

NATIONAL CONGRESS

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The People Shall Govern!

I take this opportunity of sending a special message of greetings to the ANC Youth League.
rise to the same momentum of struggle as our generation were able to achieve with the creation of the Youth League in the 1940s.

You must be an example to the entire youth of the

Your reâ\200\224birth must give

You must act with clarity of purpose, absolute

country.

determination and total discipline.

of our country to stand firm with the African National Congress at this crucial but decisive stage of the struggle.

I call upon the youth

Through united mass action we will destroy apartheid and create a united, nonâ\200\224racial, nonâ\200\224sexist and democratic South Africa.

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committing ourselves to the struggle to transform our whole country into a genuinely united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society.

The youth have a very heavy responsibility on their shoulders. The youth must be at the centre of the mass action which we must mobilise to ensure the removal of all obstacles to negotiations. prisoners and the end to political trials. right of return for all exiles. of all repressive security legislation.

We must demand the release of all political

We must demand the scrapping

We must demand the

The youth have a duty to do all in their power to end the violence which is causing so much suffering to our people. violence is aimed at weakening if not destroying our Movement. It is putting the entire "peace process" at risk. must speak with one united voice in demanding that the De Klerk regime takes the steps which we have called for in order to end the violence.

The ANC

This

We must also be disciplined, refrain from being deliberately provoked, and exhibit the maximum possible tolerance towards those with whom we have political disagreements.

We must end the repression and violence so that a climate exists in which a genuine process of negotiations can take place.

This requires an elected Constituent Assembly which can draw up and adopt a new democratic Constitution and an Interim Government to rule South Africa during the process of transition.

You, the youth of South Africa, must look to the future because it is your future. You have the responsibility to make a reality of the Vision of a new South Africa which is enshrined in the Freedom Charter we adopted in 1955. equip yourselves to accept this responsibility.

You must be in a position to

In your schools, at work, on the land, in the colleges and universities, you must be striving now to make the Vision of a non-racial society come true. sacrifice and hard work. education, youth unemployment, poor housing and all the other injustices of the past. determination for the new South Africa for which so many have sacrificed and struggled.

We must campaign with imagination and

We must do away with inferior

This will involve struggle,

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African National Congress

Office of the President

MESSAGE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH BY COMRADE
OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN
NATIONAL CONGRESS AND HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE
ANC YOUTH LEAGUE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 15TH

ANNIVERSARY OF JUNE 16TH

It is the day we Salute the youth of

It is the day that we remember, whether we be

June 16th is a very special day in the hearts and minds of all
South African patriots.

our country for their courage, their bravery and their
sacrifices.

parents, grandparents, brothers or sisters, all those who made
the ultimate sacrifice when they laid down their lives in order
that the evil of apartheid be destroyed in the land of our
birth.

by the brutal repression of the apartheid system before even
reaching adulthood, we owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude.

For those young people who were robbed of their lives

The students of Soweto took to the streets to demand

June 16th, 1976, was a turning point in the history of our
country.

the end of the inferior system of Bantu education.

protest action ignited a nationwide uprising against apartheid
and created a crisis for the Pretoria regime from which it has
been unable to escape.

action of the youth of our country in 1976 that the mass
democratic movement grew to become a decisive pillar of our
struggle in the 1980s.

point for our people's army, Umkhonto We Sizwe, which from that
period on proved capable of striking ever more effective blows
against the apartheid system.

sacrifices of the youth inspired millions of people across the
world to join us in demanding the isolation of apartheid South
Africa and in supporting our struggle.

The Soweto uprising was also a turning

It was upon the basis of the mass

Their

Moreover the courage and

Today, we are witnessing the first fruits of the sacrifices of
our youth. Our Movement is unbanned and the ANC Youth League is
able to organise openly amongst the young people of our country.
Some of our political prisoners have been released and some of
our exiles have been able to return home.
political settlement is before us.

The prospect of a

This day however must be a day upon which the youth reâ\200\224dedicate
themselves to the struggle.
reâ\200\224dedication to the antiâ\200\224apartheid struggle.

But this cannot be merely a

We must also be