

MASTER OF CEREMONY DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. GANDHI

It was in 1894 when Gandhi, then an attorney, arrived in S.A. to defend his client. While travelling to Pretoria by train he was physically thrown off in Pietermaritzburg because of his colour. Gandhi was a lawyer and the Minister of Justice at the time, also a lawyer was General Jan Smuts. It is significant to note that in the new democratic S.A. the first Minister of Justice is also a lawyer, advocate Dullar Omar, an Indian - what a change !

In 1894 Gandhi founded the Natal Indian Congress and later founded the T.I.C. In 1906 Gandhi launched a campaign against Pass Laws that were applied against the Indians in the T.V.L. He called on Indians to burn their Passes.

In 1960 the ANC under its President Chief Albert Luthuli also burnt Passes when called upon to do so by Chief Luthuli. ANC members volunteered to do so likewise. Other leaders like President Mandela, Nokwe Rhesha and others also burned their Passes.

In 1913 Gandhi led a march of Indian Coal Miners from Newcastle into the Transvaal in defiance of the racial laws that prohibited Indians from moving between Provinces

without Permits. The coal miners came out on strike and followed Gandhi. He and many others were arrested.

In 1946 the N.I.C. and T.I.C. followed in Gandhi's footsteps, and used the same method of passive resistance against the Ghetto Act. Under the leadership of Dr. 's Naicker and Dadoo, 2000 volunteers went to Prison. In 1952 the ANC and S.A.I.C. again used Gandhi's method in the Defiance Campaign. Africans and Indians volunteered and about 9000 went to Prison for defying Unjust Laws. By using Passive Resistance against the British Colonial rule, Gandhi and the Indian Congress led India to Freedom.

The struggle in India and our struggle in South Africa have much in common. That is one reason why India has been one of the most consistent supporters of our struggle.

Under the leadership of Gandhi, Nehru, Azod and the Indian Congress in India, in 1946 they helped internationalise our struggle. They also played a large role at the United Nations to impose diplomatic sanctions against S.A. and withdrew their High Commissioner from S.A. to impose trade Sanctions against S.A. Gandhi and all Indian Congress have been an inspiration to our struggle. The methods used by Gandhi played a significant role in our long walk to Freedom.