

130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS (NIC)

House Chairperson, The 22 August 2024 marked the 130th Anniversary of forming the Natal Indian Congress (NIC). The African National Congress (ANC) would like to pay tribute to the historic contribution of the NIC to our freedom struggle and their contribution over several epochs, inter alia:

- * the Satyagraha campaign produced martyrs such as Valliamma, who was imprisoned at the tender age of 16 and died a few days after her release in 1914.
- * The Passive Resistance Campaign of 1946
- * The three doctors pact of Dadoo-Xuma-Naicker
- * The Defiance Campaign; and
- * the adoption of the Freedom Charter

The NIC had inspired many people over the years and was at the forefront of fighting for the poor and the marginalized across all racial divides. Leaders and members of the NIC were banned, jailed, and even killed in the broader struggle for freedom. The organization was prominent in establishing the United Democratic Front (UDF) in the mid-1980s.

House Chairperson, we call for reviving the Congress Alliance values, including ethical leadership, non-racialism, equality, selfless service, and economic justice. The ANC congratulates the NIC 130 Organising Committee for appropriately observing the 130th Anniversary at the Sastri College, Durban event on 08 September 2024. The anniversary event not only celebrated the historical achievements of the Natal Indian Congress but also served as a powerful reminder of the work that remains to be done.