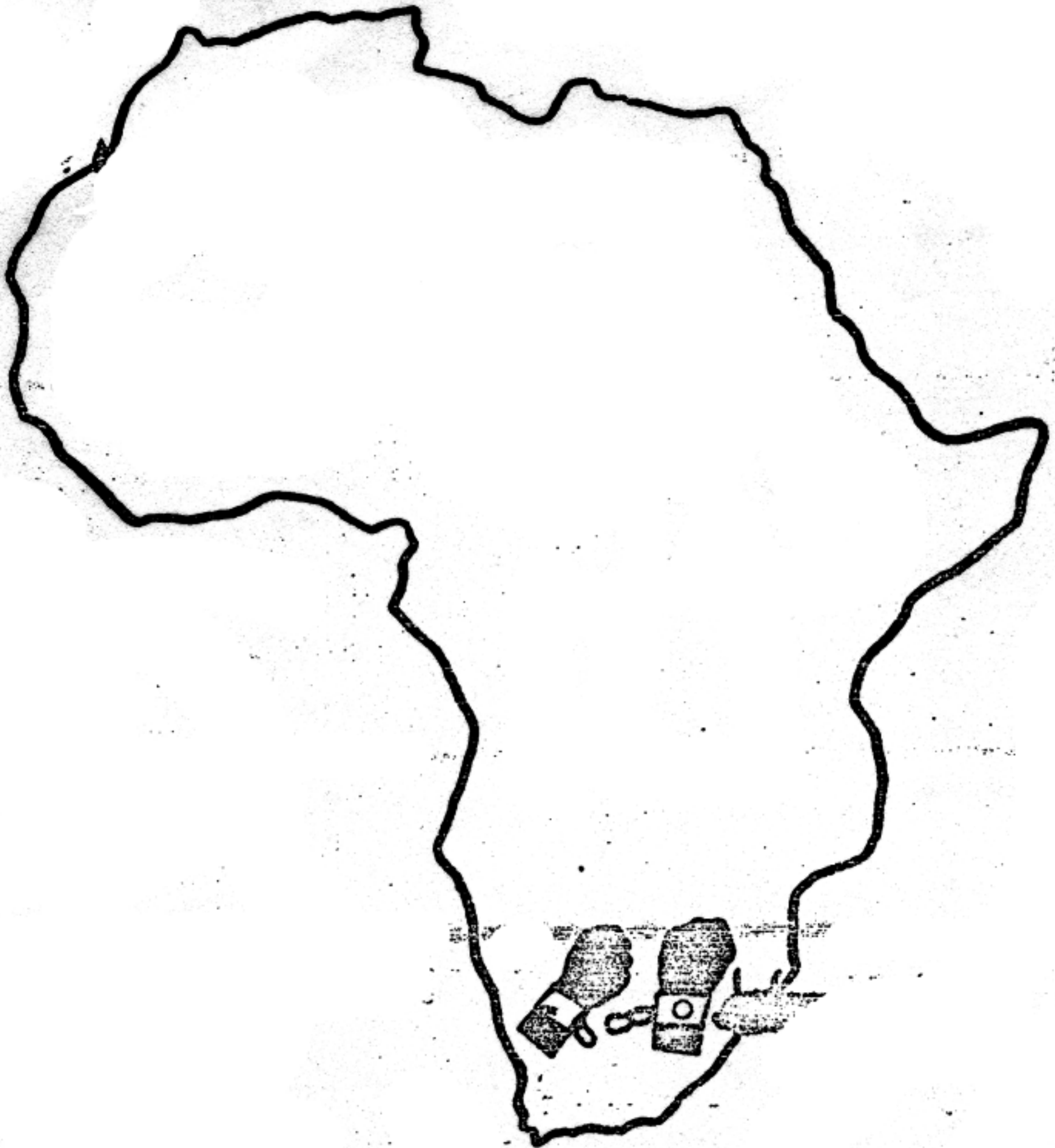


BLACK PEOPLES' CONVENTION



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NATIONAL CONGRESS ADDRESS

by

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INTRODUCTION: POEM: AZANIA SHALL BE FREE.

Are you gathered here the true sons and daughters of the soil? Do I see before me the natural heirs and heiresses of Azania, the true representatives of the Black people and their aspirations? Or do I see political frauds and artificial claimants to the throne of Blackness? If you are indeed the products, not only of the Azanian soil but also of its convictions, dedications and devotions, I hasten to greet you all in the name of the Black struggle for liberation, justice and fairness as compatible with the will of the Blackman's liberation, the Black Messiah.

Blacks, courageous sons and daughters of Mother Africa, I commend you for your courage for your determination and for your undaunted zeal to stand against all odds, natural and man-made, for the sake of your liberation and that of your country. **POWER TO THE PEOPLE. POWER TO THE STRUGGLE.** Persistence and fortitude are the pinnacles of a successful struggle. Azania shall be free and soon.

Black people, let us be sincere, honest and frank with ourselves if we believe that Azania shall, as it inevitably must, be free. The history of our just struggle for freedom in Azania is not, and must not be seen in isolation. It is part of the Blackman's struggle to free himself from the Whiteman's tentacles the world over. In some parts of the world the Blacks have already and decisively won their battles of liberation, some have won them, and others, among them the Blacks of Azania, are on the verge of winning theirs- if they so desire and prepare to sacrifice.

Blacks, my countrymen, the history of the Black struggle in South Africa is a long and bitter one. It started with the arrival of Broeder Jan over three hundred years ago, and still ages on today. This road to liberation land has not been an easy one, and with the latest developments, it promises to be even more hazardous. Look and see around. Freedom streets are littered with Sharp-illes, Robben Islands, Detentions Banning orders, House restrictions, Terrorism and Communism trials, Convictions, Tiro's and Shezi's. Surely my countrymen, this road is tough and rough. Blessed are they that walk its distance to the full and surely, Black sons and daughters of Azania can do it, and very successfully so.

Now my countrymen, you and I did commit to the struggle till victory is won, and this in the present of the struggle, dead and alive, and more than that, in the present of the God of justice, liberation and fairness. These were commitments good and fine, but commitments unfulfilled are but an empty pipe dream, and dreamer's seats in Freedomland are conspicuous by their absence. Heirs and heiresses of Azania where did you excel? In dreamland or in actionland? The answer, though unpalatable to practised political noise-makers of a barren struggle, is loud and clear. I am only too ashamed

We thank God who through his dedicated young and old resuscitated the Black struggle as reflected in the BPC and all other relevant Black organisations. To them we say **POWER.**

26. Development of economic and cultural relations with all nations whose governments respect the principles mentioned in 25 above.

SOCIAL WELFARE

27. The welfare of the handicapped shall be the primary responsibility of the state.
28. National social welfare shall cover care for the following categories for which these shall be state-aided societies and institutions, crippled, deaf and dumb, mentally retarded, blind, aged, orphans, people with certain specific diseases and any other deserving categories.
29. Special emphasis shall be laid on the development of whole communities especially in cases of disasters like floods, fires, drought, famine, earthquakes and epidemics.
30. People under conditions of social aberration like alcoholism, drug addiction and habitual prostitution shall be taken care of and be rehabilitated through the state machinery.
31. All economically active citizens shall contribute to the welfare of the handicapped.
32. A social Welfare Council sets out standards for the rendering of social welfare services and help in shaping of welfare policy.

FARMING

33. Farming shall be practised in a collective communal way rather than an individual way.
34. For purpose of 33 above, rural communities are re-organised such that the total land available for farming is distributed equally and evenly among them.
35. Farming shall be aimed at raising and maintaining a high level of produce for purpose of self-sufficiency.

INDUSTRY, TRADE, COMMERCE

36. Monopoly in industry, trade and commerce shall not be allowed to play a major role in economy.
37. The principles of communalism are institutionalised into industry, trade and commerce.

LAW

38. All citizens shall have the right to fair trial and access to legal defence and to this end the state shall:
 - i) set up legal advice bureaux with qualified lawyers who will interpret all legal matters to every citizen requesting this.
 - ii) lawyers shall be employed as civil servants to afford all citizens equal opportunity of good legal representation.

You products of the Black womb, don't forget that we are not yet free. Let no meaningless concessions and hollow freedoms confuse your vision. Sit and think, and remember the goals of long age. None of them has been light yet. With all the famous six months repentence period, with all the detente moves, oh, with all promises from top to bottom, Blacks remain as chained as never before.

Whitey runs the legislation show

- Blacky listens and has to follow

Whitey runs - the governmental circus

- Blacky fiddles with political dummies.

Whitey has all the privileges, political, social and economical

Whitey plans and direct Black lives,

- Blacky performs duties of robot perfectly

Whitey bans, banishes and detains

- Blacky says; We are now free, parks, sports, leasehold

Parliament proper remains Whiteman's monopoly

- Blacky is as excluded as ever, but he is MP

Yes Blacks, we are now very free, we can relinquish our just struggle. After all, are we not like white people now? But the Black Messiah has this to say; "If only I knew all along that you want to be as politically, economically and socially greedy as a Whiteman, I wouldn't have backed your cause. With this information, I beg to withdraw my support and services."

My countrymen, we have always pledged unity amongst ourselves, but on the other hand our thoughts, our speeches and our actions have betrayed and destroyed our tenacity of purpose more effectively than the system could do. We have scandalised, defamed, castigated and ridiculed fellow Blacks so irresponsibly that both our victims and us became easy preys for the destructive forces arrayed against the Black struggle. In the place of unity we have cliques, in the place of constructive criticism, gratification and glorification, effective tools in the hands of the system. We had surely achieved the unexpected, graduate political toyotas; fraudulent political finds, praise be to the anti-Black demon.

Unless we can be cured from this disease, and soon, we are poised for heavy defeat: at the hands of any anti-justice force.

For two solid years that I have been the President of BPC, I have learnt my lessons well. I must of necessity and in humility, and even with a sense of self-recrimination, admit that all dreams that I had about the Blackman and the struggle have evaporated and left a residue that only the Black Messiah can remove. While frankly and committed Black do exist within the struggle, I must also be honest enough to say that men of mean political character do abound. These are people who will pledge their bodies, soles and minds to the struggle, but who, at the call of responsibility, would not even offer their freedom. I have witnessed great Congress political bulldozers and staunch critics of others fumble and crumble at the first alarm of war. Great strugglers of Azania, the supper Blacks of the 1970s.

I have experienced and witnessed the financial collapse of the Convention because of the unwillingness of Blacks to sacrifice, or frankly because of their fraudulent promises that only help create hopes pregnant with despair and frustration. May we be protected against such political leshians, as well as against political apparents. God save our Azania. Please allow me to be honest with you. No one political coward can last in the bushes and rushes of the struggle of liberation. I would accordingly advice those with small minds, small political hearts, to stay out for my short experiance tells me that the struggle is hard and heavy, and the terrain is rugged and rough. If you don't believe me search yourself, and once you do that, keep it to yourself for I don't need your confessions and admissions.

I want to inform as well as to alert you my countrymen, that the joy of every struggle is in the pain of its stung. No wonder that great liberators of history are said to have smiled at frowning prison walls. Surely, if we calculate the cost of the struggle before we embark on it, all the torture, the tears, the bannings, restrictions and convictions and evictions, while these shall continue to be unbearable, we shall not only understand it but appreciate it as that necessary price that all men of

liberational vision must pay. Let's not forget that the most precious item in the house is usually, if not always, the one for which a high price in cash, kind, time, commitment or service has been given. Surely, liberation is not a reject in a factory freedom, but a genuine garranteed garment that will only benefit those that have shaped their bodies in accordance with its size and stile. Any other hopelessly disfigured body that thrust itself unwittingly into the garment either distroys or, as is often the case, is distroyed beyond recognition, Let us shape our courage and détermination in accordance with the demands of the times.

Bretheren, remember that up.till this Congress you had a pastor for president, and pastor without vision and profetic powers logically belongs to the religious dustbin. Resently, in strict compatibility with my call, I had a vision coupled with profetic powers of interpretation. It was about 6 a.m. , at that morning of all mornings I had over slept. I was suddenly cought in a cloud and ~~hi~~ I flouted and looked, I saw a pale man holding the sun in his hand.

The sun had thirteen rays on each of which was written something in flaming letters: Apartheid, oppression, suppression, torture, bannings, Robben Island, Central Prison SB, BOSS, discrimination, injustice, inequality of man and Homelands. I was asked to commit these words to memory, just as I had done it, the pale man, the falling sun and all that was written on the rays, descended at great velocity behind the horison and a great hurricane blew from the opposite direction wiped the 13 ABOMINABLES, as they were now known, out of the land and out of the memory of mankind. While my eyes were glued to the opposite direction, where on the horison I saw a Blackman with his legs apart, his mouth wide open, the sun in his hand, with sheaths of rays folded, shouting something at a time that he read as sunray sheaths unfolded.

JUSTICE, EQUALITY, FAIRNESS, UNITY, LIBERATION.

The man grew taller, the sun rose higher and higher and the shouts grew louder and louder as the golden words clearer and clearer. Midway in the sky was a young beautiful black woman just about to give birth to a child; and about a metre behind her was a young handsome blackman with a placard on which was written the name of the child, but since this could not be anounced till the child was born, my eyes could only catch the first three letters of the six letter word, AZA---, and as I listened I heard a voice shout: " the child is conceived. Is grown. The apparently barren has bor! fruit. It is up to the young woman, the old ladies around her and her husband to complete where had left for man".

SIYABONGA BLACK MESSIAH! RE A LEBOGA BLACK MESSIAH. RI RI RI A LIVHUHA. HA KENSA MESSIAH. For the evil man's sun has set, and the just man's sun has risen. But Lord the struggle was tough, the loud was heavy and the price was high. Yet the sun is bright and healthy and warm, yes, the price was justified , actually the article is worth far more than the cost price.

POWER, SOLIDARITY, PERSISTENCE AND FORTITUDE

ONCLUSION: POEM ON COMMITMENT.