

## ANC YOUTH LEAGUE IN THE 1990S.

As part of the process of rebuilding the youth movement after three years of repression, SAYCO had at its historic first National Congress in April 1990, amongst other discussions, mapped out a way forward for the organisation. The most important part of this discussion was the resolution on the ANC Youth League.

The resolution stated: "Realising if most, if not all of our membership, had always since our launch carried the banner of the ANC and regarded themselves as members (of the ANC) and as commanded by the President O.R. Tambo. Realising that even those activists who were central in initiating the launch of SAYCO did so with the full conscience that they are building the support base for the ANC..."

Resolves: That they find a home in the ANC Youth League(YL). That SAYCO begin a process in conjunction with the ANC Youth Section to formally establish a mass bases ANC YL in the country."

Since the passing of this resolution in April until now, the SAYCO NEC and the ANC Youth Section Secretariat has been involved in a process of discussion around the processes involved in launching the youth league. These discussions resulted in the formulation of the Provisional Constitution of the ANC YL.

### THE ANC YL PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION

The preamble of the constitution argues that the strategic objective of the struggle waged by the oppressed people of South Africa is for a united, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist society. Central to this objective is the transference of power. The continuing task of youth and youth organisation is to increase their capacity to contribute to this goal. The post-February 2 situation, brought about by the peoples offensive has opened up a new situation, providing new opportunities for the re-emergence of popular democratic formations. For the democratic youth of our country, who have provided one of the main basis of popular struggles throughout the years of illegality and before, there is a compelling need to take even bolder measures in harnessing and directing its energies towards further activities. This demands that the ANC YL be formed as a mass youth movement capable of taking up its role as the leading force of democratic youth struggles. The ANC YL is defined as a formation of youth constitutionally designed to serve not only the purpose of reinforcing the ANC, but also to strive to achieve the mobilisation of the broader section of the youth in our country.

### THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ANC YL

1. To rally youth to actively participate in the struggle for national liberation and to create a non-racial and democratic South Africa.
2. To fight for the general interests and rights of young people in their social, economic and political life.
3. To promote national consciousness, unity and patriotism among young people.
4. To work for educational, moral and cultural improvement of the youth.
5. To encourage the equality of men and women amongst the youth. etc

### RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ANC

The ANC shall be organisationally autonomous, based on the broad political perspectives of the ANC. The policies and programme of the YL shall, however, be determined by its membership in accordance with its constitution.

### MEMBERSHIP/BRANCH

Membership to the YL shall be open to all youth between the age of 14 and 35, who accept the policies, guidelines and programme of the YL. A branch shall be comprised of a minimum of 100 youth. There shall be one membership card for all YL members, including those who have membership cards of the ANC. Youth who join the league will do so on an individual and voluntary basis. Upon signing up as a member of the YL, all members shall be required to pay a joining fee of R1 and a 30c monthly subscription fee.

### PROVISIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE YL

A provisional national structure shall remain operative until the official launch of the YL. A **PROVISIONAL NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE (PNYC)** comprising of the SAYCO NEC, ANC Youth Section, SANSCO, COSAS, NUSAS and religious student youth organisations, under the supervision of the Internal Leadership Core (ILC) shall oversee the process of building the ANC YL. Out of the members of the PNYC, a **PROVISIONAL YOUTH SECRETARIAT** shall be elected to see to the day to day activities of the PNYC. Their responsibility is to implement the decisions and directives of the PNYC and to co-ordinate and supervise the work of regions. Their duty shall also be to sign up the regional committee members of the ANC YL. The national structure shall be duplicated in regions, zones and branches.

## PROVISIONAL REGIONAL STRUCTURE

The ANC YL shall have 14 regions with each region consisting of branches. A PROVISIONAL REGIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE (PRYC) comprising of the SAYCO REC, members of the Youth Section, COSAS, SANSCO, NUSAS and religious student youth organisations shall be constituted. A PROVISIONAL REGIONAL YOUTH SECRETARIAT (PRYS). The task of the committee shall be to ensure that youth in the regions are mobilised into active functioning ANC YL branches and to mobilise youth to actively participate in ANC activities. The committee shall visit all branches in the regions and sign up the branch executive of SAYCO, COSAS, SANSCO and NUSAS where they exist. They will liaise with the regional executive of the ANC. Its main task will be to assess the launching of branches and to work towards a regional launch once the majority of branches in the region have been launched.

## FORMING ANC YL BRANCHES

The Regional Committee will visit all locals to sign up branch executives of SAYCO in the area. The branch executive of SAYCO (Guguletu) along with people forwarded from COSAS and religious youth will act as the provisional committee of the YL. The provisional committee will convene a meeting of all the members of SAYCO, youth in the ANC, COSAS and religious youth members to explain to them the process of the launch of the YL and involve them in the recruitment campaign. The provisional committee will co-ordinate the signing and recruitment of YL members, co-ordinate local campaigns, hold public programmes, implement the political education programme and work towards the launch of an official YL branch. At this meeting all those who wish to be part of the YL will be signed up. The secretary of the interim committee will sign membership forms and keep records of membership until the launch of the branch. Once the interim committee of the local ANC has been formed and the membership meeting has been called, the SAYCO branch will phase out.

## CONCLUSION

The YL will emerge as a necessary development in the struggle of the democratic youth against apartheid. The ANC YL must therefore be a militant reserve of the ANC. It must be a transmission belt of ANC policy, ideology and programmes with a mission to mould the South African Youth to become future custodians of the South African struggle. The main task and preoccupation of the YL shall be to prepare South African young people, under the banner of the ANC, to become young fighters who will be at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid and who will perform the arduous task of constructing a democratic society free from apartheid and racial hatred.

Further, the YL must strive energetically to unite and mobilise the South African youth in a struggle for a non-racial and non-sexist democracy. The YL will be the link between the youth of South Africa and the progressive youth movements throughout the world.