

CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN TRANSFORMATION STUDENT MOVEMENT (ATSM)

Preamble: the African Transformation Student Movement (ATSM) is a Social Democratic Party which is committed to serving all students through a transparent and accountable government respecting the rule of law. The ATSM is underpinned by faith base values and principles of fairness, transparency, social justice, equality, solidarity and reconciliation and accountability.

The ATSM notes that the amount of hate speech in the political, social and economic arena of all South African institutions of higher learning that has reached uncomfortable levels for God-fearing people. This includes a moral decay which is prominent in society. As faith-base students we cannot continue to remain silent when the moral fabric of society is being shattered by the political grandstanding, the unrespectable name calling, fighting and disorder in all levels of institutions of higher learning cause a concern for restoration of peace and love for a dignified South Africa.

These undignified demeanors have eroded our African and Ubuntu values which should inform our politics and define our societal and governmental administration, the massive corruption in government operations dents and denigrates our good ethical leadership. Hate speech, hatred, vendetta, lack of forgiveness and reconciliation, diminishing of love for one another and self-centeredness concerns all peace-loving Africans. This ungodly behavior also affects the other creeds such as Islam, Hinduism and African indigenous religions.

The ATSM is formed in response to these unbecoming realities. South Africans have come to perceive politics as a “dirty game”. This implies that good people should not be involved in politics. However, politics in essence is a useful system designed to create ideal socio-economic and healthy religious relationships in our communities. Therefore, it can be concluded that people who participate in politics have made politics to appear dirty. Thus we cannot do without politics but we can do without politicians that don't have pre-eminent student interest at heart.

ATSM seeks to develop a modern, healthy, happy, functional, democratic, fair and prosperous society that prides itself on integrity and inclusivity, the ATSM will commit to creating and maintaining a listening student populace and the institutions of higher learning in responsive to the needs of the young people in general but students in particular of South Africa. ATSM will uphold and defend the constitution and protect the right of all students and commit to combating corruption, respecting the rule of law protecting the human rights and holding accountable for their actions.

The political Philosophy of the ATSM is based on serving all young people in general but students in particular through a transparent and accountable governance and promoting a modern inclusivity and socially economy demonstrated by a faith-based justice system, and this commitment will be guided by the following principle:

- Governing with the young people.
- Ensuring social justice.
- Promoting access to functional education for everyone without discrimination.
- Pursuit of non-racial, non-tribal, non-sexist and inclusive political system in higher learning.
- Provision of quality health care in campuses.
- Building peaceful prosperous institutions of higher learning founded on the principles of cohesion, reconciliation, Ubuntu, liberation, accountability and servanthood.
- Fostering education on self-reliance and livelihoods for youth and Economic transformation which redress economic imbalances
- Promotion of African languages in educational institutions of higher learning.

Section 1: Name

The Name of the organisation shall be **African Transforming Student Movement** herein referred to as ATSM.

The ATSM shall be referred to as a faith-based national student political organization, established to create and develop a modern, healthy, happy, functional, democratic, fair and prosperous society that prides itself on integrity and inclusivity

Section 2: Logo and Colours

Section 3: Aims and Objectives

1. The ATSM is a faith-based political party, established to create and develop a modern, healthy, functional, democratic, fair and prosperous society that prides itself on integrity and inclusivity.
2. Our political ideology is Humanism in general and African humanism in particular. The philosophical understanding of the ATSM behind this Humanism ideology is that: "There is Only One God and Only One Race, the Human Race".
3. The political principle of the ATSM is to transform institutions of higher learning into a peaceful, supported by Ubuntu and Divinity, while embracing our hard-earned human rights, respecting one another and embracing diversity through non-racialism, for the benefit of all students.

4. To participate in, support and promote all struggles for the attainment of the complete independence and unity of African education systems and by extension, the African continent.
5. To endeavour for the liberation of African Women and the swedge against the oppression and exploitation of women and build women leadership.
6. This will be achieved by uniting Africans, who have different beliefs, religions, life-styles and ideologies; build a progressive democratic study space, which addresses the needs of all those who live in it.

Section 4: Principles

The ATSM subscribe to the following core values:

- I. **PEACE:** Create a society that is at peace with itself through active social dialogue
- II. **UBUNTU:** "Umntu ngumntu ngabantu" to live and breathe the value of ubuntu on a daily basis as a people of the land;
- III. **TRANSFORMATION (African):** Be forward thinking and innovative in the running of the affairs of the state;
- IV. **SERVANT LEADERSHIP:** Be a servant of the people first and foremost, to ascertain sound leadership and governance; and
- V. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Build a state governed with ethics and integrity to guarantee good governance and curb criminal activities in the public office.

Section 5: Cardinal Pillars of ATM

All ATSM members are confined by the 10 Cardinal Pillars of hope that will Put South Africans First by bringing change for a better tomorrow:

1. Peace, Justice, Safety and Security, Now;
2. Sustainable Economic Growth that Creates Jobs;
3. Land, Rural Development and Food Security;
4. Sustainable Human Settlements and Basic Services;
5. Education and Skills Development;
6. Health and Social Services;
7. Traditional and Religious Affairs;
8. Youth and Early Childhood Development;
9. Empowerment of Women and People with Disabilities; and
10. Building a Corrupt-free and a Capable Developmental State.

Section 6: Membership

- 5.1** Membership shall be open to all registered students at institutions of higher learning and further education and training, public and private as decided by Congress, regardless of nationality, race, sex, creed, sexual orientation, on condition that such shall adhere to the principles, discipline and mode of operation of the organisation;
- 5.2** Membership shall be confirmed annually in accordance with the academic term;
- 5.3** The members shall be expected to pay the subscription fee as determined by National Congress;
- 5.4** Dual or multiple memberships by individuals shall be welcomed provided the policies and programmes of the said organisation, to which a member belongs to or may wish to belong to are not hostile to those of the organisation;
- 5.5** No person shall occupy any executive position or represent the organisation on any structure unless s/he is a registered student in a public or private higher education or further education and training institution.
- 5.6** Every member should renew his/her membership every academic year and pay the membership fee.
- 5.7** No person shall be able to represent the organisation or vote on any of its policies unless he/she has paid the subscription fee.

Section 6: Rights of Members

A member of the ATSM is entitled to:

- 6.1** Take a full and active part in the discussion, formulation and implementation of the policy of ATSM.
- 6.2** To participate in meetings and other activities organised by ATSM.
- 6.3** To vote in any elections held by ATSM in obedience to such rules and regulations of ATSM.
- 6.4** Submit proposals or statements to the branch, region, province and NEC, provided such proposals or statements are submitted through the appropriate structures.

Section 7: Responsibilities of members

A member of ATSM will:

- 7.1** Belong to and take an active part in the life of his or her branch.
- 7.2** Take all necessary steps to understand and carry out the aims, policy and programme of ATSM.

- 7.3 Advise the party of his or her understanding of the social, cultural, political and economic problems of the higher institutions of learning.
- 7.4 Combat propaganda detrimental to the interests of ATSM and defend the policy, aims and programme of ATSM.
- 7.5 Observe discipline, behave loyally and carry out reliably decisions of the majority and decisions of higher bodies.
- 7.6 Inform his or her branch of movement to any other area and report to the branch Committee Secretary on his or her arrival at any new locality.
- 7.7 Refrain from publishing or disbursing any media without authorization which purports to be the view of any organized grouping, faction or tendency within ATSM.
- 7.8 All members shall ensure that they are registered as voters in the constituency where they reside.
- 7.9 Work for the interests of the vast majority of students of South Africa, Africa and consult with the student body at large and investigate the necessary conditions when matters arise.

Section 8: Organizational Structure

ATSM consists of the following organs:

- 8.1 The National Convention which elects the National Executive Committee.

.Section 9: National Symposium

- 9.1 A National Symposium may be convened by the NEC from time to time, provided that the NEC shall convene the Symposium not later than eighteen (18) months after National Convention.
- 9.2 The NEC will, after consultation with Provinces, determine the composition of the Symposium.
- 9.3 The Symposium will:
- 9.4 Determine and review the policies and programmes of ATSM.
- 9.5 Have the power to discuss any issue it deems necessary taking into account policies and directives of the National Convention.
- 9.6 Subject to section 12.1.7, it may fill vacancies that have arisen in the NEC provided that such vacancies do not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the NEC.

Section 10: Duties and Powers of the National Convention

10. Duties and Powers of the National Convention

10.1 The National Convention shall:

10.1.1 Decide and determine the policy, programme and Constitution of the ATSM.

10.1.2 Receive and discuss the reports of the ATSM which shall include the Presidential address, the Secretary General's Report, which shall include a report on the work and the Treasurer General's Report.

10.1.3 Have the right and power to review, ratify, alter or rescind any decision taken by any of the constituent bodies, units or officials of the ATSM.

10.1.4 Elect the President, the Secretary-General, 1st Deputy Secretary-General, 2nd Deputy Secretary-General the Treasurer.

10.1.5 Have the power to elect or appoint any commission or committee and assign specific tasks and duties to such commission or committee.