

Constitutional Guidelines for a Democratic South Africa

The State

1) South Africa will be an independent country. The country will make its own decisions. South Africa will be a unitary country. All of South Africa will be one country. South Africa will be a democratic country. The people - all the people - will choose who governs them. And if they govern badly, the people will be able to vote for a new government. South Africa will be a non-racial country. All people, black and white, will have the same rights.

2) South Africa will belong to all its people. There will be one parliament which will make the laws of the country. There will be one government, one system of courts, and one administration for the people. To bring democracy to people, there will also be regional administrations.

3) The duty of chiefs and traditional rulers will be to serve the people as a whole - and to rule in a democratic way.

4) The courts, the army and the police will serve all the people. Their job will be to protect the people and the constitution.

One Person, One Vote

5) Every man and woman will have a vote. There will be one person/one vote.

6) Everyone who can vote can also stand for election.

One Country, One People

7) All South Africans will be made to feel that they belong to the country. The state will protect the different languages and cultures of all South Africans - but all South Africans will be citizens of one country and loyal to that country.

A Bill Of Rights

8) There will be a bill of rights based on the Freedom Charter. The Bill of Rights will protect the rights of all the people - of blacks and of whites, of men and women, and of people of all religions.

9) The government, together with other organisations, will have a duty to stamp out racism.

10) The government and other organisations must find quick ways to get rid of the inequalities of apartheid - for example, differences in wages, in housing and in education.

11) Any organisation that supports racism, fascism or nazism will be banned. So will any organisation that makes any group of people hate another group.

12) Everybody - except racists, fascists and nazis - will have the right to have meetings, to think what they like, and to follow any religion. There will be freedom of the press. The state will protect the right to work, the right to education and the right to social security (for example, unemployment benefits, pensions, health care).

13) Any party can stand for election. But not parties that are racist, fascist or nazi, or parties that make one group of people hate another group.

Economy

14) The state will make sure that the country's economy works for the good of the people.

15) The state will decide the country's economic system. The state will be able to decide on the rights and duties of those who own industries, factories, mines, and businesses.

16) Business must respect the Freedom Charter, and work with the state to make a good society for all the people.

17) The economy will be mixed. There will be state ownership. There will also be co-operatives and family businesses.

18) The state will give help to co-operatives, village industries and family businesses.

19) The state will help all people, especially black people, to get training in management skills, and in technical and scientific skills.

20) All people will have the right to keep their belongings. This right will be protected by the state.

Land

21) People of any colour will be able to own and use land in any part of the country. The state will give special help to people who have had their land taken away from them, for example by forced removals.

A Workers' Charter

22) There will be a special charter for workers. The rights of trade unions will be protected, especially the right to strike and collective bargaining.

Equal Rights For Women

23) Women will have the same rights as men at home, at work and in the community. The state will give women special help to make up for the inequalities of the past.

The Family

24) The rights of the family, of parents and of the children will be protected.

South Africa and The Rest of The World

25) South Africa will not be an ally of the United States or the Soviet Union. It will be a non-aligned country. It will support the aims of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) and of the United Nations (UN). South Africa will help oppressed peoples in other parts of the world. South Africa will help to make the world a place of peace.

We have taken this from Learn and Teach, number 5, 1988. Learn and Teach changed the wording and explained things here and there. They did this to make the Guidelines simpler and easier to read. They have tried their best to keep to the true meaning and spirit of the Guidelines.