

ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The annual ANC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS for the best performing ANC branch, Women's League branch, Youth League branch and ANC-led local council were initiated to promote a greater focus on the organisational task of building branches, strengthening local government and building the leagues. The awards aim to highlight the features of strong branches and councils and to reward best practice within the movement.

The following awards will be made:



SOL PLAATJE AWARD
for the best performing ANC branch



CHARLOTTE MAXEKE AWARD
for the best ANC Women's League branch



ANTON LEMBEKE AWARD
for the best ANC Youth League branch



ZK MATTHEWS AWARD
for the best performing group of ANC councillors

The awards are named for outstanding cadres of the ANC, whose individual qualities of commitment and selflessness are an example to every ANC member.

During their lives, each of these people made an immeasurable contribution to the struggle for freedom and a better life.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of these awards are to:

- Strengthen ANC branches and branches of the Women's League and Youth League.
- Improve the level of delivery, accountability and capacity in ANC-led local councils.
- Integrate the work of the ANC and League branch into the mainstream of society.
- Locate the ANC branch at the centre of all ANC activities and programmes.
- Acknowledge contributions made by the branch towards its immediate communities.
- Recognise the council's contribution to good governance, deepening democracy and changing the quality of life of its community.
- Encourage branches to capacitate themselves with information and skills that are necessary to produce effective work and quality leadership.
- Make special efforts to capacitate branches in rural areas and on farms.
- Identify branches that can be role models for others, and whose good practice can be adopted by other branches.
- Emphasise, by circulating the award criteria, the best qualities expected of a branch or ANC-led council.
- Encourage branch cadres to become strong leadership for the future.

SELECTION PROCESS

For each of the awards the same selection process will be followed:

- Each ANC branch, Women's League branch, Youth League branch or group of ANC councillors may enter the competition by completing the standard *Nomination Form*.
- Each completed *Nomination Form* must be submitted to the relevant ANC Provincial Secretary by **30 September**.
- A Provincial Selection Panel, consisting of PEC members, Women's League and Youth League representatives and veterans, will assess all the entries and identify the two best provincial nominees in each category.
- The best provincial nominees will be forwarded to the National Selection Panel. Based on the information provided in the nomination form, supporting statements from RECs and organisers and, if necessary, interviews with other representatives, the National Selection Panel will choose a national winner from the pool of provincial nominees in each category.
- The award winners will be announced by the ANC President at the annual January 8th celebrations.



SOL PLAATJE was a prominent founding member of the ANC and served as its first Secretary General. A distinguished writer and social and political activist, Plaatje played a leading role in mobilising African opposition to the 1913 Native Land Act.

Solomon Tshekiso Plaatje was born in 1876 on a farm called Dorfontein, near Kimberley.

In 1898 he moved to Mafikeng to take up the position of interpreter in the Magistrate's Court, which was one of the most highly regarded jobs for Africans in the Cape Civil Service.

Plaatje was in Mafikeng at the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer South African War when it was besieged by Boer forces. The diary which he kept during the siege, which was published only in 1976, provided extraordinary insights into the lives of ordinary Mafikeng residents during this time.

In 1901, Plaatje joined Silas Molema, from the influential Molema family, in setting up an English/Tswana newspaper, *Koranta ea Becoana*. But *Koranta* was not sustainable, and in 1910 Plaatje established and edited *Tsala ea Becoana* (Friend of the Tswana).

Plaatje was a central figure in the process leading up to the formation of a new permanent organisation which would represent the interests of African South Africans. This organisation, originally called the South African Native National Congress and later the African National Congress, was formed on 8 January 1912. John Dube was elected the first President-General and Sol Plaatje the first Secretary General.

As ANC Secretary General Plaatje took a leading role in establishing the legitimacy of the ANC and in mobilising opposition to the 1913 Land Act. In 1914, the ANC sent a deputation to Britain to protest the Land Act. Plaatje returned to South Africa in early 1917, and became involved in the ANC's campaign against the Native Affairs Administration Bill. At the ANC annual conference that year he was offered the presidency of the ANC. He turned it down, and accepted the position of Senior Vice-President.

Plaatje died in Narcefield, Johannesburg on 19 June, 1932. At his funeral, Rev Mahabane described Plaatje as a great patriot: "He devoted his talents to the service of his people and his country. In this service he did not spare himself, but worked day and night."

This award recognises Plaatje's central role in the formation of a movement to struggle for the rights of black South Africans, and his conviction that only united, organised action could bring about meaningful change. The ANC branch remains to this day the primary vehicle for united, organised action.

CRITERIA

Criteria by which the best performing ANC branch will be judged include:

- a consistently active branch which has over a number of years held regular AGMs and has throughout this time been properly constituted
- a branch whose membership has steadily grown and whose existing membership consistently renews their membership on time
- a branch which has a successful induction programme for new members, and which is able to effectively translate a growth in membership numbers into a growth of committed cadres;
- a branch leadership which is united and operates as a collective, which has achieved a good balance between continuity (retaining experienced leaders) and rejuvenation (cultivating new leaders from among the membership);
- a vibrant branch programme of action, which engages branch members in ANC work, which advances the strategic tasks of the movement and which mobilises the community in response to their most pressing needs and concerns;
- an active cadre development programme, which includes induction, political education workshops, political discussions in every meeting, study circles and the development of other skills (such as communications, fundraising, strategic planning, etc) among branch members;
- an active role in the community – responding in a programmatic way to community needs, and mobilising different constituencies within the community according to their needs and capabilities;
- a sound working relationship with structures of the Alliance, Sarcos and other MDM formations, and effective cooperation with other civil society partners, such as NGOs and CBOs;
- enthusiastic participation in regional, provincial and national structures and processes, providing direction to these structures and engaging branch members in these processes;
- an effective working relationship with cadres deployed in local government and an ongoing engagement in the branch with local government issues, providing guidance and capacity;
- strategic and constructive participation in Community Policing Forums, Local Development Forums, School Governing Bodies and other community-based structures;
- working relationships with branches of the ANC Women's League and Youth League, including a programme to build these structures and support their programmes;
- a functioning BEC, active sub-committees and effective coordination among the structures of the branch;
- proper financial management and pro-active fundraising structures and strategies;
- sound administrative practices and procedures, and effective recording and filing systems, internal communication and reporting.

CHARLOTTE MAXEKE, described by Dr AB Xuma as "the mother of African freedom in this country," was the first President of the Bantu Women's League. Formed in 1918, the Bantu Women's League (BWL) was the forerunner of the ANC Women's League at a time when women did not have full membership status within the ANC.

Charlotte Maxeke was born Charlotte Makgomo Manye in the Pietersburg district in 1874. From a young age she was a talented singer and joined a group of singers that toured England. She traveled to Canada and the United States, where she was offered a place at the Wilberforce University in Cleveland, Ohio, which was run by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. While there she married fellow student Rev Marshall Maxeke.

She graduated in 1905 with a BSc degree, and returned home with her husband to found the Wilberforce Institute, which was later to be one of the leading Transvaal higher schools of learning for Africans.

In 1919 Charlotte Maxeke achieved political prominence as a leader of women demonstrators against proposals to extend the pass system to women. It was at this time that she decided to found the Bantu Women's League (BWL), which is also referred to as the African Women's League. As President of the League, she led a delegation to the then Prime Minister to discuss the question of passes for women in the Free State. The BWL demonstrated widely and sometimes successfully against passes for women.

In 1920 she extended her support to the early efforts of Clements Kadalie and Selby Msimang to launch a national trade union movement for Africans.

One of Maxeke's greatest contributions to the analysis of the situation of women in South Africa was an address she gave on 'Social Conditions among Bantu Women and Girls' at a conference at Fort Hare in 1930. She noted that the problems experienced by women were a result of the migratory system. She discussed the effects of racial discrimination, the problems of domestic servants, work permits and the land question.

Charlotte Maxeke died in 1939 at the age of 65. Throughout her life she showed outstanding qualities as an ANC activist, social worker, teacher, journalist, church leader and thinker. Her legacy should serve as an inspiration for all South Africans in the ongoing struggle against the oppression of women in South Africa.

CRITERIA

Criteria by which the best performing ANC Women's League branch will be judged include:

- a consistently active branch which has over a number of years held regular AGMs and has throughout this time been properly constituted
- a branch whose membership has steadily grown and whose existing membership consistently renews their membership on time
- a branch which has a successful induction programme for new members, and which is able to effectively translate a growth in membership numbers into a growth of committed cadres;
- a branch leadership which is united and operates as a collective, which has achieved a good balance between continuity (retaining experienced leaders) and rejuvenation (cultivating new leaders from among the membership);
- a vibrant branch programme of action, which engages branch members in League work, which advances the strategic tasks of the League and the movement and which mobilises the community in response to their most pressing needs and concerns;
- an active cadre development programme, which includes induction, political education workshops, political discussions in every meeting, study circles and the development of other skills (such as communications, fundraising, strategic planning, etc) among branch members;
- an active role in the community, particularly around women and the issues that affect them
- a strong working relationship with the ANC branch, participating in its activities and ensuring the prominence of women's issues in the branch programme;
- a sound working relationship with women's structures in the Alliance, Sanco and other MDM formations, and effective cooperation with other civil society partners, such as NGOs and CBOs;
- enthusiastic participation in regional, provincial and national structures and processes, providing direction to these structures and engaging branch members in these processes;
- proper financial management and pro-active fundraising structures and strategies;
- sound administrative practices and procedures, and effective recording and filing systems, internal communication and reporting.



AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

ANTON LEMBEDE AWARD

BEST PERFORMING YOUTH LEAGUE BRANCH

Anton Lembede was a founding member and the first President of the ANC Youth League. Formed in 1944, the Youth League was central in reinvigorating the ANC and ensuring a more direct challenge to the apartheid system.

Born in the rural district of Georedalen near Durban in 1914, Anton Muziwake Lembede was of peasant origin. He went to Adam's College on a bursary in 1933 to train as a teacher. He matriculated in 1937 with a distinction in Latin. He taught in Natal and the Orange Free State at the age of 29 and at the same time learned Sesotho and Afrikaans.

In 1943 he obtained a BA degree through correspondence with the University of South Africa and, again through self-education, he obtained an LLB degree. Pixley ka Isaka Seme agreed to article Lembede as a law clerk. In 1946 he became a full partner in 'Seme and Lembede'. He later achieved an MA degree in Philosophy.

Lembede was militantly nationalistic, with very strong views on the Africanness of the struggle. Many of his views are captured in 1944 Manifesto of the ANC Youth League. The Manifesto said "Africans must struggle for development, progress and national liberation". It called on African youth to be united, consolidated, trained and disciplined because from their ranks future leaders would be recruited.

The African National Congress was described by the ANC Youth League as 'the symbol and embodiment of the Africans' will to present a united national front against all forms of oppression' - but it was admitted that Congress had not been able to make progress and this had drawn to it criticism 'in the last 20 years'. The Youth League presented a positive strategy which took a form of a programme, a goal and clarifying ideological questions in the process.

Lembede was involved in efforts in 1947 to build a partnership with the Natal Indian Congress, Transvaal Indian Congress and the coloured African People's Organisation, which was an important element of the ANC's non-racial tradition.

Anton Lembede died in 1947 at the tragically early age of 33. He nevertheless made an indelible mark on the history of the ANC, the role of the youth and the direction of the struggle.

It is Lembede's emphasis on the unity of the youth which must guide the programmes of ANC Youth League branches as they continue the struggle for development, progress and national liberation

CRITERIA

Criteria by which the best performing ANC Youth League branch will be judged include:

- a consistently active branch which has over a number of years held regular AGMs and has throughout this time been properly constituted
- a branch whose membership has steadily grown and whose existing membership consistently renews their membership on time
- a branch which has a successful induction programme for new members, and which is able to effectively translate a growth in membership numbers into a growth of committed cadres;
- a branch leadership which is united and operates as a collective, which has achieved a good balance between continuity (retaining experienced leaders) and rejuvenation (cultivating new leaders from among the membership);
- a vibrant branch programme of action, which engages branch members in League work, which advances the strategic tasks of the League and the movement and which mobilises the community in response to their most pressing needs and concerns;
- an active cadre development programme, which includes induction, political education workshops, political discussions in every meeting, study circles and the development of other skills (such as communications, fundraising, strategic planning, etc) among branch members;
- an active role in the community, particularly around youth and the issues that affect them
- a strong working relationship with the ANC branch, participating in its activities and ensuring the prominence of youth issues in the branch programme;
- a sound working relationship with structures like Saso, Cosas and other youth and education formations, providing strategic direction to issues of education and youth development;
- enthusiastic participation in regional, provincial and national structures and processes, providing direction to these structures and engaging branch members in these processes;
- proper financial management and pro-active fundraising structures and strategies;
- sound administrative practices and procedures, and effective recording and filing systems, internal communication and reporting.



ZK MATTHEWS is credited with initiating the process which led to the Freedom Charter, which stated the fundamental belief of all South Africans that 'the people shall govern'.

Zacharia Keodirang Matthews was born in 1901 in Barkley West near Kimberley. After receiving a bursary he was able to attend the Lovedale Missionary Institute in 1916. Two years later he registered for matriculation classes at the South African Native College, which later became the University of Fort Hare. He was the first student to receive a degree at the college when in 1924 he was awarded a BA (Unisa).

In 1925 Matthews was the first African to be appointed head of Adams College in Amanzimtoti. He joined the Natal Bantu Teachers' Association, later becoming its president. In 1930 he became the first African to receive an LLB degree from the University of South Africa. He became a lecturer at Fort Hare in 1936, and in 1945 was appointed Professor of African Studies.

Matthews became increasingly involved in politics after his return to South Africa. With DDT Jabavu, he arranged the All-African Congress (AAC) in Bloemfontein in 1935 and was elected to the executive committee. He joined the ANC in 1940 and was elected to the ANC National Executive Committee in 1943. Matthews became president of the ANC Cape provincial branch in 1949.

In 1953 Matthews proposed a national convention of all South Africans during which a peace manifesto would be drafted. The result was the Congress of the People at Kliptown in June 1955 at which the Freedom Charter was adopted.

In December 1955 Matthews became acting principal of Fort Hare. He was arrested in 1956 as one of the 156 accused in the treason trial. He was acquitted in 1961.

When the Department of Bantu Education took over Fort Hare University, they declared no staff members were allowed to be members of any political party. Matthews resigned from Fort Hare and began practising as an attorney in Alice.

In 1961 he was appointed Africa secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC). He resigned from the WCC in 1966 to retire to Botswana. He was appointed Botswana's first ambassador to the United States and envoy to the United Nations. He died at his Washington home in 1969.

The ZK Matthews Award is a tribute to his contribution to the affirmation of the will of the people and his strong beliefs about government as the servant of the people.

CRITERIA

Criteria by which the best performing group of ANC councillors will be judged include:

- a group of councillors which is united, disciplined and operates as a collective;
- councillors which interact on an ongoing basis with ANC branch and regional structures, and draw their political mandate from the constitutional structures of the ANC;
- councillors who hold themselves accountable to the communities which elected them, reporting back to these communities regularly and involving communities in important local government processes;
- a council with a clean track record, in which no instances of corruption, maladministration or impropriety are evident;
- a council which has been able to bring about tangible improvements in the quality of life of the community;
- a council which demonstrates sound financial practices and has moved significantly towards greater levels of financial sustainability.