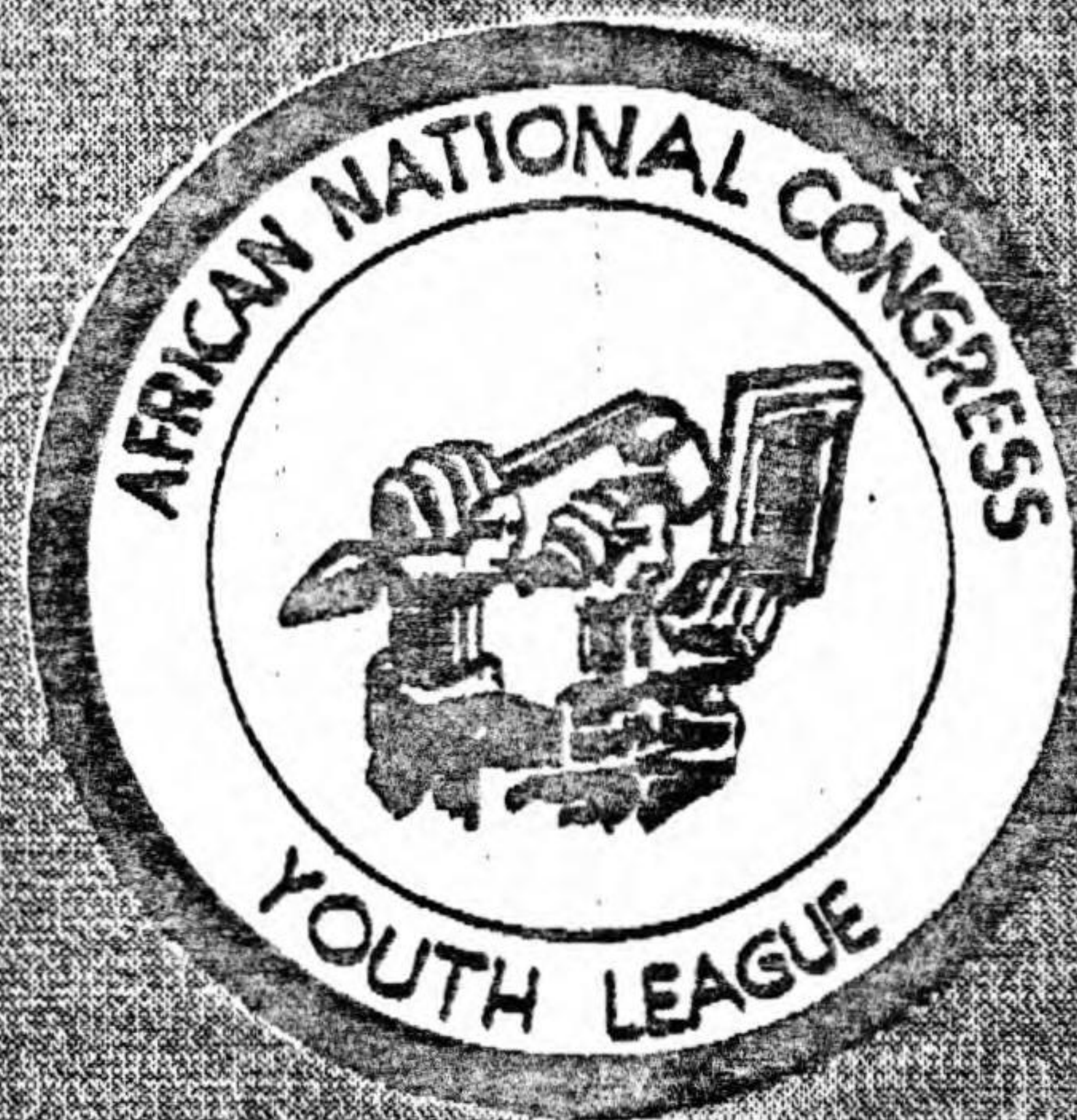


Gmb/01/0072/22

# ANC Youth League

Inaugural Congress  
1991



Congress Documents

## D. Draft Constitution

### ANC YOUTH LEAGUE

#### DRAFT CONSTITUTION

##### Outline:

- A. Preamble
- B. Name
- C. Aims and Objectives
- D. Status and relationship with the ANC
- E. Relationship with Other Youth Organisations
- F. Membership
- G. Rights and Obligations of Members
- H. Organisational Structure
- I. Discipline
- J. Right of Appeal
- K. Rules and Regulations
- L. Finance Policy
- M. Amendments
- N. Dissolution

##### A. PREAMBLE

The African National Congress Youth League is an organisation of the youth committed to the ideals of democracy. It is governed by and adheres to the policies and programmes of the ANC. Its existence derives from the constitution of the ANC. The Youth League was constitutionally established by the ANC in 1944 and it played a very important role in the shaping of the policies of the movement. Its relaunch after years of illegality is an important achievement for the youth of our country and the entire democratic movement lead by the ANC.

The Youth League as a mass youth formation of the ANC is committed to the struggle for the establishment of a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. It shall rally all the youth of our country to play an active part in the struggles of the community and the defence of democracy. It shall endeavour to unite the youth of country to take their rightful place in the affairs of our country.

The Freedom Charter remains the guiding programme of the Youth League.

##### B. NAME.

1. The name of the organisation shall be the African National Congress Youth League; herein referred to as ANCYL.

Sent to Cde. 13-09-91



2. The National colours of the ANCYL shall be those of the ANC, which are Black, Green and Gold.
3. The emblem of the league shall be a circle bordered by a thin black colour, inside which shall be a green lining thicker than the black one on which shall be written the name of the organisation in black and in the centre the gold colour on which shall be three half arms holding in a series a spear, a hammer and a book, symbolising the unity of the fighting youth, working youth and the studying youth.

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The ANCYL shall

1. strive to rally the youth of our country to support and unite behind the ANC Youth League and actively participate in the struggle for national liberation, and the creation of a non-racial democratic South Africa;
2. support and reinforce the African National Congress in the struggle for national liberation.
3. champion the general interests and rights of the South African youth in the socio-economic and political life of the country.
4. promote unity and patriotism among the youth.
5. strive to build a national Pioneer movement.
6. strive and work for the educational, moral and cultural upliftment of the youth.
7. promote gender equality in all spheres of life especially among the youth.
8. promote among youth the spirit of international solidarity, peace and friendship with other nations.

#### D. STATUS AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

1. The ANCYL shall be a voluntary association and mass organ of the ANC with organisational autonomy. It shall be based on the broad political and ideological perspectives of the ANC;
2. The ANCYL shall be a legal persona with perpetual succession capable of acquiring rights and obligations, entering into legal transactions;

3. The organisational control and programmes of the ANCYL shall rest in the ANCYL membership and structures in accordance with its Constitution.
4. The ANC Youth League shall closely liaise with the ANC at all levels.

#### E. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

1. The ANC Youth League shall strive to maintain fraternal relations with other democratic and anti-apartheid formations of the Youth of our country,
2. Shall strive towards the creation of a national youth front, and
3. The ANC Youth League shall strive to establish and develop fraternal relations with regional, continental and international democratic youth organisations.

#### F. MEMBERSHIP

1. Shall be open to all South African youth between the ages of 14 and 35 who accept the policy guidelines, aims and objectives of the ANC Youth League referred to above.
2. Applications for membership shall be received and considered by the ANC Youth League branch, where such exists. The Branch Committee has a power to accept or reject an application. In the event of a rejection, the applicant shall be made aware of his/her right to appeal to a senior structure.
3. All members shall be issued with a membership card on payment of a registration fee.
4. Membership of the ANC Youth League shall be expected to pay monthly dues as determined by congress or NEC,
5. All members shall on acceptance into the ranks of the ANCYL solemnly declare their readiness and willingness to serve the organisation.
6. Dual or multiple membership by individuals shall be welcomed provided the policies and programmes of those organisations to which they belong or may wish to belong, are not hostile to those of the ANC Youth League.



## G. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

### RIGHTS

Every member of the ANC Youth League shall have the right to:

1. Take part in the formulation and discussion of the ANC Youth League policy and be elected to any committee, commission or delegation of the youth.
2. Submit proposals or statements to the branch and to the region on every matter that affects the youth and society in general.
3. Engage in constructive criticism and self-criticisms.
4. Protection against any harassment, victimisation and/or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sex or creed.
5. Active participation in all ANC Youth League activities.

### OBLIGATIONS.

All ANC Youth League members are obliged to:

1. Pledge their unswerving loyalty to the ANC Youth League and place themselves under its overall discipline.
2. To carry out decisions, duties and directives with diligence.
3. Organise, participate and contribute positively to all ANC Youth League activities and to contribute to the strengthening of its organic unity.
4. To rally all youth to support and unite behind the ANC Youth League and actively participate in the National Liberation struggle for the creation of a united non-racial democratic South Africa.
5. Protect the ANC Youth League and its property all times by exercising maximum vigilance.
6. Exercise discipline and exemplary behaviour at all times and maintain harmonious relations with all members of the ANC Youth League and the community in general.
7. 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.
8. Initiate and participate in activities aimed at promoting international solidarity, peace and social justice.

## H. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE YOUTH LEAGUE

1. National Congress
2. National Executive Committee
3. Regional Congress
4. Regional Executive Committee
5. Branch Congress
6. Branch Executive Committee
7. Branch General Meeting

### 1. THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

- \* The National Congress shall be the highest decision making body of the ANCYL.
- \* National Congress shall convene once every two years.

#### 1.1 Composition

- 1.1.1 Delegates shall be chosen directly by branches in proportion to their membership.
- 1.1.2 The NEC may consider special representation for areas where Youth League structures are not fully developed.
- 1.1.3 Members of the NEC and REC's shall attend ex-office as participants in the Congress.
- 1.1.4 A quorum at National Congress shall be 2/3 of delegates.

#### 1.2 Procedures at Congress

- 1.2.1 The Congress shall determine procedures in accordance with democratic principles.
- 1.2.2 Decisions at Congress are made on the basis of 51% majority in favour, with the exception of Constitutional Amendments.
- 1.2.3 Election of office bearers shall be by secret ballot.

#### 1.3 Duties and Powers of National Congress

The National Congress shall:

- 1.3.1 Lay down policy platform, determine and decide programmes and the Constitution of the ANC Youth League.
- 1.3.2 Receive and consider reports of the NEC, which shall be presented by Chairperson, the Secretary General and the Treasurer-General.



- 1.3.3 Have the right to review, ratify, amend or rescind any decision and/or recommendation taken by any of the constituent structures and/or officials of the ANCYL.
- 1.3.4 Elect the Chairperson, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and the remaining 12 members to the NEC.
- 1.3.5 Have the power to elect or appoint any Commission or Committee and assign specific tasks and duties to such commission, committee and or individual\ as the case may be.

#### 1.4 EXTRA-ORDINARY CONGRESS.

- 1.4.1 An Extra Ordinary Congress may be convened at any time to address major policy issues.
- 1.4.2 The congress may be called by the NEC or at the instance of 51% of the regions.

### 2. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The National Executive Committee shall hold office for 2 years.

#### 2.1 Composition

The NEC shall be constituted as follows:  
Chairperson, Secretary General, Treasurer-General, members of the Working Committee and ex officio members, Regional Chairperson and Regional Secretary, from all the regions.

#### 2.2 Powers and Procedures

- 2.2.1 The NEC shall meet on the day of its election and shall allocate the remaining twelve members of the Working Committee to portfolios.
- 2.2.2 The NEC shall meet at least once in three months.
- 2.2.4 The NEC shall appoint the National Organising Secretariat.
- 2.2.5 The NEC shall appoint the National Finance Committee.

#### 2.3 Duties.

The NEC shall:

- 2.3.1 Carry out the decisions and instructions of the National Congress,
- 2.3.2 Issue and send directives to and receive reports from regional committees,

- 2.3.3 Supervise and direct the work of the ANCYL,
- 2.3.4 Ensure that the regional and branch structures of the ANCYL function democratically and effectively.
- 2.3.5 Manage and control all the national property and funds of the ANCYL.

#### 2.4 The National Working Committee

The NWC shall comprise all members of the NEC elected at congress. Members of the NEC present at Head Office at any given time shall have the right to seat in meetings of the NWC.

The Working Committee shall:

- 2.4.1 Carry out decisions and instructions of the NEC.
- 2.4.2 Shall ensure communication between regions and the NEC.
- 2.4.3 Submit reports to each NEC meetings.
- 2.4.4 Shall coordinate and execute the day to day administrative tasks of the ANC Youth League.

#### 2.5 The National Finance and Projects Committee

- 2.5.1 The NEC shall appoint a National Finance and Projects committee consisting of office.
- 2.5.2 Shall be responsible for the financial and project planning.
- 2.5.3 Shall be responsible to coordinate the initiatives and management of projects as well as the raising, recording, allocation and spending of funds of the ANC Youth League in accordance with the NEC guidelines.
- 2.5.5 The office of the treasurer shall report to the NEC on all fiscal and related matters of the ANC Youth League.

#### 2.6. Duties and Functions of Officials

##### 2.6.1 The National Chairperson:

- a. Shall be the chief executive of the ANC Youth League
- b. Shall preside over meetings of the NEC
- c. Shall liaise with the NEC of the ANC
- d. Shall present a report on the state of the Youth League and the political situation in general at National Congress



- e. Shall be an ex-officio member of the Secretariat
- f. Shall supervise all work of the ANC Youth League in conformity with the Constitution and rules of procedure agreed upon by the NEC.
- g. Shall report regularly to the NWC and the NEC.

#### 2.6.2 The Secretary General

- a. Shall be the chief administrative officer of the ANC Youth League
- b. Shall be ex-officio member of the Working Committee
- c. Shall be responsible for minutes of the National Congress, the NEC, the Secretariat and all other records of the ANC Youth League
- d. Shall prepare annual reports on the overall work of the ANC Youth League
- e. Shall liaise with other organisations and institutions nationally and internationally
- f. Shall be responsible for the overall functioning of the NEC as well as convening meetings thereof
- g. Shall report regularly to the NWC and the NEC.

#### 2.6.3 The Treasurer-General

- a. Shall be responsible for the finances of the League and shall together with two appointed members of the NWC operate a banking account on behalf of the ANC Youth League.
- b. Shall Keep/cause to be kept books of accounts and other records necessary to clearly reflect the financial position of the ANC Youth League
- c. Shall be responsible together with the National Finance and Projects Committee for working out and executing plans for fundraising, initiating, planning and co-ordinating all projects of the ANC Youth League.
- d. Shall be the chief guardian of all the property of the League
- e. Shall report regularly to the NWC and the NEC.

#### 2.6.4 Secretary for Organisation

- a. Shall set up, coordinates and strengthens ANC Youth League structures nationally,
- b. Shall ensure that all regions of the ANC Youth League implement the Programme of Action

- c. Shall co-ordinate and supervise the setting of relevant sub-committees around issues such as health, environment and other matters that affect youth

- d. Shall report regularly to the NWC and the NEC.

#### 2.6.5 Secretary for Political Education

- a. Shall prepare political education programmes, produce and distribute resources
- b. Shall organise political education workshops and seminars
- c. Shall ensure the functioning of and provide assistance to the regional political education departments.
- d. Shall report to the NWC and the NEC.

#### 2.6.6 Secretary for Student Affairs

- a. Shall liaise with student organisations and engage in campaigns to popularise the programmes and policies of the ANC Youth League
- b. Shall sensitise the NWC and NEC to the problems and issues affecting students
- c. Shall attend to the educational needs of members of the Youth League and engage in educational campaigns of the community at large.
- d. Shall co-ordinate with all other structures and organisations dealing with educational matters.
- e. Shall report regularly to the NWC and the NEC.

#### 2.6.7 Secretary for Women's Affairs

- a. Shall mobilise young women to actively participate in the activities of the ANC Youth League
- b. Shall coordinate a programme of action, implement affirmative action in favour of young women in the ANC Youth League and society in general.
- c. Shall ensure that young women are conversant with the policies of the ANC Women's League
- d. Shall liaise with the ANC Women's League on campaigns, programmes and other related matters
- e. Shall encourage young women to participate in activities of the ANC Women's League.
- f. Shall report regularly to the NWC and the NEC.



#### 2.6.8 Secretary for Information and Publicity

- a. Shall prepare and disseminate information and other propaganda material to the youth
- b. Shall edit the official journal of the youth
- c. Shall deal with such aspects of the ANC Youth League work as radio propaganda, leaflets, periodicals, legal publications, films, posters, press, training of publicity personnel and supervise the work of the editorial board
- d. Shall report regularly to the NWC and NEC.

#### 2.6.9 Secretary for Pioneer Organisation

- a. Shall coordinate nationally all the work of the Walter Sisulu Pioneer Organisation
- b. Shall strive to develop national awareness and patriotism among South African children between the ages of 7 and 13
- c. Shall educate the broader South African society to observe and respect internationally recognised rights of children
- d. Shall develop and strengthen relations with regional, national, continental and international children's organisations
- e. Shall work towards the creation of a National Pioneers Movement
- f. Shall report regularly to the NWC and the NEC.

#### 2.6.10 Secretary for Arts, Sports and Culture

- a. Shall be responsible for the cultural and artistic advancement of the youth
- b. Shall together with the Secretary for Finance and projects co-ordinate fund-raising through cultural and sporting events
- c. Shall liaise with existing democratic cultural, sporting and artistic bodies
- d. Shall liaise with the Secretary for Information and Publicity for the production of posters and art material
- e. Shall encourage the mass participation of the youth in sport
- f. Shall report regularly to the NWC and the NEC..

#### 2.6.11 Secretary for Labour

- a. shall mobilise and organise all the working youth to participate in the programme of the ANCYL
- b. shall recruit and encourage the working youth to join the ANCYL
- c. shall reach out to the rural and youth on farms, youth in the mining villages, compounds and hostels to organise them into the ANCYL

### 3. REGIONAL CONGRESS

The Regional Congress shall be the highest decision making body of the ANC Youth League in the regions.

#### 3.1 Composition

- 3.1.1 Shall be attended by delegates elected on a democratic basis by all branches in the region. Special consideration to be made for areas with reduced membership.
- 3.1.2 Be attended by the members of the Regional Executive Organ who shall have full speaking and voting rights in an ex-officio capacity.

#### 3.2 Procedures, Powers and Duties

The Regional Congress shall:

- 3.2.1 be held at least once in 18 months or more if requested by two-thirds of all branches in the region
- 3.2.2 Receive and consider reports by the Regional Executive Organ
- 3.2.3 Elect the Regional Chairperson, Regional Secretary, Treasurer and eight (8) other members of the Regional Executive Committee.
- 3.2.4 Develop and implement the policy and programme of the ANC Youth League in the region.



4. REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (REC)

4.1 Composition

The Regional Executive Committee shall consist of elected members by the Regional Conference and chairpersons of all zones in a region.

4.2 Powers and Duties

The REC shall:

- 4.2.1 be responsible for the implementation of decisions of the Regional Congress, NEC and National Congress.
- 4.2.2 meet on the day of its election to appoint the eight (8) office bearers to their respective positions and thereafter at least once every three months
- 4.2.3 organise, establish and coordinate zones and branches of the ANC Youth League in the region
- 4.2.4 implement the policy and programme of the ANC Youth League and strive to further the interests, aims and objectives of the ANC Youth League as a whole
- 4.2.5 Manage and control the funds of the ANC Youth League in the region.

4.3 Functions of Regional Executive Committee (REC) Office bearers

Regional office bearers shall, with specific consideration of circumstances and scope perform the same functions as the national office bearers of the ANC Youth League, in the regions. Elected members of the REC shall serve as the Regional Working Committee (RWC) which shall function like the NWC in the region.

4.4 Zonal structures

- 4.4.1 Any three (3) or more branches within the same geographical area in a region shall constitute a zone.
- 4.4.2 Delineation of zones shall be undertaken by the Regional Executive Committee on consultations with the NEC.
- 4.4.4 The highest decision making body in the zone shall be the zonal congress which shall convene yearly before the regional congress.

4.5 Zonal Executive Committee

4.5.1 Composition: Shall be composed of by the Zonal Chairperson, Zonal Secretary, Zonal Treasurer, Zonal Organising and Publicity Secretary and Political Education Secretary, who shall have been elected by the congress, and chairperson of the branches.

4.5.2 Duties: The ZEC shall convene at least once in two months. The elected officials shall serve as the Zonal Working Committee. The Powers and duties of the ZEC and ZWC shall be the same as those of the REC and the RWC.

5. BRANCHES

The basic unit of the ANC Youth League shall be the branch. Every member of the ANC Youth League irrespective of office shall belong to a branch.

5.1 Duties and Functions of a Branch

- 5.1.1 Ensure that the youth in a particular village, area, township and sector are organised into the branch of the ANC Youth League
- 5.1.2 encourage the youth to take active part in all activities of the ANC Youth League
- 5.1.3 mobilise all youth to participate in the general mass campaigns in the region
- 5.1.4 prepare members to participate effectively in the formulation of ANC Youth League policy
- 5.1.5 elaborate and implement the political education programme of the ANC Youth League
- 5.1.6 Encourage members to take active interests in sports, arts and cultural activities
- 5.1.7 encourage all youth above eighteen (18) years to join the ANC
- 5.1.8 support and reinforce the local ANC branch



## 5.2 Branch substructures

Every ANC Youth League branch shall divide itself administratively into the following substructures:

- 5.2.1 Section/block committees and/or street/kraal committees up to the smallest unit committee applicable to a given local area.
- 5.2.2 Subcommittees which will assist in the implementation of ANC Youth League policy and programme of action.
- 5.2.3 Special committees and projects can be set up to deal with specific interests and concerns of the youth in the community where the ANC Youth League branch is operating.

## 5.3. BRANCH CONGRESS

### 5.3.1 Composition

- 5.3.1.1 The Branch Congress shall consist of the Branch Executive Committee and the entire membership of the ANC Youth League branch
- 5.3.1.2 not more than two (2) designated members of the REC who will preside upon the proceedings of the meeting, but shall have no voting rights.

### 5.3.2 Procedures, Powers and Duties

The Branch Congress shall convene once a year. The Branch Congress shall:

- 5.3.2.1 consider and make proposals to the Zonal Congress.
- 5.3.2.2 receive, discuss and adopt the Branch Executive Committee report on the work of the branch
- 5.3.2.3 Discuss and decide resolutions on local matters in keeping with the overall policy objectives of the ANC Youth League
- 5.3.2.4 Elect the Branch Executive Committee that will consist of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Organiser and one committee member.

## I. DISCIPLINE

The conduct of members of the ANC Youth League shall be governed by the Code of Conduct of the ANC Youth League.

## J. RIGHT OF APPEAL

- 1. Every ANCYL member shall have the right to appeal against any decision of discipline that affect him/her personally.
- 2. Appeals will be made in writing to relevant structures as set out in the ANCYL Code of Conduct.
- 3. A member of the ANCYL has the right to be present upon the hearing of her/his case of appeal.

## K. RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1. The NEC shall have the power to adopt appropriate rules and regulations for the efficiency of the work of the ANC Youth League if and when the need arises.
- 2. The REC's shall have the power to govern and improve the work of the ANC Youth League in the regions if and when the need arises.
- 3. All rules and regulations shall be founded upon the constitutional principles and policy platform of the ANC Youth League. Such rules and regulations as may be formulated by REC's shall be subject to the approval of the NEC or its NWC on a provisional basis pending endorsement by the NEC.

## L. FINANCE POLICY

The NEC shall pass a document entitled 'The ANC Youth League Finance Policy' which shall outline the methods of raising funds, their utilisation and general disbursement at branch, regional and national levels. This document shall underline that proper financial records be kept of all receipts and expenditures and regular evaluation made of all assets of the ANCYL.



#### 5.4 BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### 5.4.1 Powers and Duties

The Branch Executive Committee shall:

- 5.4.1.1 Coordinate the general activities of the ANC Youth League branch.
- 5.4.1.2 carry out the organisational and publicity work in its area in furtherance of the policy, programmes and decisions of the ANC Youth League
- 5.4.1.3 liaise closely with the ANC branch committee
- 5.4.1.4 look after the funds and property of the ANC Youth League
- 5.4.1.5 submit progress and development reports to the ZEC.
- 5.4.1.6 Consider application for membership of the League.

#### 5.5. BRANCH GENERAL MEETING

The Branch General meeting shall be held at least once a month. The BGM shall:

- 5.5.1 discuss and adopt campaigns and programmes for the branch
- 5.5.2 receive and consider progress reports from the branch leadership
- 5.5.3 consider and implement directives from the Zonal leadership
- 5.5.4 Consist of all members of the ANC Youth League in that particular branch.
- 5.5.5 make comprehensive proposals to the ZEC.

#### M. AMENDMENTS

Any proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted to the National Congress for consideration and can only be passed by a two-thirds majority vote.

#### N. DISSOLUTION

1. The ANCYL shall be dissolved by a properly constituted National Congress.
2. Upon dissolution or winding up, the assets of the ANCYL remaining after satisfaction of all its liabilities shall be given or transferred to the ANC.