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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (SA)

YOUTH SECRETARIAT.

MEMO ON "THE YEAR OF THE YOUTH."

The programme should largely concentrate on mobilisation of the Youth inside South Africa not forgetting to intensify the mobilisation of the ANC youth units externally and the general mobilisation of International Youth Organisations into supporting our struggle and recognition of the ANC as the sole representative of the people of South Africa.

Numerous victories have been scored on the international level. Therefore this year should be a year of mobilising the Youth inside South Africa, not only into active participation in the struggle, but also mobilising them to a position where they (the youth) will closely identify themselves with the ANC and its policies. We are of the opinion that the mobilisation of the International community will greatly be enhanced by our active involvement in mobilising the home front.

During our discussions it was agreed that the Youth Secretariat has always concentrated its efforts on International work - and that in this Year of the Youth - the Secretariat should strive towards establishing contact with Youth organisations inside South Africa and gear itself towards the general mobilisation of the Youth inside South Africa.

In discussing the fact that the Internal Department in conjunction with the R.C. are the ones in charge of work at home - including work on the Internal Department and R.C. have a lot of work to do. It was further agreed that the Youth Secretariat therefore must be a Secretariat on a National level and not a section of the International Department.

The meeting resolved that in this Year of the Youth the NEC should seriously look into permanently constituting the Youth Secretariat and providing it with the necessary manpower and resources to carry out its functions as laid down in the structures.



It is only after this reconstitution that the Youth Secretariat can be able to carry out all its tasks and not only a section of tasks it was assigned.

#### POLITICAL AIMS

How are the Youth to be organised and mobilised? What are they to be organised and mobilised for. For example SACTU declared 1980 "The Year of the Worker". To mobilise workers SACTU formed a committee/s which were to work out a programme and to see to its implementation. Similarly, in the "Year of the Charter" a Charter Committee was established which saw to the implementation of the programme for the Year. If therefore the Youth are to be effectively mobilised into armed struggle, political struggle and active participation with all sections of the oppressed population, there need to be a body whose task will solely be the implementation of the programme of the year. The Youth Secretariat will not be able to efficiently run this programme on its own, because of the day to day tasks they are engaged in.

The programme of the Year of the Youth should not only appeal to ANC Youth, but to the cross-section of the South African Youth, and not only the oppressed African majority but also the white Youth. The white youth should be mobilised into active participation in the struggle rather than supportive actions.

A decision was made that in this year of the Youth we should look for the Youth leadership of the Soweto area (Gugulethu) etc., and after including youth leaders who have currently left the country and are in our ranks. We should have these youth leaders come together and discuss how best a programme for the youth can be arranged. Their background in youth organisations will be of great assistance. It is timely for the organisation to make use of these cadre in challenging the so-called youth leadership forming up in the front areas and even places like London. And also the Youth in South Africa have always looked upon those leaders of their organisations who have now left the country as their leaders and people who can guide them. But we as an organisation have not made use of these cadres in this respect. It is timely that in this year of the youth, the organisation makes use of these youth leaders, releasing them assist us in effectively mobilising the Youth.



This will also eliminate the problem of having to clear the malicious propaganda spread by so-called youth leaders against our organisation, which propaganda somehow reaches South Africa, creating problems like those existing in Botswana where you find young people, refusing to join the ANC because of fears implanted by these characters.

As a way of ensuring the active participation of those youth leaders in youth work during this year, they could also be featuring frequently on Radio Freedom Programmes and Publications particularly the coming Youth Bulletin. Measures should be taken during this year - to organise somekind of a meeting with the leadership of youth organisations inside the country - with intention of bringing them closer to the ANC.

PROGRAMME:

1. To form a year of the youth committee which will be the coordinating body (planning and distribution of tasks) between the Internal and External sections of the Youth. (External to include both ANC Youth units - and the International youth movement)
2. This committee must be able to consult with all necessary authorities on various issues they plan to undertake.
3. This committee should meet the Working Committee and the committee of the Year of the Freedom Charter and that of the Year of the Spear to review progress made during those two years and lessons to be drawn from their experiences. This is aimed at arming the committee well enough to counter some of the problems found by its predecessors.
4. The committee's membership should be representative of the broad sections of the movement.

TASKS THAT FACE THE COMMITTEE:

1. a) To effectively establish the presence of the ANC and leadership amongst the Youth organisations existing in South Africa even those section of the Youth outside these organisations.  
b) To mobilise the youth into armed struggle and popularise MK amongst them.



- c. To throw a challenge to the people and the youth in particular towards popularising the ANC to the extent where it becomes the only alternative to the racist regime.
- d. To mobilise Non African Youth into playing a greater role in the ANC and MK. We must strive towards greater unity based on cohesive action on concrete issues.

2. STUDENTS AND EDUCATION:

The ANC has given concrete leadership to the Youth of SA in the resistance of Bantu Education - which resistance still continues up to date. Yet these students have been forced to return to these schools for lack of alternative schools, i.e., (besides coming out of the country). Those teachers who have resigned and those sacked for their opposition to Bantu Education must be mobilised and the organisation - in this year of the youth, should encourage creation of alternative systems of education inside our country - so that when students strike, they can go to specific Freedom Schools. Alternative educational systems to be worked out.

3. SPORTS AND CULTURE:

The people of South Africa have taken up the call by the ANC for the isolation of South Africa on all fronts including sports. There should during this year be a deliberate plan by the movement to encourage the enforcement of sports boycotts in South Africa, as occurred with the Ray Charles and the realistics show in Soweto. The Youth should be encouraged to organise pickets and mobilise public support for the boycott of such games. (The same applies to culture).

4. UNEMPLOYED AND NON STUDENT YOUTH:

This section of our youth should be mobilised and organised. They have been neglected and something must be done during this year.

- 5. Encourage the youth to join and swell the ranks of MK, to protect and strengthen it.

6. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

During this year we should continue to encourage the prevalent solidarity between the students and their parents.



The Youth generally and the workers etc. and encourage the youth to take up community issues like rent increases, bus fair increases, self-help schemes etc. NB. The committee can look into refining this programme.

7. To publish the long awaited Youth Bulletin during this year.
8. To research on the conditions of the Youth at home and compile data on all youth organisations existing in South Africa.

9. YOUTH UNITS ABROAD:

- a) While some aspects of the programme in general also apply to the external units of our Youth, the programme should also be geared at activating our youth units outside South Africa. The external units of our youth should be encouraged to adopt programmes of their own with specific projects to be achieved on short - and long-term basis.
- b) Let us aim at strengthening the organisational capacity of our youth units.
- c) External youth units to increase their involvement and strengthen their relations with youth organisations of host countries - this will in itself strengthen international work.

HOW THE COMMITTEE MUST BE FORMED:

The committee should consist of representatives from the following departments.

1. Youth Secretariat
2. Professional Bodies (Education and Culture)
3. Internal Reconstruction
4. R.C.
5. D.I.P.
6. International Department
7. SACTU.

During this year of the Youth, we request the Secretary General's office to negotiate for us, with all departments, that in this year -



we should be offered opportunities to make use of our youth in the various tasks facing us. We request that Departments should cooperate with us in times when we will be requesting them to make available to us and to the committee some of their personnel for short periods of time.

**Aluta Continua!**

**Forward to the Year of the Youth!**

**Youth Secretariat.**