

2 THE ROLE OF THE CRA

1 The role of the CRA is to enhance spiritual and political development within the ANC, and to promote positive relationships between the ANC and religious communities for the transformation of South Africa.

2 The National CRA has been established by the ANC Conference. Similar structures should be established at Provincial levels.

3 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CRA

To fulfil these roles the CRA has the following functions:

1 The spiritual function

- to provide a chaplaincy and counselling service for the spiritual welfare of the members of the Movement at all levels, as set out in section 4.
- to encourage the spiritual growth and development of members on an ecumenical and inter-faith basis, both individually and collectively.
- to embrace a concern for wider chaplaincies in political, military, Correctional Services, para-statal, local authorities and environmental activities.
- to serve those who recognise their spirituality, but who practice no religion.

2 The political function

- to provide information and advice to the ANC leadership and structures on policy matters affecting religious concerns, activities, opinions, and ethical dilemmas.
- to build an awareness within the ANC of the current concerns of the religious community and clarify ANC policy positions from a religious point of view.
- to inform the public at large of the ANC spiritual insights on current concerns.
- to work with religious bodies in promoting cooperative campaigns to further the transformation of South Africa.

3 The religious function

- to establish positive relations with religious bodies at all levels.
- to promote inter-faith and ecumenical consultation between religious and political leaders seeking insights and cooperation on current events. This shall embrace both the pragmatic and the prophetic, and form a meeting place where such issues can be considered and moved into action at national, regional and local levels.
- to encourage unity in the transformation of South Africa.

4 THE ANC CHAPLAINCY

1 The ANC Chaplaincy was established by the ANC Conference as part of the CRA, and its functions are as set out in section 3.

2 The Tasks of the Chaplaincy include the following:

- opening National and Provincial Congresses or Conferences of the ANC and its various formations.
- providing counselling services to those in need.
- conducting funerals and weddings as requested.
- participating in ANC or Government forums discussing chaplaincy issues, or spiritual advancement.
- discharging these and other relevant responsibilities within the organisation as they arise.

3 The ANC Chaplaincy is structured as follows:

- The Chaplaincy has been established by Conference within the CRA.
- The NEC appoints a National Chaplaincy Secretary, and persons to be chaplains from the various faith groups, upon recommendation of the CRA.
- The Provincial Executive Committees of the ANC are requested to work with the CRA and the National Chaplaincy to appoint provincial chaplaincies upon the same lines, seeking to expand such chaplaincy services to reach every region, branch and member of the ANC.
- The CRA shall establish a network within ANC structures to support the Chaplaincy.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

The Role and Functions of the **COMMISSION FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS (CRA)**

1 THE ORIGINS OF THE CRA

From its earliest beginnings the ANC had a strong religious motivation. *Our founders were church men and women. Throughout our years that link has never been broken*, said President Oliver Tambo.

Its vision for the community and the country derived great strength from belief in God's rule of justice and fulfilment. Religious conviction strengthened the commitment of millions, and underlined the principles of the Freedom Charter. Religious people and institutions fired the struggle at home, and in exile ANC Religious Committees functioned in Lusaka and in London.

The ANC Commission for Religious Affairs was established by the NEC in December 1995, after several preliminary meetings. Its first plenary session was held in April 1996, and the co-ordinator appointed in January 1997.

Copies are obtainable from:

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