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**Focus on charter takes eyes off political elite**

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**N THIS weekend all the talk will revolve around the theme of the Freedom Charter and, of course, the 1927 National Assembly which took place in Kliptown, Soweto. The Freedom Charter is important as one of the key documents that defined the priorities of the ANC and the broader liberation movement in South Africa. In this article, we will focus on the Freedom Charter and its significance.

**The Freedom Charter**

The Freedom Charter is a document that was adopted by the Congress of the People in 1955. It is considered to be one of the most significant documents of the apartheid era and a key milestone in the struggle against apartheid. The Freedom Charter outlines the aspirations of the black people in South Africa at that time and provides a clear statement of the goals and values that the liberation movement stood for.

**Motivation of the Freedom Charter**

The Freedom Charter was motivated by the growing dissatisfaction of the black people with the policies of the white minority government. The government had been implementing a series of measures to control the black population, such as the Group Areas Act, the Pass Laws, and the Land Act. These measures had a devastating impact on the lives of the black people, who were forced to live in segregated areas and were denied basic human rights.

**Themes of the Freedom Charter**

The Freedom Charter places a strong emphasis on human rights and democracy. It states that "The people shall share in the leadership of the country" and also calls for the establishment of a non-sexist republic. The charter also places a strong emphasis on education, healthcare, and economic development.

**Impact of the Freedom Charter**

The Freedom Charter had a significant impact on the struggle against apartheid. It provided a clear statement of the goals and values of the liberation movement, and it helped to mobilize public opinion and unite the struggle. The charter also had a symbolic value, as it was adopted by a large and diverse group of people, including women, youth, and workers.

**Conclusion**

The Freedom Charter is a crucial document in the history of South Africa. It represents the aspirations of the black people and provides a clear statement of the goals and values of the liberation movement. The charter has had a lasting impact on the struggle against apartheid and continues to be a source of inspiration and hope for millions of South Africans.