



Equal Education Resolutions

ADOPTED BY EQUAL EDUCATION'S
SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS

HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

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Governance of the Movement

Congress Resolves that

1. The National Council must ensure accountability for implementing and reporting more regularly to members on its political decisions.
2. The National Council should seek guidance on potential candidates from members when co-opting members onto the National Council.
3. As much as reasonably possible, a hard copy of the Constitution should be handed out to Movement members.
4. The National Council should explore methods for providing information and seeking input about the Movement's budget so that members are aware of the financial state of the Movement.

Mobilisation, Movement Building, and Partnerships

Congress Resolves that

1. The Movement must consider organising parents in other Provinces. Organising parents could be through SGBs, community meetings, schools for learners with disabilities, and in EE campaigns.
2. Equalisers must take responsibility for mobilisation of their parents and other parents in their communities.
3. The Movement must create more opportunities for all members (including equalisers, parents and facilitators) to publicly represent the movement.
4. The Movement must increase awareness about its existence and its mission by engaging all sectors of society, particularly teachers, parents, School Governing Bodies and other community members. These sectors should be brought in to support our campaigns.
5. The National Council must develop a plan to more actively organise and to define the roles of post-school youth including facilitators. This plan can include working together with EE societies at institutions of higher learning.
6. The Movement should involve more parents and teachers in its campaigns and its work. EE members should also mobilise more in communities for support and growth of the Movement. The Movement should develop strategies for informing teachers about what EE is and for building support from parents and teachers for the Movement and its campaigns.
7. EE's mission must be translated into all eleven South African languages and these translations must be publicised throughout the Movement.

8. The Movement must work to develop a culture of inclusivity and support for different identities.
9. The Movement must engage with the possibility of building training programmes for primary school learners and building membership in former Model C schools. These schools should be more actively engaged in campaigns.

Solidarity with Struggles of Students at South African Institutions of Higher Learning

This Congress recognises the importance of the struggle of students in institutions of higher learning for the transformation and decolonisation of their institutions, and supports the work of movements whose members are fighting the oppressive legacy of colonialism and Apartheid at those institutions.

Solidarity with Struggles of Students around the World

This Congress stands in solidarity with the struggles of young people around the world for equality and quality in education, such as those in Zimbabwe, Chile and Palestine. Like ours, these education struggles form part of a wider struggle against capitalism and inequality. The Movement must take steps to show more active solidarity with these international movements, for example through protests, statements and other displays of public support.

Solidarity with the Workers of Marikana and the Families of those Killed and Injured

This Congress stands in solidarity with the workers of Marikana and the families of those workers who were killed and injured by the police on 16 August 2012. The Movement supports the miners' demands for a living wage, compensation for the families of the victims, and prosecution of those responsible for the massacre. 16 August 2015 will be three years since 34 miners were murdered at Marikana, and countless more injured. The Movement must mark this day by commemoration activities, including collecting donations from members and others in our schools, which will be given to the families of those killed and injured.

Provincial Factionalism

This Congress condemns provincial factionalism (division) in the strongest terms. It is not welcome in our movement. Members of EE are members of a national movement. EE is our home, no matter where we come from. The struggles we face to overcome the legacy of

colonialism, racial capitalism and Apartheid are huge. These sources of unequal education do not originate only in our Provinces. They are national and global problems. We have no chance to win these battles if we spend our time caucusing against each other. Hard work, integrity, unity, friendship and comradeship are what we need to go forward.

Campaigns and Protest Action

Congress Resolves that

1. Involvement of Members in Campaigns

- 1.1. The National Council must explore opportunities for more regular involvement of, and consultation with, members on critical campaign decisions, including undertaking new campaigns. This can be done through equaliser Leadership Committees, parent Branch Executive Committees, Parents' Leadership Committees or Parents' Executive Committees, and facilitator forums.

2. Teachers and Teaching and Learning

- 2.1. This Congress recognises the struggles facing teachers in South Africa, and acknowledges the thousands of dedicated teachers in the country. We recognise the inequality in working conditions and pay of teachers in township and rural schools, and teachers in former Model C or private schools. We also recognise the harmful effects of Bantu Education on our teachers. However, Congress strongly condemns teachers who arrive late, fail to cover the curriculum, fail to prepare for lessons, and do not show commitment to the education of learners.
- 2.2. Before the next National Congress, the National Council must ensure that the Movement launches an evidence-based campaign, working with progressive teacher unions (and with teachers themselves) to improve teaching and learning, which will look at a range of measures to ensure better recruitment, remuneration, training, management, support and accountability of teachers.

3. The Gauteng Sanitation Campaign

- 3.1. The Gauteng Sanitation campaign must continue to mobilise, ensuring that the Provincial MEC for Education keeps his promises around fixing sanitation in Gauteng schools. Other Provinces must support this campaign.

4. School Based Campaigns

- 4.1. The Movement should mobilise around specific issues within the schools where we are organised to create school-based campaigns. At the same time we will build provincial and national campaigns to improve education for all South Africans.

5. Divest from Curro Campaign

- 5.1. This Congress condemns racist practices at Curro Roodeplaat School, at any other school and anywhere else in society. Curro Roodeplaat is a private school owned by a company called Curro Holdings Limited (Curro). Congress supports the

Movement's call for the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) to stop investing money in Curro. The PIC is owned by the South African government, and its money should not be invested in companies which profit from education, worsen inequality, or implement racist policies and practices. The Movement should therefore continue this campaign.

6. Activism Tactics and Militancy

- 6.1. The Movement should consider tactics of more militant activism in its campaigns. These could include sit-ins, sleep-ins, occupations and strategic boycotts. If permission to march or gather is wrongly refused, we should not automatically allow this to prevent us from marching. Our methods should be peaceful, disciplined and careful. We should plan to have media present and legal support close by. We should not disrupt classes other than in exceptional cases, when all relevant sectors concerned have been consulted.

7. The Michael Komape Norms and Standards Implementation Campaign

- 7.1. Background to the Campaign and its Name
 - 7.1.1. Over a period of 3 years, members of Equal Education mobilised, analysed information, fasted, marched, held sleep-ins and used the courts in a campaign for the creations of binding Norms and Standards for school infrastructure. With the Norms and Standards having been adopted on 29 November 2013, our campaign has now moved into a new phase, in which we are mobilising members, schools and communities around the demand for full implementation of the Norms and Standards. Our call to fix our schools continues.
 - 7.1.2. At the beginning of the 2014 school year, Michael Komape, a six-year old Grade R learner in Chebeng Village, Limpopo, died tragically at school when the rusty seat of a pit latrine toilet collapsed under him. With the permission of the Komape family, we have named our campaign for implementation of the Norms and Standards "The Michael Komape Norms and Standards Implementation Campaign"; to honour Michael Komape's memory and to emphasise the urgency of our demand that learners attend schools which are safe and equipped with everything needed for quality learning.
- 7.2. The Movement must continue to mobilise for the full implementation, on time, of the Regulations Relating to Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure.
- 7.3. In addition to the Department of Basic Education, the Michael Komape Norms & Standards Implementation Campaign must be targeted at government as a whole. This will ensure that we do not have a situation where the Department of Basic Education, or Provincial education departments, are able to use a lack of funds as an excuse for the Department not complying with the Norms and Standards time frames and infrastructure requirements.

- 7.4. The Michael Komape Norms & Standards Implementation Campaign must remain a national campaign. It is a national issue. Mobilisation should not only happen in the Eastern Cape. The campaign must include a media and activism strategy to inform communities about the Norms and Standards. The implementation plans should be widely publicised, and schools encouraged to hold their districts and provincial education departments accountable for implementation. All five Provinces in which the Movement is currently organised must work to ensure members read the plans, and protests must be held in all these 5 Provinces. The Movement must also strategise around how best to make the campaign effective in the four other Provinces.

8. The KZN Scholar Transport Campaign

- 8.1. We must continue to mobilise through militant activism for scholar transport in KwaZulu-Natal and for a national scholar transport policy. Mobilisation should include the building of partnerships and dialogues, and the inclusion of other Provinces, and should be aimed at all relevant parts of government. The campaign must call for an urgent plan to provide scholar transport to learners walking long distances. Other Provinces must support this campaign. The Movement must work to involve parents in this campaign.

Corruption in Society

Congress Resolves that

1. The Movement should call on South Africa's government to:
 - 1.1. Empower institutions to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption, both in the public and private sectors, and to account for public spending, including spending related to education;
 - 1.2. Create facilities at schools for students to report corruption and inappropriate behaviour to independent evaluators who are empowered to listen and immediately act on those complaints, while keeping the learners' identities secret;
 - 1.3. Commit to send inspectors for surprise visits at schools to investigate corruption, poor or unethical work, mismanagement, and fraud.
 - 1.4. The Movement is, and must remain, a movement with a transparent and accountable leadership.
2. As members of the Movement, EE comrades must demonstrate the same integrity and honesty in their own lives that we expect from the leadership of our movement and government.
3. Equal Education must support organising and peaceful protest action against corruption, together with progressive forces in society. The movement should also work to involve other organisations in the struggle against corruption.

Administration and Support Related to Members

Congress Resolves that

1. The National Council must explore ways to acknowledge the contributions made by all members to the Movement's campaigns and work. This includes actively seeking opportunities for our members to improve their education and skills.
2. The National Council should annually review the stipend for post-school youth facilitators taking into account factors such as inflation, the cost of lunch and transport, the financial state of facilitators' families, training, loyalty and dedication to the movement, the overall budget of the Movement, the vital role that facilitators play in the movement, and any other relevant considerations.
3. EE members around the country are being victimised by some principals, teachers, SGB members and education department officials. These individuals are trying to stop equalisers from attending meetings and marches, and to force Comrades not to raise the issues they are facing in their schools. These individuals are also trying to deny EE organisers access to schools and to deny EE equalisers access to extra classes. The Movement will not accept this anywhere in the country. We should speak out, support each other and protest against such treatment. And, if necessary, we should take legal action against individuals threatening and intimidating EE members.
4. The National Council should consider increasing the budget for work in Provinces which are aiming to grow new members and expand the work of the Movement, taking into account the Movement's priorities.