



## **CONGRESS OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS OF SOUTH AFRICA (COTRALESA) CONSTITUTION**

**The launch of an organisation of progressive traditional leaders is a significant development in the light of the necessity of the Front broadening and expanding into rural areas. PHAMBILI publishes the COTRALESA constitution for our readers interest and comment.**

### **PREAMBLE**

**We the traditional leaders in South Africa realising**

- **that we, as members of the oppressed and exploited people, have been the most abused and alienated in the land of our fore- fathers by the evil apartheid colonialism and its violent and anti-people Bantustan system.**
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- that our people have been robbed their political, economic and social rights and their right to self-determination and nationhood by a succession of Dutch, British and now apartheid colonialism.
  - that our colonial status and suffering have been made possible by, first, the demon of racialism, the abberations and animosity between various national groups, and secondly, by the forced maintenance and fostering of these divisions that weaken us as a people by the apartheid government.
  - that the Bantustan system has created killing fields by the murderous apartheid machinery that seeks to deny our people their right to full South African citizenship and to share in the wealth of their country by the imposition of sham independence, ethnicity, tribalism, forced removals, forced tribal levies and taxes, land and stock limitations and restrictions, migratory labour system, vigilantes and other forms of apartheid violence against our people.
  - that, like Sekhukhuni, Ramabulanah, Cetshwayo, Shaka, Matikwana, Nyabela, Moshoeshoe, Luthuli and now Mandela, we have a duty and a role to play, in the ongoing National Liberation struggle for a free South Africa.
  - that our people have been robbed of their right to land, liberty and peace by a racist and exploitative form of government based on inequality and injustice.
  - that it is in the Bantustans in particular and everywhere else in South Africa where people are forced to live in conditions of abject poverty in
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the land where they are the immediate producers of all wealth and it is, therefore the interest of these exploited and oppressed working masses of our country, that must be central and leading within the interest of all our people;

**believe**

- that the aspiration of our people can only be met under a democratic state based on the will of all the people in a unitary, non-racial and democratic South Africa

**therefore resolve**

- to join our people in a determined struggle for freedom by founding an organisation of all democratically minded traditional leaders in South Africa.

**2. NAME**

The organisation shall be known as The Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, hereinafter referred to as COTRALESA

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### **3.. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

3.1 To organise and unite all traditional leaders in our country

3.2 To build and deepen proper democratic relationships between youth, workers and all sectors of our people

3.3 To take up the demands of our community jointly with them

3.4 To fight against tribalism , ethnicity and all apartheid instigated conflicts among our people

3.5 To fight for the eradication of the bantustan system and to restore South African citizenship to all our people

3.6 to, jointly with all our people, win back the land of our forefathers and share it amongst those who work it in order to banish famine and land hunger

3.7 To fight against the destruction of family life through the bantustan system and all related unjust laws

3.8 To build , develop and deepen the spirit of free exchange of cultural activities among all our people in pursuance of the building and development of a true South African culture and national talent

3.9 To school the traditional leaders about the aims of the South African Liberation Struggle and their role in it

3.10 To run projects and self-help schemes together with other progressive organisations that will advance our communities and enhance the good image of COTRALESA

3.11 To fight for a unitary non-racial and democratic South Africa

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