

International recognition

The Azanian Peoples' Organisation made an impressive breakthrough for the Black consciousness movement when it recently won the right to address a special session of the United Nations during a conference held in New York in June.

Imrann Moosa, the Natal vice president of Azapo and editor of Azapo's magazine, Frank Talk, spoke before the United Nations' North American regional conference for action against apartheid, a conference organized by the United Nations' Centre Against Apartheid, which also featured speakers from the African National Congress (ANC), the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO).

It was the first time that a member of the umbrella Black Consciousness Movement addressed the United Nations. According to the chairman of the UN's Centre Against Apartheid, Major-General J.N. Garba of Nigeria, the move surprised the African National Congress which, he said, planned to write a letter to the organizing body protesting against the participation of Azapo.

The chairman of the United States

branch of the BCM, Twiss Xiphu, said the invitation by the United Nations to Azapo was the highest point in BCM's international diplomatic offensive launched last year when the national president Lybon Mabasa toured Europe and the United States to introduce Azapo and its programmes to the international community.

"The ground work has been laid for bigger things to come and we are forging ahead in the international community," he said.

Mr Mbaso spoke on the same day that former US Ambassador to the UN Mr Andrew Young and South African poet, Dennis Brutus, also addressed the conference. Moosa told the conference that the BCM emerged in South Africa to conquer fear and lead black people out of the grip of a frightened paralysis which had been internalized in the psyche of black people because of the onslaught after Sharpsville and Rivonia.

"The pre-1977 BCM also succeeded where the other historical liberation movements had failed, it brought together all black people wherever the system sought to label them 'Coloured', 'Indian', 'African' or even subdivided them into various ethnic groups," he said. "The BCM also injected a remarkable vitality into Azanian politics.

He also took a jab at the recent Nkomati Accord and the position of the United States in the Southern African scene. "The Accord showed that Pretoria is playing the game according to the dictates of Washington, actually toeing the yankee imperialist policy towards our region developed by Kissinger, Reagan and Chester Crocker.



Aims and Objects of Azapo

PREAMBLE

Whereas we, the Black People of Azania, conscious of the philosophy of Black Consciousness as a living force amongst the majority of our people, and recognising that Black Workers particularly are responsible for creating the wealth of our country;

And whereas workers are subjected to the most inhuman and ruthless laws;

And further realising that the oppressive system in its effort to render the worker powerless and perpetually subservient, creates and utilises tactics of divide and rule that gave birth to factionalism and tribalism;

And whereas the worker is more determined to see freedom and justice, and desirous of occupying his rightful place in the land of his birth; And also that it is an inalienable right of any community to organise

itself into a political movement to express and manifest its aspirations, ideals and goals;

And further believing that Black Consciousness be developed and maintained as a true philosophy for workers;

THEREFORE RESOLVE

1. To found a political movement which will express and manifest the aspirations of the **Black People** in Azania.
2. To found a movement that will unite all and liberate all from the exploitative and oppressive shackles.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To conscientise, politicise and mobilise Black workers through the philosophy of Black Consciousness in order to strive for

their legitimate rights.

2. To work towards the establishment of an educational system that will respond creatively towards the needs of Azanians.
3. To promote an interpretation of religion as a liberatory philosophy relevant to our struggle.
4. To promote and encourage research into various problems affecting our people.
5. To expose the oppressive and exploitative system in which our people are denied basic human rights.
6. To work towards the unity of the oppressed, for the just distribution of wealth and power to all people of Azania.