The wealth shall be shared

[illegible] Freedom Charter as a guide [illegible] struggle against [illegible] and economic exploitation. The Congress committee [illegible] a growing [illegible] understanding of the Charter [illegible] and to ensure [illegible] the Charter [illegible] democracy and economic [illegible] Many people have [illegible] the demands of the Charter a reality in our country.

[illegible] Living Wage Campaign [illegible] on the need of the poorest people [illegible] discussion [illegible] how to share the wealth [illegible] among all the suffering people. This is also part of the [illegible] of the Charter. So we are [illegible] the discussion of the clause in the Living Wage section of Freedom Week.

[illegible] Wealth, [illegible] the people as a whole

"The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people. The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole. All other industries and trades shall be controlled but to assist the well-being of the people. All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose."

How will our new government find the money and resources to uplift [illegible] to pay a living wage. Is South Africa and Namibia and schools? How will the people really govern not just the administration but also the economy of our country? The Charter gives the answer: take over the commanding heights of our economy and place them under our control. Take back the massive wealth which the bosses and the government have stolen from us. Share it out.

The economy is completely dominated by about 7 giant monopolies. Anglo-American alone controls more than half the wealth in the Stock Exchange - more than R80 000 million. In 1987, Anglo made a profit of more than [illegible] 000 workers. Other companies - which in 1987 had the backbone - controlled 90% of the wealth. Workers will not get rich in the system of profits. There is enough wealth in addition to give all a decent life. The billions in Pretoria, in the banks and insurance companies, and Stock Exchange, the warehouses and factories of the mines and big factories and big farms, the railways and transport system, the national resources of our country - all these things will be used to improve needs of our people to abolish poverty and hunger.

For our class, the great majority of the people, the most important thing is for everyone to have a decent life, with work and decent food and housing and services. Without these things, without the basic necessities of decent human life - all other rights become meaningless. "What use is the vote if you are starving and your children are dying?" For workers, peasants, and the nation, these needs are decent food, free from hunger, health from overcrowding.

For the bosses the law of profit rules everything. Under the law, millions must starve for the sake of bosses' profits. Millions must die unless people for the sake of bosses profits. For our class everything must be done for the needs of the people. We work and we struggle. Decisions are made about food, housing, clothes, transport. There are many other things that we need, but which today are out of our reach. Even the most basic need of all - decent and adequate food - is not available for millions of workers.

So there is a chance in front of everyone. Take things for organisation so that a very beautiful of people can have a good life? Or will things be changed, so that everyone gets what all people need? Whatever form of the economy, centralised or free, today, it is the capitalists' chain of bosses. Tomorrow, under the Freedom Charter, it must be the working class. The people who produce everything and turn the wheels of the country.

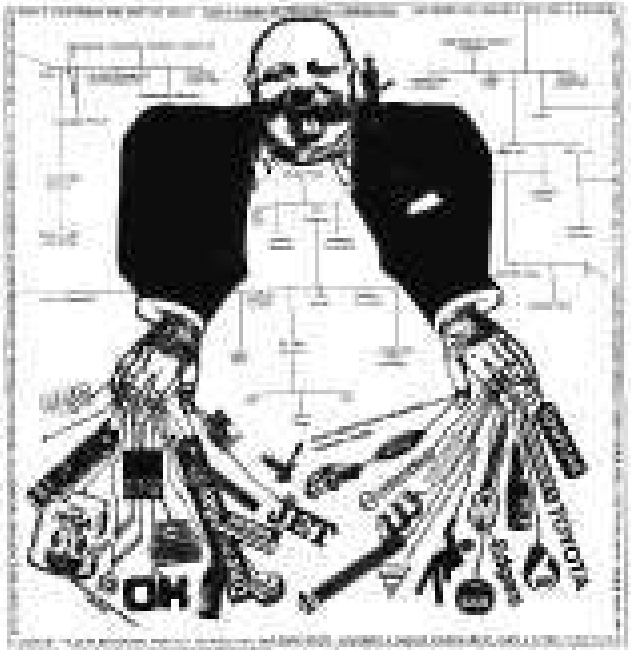
Nationalisation and workers' control does not mean that small businesses and small property owners will be supressed. In fact, more people around benefit greatly from more resources. The government will assist in spreading resources - and take the wealth from big business to helping all the people, including farmers, and small company entrepreneurs. The economy will be directed by the government to make a decent living, and they will also enjoy the benefits of housing and health and education.

The Charter demands the nation-alisation of big business in part of different ways for different people. The bosses need not be alarmed. They will have shares from the wealth that they have stolen from our labour. But in their names and factories we are building our present. We are laying the foundation to take control. For workers, nationalisation is independence from employers' control. Nationalisation without workers' control is just the industry under the control of capitalists. And this means that the industry claims allegiance to the law of profit, instead of satisfying the people.

The ANC Constitutional Guidelines [illegible] different things in different classes. Workers can take a "liberal economy" after liberation. There could be some private companies or joint ventures. But the commanding heights of the economy are not controlled under workers' control. The profit system will not be abolished in the major sectors of the economy. The "liberal economy" after liberation should be a bridge to a fully socialist economy. It will take time and great efforts to organise the economy and change it here to take over the running and planning of the economy. During this period, the economy will be in two sectors. In order to move towards socialism - the wealth must be taken from big businesses and placed under workers' control. The profit system must be replaced, and replaced by the system of production for needs.

Without these steps, we cannot break the power of monopoly capital. And if we do not break their power, the bosses will be able to move towards power again. There will be no continued exploitation and suffering. The bosses will continue to squeeze the life out of our class and of the people. We do not want this and we know that an identical end, which the bosses and capitalists

Our Freedom Charter says that there must be jobs for all, a living minimum wage for all, under-privileged pay good housing and health and education for all. The law of the Bantus says that there can only be these things - if the bosses are stealing money out of them. Bosses will employ workers to build houses - only if there is a profit for them. Bosses will pay us higher wages - only if they have got the profit that they want. But where do these profits come from? All profits come from squeezing the life out of workers. There is the way of the bosses. The way of workers says: "People need houses. There are workers, and there are machines. There are enough workers working idle. There are houses need for just. People need a living wage. There is enough money to pay everyone a living wage. There is no excuse that we can pay."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