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COMRADE TAMBO HAS BEEN A LEADER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN
LIBERATION
MOVEMENT FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS AND SUCCEEDED THE LA
TE 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 195B AND ACTING PRESIDENT FROM 1967 TO 1978.

(BORN IN BIZANA DISTRICT OF EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE IN 1917
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! HE STUDIED AT THE ANGLICAN BOARDING SCHOOL AT THE HOL
Y CROSS
: MISSIONARY SCHOOL NEAR FLAGSTAFF. FROM THERE, WITH MI
SSIONARY
j SPONSORSHIP, HE WENT TO ST PETERS SECONDARY SCHOOL-
IN JOHANNESBURG
WHERE HE SET ACADEMIC RECORD COMPLETING HIS MATRICULA
TION WITH A
\\FIRST CLASS PASS IN 1938. AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP, HE STUD
IED AT
\\FORT HARE COLLEGE, GRADUATING WITH A B.SC. DEGREE IN 194
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HE THEN REMAINED IN FORT HARE TO QUALIFY FOR A DIPLOMA
IN EDUCATION

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PWAS EXCELLED DURING A â–

STUDENTS' STRIKE IN 1942. -ST. PETERS, HOWEVER, DISREGARD
ED HIS
EXPULSION AND EMPLOYED HIM AS A SCIENCE AND MATHEMATI
CS
/TEACHER. HE RETURNED TO JOHANNESBURG AND TAUGHT AT T
HIS SCHOOL
1 UNTIL 1947. 4

ON HIS RETURN TO JOHANNESBURG, TAM30 QUICKLY BECAME DRAWN INTO A GROUP OF YOUNG MILITANTS PRESSING FOR MORE MILITANT DIRECTION IN THE

ANC. THESE INCLUDED NELSON MANDELA, WALTER SISULU, AND
ON 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 1943-1949, HE BECAME TRANSVAAL PRESIDENT
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