

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ANC (SA), COMRADE O.R. TAMBO
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COMRADE TAMBO HAS BEEN A LEADER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERATION
 MOVEMENT FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS AND SUCCEEDED THE LATE CHIEF
 LUTHULI AS PRESIDENT OF THE ANC.

COMRADE TAMBO WAS FOUNDER-MEMBER OF THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE IN 1944,
 SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ANC FROM 1954 TO 1958 AND ACTING PRESIDENT
 FROM 1967 TO 1978.

BORN IN BIZANA DISTRICT OF EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE IN 1917,
 HE STUDIED AT THE ANGLICAN BOARDING SCHOOL AT THE HOLY CROSS
 MISSIONARY SCHOOL NEAR FLAGSTAFF. FROM THERE, WITH MISSIONARY
 SPONSORSHIP, HE WENT TO ST PETERS SECONDARY SCHOOL IN JOHANNESBURG
 WHERE HE SET ACADEMIC RECORD COMPLETING HIS MATRICULATION WITH A
 FIRST CLASS PASS IN 1938. AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP, HE STUDIED AT
 FORT HARE COLLEGE, GRADUATING WITH A B.SC. DEGREE IN 1941.
 HE THEN REMAINED IN FORT HARE TO QUALIFY FOR A DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION
 BUT

WAS EXPELLED DURING A
 STUDENTS' STRIKE IN 1942. ST. PETERS, HOWEVER, DISREGARDED HIS
 EXPULSION AND EMPLOYED HIM AS A SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
 TEACHER. HE RETURNED TO JOHANNESBURG AND TAUGHT AT THIS SCHOOL
 UNTIL 1947.

ON HIS RETURN TO JOHANNESBURG, TAMBO QUICKLY BECAME DRAWN INTO A
 GROUP OF YOUNG MILITANTS PRESSING FOR MORE MILITANT DIRECTION IN THE
 ANC. THESE INCLUDED NELSON MANDELA, WALTER SISULU, ANTON LEMBEDE,
 A.P. MDA AND C MBATHA. TOGETHER WITH THEM, THREE OF WHOM (LEMBEDE,
 MBATHA AND MDA) WERE ALSO TEACHERS AT ST PETERS, HE PARTICIPATED IN
 THE FOUNDING OF THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE, SERVING FOR A WHILE AS ITS
 NATIONAL SECRETARY.

DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF 1948-1949, HE BECAME TRANSVAAL PRESI-
 DENT AND NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE YOUTH LEAGUE. POLITICALLY
 ASTUTE AND WIDELY RESPECTED FOR HIS PRINCIPLED APPROACH TO ALL
 PROBLEMS, COMRADE TAMBO MOVED EASILY FROM A LEADING ROLE IN THE
 YOUTH LEAGUE TO A POSITION OF INFLUENCE IN THE ANC ITSELF.

IN 1946, HE WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE TRANSVAAL EXECUTIVE
 COMMITTEE OF THE ANC AND AT THE BLOEMFONTEIN CONFERENCE OF DECEMBER
 1949, HE WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN EVERY
 SUBSEQUENT ELECTION.

ABANDONING AN EARLIER AMBITION TO STUDY MEDICINE, COMRADE TAMBO
 DECIDED TO TAKE UP LAW AND IN THE LATE 1940S, WITH THE
 ENCOURAGEMENT OF WALTER SISULU, HE WAS ARTICLED IN A JOHANNESBURG
 LAW FIRM.

IN 1952, HE QUALIFIED AS AN ATTORNEY AND IN DECEMBER THAT YEAR, IN
 THE MIDST OF THE CAMPAIGN OF DEFIANCE AGAINST UNJUST LAWS, HE AND
 NELSON MANDELA ESTABLISHED A JOINT PRACTICE. AFTER THE DEFIANCE
 CAMPAIGN, HE WAS IN CHARGE OF PREPARATION OF A NEW ANC CONSTITUTION