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CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS (NDP)

Govt. Notice No. 31

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PREAMBLE:

At the Birth of our Nation we made a 'Solemn' pledge to fashion a united, Free and Just Nation as enshrined in our National Motto, Unity, Freedom and Justice. 'The NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS' herein after called "NPD" or The Party" (as may be appropriate) was formed to fulfil that solemn pledge.

Now therefore we members of the NPD, do hereby establish this constitution to govern the affairs of the Party in order to ADVANCE the principles of social justice, fight against corruption and promote a government of the people, which serves the interest of the people, uphold human and civil rights, develop a balanced 'Mix economy' as well as a truly Progressive and participatory System of Governance.

ARTICLE I CORE PRINCIPLES:

SECTION 1

Be it resolved that we would live by the following Core Principles:

- (a) We are a Party committed to the Liberation, Unification and Transformation of Africa in general and Sierra Leone in particular, to promote a free, fair and democratically elected government of the people, by the people and one that serves the interest of the people of Sierra Leone and Africa, to promote a pragmatically balanced 'Mixed Economy' (public-private) and uphold the right of all Sierra Leoneans to participate fairly in our economy and earn the right rewards for their contribution.
- (b) We believe that to set the foundation of development, we need a healthy and educated society that can feed itself. Therefore, healthcare, Education, technology, energy and agricultural development would be prominent in our development strategic plan.
- (c) We believe that all human beings are born equal and have an inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- (d) We believe that the 'STATE' has a solemn duty of care to all citizens, irrespective of creed or religious affiliation, colour, ethnic group or tribal affiliation, and marital status and that all citizens should be subject to equal protection of the laws.
- (e) We believe, corruption is the greatest challenge to our socio-economic development efforts and has a corrosive effect on our communities, impedes growth, distorts competition, damages our reputation as a nation and disproportionately impacts the poor. Therefore, we would strive to eliminate corruption, social injustice and any form of mismanagement of our national resources.
- (f) We believe in a just and democratic government that reflects every demographics in our society.
- (g) In accordance with our country's National Pledge, we pledge our love and loyalty to our country Sierra Leone; vow to serve her faithfully at all times; defend her honour and good name; always work for her unity, peace, freedom and prosperity; and will always put her interests above all else.
- (h) In accordance with our country's National Pledge, we pledge to establish standards and rules of procedure to afford all members of the Party full, timely and equal opportunities to participate in decisions concerning the selection or election of candidates, the formulation of policies, and the conduct of other Party affairs, without prejudice to the basis of sex, race, age (if of voting age), colour, creed, regional origin, religion, economic status, ethnic identity or physical disability, and further, to promote fair campaign practices and the fair adjudication of disputes.
- (i) We encourage and support codes of political ethics that embody rules of ethical guidance for the Party, public officials in state and local governments, to insure that they shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner that reflects creditably upon the Party and the offices held by these officials. They shall serve and shall not use their office to gain special favours and privileges and benefits and shall refrain from acting in their official capacities when their independence of judgment would be adversely affected by personal interest or duties.
- (j) We pledge that every bill or legislation promoted by the NPD shall pass the following litmus test:
 1. It shall be of national interest; in the interest of Sierra Leone
(Nationalistic)
 2. It shall have the potential to bring progress to the lives of Sierra Leoneans. (Progressive)
 3. It shall be democratic and fair to every Sierra Leonean irrespective of any tribal, regional or political affiliation. (Democratic)
- (k) We pledge to establish a working relationship with all other registered political Parties and Interest Groups with the aim of creating unity and understanding amongst our leaders so as to ensure cohesion and peaceful political developments in the country.

- (c) National Executive Committee (NEC) shall appoint an Ad Hoc Disciplinary Committee if and when necessary and such committee shall investigate the allegations and accord the person against whom the complaint is made a hearing in accordance with rules of natural justice.
- (d) After considering the complaint, the Disciplinary Committee shall make its recommendations to the National Executive Committee (NEC), including recommendations for punishment.
- (e) In any case, where a person is found guilty of an offence under this article, National Executive Committee (NEC) may impose any or more of the following punishments
- i. reprimand;
 - ii. demand for a written apology;
 - iii. fine, compensation, or restitution;
 - iv. Suspension from any Party leadership;
 - v. exclusion from elections or nominations;
 - vi. dismissal from office;
 - vii. revocation of nomination;
 - viii. recall from any public office in accordance with the law;
 - ix. Expulsion
- (f) In any case where NEC finds it appropriate it may delegate its dispute resolution mandate or any dispute involving the Party or its members to the Political Parties Disputes Resolution Tribunal as provided in the Political Parties Act, or by any other written Law

SECTION 7-

INSPECTION OF PARTY RECORDS:

The books of accounts and all documents relating thereto and the register of members of the Party, and all records required by law to be maintained by the Party shall be available for inspection at the registered office of the Party and at the Party's Regional offices by any person authorized by law.

SECTION 8-

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION:

- (a) This Constitution may only be amended, altered, modified and/or ratified by the National Delegates Convention.
- (b) However, delegates at a Special Delegates Convention may, by consensus, provisionally amend, alter, modify the Party Constitution pending a final ratification by the National Delegates Convention, provided it is necessary and expedient and in the interest of the well-being of the Party and in compliance with the laws governing political parties.
- (c) Decisions made at any Special Delegates Convention are binding only until the next National Delegates Convention when the same matters must be brought before the national delegates convention for ratification.
- (d) Failure to ratify those decisions made at a Special Convention, declares those decisions null and void at the end of the National Delegates Convention, hence those same decisions cannot be adopted by any other Special Delegates Convention but only at the next National Delegates Convention.

SECTION 9-

POLITICAL PARTIES DISPUTE RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL:-

Any dispute concerning the interpretation of this Constitution or any disputes involving members of the Party or any dispute concerning any matters relating to the Party affairs or the management of the Party shall first be resolved by way of the established internal Party mechanism. Where the same has not been satisfactorily resolved and the concerned member(s) feel aggrieved by the said Party process or decision, then such a dispute shall be adjudicated upon by the Political Parties Dispute Tribunal or any other organ established by law for that purpose.

SECTION 10-**DISSOLUTION**

- (a) The Party may be dissolved, amalgamated or merged with another by a resolution passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members at a special National Delegates Convention called expressly for the purpose of dissolution, amalgamation or merger.
- (b) In case of dissolution or amalgamation or merger the Special National Delegates Convention at which the decision was made shall distribute all assets and such assets shall be granted to one or more organizations in Sierra Leone whose objectives conform to those of the Party. In case of the cancellation of the registration of the Party, the winding up and dissolution of the Party and the disposition of the property, assets, rights and liabilities of the Party shall be undertaken as prescribed by the Law.

SECTION 11-**FILLING OF VACANCIES**

Any vacancies in any executive positions at any level of the Party may be filled by appointment as follows:

- (a) At the National level by the National Executive Committee.
- (b) At Regional level by the National Executive Committee acting in consultation with the Regional Executive Committee concerned;
- (c) At the District level by the Executives of the constituencies comprising the District Coordinating Committee concerned
- (d) At the constituency level by the Constituency Executive Committee concerned acting in consultation with the Regional Executive Committee of the region of the constituency.
- (e) At the Ward level by the Ward concerned.

SECTION 12-**GOVERNING POWERS OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Where on any Party matter there is no provision in this Constitution which deals with that matter, the National Executive Committee shall, by regulations, provide for that matter to be dealt with as long as such matter does not contravene the provisions of this constitution.

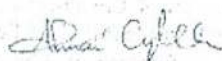
SECTION 13-**ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION**

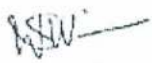
This Constitution shall be adopted at the First National Delegates Convention scheduled specifically for that purpose.


SECTION 14-**TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution all persons duly elected into any Party Executive position in anticipation of meeting the requirements of this Constitution shall be taken to have been duly elected for the purpose of this Constitution.

- (a) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution an act or measure carried out in anticipation of meeting the requirements of this Constitution shall be taken to have been duly done for the purpose of this Constitution until proven otherwise.


Almami Cyllah
Interim Chairman


Susan Williams
Interim Secretary-General


Andrew James-Weima
Interim Treasurer

SECTION 2:

CORE OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

- (a) To promote and advance democracy, political pluralism and their core values in Sierra Leone by participating in civic education programs, social mobilization, advocacy and community sensitization drives.
- (b) To address poverty, illiteracy, food insufficiency and insecurity, and healthcare by providing services that facilitate economic growth at especially the middle and lower levels of society based on a 'mixed economy' system, which promotes public-private partnerships geared towards national economic development.
- (c) To formulate and pursue policies and programs that protects and safeguards the rights and liberties of Sierra Leoneans generally, including the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups/persons in society, with emphasis on the physically challenged and impaired.
- (d) To support the formulation, implementation and enforcement of environmental policies, laws and regulations in Sierra Leone in order to secure environmental safety standards and welfare.
- (e) The Party shall seek environment protection, conservation and natural resource mobilization and management, in order to secure national sustainable development.
- (f) The Party is committed to the rapid and environmentally sustainable industrialisation of our Nation.
- (g) The Party when in Government will enact Legislation to facilitate the Ecological and environmentally enhancing development of our Urban Landscape.
- (h) To undertake and pursue impact assessment activities on agriculture, fishery and productive land management in all its aspects so as to ensure and maintain adequate food production and food security for ordinary Sierra Leoneans.
- (i) The Party intends to be instrumental in fashioning a 'Knowledge based' Society.
- (j) To facilitate and pioneer scientific and educational researches and reporting at tertiary levels, including encouraging college and university students to be research-oriented and focused.
- (k) To work with the media and support media and press freedom as well as promote programs that enhances and ensures responsible media practices locally and internationally.
- (l) To undertake, support and involve in humanitarian activities for non-profit locally, especially during emergencies and other situations demanding urgent and needy responses.
- (m) To embark on national, sub-regional and broader outreaches and advocacies for the promotion and advancement of democracy, democratic values, and social, economic and political rights.
- (n) To advocate against gender discrimination, youth marginalization and child abuse or neglect.
- (o) To empower the less privileged and vulnerable persons, groups and entities in society by emphasizing youth development and creating/improving upon vocational, technical and service-oriented skills to enhance the potentials of youth and women and thereby reduce common dependencies.
- (p) To ensure the equality of rights, obligations and opportunities among Sierra Leoneans by working towards the creation of opportunities that will sustain their livelihoods and growth. The Party shall thus ensure the maintenance of economic activities and programs, which are not stifled by economic inequalities, marginalization, corruption and inequities nationally.
- (q) To fight against corruption and corrupt practices and to support programs and projects that ensure accountability and transparency locally as well to support international transparency and accountability systems and institutions by working and partnering with them.
- (r) To uphold and pursue patriotic and selfless values aimed at lifting national self-esteem.
- (s) To do all such things, whether of the like or any other kind of object which the Party may consider as incidental to, connected with or conducive to the attainment of the aims and objectives of the Party.

SECTION 3:**MOTTO:**

We stand for: PROSPERITY, UNITY, SECURITY & HONESTY (PUSH)

SECTION 4**SLOGAN**

This is A PARTY BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE.

SECTION 5:**PARTY COLOURS, SYMBOLS & LOGO****(a) LOGO:**

The official logo of the NPD shall be the following: a rectangular flag, adorned in the middle with a golden key which signifies the key to prosperity on a blue circle signifying inclusiveness of all that is Sierra Leonean. This is superimposed on a background of wavy lines iconizing water a natural element of life and human existence. The name of the Party is etched underneath the image and the initials NPD at the top of the image as this will undoubtedly be the local nomenclature.



(b) COLOURS: It is hereby resolved that the official colours of the NPD shall be sky BLUE and GOLD.

The BLUE represents:

- (i) Peace, to signify our commitment to Peace.
- (ii) Water, a symbol of the source of life, as we seek a better life for our people. It also represents our natural harbour, our sea, rivers and other water ways as well as our commitment to providing water supply for all.
- (iii) Circle, to symbolize inclusiveness and peaceful co-existence.

GOLD Represents:

- (iv) Our HEART. The state of our heart. We come with a golden heart of motherhood but a heart strong, determined and passionate for change that would lead to a better life for our people.
- (a) Our MINERAL RESOURCES: include gold, diamond, Iron Ore, bauxite, oil and the different mineral resources that our nation is endowed with and our determination to make sure that our nation and People reap the benefit.

ARTICLE II: AUTHORITY**SECTION 1**

This Constitution, the Party's, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations are the fundamental governing rules of the Party subordinate only to the Constitution of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Laws of Sierra Leone including the National Electoral Laws as well as the Laws of other democratic countries where other chapters of the NPD are established. No provision of this Constitution is meant to supersede or abrogate any of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Sierra Leone or any other Statutes thereof.

SECTION 2

Regional Chapters of the NPD may adopt Bylaws to govern subjects not covered by this constitution but shall not be inconsistent with this constitution.

ARTICLE III: NAME CLAUSE

This Party shall be called the "NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS" of Sierra Leone. Any reference thereto including "NPD" or the 'Progressive Democrats' or the "National Progressives" or "The Party" shall mean the "NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS" of Sierra Leone.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTY**SECTION 1**

- (a) **Membership:** Membership of the NPD is open to every Sierra Leonean or people of Sierra Leonean descent regardless of race, religion, colour, sex, gender identity, or expression, or national origin who accepts and abide by this constitution and principles of the Party and who is not a member or supporter of any other Political Party in Sierra Leone, irrespective of where he/she lives as long as he/she is eligible by law to vote in any elections in Sierra Leone.
- (b) **Eligibility to Participate:** Any member who is at least 18 years of age, who supports the Core Principles and Objectives of the NPD, as outlined in this constitution, and who is registered with the Party, shall be eligible to participate in the activities of the Party; shall be elected to an office; vote on motions, resolutions, nominations, or election affecting the Party at any meeting, conference, or convention at national, district, chiefdom, village or Diaspora chapter level, and that at the time of such service, holding office, and/or voting, such person must have been a resident within the geographic boundaries of the political subdivision he or she represents.
- (c) Any person wishing to join the NPD shall do so through a ward association or a sub-division of a chapter in the case of a Diaspora Chapter and must provide his or her full name, address and gender.
- (d) Any person who applies for membership to the NPD; who is eligible by law to vote in the general elections and is not a member of any other Political Party in Sierra Leone shall be accepted as a member until a valid and substantial reason is provided in writing that would show evidence of ineligibility by virtue of the requirements of this constitution.

SECTION 2

- (a) **Membership Subscription:**

The National Executive Committee also known as NEC shall define Annual Membership Subscriptions in consultation with the Committee on Membership, as and when necessary but each change to the subscription sum shall be voted upon and approved at a National Convention.

- (b) The National Executive Committee may define two Membership Subscriptions: one for residents of Sierra Leone and developing countries in Africa or elsewhere, and another for residents of industrialized countries.
- (c) Every member of the NPD shall pay an annual subscription prescribed by the Party
- (d) To be eligible to vote or be voted for at any Party election, including for Party leadership or service on a committee at the constituency, district, or national level, a member must have fully paid an annual subscription (and been in good standing) since the previous election. The names of all registered, paid up members shall be entered into a Party Register.
- (e) Subscriptions from individuals shall be received directly by the Treasurer of the National Executive Committee or through the Treasurer of the Chapter or the Ward Association of which he or she is a member. The National Executive Committee in consultation with the Committee on Membership, shall prescribe the amount of subscription to be received periodically by the treasurer from each member depending on the category of membership.
- (f) **Constituency & Wards:** A constituency is a geographical demarcation identified by the National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone and represented by a Member of Parliament. A Ward is a sub-division of a constituency.

- (g) A Party Member may apply to be a member of a Constituency Chapter or Ward Association notwithstanding that he or she is already a member of another Chapter or Ward Association provided that the Chapter or Ward Association shall be obliged to account to the Party for the Party's proportion of any subscription received by it from any Party Member who is a member of more than one District Chapter or Constituency Chapter; a Party Member who is a member of more than one Constituency chapter shall not be entitled to more than one vote in any election within the Party.
- (h) The names of all Members shall be entered in the **General Membership Registry** but only members who are paid up shall be entered in the Party's **Master Membership Registry** which shall be kept, administered and updated from day to day by the Membership Director.
- (i) Inclusion in the **Master Membership Registry** shall be conclusive as to the membership of the Party and constitute full right of the membership including the rights to vote and be voted for.

ARTICLE V: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1:

- (a) A member who intends to resign from the Party shall give a thirty (30) days written notice to the ward where he/she is a member.
- (b) An affiliated organisation may terminate its affiliation with the Party by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the National Executive Committee.
- (c) A person who is a member of the NPD shall cease to be a member of the Party if he/she:
 - (i) forms another Political Party, joins in the formation of another Political Party, joins another Political Party or in any way or manner publicly advocates for the formation of another Political Party or
 - (ii) promotes the ideology, interests or policies of another Political Party; or campaigns for another Political Party in a manner that is contrary to the PPRC Act: or
 - (iii) Actively undermines the Party's aims, policies, objectives, the Code of Conduct or the Pledge of Commitment of the Party as well as any laid down rules and regulations of the Party or
 - (iv) Is convicted of any corruption or corruption related offence or any serious violation of any human and/ or peoples rights whether locally or interhationally
- (d) A person who ceases to be a member shall not be entitled to a refund of any subscriptions paid by him or her and shall remain liable to pay any debts due and owing to the Party.

ARTICLE VI: AFFILIATION WITH THE NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS

SECTION 1:

AFFILIATION

An organisation may be affiliated with the NPD and thereby be entitled to send at least one delegate to the National Delegates Convention if:

- (a) The organization endorses the aims, objectives, policies and programmes of the Party;
- (b) it is an organisation whose membership is not based on any ethnic, regional or other discriminatory criteria set out in the constitution of Sierra Leone and
- (c) it accepts to pay the requisite subscription fees and annual dues as determined by the National Executive Committee of the Party.

SECTION 2:

AN APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION:

An application for affiliation shall be made in writing to the National Executive Committee and shall be accompanied by:

- (a) the applicant organisation's constitution, charter or regulations as the case may be;
- (b) a description of its current membership and main activities;
- (c) a list of its national officers; and
- (d) a statement of all its other affiliations and organisational links both nationally and internationally.

SECTION 3:**REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:**

The National Executive Committee shall review all applications and its decision shall be final.

SECTION 4:**MONITORING AND REPORTING ON AFFILIATIONS**

The National Executive Committee shall monitor affiliations and shall submit periodic reports to the National Delegates Convention on the desirability of the Party's continued affiliation with any organisation.

ARTICLE VII: ORGANISATION STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS**SECTION 1:**

The organizational structure of the Party shall be in the following hierarchy:

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | National Delegates Convention, also known as | NDC |
| (b) | National Governing Council also known as | NGC |
| (c) | National Executive Committee also known as | NEC |
| (d) | Regional Delegates Conference also known as | RGC |
| (e) | Regional Executive Committee also known as | REC |
| (f) | District Coordinating Committee also known as | DCC |
| (g) | Constituency Management Committee also known as | CMC |
| (h) | Ward Steering Committee also known as | WSC |

SECTION 2:

There shall be the following subsidiary organs of the Party:

- (a) National Progressive Women's Council (NPWC)
- (b) National Progressive Youth Council (NPYC)
- (c) National College Democrats (NCD)
- (d) National Progressive Patrons Committee (NPPC)
- (e) The Party Election Commission (PEC)
- (f) People Living with Disabilities Committee (PLDC)
- (g) Sierra Leoneans Living in the Diaspora Committee (SLLDC)

The functions, rules and regulations of each of the subsidiary organs above shall be determined, established and set out by each subsidiary organ in conformity with this constitution and the Party's overall objectives: and shall be submitted to NEC for approval.

ARTICLE VIII: TYPES OF CONVENTIONS:

There shall be three types of Conventions of the NPD namely:

- (a) **THE NATIONAL DELEGATES CONVENTION**
This shall be the supreme decision-making body of the Party.
- (b) **REGIONAL CONVENTIONS** which shall determine the affairs of members of the Party in the various chapters, constituency or units of the same region.
- (c) **SPECIAL CONVENTIONS** as defined in this constitution

ARTICLE IX: NATIONAL DELEGATES CONVENTION**SECTION 1:****AUTHORITY of the NATIONAL DELEGATES CONVENTION:**

The National Delegates' Convention shall be the supreme governing body of the Party and shall have final authority on all matters of policy, manifesto, programmes and activities of the Party subject to the provisions of this constitution.

SECTION 2:**POWERS, DUTIES & OBLIGATIONS:**

The NPD Delegates' Convention shall:

- (a) Formulate, debate, review and adopt Party policies, platform and programs,
- (b) Ratify, amend and/or modify where necessary the Party's constitution provided that two-thirds of delegates approve of such ratification, amendment and/or modification,
- (c) Receive, examine, review and approve the annual reports and audited accounts of the Party;
- (d) Make, amend, and/or revise the rules and regulations of the Party including its by-laws and codes of conduct;
- (e) Elect Party officials and endorse the successful candidate of the Presidential Primary election as Leader of the Party;
- (f) Receive the Party Manifesto from the National Executive Committee for Scrutiny, review, amendment and approval;
- (g) Appoint other committees within the Party as and when it deems fit and necessary for the specific tasks, and also to stipulate and outline their terms of reference and reporting procedures and
- (h) Appoint an independent and competent Party Elections Commission as stipulated in this constitution;

SECTION 3:**TIMING AND LOCATION OF CONVENTION:**

- (a) The national convention shall be held once in every five years but not later than 365 days to the national elections except as circumstances may otherwise permit.
- (b) Notice for the National Convention shall be sent to all chapters not later than 90 days before the convention except as circumstances may permit otherwise.
- (c) The first National Convention of the Party shall be the Constitutional Review Convention in which this constitution shall be approved and adopted by members of the Party. Thereafter, the time and location of the next convention shall be decided as the last item on the agenda, except that two successive conventions may not be held in the same region.

SECTION 4:**CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CONVENTION:**

- (a) The National Chairperson shall chair the Party's National Convention but if she/he is desirous of been nominated to serve as chairperson for a second term she/he shall not Chair the convention leading to that second term convention.
- (b) In the absence of the national chairperson or where she/he does not qualify to chair the convention, the National Vice Chairperson shall chair the convention.
- (c) In the event that both the National Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson cannot chair, then the Regional Chairperson of the region hosting the convention shall chair the convention.

SECTION 5:**ELIGIBILITY OF DELEGATES AT THE PARTY'S NATIONAL CONVENTION**

- (a) Each delegate shall be an individual registered member of the Party who is in good standing representing a Constituency Chapter or organization of the Party.
- (b) Each ward as defined by the National Electoral Commission shall have at least one delegate provided that the Ward has at least 25 registered members of the Party who are each in good standing.

- (c) The delegate or delegates representing a Ward must be elected by members of the Ward and records of such election must be kept at the Party's National Secretariat.
- (d) Each delegate shall have only one vote at the Convention
- (e) The National Progressive Youth Council or the Youth wing of the Party shall be entitled to one (1) delegate per every twenty-five (25) registered Youths.
- (f) The People living with disabilities Committee shall be entitled to one (1) delegate per every twenty-five (25) registered members.
- (g) The National progressive Women's Council will be entitled to (1) delegate per every twenty-five (25) registered members.
- (h) Every elected Member of Parliament of the NPD shall automatically be a delegate at the convention.
- (i) All elected officials of the National Executive Committee shall automatically be delegates at the Convention.
- (j) All elected Regional officials of the Party including elected District and Regional officials, shall be delegates at the Convention
- (k) All Ex-officio members of the National Executive Committee who are in good standing of the Party shall be delegates at the convention.
- (l) All former Members of Parliament of the Party within the last 10 years who are in good standing shall also be delegates at the Convention.
- (m) Founding members of the Party who were registered with the Party at the time the PPRC shall have granted the Party permanent registration. A list of such members shall be kept at the National Secretariat.
- (n) Regional Trustees of the Party
- (o) Each Independent Organization officially affiliated with the NPD shall be entitled to at least one (1) delegate at the Convention.

SECTION 6:**ALTERNATE DELEGATES:**

Chapters and Ward Steering Committees have the option to submit Alternate Delegate Lists in the event that any of their primary delegates cannot be present at the Convention.

SECTION 7:**NON-DELEGATE CONVENTION ATTENDEES:**

Other Party members and guests of the Party including its different chapters may attend the National Convention upon invitation but would not serve as delegates or have any voting rights.

SECTION 8:**QUORUM AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION:**

The quorum for the National Convention shall be no less than two-thirds of the total registered delegates designated to attend the convention.

SECTION 9:**RESOLUTIONS AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS:**

- (a) The National Executive Committee, through the National Delegates Convention Planning Committee or the Party Chairperson shall receive all resolutions not later than 5 days prior to the start of the National Convention.
- (b) Two days before the start of the National Delegates Convention, the Planning Committee shall publish on the Party's, forum or electronic mail system or any other effective means within the Party all the resolutions received by the Committee that should be presented to the delegates for ratification at the National Convention.

SECTION 10:**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

The following may submit resolutions to the Party's Conventions:

- (a) Constituency Chapters including resolutions received by them from their wards.

- (b) The National Progressive Youth Council (N.P.Y.C.) also known as National Progressive Youth Movement,
- (c) The National Progressive Women's Council,
- (d) Party Parliamentary Representatives Council.
- (e) Persons with disability Council
- (e) Any Organization officially affiliated with the NPD.

SECTION 11:

OFFICIALS ELECTED AT THE NATIONAL DELEGATES CONVENTION:

The following officials of the NPD shall be elected at the National Convention.

- (a) National Party Chairperson,
- (b) National Party Deputy Chairperson
- (c) National Treasurer
- (d) Deputy National Treasurer
- (e) National Membership Director/Campaign Committee Chairperson
- (f) National Secretary-General
- (g) Deputy National Secretary-General
- (h) National Organizing Secretary
- (i) Deputy National Organizing Secretary
- (j) National Party Electoral Commissioner
- (k) Deputy National Party Electoral Commissioner
- (l) National Public Relations Officer
- (m) Deputy National Public Relations Officer
- (n) Regional Trustees of the Party

SECTION 12:

ELECTION OF REGIONAL AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTY

- i The Regional Chairpersons of the Party shall be elected by registered members who are in good standing with the Party from their respective regions.
- ii The Chairperson of the National Women's Movement and President of the National Youth Movement shall be elected only by registered members of their respective groups.
- iii Chairperson/Leader of the Person with disabilities Council, NCD, SSLDC shall be elected by registered members of their respective Group
- iv In the event of a vacancy in the office of the National Chairperson prior to any pending National Convention, the Deputy National Party Chairperson shall act as the National Chairperson at the Convention. He or She shall serve for the remaining tenure of the immediate former Chairperson, and shall Chair the National Convention, except where she/he seeks election for Chairmanship of the Party.
- v In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Deputy National Chairperson, the National Governing Council, shall elect someone from amongst its membership to fill the vacancy

ARTICLE X - REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

SECTION 1

The following shall govern the activities/operation of Regional Conventions

- i. A region means one of the three provinces in the Republic of Sierra Leone namely, Northern Province, Southern Province and the Eastern Province as well as the Western Area.

- ii. There shall also be Diaspora Regions which shall be set up outside Sierra Leone as the National Executive committee may decide. But for any Diaspora region to acquire full Regional status it shall have at least three Chapters within it each with a minimum of 25 members and the said diaspora region shall be officially certified as such by the National Executive Committee.
- iii. Each Region may organize Regional Conventions at a time as close to the National Delegates' Convention as possible in order to elect Regional Party officials and Delegates who shall represent the various region at the National Convention.
- iv. Each Region shall ensure that each Constituency Chapter with a minimum of 25 members or multiples thereof, within the Region has a delegate or delegates proportional to the number of registered members of such a Chapter to represent them at both the regional and national convention.

ARTICLE XI: SPECIAL CONVENTIONS

A special session of the National Delegates Convention may be summoned by the Party Chairperson where the matter to be decided cannot be handled by the National Governing Council and shall be approved by two-thirds of all members of the National Governing Council or on requisition in writing submitted by at least one third of the delegates who attended the preceding National Delegates Convention. Any decision reached at a Special Convention can be overturned by two-thirds majority of the delegates attending the National Delegates Convention held after the Special Convention.

ARTICLE XII: NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL:

The National Governing Council shall be the second highest organ of the Party.

SECTION 1

AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL

(a) The National Governing Council shall meet at least once every year:

- i. To discuss and address matters of serious concern to the Party.
- ii. To monitor the general activities of the Party and to provide direction for such activities with a view to reporting to the National Delegates Convention.
- iii. To make policy and administrative decisions on behalf of the National Delegates Convention which, in the opinion of the NEC cannot wait until the next NDC, and to present such decisions for ratification at the next NDC?
- iv. To receive and review the annual reports from the National Executive Committee on the operations of the Party, with a view to reporting to the National Delegates Convention.
- v. To examine and approve the annual audited accounts of the Party, to discharge the Treasurer from liability, and to set the scale of annual dues to be paid by Party members;
- vi. To appoint committees within the Party other than NEC as and when it deems necessary for specific tasks and also stipulate and outline their terms of reference and reporting procedures.
- vii. To fill in all vacancies in the Parties organisational structure which may arise or exist before the next National Delegates Convention to be held by the Party?
- viii. To review the credentials and interview nominees of the National Executive Committee for the formation of a shadow government in the event that Party is in opposition.

- (B) All matters of an urgent or emergency nature coming before the NGC which demands serious consideration by the Party shall be dealt with at a Special Convention provided for by this constitution.
- (C) The Secretary-General of the Party shall be the Secretary to the NGC and shall issue out all notices for meetings of the NGC as the National Chairperson may direct.

SECTION 2:

COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL

The National Governing Council (NGC) shall consist of the following members:-

- All the national Party officials that form the National Executive Committee;
- All Members of parliament representing the Party.

The Chairperson of the Regional Women's Council representing the four Regions, Chairperson of the Persons with Disability Council at Regional level totalling four Chairpersons, Chairperson of the Regional youth Council totalling four and

Chairperson and Secretary-General of each district executive of the Party.

ARTICLE XIII: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) OR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SECTION 1:

AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS OF NEC

There shall be established and maintained within the Party a National Executive Committee of the Party (herein referred to in this constitution as "NEC") which shall be responsible for the following:

- i. Serve as day to day decision making body of the Party subject to the directives, decisions and resolutions passed at the National Delegates Convention and by the National Governing Council;
- ii. Oversee, direct and co-ordinate the affairs of the Party in matters of Party organization, management and discipline.
- iii. To shortlist the names of candidates and nominees and submit the list to the National Governing Council for approval in order to form a shadow government in the event that the Party is in the opposition.
- iv. To act as the Executive body of the Party and deal with its administrative functions including working in liaison with and overseeing the work of the Party's Parliamentary Representatives, the Party's Women's Council, the Party's Youth Council, Persons with disability Council and other groups of the Party.
- v. To employ members of staff for all the departments/sectors of the Party at the Party's Headquarters and to approve terms and conditions of such staff.
- vi. To appoint such committees as it deems necessary to aid its work from time to time for specified tasks and to determine their terms of reference;
- vii. To receive, consider, approve and implement reports and recommendations from the said committees or individuals to whom such tasks are assigned;
- viii. Empowered to, forward such reports and recommendations to the appropriate authorities for approval;
- ix. To liaise with the Party Elections Commission in order to ensure coordination at elections including nominations involving Party officials at all levels.

SECTION 2:

COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Subject to Article XIX of this Constitution (which defines the Powers and Duties of Party Officials) The National Executive Committee (henceforth called NEC) shall consist of:

- (a) The Leader of the Party, (who shall be elected at a Primary election and endorsed at the National Convention of the Party)
- (b) Deputy Party Leader, (Who shall be appointed by the Party Leader and shall serve as his or her running mate)
- (c) National Party Chairperson, (Who shall be elected at the National Delegates Convention by Party delegates)
- (d) Deputy National Party Chairperson, (who shall be elected at the National Delegates Convention)
- (e) Regional Chairpersons (one from each Region) including the Northern, Southern and Eastern Provinces Western Area and the recognised Diaspora Regions established by the Party.
- (f) National Treasurer, (Who shall be elected at the Convention)
- (g) Deputy National Treasurer
- (h) National Party Electoral Commissioner
- (i) Deputy National Party Electoral Commissioner
- (j) Deputy National Treasurer
- (k) National Membership Director, (Elected at the Convention)

- (l) Deputy National Membership Director
- (m) National General Secretary
- (n) Deputy National General Secretary
- (o) National Organizing Secretary
- (p) Deputy National Organizing Secretary
- (q) Chairperson of National Women's Council
- (r) Chairperson of the National Youth Council
- (s) Chairperson of the National College Democrats
- (t) Chairperson/Leader of the Persons with Disability Council
- (u) Leader of the Party's Parliamentary Representatives
- (v) Deputy Leader of the Party's Parliamentary Representatives
- (w) Party's Chief Internal Auditor. (Elected at the national Convention but must meet the professional qualification to serve as an auditor.)
- (x) Party's Deputy Chief Internal Auditor

SECTION 3:

REGIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The National Executive Committee shall operate in its administrative and oversight functions through the following standing Committees, which shall be established at each Region or Chapter of the Party. The said Regional Standing Committees will meet once every quarter, except during the quarter in which Party Convention is held.

- (a) Policy and Strategy Committee
- (b) Recruitment and Membership Committee
- (c) Finance Committee
- (d) Legal and Disciplinary Committee
- (e) Internal Audit and Reviews Committee
- (f) Constituency Management Committee
- (g) Media Relations, Publicity and Communications Committee
- (h) Human Rights and Gender Compliance Committee
- (i) Action Committee for People With Disabilities,
- (j) Any Other Committee deemed necessary by the National Executive Committee.

SECTION 4

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

- (a) The Standing Committees may meet as often as necessary, but not less than once a quarter.
- (b) Each Regional Standing Committee may include members of the Party who are not necessarily members of the NEC such as subject-matter experts but shall be chaired by a Member of the NEC who would sit at NEC meetings to report the work of the committee to the National Executive Council.
- (c) At every quarterly meeting each Regional Standing Committee chairperson is required to present a quarterly report of the work of his/her committee where applicable.
- (d) The Regional Committees shall consist of competent people possessing relevant knowledge and skills in the areas in which they are called to serve.
- (e) Whereas such Regional Committees are expected to serve on voluntary basis, the Party shall provide them with the necessary financial, personnel and special facilities to enable them to function effectively.

- (f) The Regional Committees shall have power to co-opt not more than one third of their total membership, for the purpose of enhancing their professional and technical capacity.
- (g) Part of the assignment of each Regional committee shall include research, investigations and evaluation of specialized projects. The findings shall be reported to the NEC. Such reports shall include specific proposals and recommendations for implementation presented to the NEC which may approve, modify or reject them. The Regional Such committees may also be called upon to implement recommendations, conduct fund raising or undertake any other duty assigned to them by NEC

SECTION 5

GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:

- (a) **Policy and strategy Committee:** The committee shall be responsible for formulating public policies on behalf of the Party to reflect the core values and principles of the Party. The Committee shall be required to create a platform for an open, free and frank debate on issues of national interest to encourage varying perspectives on public policies. This Committee shall have at least one member from the Parliamentary Representative Council of the Party.

- (b) **Recruitment & Membership Committee also known as**

"Coordinated Campaign Committee":

- This Committee shall be headed by the Membership Director who shall be elected at the National Convention. Each District Chapter shall have a Membership Committee.
- Membership of the National membership of the Coordinated Campaign Committee shall consist of the Chairpersons of each of the Membership Committees of all Chapters of the Party.
- The Committee shall operate through the various Membership Committees of all Regional Chapters of the Party.
- The main function of the Membership Committee shall be to create and implement membership development plans to grow, promote membership and encourage the retention of existing members.

Purpose and Powers of The Committees .

- The Committee shall also coordinate membership recruitment for all Regions of the Party; facilitate Voter Registration, Voter Identification, Get Out to Vote and other activities consistent with the guidelines established by the National Electoral Commission.
- Furthermore The Coordinated Campaign Committee shall, subject to the approval of the NEC, be empowered to raise and expend funds, conduct campaign activities, enter into contracts and generally conduct business in furtherance of its defined purpose.
- Subject to the approval of NEC It shall have the authority to create its own structures and establish its own policies and procedures.

Reporting and Accounting:

- The Membership Campaign Committee of each District Chapter and Party Association shall report to the District Chairperson of the Chapter as well as the National Membership Director activities.
- It shall also account for all its income and expenditure to both the National Membership Director and the District Chapter chairperson on a bi-annual basis and shall update the Director concerning its funds at each regularly scheduled meeting or upon the special request of the same.

- (c) **Finance Committee:**

This Committee shall be headed by the National Treasurer and shall comprise the Treasurers and Financial Secretaries of each of the chapters of the Party. This committee shall also coordinate its work with the Membership Committee.

- The main function of the finance committee is to provide Financial oversight for the Party. The Committee shall lead efforts to develop the Party's annual Budgets, handle financial planning, reporting, and the creation and monitoring of internal controls and accountability policies of the Party.

- (d) **Legal Affairs and Disciplinary Committee:**

This Committee shall handle the review of all by-laws developed by each Chapter to ensure that they are consistent with the Party's constitution and the National Constitution.

- The Committee shall be responsible for providing, either on request or on its own initiative, legal advice to the leadership of the Party on all agreements and other legal matters that may face the Party.
- It shall also provide, but not limited to, legal defence for the Party and its members who are involved in conducting the Party's business in Sierra Leone.

The Committee shall also be responsible for handling all complaints made by or against the Party and/or its members. The Committee shall have the power to review and investigate any complaint directed at it and make recommendations to the National Executive Committee for appropriate action.

Internal Audit & Review Committee:

- Each District shall appoint someone as the internal Auditor to serve on this Committee, who shall provide an internal audit report every six months to the National Executive Committee.
- The Committee shall be headed by the Chief Internal Auditor who shall be approved at the Party's Convention, she/he shall be assisted by a Deputy and shall consist of all the internal Chapter Auditors.
- This committee shall have the power to review the books of any District Chapter to ensure that accountability and transparency is observed. Each Chapter is required by this constitution to submit all documents relating to the finances of the Party within the Chapter to the Committee at least twice a year in order for the Committee to exercise its key function to provide bi-annual audit report to the National Executive Committee.
- Any Chapter which refuses or neglects to open its books for auditing by the Internal Auditors upon two consecutive demands made to it by shall be considered to be in breach of this constitution.

Management Committee: There shall be a Management Committee that comprises of the following:

- The Regional Chairman, the National Vice-Chairman, the head of Policy and Strategy Committee, Secretary General, National Treasurer, National Organizing Secretary, Chairperson of The National Women Council, Chairperson of the Youths Council, Chairperson of the Persons with disability Council Chairperson for the Legal and Disciplinary Committee and the Chairperson Diaspora Relations Committee. The Secretary General shall be the administrative head of the staff of this Committee supervised by the National Party Chair.
- The functions of the Management Committee shall include:-
 - i. To discuss, propose and prepare agenda for NEC meetings;
 - ii. To attend to all urgent businesses that may arise before the next meeting;
 - iii. To perform any other duties that may be assigned by the NEC to it.

(E) Action Committee for People with Disabilities:

This committee is set up to educate and promote understanding of the issues and problems facing people with disabilities within the Party and to work towards equal opportunities, reducing barriers and ensuring full participation of persons with disabilities in the affairs of the Party.

- The Committee shall develop appropriate policy recommendations for the Party that address the challenges faced by people with disabilities in areas such as healthcare, housing, transportation, income assistance, education, employment and human and civil rights including participation in community affairs of the Party.

ARTICLE XIV: NATIONAL SECRETARIAT.

SECTION 1:

There shall be established a National Secretariat, which shall be headed by the National Secretary-General assisted by the Deputy National Secretary-General. The Secretariat shall handle all the administrative functions of the Party, maintain records, and oversee or perform all secretarial duties, and shall be divided into departments/directorates, each headed by a Director. There shall be Regional Party Secretaries in each region in every Party Regional Office who shall report to the National Secretary-General.

SECTION 2:

There shall be members of staff working within each Party department whose terms and conditions of service shall be determined by the NEC;

SECTION 3:

The National Secretariat shall handle the day-to-day administrative functions of the Party and be responsible for implementing policies and programmes of the Party under the guidance of the National Secretary General, National Chairperson and the NEC;

ARTICLE XV: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (REC)**SECTION 1****DEFINITION OF PARTY REGIONS**

The Party shall have a Regional Executive Committee in each region of Sierra Leone as well as in the Diaspora and shall include the Northern, Southern and Eastern Provinces, Western Area and where applicable the Diaspora Regions.

SECTION 2

- (a) The Regional Executive Committee shall comprise of the following officials elected at the Regional Convention: Regional Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Organizing Secretary and Assistant Organizing Secretary
- (b) The Chairperson and the Secretary, Regional Women's Council;
- (c) The Chairperson and the Secretary, Regional Youth Council;
- (d) Representative of the Action Committee for People Living with Disabilities,
- (e) The Party's elected Parliamentarians, the Party's District Chairpersons and Secretary-General

SECTION 3**TERM OF OFFICE OF REC OFFICIALS**

- (a) Members of the Regional Executive Committee shall be elected by secret ballot, at the Regional Convention which shall be held in the same year as the National Delegates Convention and shall hold office for 5 years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- (b) Every Regional Executive Committee shall convene an Annual Regional General Meeting of all Constituency Chapters within the Region to present the Region's Annual Report and work plan for the subsequent year.
- (c) The Regional Annual General Meeting shall be convened by the REC and shall consist of:-
 - i. All office holders of the Regional Executive Committee;
 - ii. All office holders of the Regional Women Council;
 - iii. All office holders of the Regional Youths Council;
 - iv. All office holders of the district Coordinative Committee in the Region
 - v. All office holders of the Regional Action Committees for people living with disability.

SECTION 4**REGIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARIATS:**

The Secretary of the Regional Executive Committee and his/her deputy shall manage and operate the Regional Executive Secretariat of the Party established in each Region.

SECTION 5**AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Functions of the REC shall include:-

- (a) Carrying out NEC-delegated duties by providing guidance and leadership in candidate selections
- (b) Outlining timely electoral strategies for Regional Campaign Committees.
- (c) Formulating Region-specific policies and carrying out policy development at Regional level.
- (d) Recruiting prospective Regional candidates, subject to NEC ratification and in conformity with overall Party policy and national ideals,
- (e) Carrying out activities that promote the policies and programmes of the Party, including promoting political, civic and public education in the Region, recruiting and reviewing Party membership in the Region and ensuring strict discipline and adherence to Party policies and programmes amongst Party members and officials of the Region.
- (f) It shall also have the power to suspend and/or recommend to the NEC the dismissal of an errant official after such official, has been given reasonable opportunity to defend him/herself and provided that such decision does not contradict any provision in the Constitution of the Party

- (g) and engaging in income generating activities in the Region on behalf of the Party as well as to manage the financial affairs at Regional level

ARTICLE XVI: DISTRICT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DCC):

SECTION 1

THE DISTRICT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DCC):

SECTION (1a)

A district represents one of the fourteen electoral districts in Sierra Leone namely Kenema, Kono, Kailahun, Bo, Pujehun, Bonthe, Moyamba, Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Kambia, Port Loko, Bombali, Western Urban and Rural Districts. Each District is required to have a District Coordinating Committee. The DCC shall be the governing body for the district comprising the various Constituency Chapters in the District.

Section (1b)

The Diaspora shall be divided into Constituency Chapters with elected officials. Each Diaspora Chapter may define its constituency depending on the number of members it has per geographical division within the Diaspora region. To this extent a Constituency Chapter shall not be further constituted into a District as defined by this Constitution. The largest component of the Diaspora Chapter put together in a geographical unit shall be a Constituency Chapter and not a District.

SECTION 2

COMPOSITION OF THE DCC:

This committee shall consist of the following:

- i. The Chairperson of each Constituency Management Committee,
- ii. The Secretary of each Constituency Management Committee
- iii. The Organising Secretary of each Constituency Management Committee
- iv. Two additional representatives of each Constituency Management Committee;
- v. Members of Parliament from the District who are Party members and any other elected official including those elected at Local Government level.
- vi. The District Coordinating Committee shall elect its Chairperson and Secretary-General from amongst its membership at their inaugural meeting.

ARTICLE XVII: PARTY CHAPTERS:

SECTION 1

SECTION (1a)

A constituency is an area delimited and defined by the National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone. For Party Members living abroad shall have at least one Chapter in each constituency otherwise known as "Constituency Chapter". The Chapters of each Constituency Chapter are the main units through which members of the Party in the Diaspora can exercise membership rights and responsibilities within the Party abroad.

Section (1b)

A geographical unit comprising various Constituency Chapters in a Country or Countries may with the approval of NEC be designated as a diaspora Region which shall have a structure that is similar to the Regional Executive Committee in Sierra Leone.

SECTION 1:

Responsibilities of a Constituency Chapter.

- i. The Party's chapters are the primary organizations through which the rights and responsibilities of the members of the Party shall be organized.
- ii. The Constituency Chapter shall form the nucleus of the Constituency, abroad which coordinates other Constituency Chapters in designated diaspora Region to further the affairs of the Party abroad.
- iii. Each Constituency Chapter name shall have the official Constituency number designated to it by the Party's NEC working in collaboration with the diaspora Region.

- iv. The Chapters shall be empowered to raise and may expend funds, and additionally prescribe their own membership subscription over and above Party's membership subscription defined and voted for at the National convention. It shall also conduct campaign activities, offer advice to the Party on organizational development and strategic matters, elect one delegate per Chapter to the National Convention as this Constitution shall provide, and generally conduct business in furtherance of its defined objectives. However, a chapter shall not bind the party financially to any third party obligation without the prior approval of a majority vote of the National Executive Committee.
- v. Each Chapter shall have the authority to develop its own By-laws, elect its own Chapter Executives and establish its own policies and procedures provided they are not inconsistent with this constitution. The by-laws developed by the Chapter shall be reviewed and approved by the Party's NEC to ensure that the by-laws are not inconsistent with this Constitution.
- vi. Each Chapter shall report to the CMC about its activities on a regular basis at least once every six months.
- vii. Each Chapter shall account for all of its income and expenditures to the CMC through its Treasurer on a quarterly basis.
- viii. Each Constituency Chapter is required to create Steering Committees within the Constituency according to the number of chapters it has, as well as the number of members it registered.

SECTION 2:

CONSTITUENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)

There shall be established a Constituency Management Committee in each constituency which shall be elected by members of the Party within the constituency, whether such Constituency exists in Sierra Leone or abroad (in the case of the later otherwise known as Constituency Chapter) Each elected CMC shall consist of:-

- i. Chairperson,
- ii. Vice-Chairperson,
- iii. Secretary-General,
- iv. Assistant Secretary-General
- v. Treasurer,
- vi. Assistant Treasurer,
- vii. Organizing Secretary and
- viii. Assistant Organizing Secretary,
- ix. The Chairperson and Secretary of the Constituency Women Council;
- x. The chairperson and secretary of the Constituency Youths Council;
- xi. The Chairperson and Secretary of Persons with Disability Council
- xii. The Party's District Council officials and Parliamentarians in the constituency and
- xiii. The Party's Regional Executive members from the constituency;

SECTION 3 :

FUNCTIONS OF THE CONSTITUENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)

The functions of the CMC shall include:

- i. keeping of all records applicable to the Constituency,
- ii. making the necessary returns to the District Coordinating committee,
- iii. organizing the Party's affairs within the constituency, recruiting members of the Party and building a strong grassroots support for the Party;
- iv. Organising its own meetings at least once every three months

SECTION 4

The Constituency Secretary-General and his/her deputy shall operate the Constituency Secretariat within the Constituency Management and the Secretariat shall service the Constituency Management Committee;

SECTION 5

Members of the Constituency Management Committee shall be elected by secret ballot for a period of five years and shall be eligible for re-election.

SECTION 6

There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Constituency to be held once every year. It shall comprise the following members

- i. All Constituency Management Committee members;
- ii. All officials of Women Council in the constituency
- iii. All officials of the Youths Council in the constituency.
- iv. All Officials of the Persons with Disability Council
- v. The constituency Party Member in parliament;
- vi. The Party Regional Executive members from the constituency;

ARTICLE XVIII: WARD STEERING COMMITTEES:

A constituency is divided into several wards. Each Constituency Chapter is required to create groups of Steering Committees according to the number of electoral wards that are under its jurisdiction provided that each Ward shall have a steering Committee.

SECTION 1: The Ward Steering Committees shall consist of the following members:-

- i. Chairperson,
- ii. Vice-Chairperson,
- iii. Secretary,
- iv. Assistant Secretary,
- v. Treasurer
- vi. Assistant Treasurer
- vii. Organising Secretary and
- viii. Assistant Organizing Secretary;
- ix. All officials of the Women Council in the Ward;
- x. All officials of the Youth Council in the Ward;

SECTION 2:

The WSC Secretary shall perform the functions similar to those performed by the Secretary-General at the Constituency level.

SECTION 3:

The Ward shall meet at least once every two months and shall hold an AGM whose membership shall comprise:

- i. All WSC members,
- ii. All office holders of the Ward Women's Council,
- iii. All office holders of the Ward Youth Council and the CMC executive members from the Ward
- iv. All Office holders of Persons with Disability Council and
- v. Constituency Management Committee

SECTION 4:

The Ward AGM shall be held once each year. Officials of the Committees shall be elected by secret ballot at an AGM to serve for a period of five (5) years and shall be eligible for re-election.

SECTION 5:

The functions of the WSC shall include the following:-

- i. To carry out organizational activities and publicity function amongst the people within the Ward in order to mobilize support for the Party's policies, programmes and actions from time to time;
- ii. To carry out civic education amongst the membership and the general public;
- iii. To convey to the grassroots membership of the Party at the Ward level, the decisions, programmes policies and recommendations of the various organs of the Party including the NDC, NGC, NEC, REC and CMC
- iv. To scrutinize and vet the names of persons from their wards aspiring to stand for National positions on the Party's ticket and to make appropriate recommendations to the Constituency Management Committee in that regard;
- v. To prepare quarterly Reports for discussion and deliberation by CMC;
- vi. To ensure that discipline and harmony prevails in the Party at the Ward level.

SECTION 6:

The WSC shall be responsible for membership recruitment, collection of membership dues, propagation of Party policies at the grassroots, and the management of all Party affairs within the Ward.

ARTICLE XIX: POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTY OFFICIALS:**SECTION 1:****Leader of the NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS:**

- (a) The LEADER of the Party shall be the Political Head of the Party.
- (b) He or she shall be the "public face" of the Party, be responsible for managing the Party's relationship with the general public, to include communicating Party policies and election platform to the outside world.
- (c) Where the Leader of the Party wins the Presidential elections, he or she shall continue to serve as Leader of the Party as long as he remains the President of Sierra Leone.
- (d) Where on the other hand the leader fails to secure the Presidency, he or she shall cease to serve as Leader immediately after he fails to win a Presidential election except where the results of the elections are in dispute. Upon failure to become the Country's President, all powers vested in the Leader by this constitution shall be assumed by the Chairperson of the Party, until the next primary for the election of the Flagbearer of the Party.
- (e) If the disputed results confirms the Party Leader as winner of the Presidential Election, he or she shall continue his or her role as Leader of the Party. she/he shall continue to serve the full duration of his/her term.

SECTION 2:**Party Chairperson:**

- (a) The Chairperson of the Party shall serve as the administrative head of the Party.

- (b) As administrative head of the Party, the Chairperson is responsible for the internal governance of the Party, including management of staff, presiding over all National Executive Committee Meetings, and The National Governing Council and shall report to the Party Leader about activities of the Party as and when required to do so.
- (c) In order to run for any other office including the Office of Party Leader the chairperson shall resign at least six (6) months in advance.
- (d) In collaboration with the Party Leader, he or she shall communicate and disseminate the positions, ideas and opinions on matters pertaining to the Party.
- (e) He/She shall build and maintain a working relationship with the chairpersons of the various Regions and Chapters of the Party and coordinate their operations.
- (f) He/She shall direct the execution of duties that may be assigned to him/her by the Party Leader
- (g) The Party chairperson assumes the role and responsibilities of the Leader at the end of any Presidential election in which the Leader loses the Presidential contest she/he shall act as both Leader and Chairperson of the Party.
- (h) In the event that the Party is in opposition, the Chairperson as acting Party Leader shall be required to nominate persons who are Party members within 30 days, for the formation of a shadow government subject to the approval of the National Governing Council.
- (i) If the Party Leader wins the Presidential elections to serve as President and Head of State of the nation, while still remaining as the Leader of the Party, the chairperson shall as far as possible assume his or her day to day responsibilities as Party Leader and shall report to the Leader from time to time.

SECTION 3:

The Deputy Chairperson:

- (a) **The Deputy Chairperson** of the Party assumes the roles and responsibilities of the chairperson in his absence.
- (b) she/he shall assume any responsibility or function delegated to him or her by the Party chairperson.

SECTION 4:

NATIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL:

The Party's Secretary General (SG) shall:

- (a) be responsible for the operation and management of the Party's National Secretariat and other Departments within the Secretariat.
- (b) ensure that meetings of the National Executive Committee, the National Governing Council, and the National Delegates and Special Conventions take place as provided for in this Constitution and at such times as may be decided upon by the National Executive Committee.
- (c) Keep or cause to be kept proper record of minutes of all meetings of the National Executive Committee, the National Governing Council, and the National Delegates and Special Conventions, and ensure the distribution of such minutes to persons or bodies concerned.
- (d) Oversee on behalf of the National Executive Committee (NEC) the operations of Special Committees of the Party
- (e) Coordinate the work of other Staff members within the Secretariat and review their daily reports presented to him/her.

SECTION 5:**THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL**

The Deputy Secretary General shall:-

- (a) assist the SG in all matters and functions pertaining to that office; in particular matters related to staff discipline and shall
- (b) assume all duties in his/her absence.

SECTION 6:**NATIONAL PARTY TREASURER**

- (a) The National Party Treasurer shall be responsible for managing the finances of the Party by providing general financial oversight, be part of the Party's Fundraising Committee to provide advice on fundraising strategy, prepare budgets, financial reports and control the Party's Bank accounts, ensure that proper records are in place, assets are properly recorded and that necessary insurances are taken she/he shall also coordinate the activities of the treasurers of all Regions and chapters of the Party.
- (b) In the above regard, each Region and chapter of the Party is required to have a Treasurer who performs a similar function as the National Party Treasurer. To qualify for nomination to serve as the Party Treasurer a candidate must have the necessary professional skills to perform his or her duties and may be required to show evidence of professional qualification or proof of experience in managing finances.
- (c) The nominee must also understand the legal significance of the position and must be willing and ready to sign a **Fiduciary Trust Agreement with the Party**.
- (d) Each Region and Chapter shall have a Finance Committee and the Treasurer shall give monthly financial updates to the Finance Committee.
- (e) Prepare or cause the preparation of, and submit to the National Executive Committee and the National Governing Council, financial statements at the end of every quarter of the year for the Party's NEC and at least once every six (6) months for the Party's NGC.
- (f) ensure that duly audited Annual Statements of Account are circulated to all Party organs and their Delegates at the time the notice convening the National Delegates Convention is sent out.
- (g) Ensure preparation and submission of annual audited accounts to the PPRC and any other statutory office as provided for by the laws of Sierra Leone.

SECTION 7:**THE DEPUTY NATIONAL TREASURER**

The Deputy National Treasurer shall:-

Assist the National Treasurer in all duties pertaining to that office and shall assume all such duties in his or her absence.

SECTION 8:**THE NATIONAL ORGANISING SECRETARY:-**

The National Organising Secretary of the Party shall:

- a) be the main contact person for the planning promotion and organisation of Party Events and functions.
- (b) Ensure that all members are informed of dates and venues of forthcoming events in which the Party is involved;

- (c) Produce detailed proposals for events to include timelines, venues, suppliers, legal obligations, budgets and agree to limits of the budget;
- (d) In collaboration with the relevant Party Committee, identify and secure speakers or guest speakers; schedule workshops and demonstrations; and make sure that all, first aid, and safety obligations are adhered to;
- (e) Coordinate with the various committees including the Fundraising committee and campaign teams to ensure that Party members are informed of planned events of the Party;
- (f) Prepare reports for Events conducted by the Party and post-event evaluation (including data entry) analysis.

SECTION 9:**THE DEPUTY NATIONAL ORGANISING SECRETARY (NOS):-**

The Deputy National Organising Secretary shall:

- (a) Assist the NOS in all duties pertaining to that office, and
- (b) Assume all such duties in the latter's absence, and
- (c) Assist the NOS in all matters relating to organisation of public meetings, Functions and meet-the-people tours.

SECTION 10:**NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR:**

- (a) The Membership Director shall be responsible for creating and implementing membership development plans to expand, promote membership and encourage the retention of existing members.
- (b) Shall head the National Membership Committee and shall coordinate the activities of lower level Membership Committees through the membership chairperson of each Region and Chapter.
- (c) Shall host membership recruitment meetings for prospective members and orientation sessions for new members.

ARTICLE XX: PRIMARY ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS:**SECTION 1:****i**

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the following Officials shall be elected through Primary Elections conducted by the Party

- (1) Party Leader/Flagbearer
 - (2) Parliamentarians
 - (3) Local Government Officials, including Councillors, District Chairpersons, City Mayors.
-
- (ii) Only registered and fully paid up members of the Party shall be awarded the Party Symbol
 - (iii) Only registered and fully paid up members of the Party can Vote and be Voted for in the said Elections.

SECTION 1B:

All primaries for the Party's candidates for Leadership shall be as far as possible conducted simultaneously by all Regions and Chapters on the same date. Similarly, the constituency primaries for Parliamentary candidates of the Party shall as far as possible also be conducted on the same date. The candidates returned at these respective Primary Elections shall, nonetheless, be confirmed at the Party's National Delegates Convention.

SECTION 1C

Officials of the Party at Regional, District, Constituency Chapter and Ward Levels shall also be elected at Primary Elections conducted by the Party at their decentralised levels. They shall, as may be appropriate, and subject to the provisions of this Constitution, be qualified as delegates for the Party's National Delegates Convention.

SECTION 1D

The provisions of this Constitution section (section 1 herein) shall not apply to the inaugural National Delegates Convention of the Party, in which all fully registered and paid-up Members of the Party attending the said inaugural Convention shall be eligible to vote and be voted for at the Convention. However there shall be no election for the position of the Party Leader, Local Government Officials, Councillors, city Mayors or for the awarding of symbols to Parliamentary candidates at the inaugural Convention. Only Admin Officials of the Party shall be elected at the inaugural Convention.

SECTION 1E

All officials elected at the said Convention shall serve until the next National Delegates Convention, notice of which shall be announced in due course. The person elected as National Chairperson shall serve as both Chairperson and acting Leader of the Party until the next NDC.

SECTION 2:

The rules, regulations and guidelines governing the Primary elections of the Party shall be defined in the NPD Electoral Rules Book", which shall be ratified at the inaugural Convention and any other amendment thereafter.

SECTION 3:**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PARTY'S ELECTORAL RULES BOOK:**

There shall be an electoral Commission of the National Progressive Democrats comprising Five (5) members. The Electoral Commission shall conduct all elections issue guidelines regarding the same, such guidelines must be fair, Progressive, practical and cannot be inconsistent with provisions of this Constitution.

- (a) The Electoral Commission of the Party shall be elected at the Party's National Delegates Convention including the inaugural Convention. Such elections shall be conducted and supervised by the Party Chairperson. In the case of the inaugural Convention the election of the Party's Commission shall be conducted by the interim Chairperson of the Party
- (b) A person shall not be qualified to contest any primary elections of the Party if he or she:
 - i. is disqualified under national electoral laws from contesting for any public election/office;
 - ii. is not a member of the Party in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to the filing of nominations; and
 - iii. is for any reason disqualified from being a Party member as spelt out in Article V of this Constitution.
- (c) At least ten (10) days before the Primary elections the Electoral commission shall publish a delegates list.
- (d) The Five (5) appointed Commissioners of the Party shall be persons of:-

- i. Proven moral integrity and professional;
 - ii. Fully paid up members of the Party;
 - iii. Citizens of Sierra Leone; and
 - iv. Shall not have held any other office in the Party.
- (e) The Commission shall carry out voter education programs and activities.
- (f) The Presidential Primary election shall be held at least Six (6) months before the Nation Presidential Elections and the winner there of shall become the Party's Presidential Candidate who shall be presented to the citizenry;
- (g) The winner of the Presidential Primary election shall secure the majority Votes in the overall Primary Elections for Leadership.
- (h) The Rules, Regulations and Guidelines for the Primary Elections shall be approved at the Party's inaugural Convention.
- (i) Where two or more members of the Party are contesting in a Primary Election for any position all members of the National Executive Committee and all members of the Party's National electoral Commission are prohibited from campaigning for any of the candidates.
- (j) Only persons eligible to vote under the Laws of Sierra Leone and are registered members of the NPD are allowed to vote at the NPD Primary Elections.
- (k) The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall through electoral commission notify all Committees well in advance but not less than 60 days before the date set for the primary elections:
- i. The notice shall state the date and time and include specific guidelines for the opening of nomination and conduct of the Primary Elections for both the Presidential and Parliamentary seats in each constituency or any other Party election.
 - ii. The notice must include specific guidelines for qualification for Candidates and procedures for Campaigning and Voting.
 - iii. The guidelines shall be fair to all, democratic, practical and must meet the standard of this constitution
- (l) The Constituency Executive Committee shall within seven days of receipt of such notice circulate the notice to all Wards.
- (m) Representatives of the Party's Electoral Commission shall supervise at the Regional level and supervise the primary election process for candidates at the constituency level.

SECTION 4:

BREACHES OF THIS CONSTITUTION:

- (a) It will be a breach of this Constitution incurring serious disciplinary action including but not limited to expulsion from the Party, for any Flagbearer candidate or the Party's nominees at all levels of the electoral process or local council to merge, support or endorse any other Political Party or Candidate without the prior express approval of the National Executive Council of the Party.
- (b) It will also be a breach of this Constitution leading to expulsion for any member of the Party's leadership including members of the NEC, to select or support a candidate over and above that which the general Party's membership has elected in a primary election to represent the Party in National elections.

ARTICLE XXI: GENERAL RULES FOR PARTY OFFICIALS:

- (a) A national official shall hold office for a maximum period of five years and shall be eligible for re-election for another final term of five years.
- (b) A National Party official shall cease to hold office when he/she:
 - i. Voluntarily resigns as provided for in this Constitution
 - ii. Removed from office as specified for in this Constitution
 - iii. Ceases to be a member of the Party as provided in this Constitution.

ARTICLE XXII: SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE PARTY:**SECTION 1:**

PARTY PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS. The main function of the Party's Parliamentary Caucus is to serve as a forum for raising and discussing legislative agenda and advancing the Party's policies in the House of Parliament. The Caucus may organize and/or form Campaign Committees to help raise funds to re-elect its members and to bring attention to issues important to the Caucus members and the Party.

- (a) The Caucus shall comprise all elected representatives of the Party who serve in the House of Parliament.
- (b) Members of this Caucus shall be responsible to for implementation of the Party's policies and to pursue their enactment into Legislation, whether the Party is in opposition or in Government. They may formulate strategies to win more seats in Parliament in collaboration with the National Coordinated Campaign Committee but they do not have any direct control over the administrative affairs of the Party.
- (c) They may set up their own independent campaign and fundraising committee to help re-elect their members.
- (d) They are free to determine their leadership structure and any other function relevant to their operations.

SECTION 2:**THE PROGRESSIVE YOUTH COUNCIL.**

- (a) Any young member between the ages of 18 and 35 inclusive can be considered a "Progressive Youth".
- (b) The "Progressive Youth Council" shall organize activities, formulate viewpoints, aid in campaigns, and aid in any other functions geared towards the advancement of the Party.
- (c) There shall be a Youth Convention which meets before the National Convention to elect the leadership, of the Party's Youth Council including the Election of Youth Council Leader, Secretary General, Organising Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Secretary.
- (d) The Youth Council shall meet at least four times a year to direct campaigns and recruitment. It shall also manage the day to day affairs of the Progressive Youths and shall establish chapters in Colleges in Sierra Leone and Constituencies around the country.
- (e) The Youth Council shall also organise seminars and public meetings on political, social and economic issues affecting youths and seek to establish institutional relationship with other youth councils or movements locally and internationally sharing similar values.
- (f) Develop policies and regulations which advance the interests of Youths in every decision making process within the Party and in Government.

SECTION 3:**THE PROGRESSIVE WOMEN'S COUNCIL.**

The Progressive Women's Council shall work for equitable representation and participation of women the decision-making processes at all levels of the Party and in Government.

- (a) The Women's Council shall recommend and advocate for policies and determine agenda that seek to promote the civic and economic rights of women.
- (b) It shall engage in economic development activities to promote the economic welfare of its members.
- (c) It shall also against sexism, discrimination and marginalisation within the Party and in government.
- (d) Its members shall comprise women from all works of life.
- (e) The Women's Council shall have as part of its leadership structure the Leader, the Secretary General, Organising Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Secretary.

SECTION 4:**PERSONS WITH DISABILITY COUNCIL**

- (a) The disability Council shall advocate for equal rights and special opportunities and facilities for the physically or mentally challenged.
- (b) It shall campaign against discrimination and marginalisation of the disabled.
- (c) The Persons with Disability Council shall have as part of its leadership structure:
 - Elected Leader
 - General Secretary
 - Organising Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Publicity Secretary.

ARTICLE XXIII: MANAGEMENT OF PARTY FINANCES:**SECTION 1: SOURCES**

The source of funds of the Party shall include the following:-

- (a) Membership dues;
- (b) Voluntary contributions
- (c) Donations, bequests and grants, from any other source that is not proscribed by law;
- (d) The proceeds of any investment, project or undertaking in which the Party has an interest;
- (e) Net income from publications and other saleable items offered for sale to the public;
- (f) Net Income from the Party's investment interest in business entities;
- (g) Such public funds as may be provided under the Political Parties Act or any other laws;
- (h) The Party through the National Treasurer may borrow funds from any source it deems appropriate for the purpose of promoting the Party's aims and objects and carrying out the Party's programmes;

SECTION 2:**PURPOSE OF PARTY FUNDS**

The funds of the Party shall be used to:

- (a) Cover administrative expenses of the Party
- (b) To Pay directly or indirectly remuneration, fees, rewards or any other benefit to a member or supporter of the Party;
- (c) To pay the wages and salaries of Party staff
- (d) To finance or contribute to any matter, cause, event or occasion directly or indirectly beneficial to the Party;
- (e) To acquire or maintain any right or financial interest in any business or any immovable property;
- (f) For any other purpose compatible with the promotion of a multi-Party democracy, the electoral processes, or for purposes of promoting the Party's aims and objects, programmes and policies

SECTION 3:**GENERAL RULES & CONTROL OF PARTY FUNDS:**

- (a) The National Treasurer shall be the principle Party Financial Officer.
- (b) Each chapter must ensure that the Treasurer has the professional requirement to manage finances and must sign a Fiduciary Trust Agreement with the Chairman who would be signing on behalf of the Party.
- (c) All monies received as contributions, donations, dues, or otherwise by or for the Party either at chapter or national level or any by any organ of the Party organized or operated under the expressed authority of the NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS, shall be paid to and accounted for by the National Treasurer at National level or Chapter Treasurer at the chapter level, who shall deposit all said funds in a bank or banks in the name of the NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRAT at National or chapter level.
- (d) All funds deposited into the National bank account of the Party shall be withdrawn only on vouchers signed by both the National Treasurer and the Party chair.
- (e) Similarly, all funds deposited to any bank account of the Party at chapter level shall be withdrawn only on vouchers signed by the chapter Treasurer and the chapter chair.
- (f) As provided in the Political Parties Act and for the avoidance of doubt, no funds may be distributed among members as prohibited under the said Act or any other relevant law;
- (g) Officials of the Party, and bodies created by it, may not incur expenditure in excess of the funds put at their disposal without prior authority in writing from the NEC;
- (h) The financial year of the Party shall be in line with the Government of Sierra Leone's financial year.
- (i) The Party may establish additional rules and regulations to govern the collection, keeping, disbursement and management of finances;
- (j) The Party shall initiate or cause to be prepared the necessary periodical financial rules and procedures for approval by NGC and NDC;

SECTION 4:**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

- (a) The National Treasurer shall only pay out funds on itemized statements which bear the signed approval of the National Party Chairman designated in writing by the Party Chair to approve the payment of such accounts.

- (b) The Chair of the Party shall not approve the payment of any statement which is submitted contrary to the provisions of this Constitution and unless in the opinion of the approving officer reasonably exercised such statement represents services, merchandise, supplies, properly obtained or used and applied or to be so used and applied for the promotion of the welfare of the NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS of any given chapter.

SECTION 5:

DUAL SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT:

- (a) Any check or negotiable instrument of over a certain amount defined by the chapter drawn on any account of the Party shall require the approval of a minimum of two persons authorized by the chapter which must include the following two: Treasurer, and Chairperson.
- (b) The approval may be the signatures of the authorized persons on the check or negotiable instrument or on a document of payment authority to issue such check or negotiable instrument.

SECTION 6:

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- (a) It is a must that Quarterly reports of receipts and expenditures are made and presented by the Treasurer of each chapter to the Finance Committee.
- (b) Any treasurer, who fails to provide financial report for two consecutive quarters, shall constitute a breach of this constitution and could be grounds for impeachment of the treasurer or of any such official charged with the responsibility to provide such report.

SECTION 7:

INTERNAL AUDITS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE:

- (a) The National Executive Committee or the Executive Committee of any chapter must ensure that the Audit and Review Committee conducts a biannual audit and shall have the right to adopt recommendations and reports of the Audit and Review Committee or of an outside independent auditor.

ARTICLE XXIV: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1-

CHOICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

The Party's Presidential Candidate shall nominate his running mate in consultation with the National Executive Committee and other members of his/her campaign team as well as political consultants.

SECTION 2-

GENERAL LEADERSHIP PROVISIONS

Any official who, in the opinion of NEC, is unable to perform his/her functions by reasons of illness, or any other cause, or who, in the opinion of two thirds of members of NEC, is deemed to be unfit to hold a Party office, shall vacate his/her office upon a resolution by NEC, pending the ratification of the same by the next meeting of the NGC or any other legal process that may be involved.

SECTION 3-

GENDER BALANCE REQUIREMENT:

It is the intent and spirit of this constitution to give equal treatment and equal opportunities to every gender of the NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS. It is therefore:

- (a) required of every organ of this Party including the chapters to ensure that all genders are given equal opportunity and equal treatment in its Party structure including the leadership.

- (b) mandated, where possible that, each organ or chapter including committees formed under the terms of this constitution to meet a minimum of 30% of every gender in its leadership structure where possible.
- (c) required of every member of this Party to exercise the right to petition the leadership of any chapter or organ of the Party to require the Party to conform to the provisions of this clause where necessary.

SECTION 4-

PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

- (a) The Party may own and operate a printing press, radio station, TV station and/or electronic media, and may have an interest in shares in any existing printing press and /or electronic media.
- (b) The Party may publish its own literature, periodicals, magazines, pamphlets and books for own use, sale and /or use by the public.

SECTION 5-

PROCEDURES AT MEETINGS

- (a) The quorum for the National Delegates Convention, National Governing Council, National Executive Committee, Regional Executive Committee, Constituency Management Committee, Ward Steering Committee, except where otherwise expressly provided, shall be one-third of the membership of the committee.

At all meetings of the National Delegates Convention, and the National Governing Council, the Party Leader shall preside. In the absence of the Party Leader, the National Chairperson shall preside. In the absence of the leader and the National Chairperson the Vice Chairperson shall preside and if both are absent then any other official of the NEC shall preside.

- (b) At all meetings of the Region, Constituency, Ward or Polling station units, the Chairperson shall preside but in his or her absence, the Vice-Chair or any other official appointed for that purpose shall preside;
- (c) Resolutions, unless otherwise stated in this Constitution, shall be decided by consensus or simple majority, and voting shall be by secret ballot or by any other appropriate procedure adopted by the meeting;
- (d) The person presiding may take part to argue in favour or against any resolution but cannot vote except in the event of an equality of votes he or she shall cast the deciding vote; and
- (e) Only fully paid up members may attend the Party meetings and vote thereat.

Any other person(s) may attend only upon invitation as an observer.

- (f) Any meeting which has been postponed once for lack of quorum shall be deemed to be properly constituted to conduct business at the second sitting if the attendance at such a meeting is up to one-third of the legitimate members provided that the procedures of calling such a meeting are followed.
- (g) NEC and other committee meetings shall be convened upon a notice of at least fourteen days except in an emergency.

SECTION 6-

PARTY DISCIPLINE:

- (a) Any Party official or person nominated by the Party to hold office, or contest elections for the Party or public office must:-
 - i. Not hold more than two elective offices within the Party;
 - ii. Not be convicted of any felony;
 - iii. Not be, or become a member of or support any Political Party or group, or engage in activities which in the opinion of the National Executive Committee (NEC) are inconsistent or in conflict with the aims, objects, policies and decisions of the Party;
 - iv. Not conduct himself or herself in disgraceful and dishonourable manner which in the opinion of the National Executive Committee (NEC) is likely to undermine the Party, bring it into disrepute, or expose it to ridicule;
- (b) A complaint by any person alleging that an offence has been committed shall be made in writing to the Secretary General who shall forward the same to National Executive Committee (NEC).