

A votes of thanks to the President

(March 1988)

The desire of the constitution committee and the department of legal Constitutional Affairs to more a vote of thanks to the President is much more than a formal and ceremonial gesture which befits the Head of our movement. The motion also expresses a genuine feeling of appreciation for what you comrade President contributed to the launching of proposals for a constitution that would suit the needs and aspirations of the people of South Africa in a newly liberated society.

It was you comrade President who on the 8th of Jan 1986 commissioned this committee, appointed its members and changed them with the task of formulating proposals for the constitution of a new South Africa, liberated from the yoke of the colonial past, the atrocities of apartheid the humiliations and indignities of vulgar racism and the perpetuation of a reign of terror against our brave fighters for freedom and all people who have risen in revolt against the system of exploitation imposed upon them since the beginning of white settlement and the colonial wars of conquest.

On that occasion of the first meeting of the constitution committee it is you who outlined its mission speaking of the need to incorporate in our proposals the basic concepts of the Freedom Charter at the memorable meeting at Kliptown of the congress of the people on 26th June 1955.

Nearly two years went by before the National Executive Committee was able to consider our proposals, express its own policies which were often in disagreement with those of the committee and gave it the green light to go ahead with placing our proposals before our members as a preliminary to circulating them among our people at home. Even at that stage when the final set of proposals had been drafted for your consideration you applied your sharp and critical mind to the formulations, drew attention to anomalies and suggested changes both of substance and style. Without exaggeration it can be said that this draft constitution of March 1st 1988 is truly the creation of Cde Olover Tambo President of the African National Congress, leader of the movement for the liberation of South Africa and the inspiration behind the National Democratic Revolution under whose banner millions of South African have rallied for the final onslaught bastions of colonial rule, racism and apartheid terror.

We salute you comrade President, acknowledging your spiritual guidance, political insight role as one of the great sons of Africa.

AMANDLA NGAWETHU
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